

Scholarship Committee Members,

December 15, 2025

It is with great pleasure and confidence that I recommend Maddox Henley for consideration of your scholarship award. I have known Maddox during the entirety of his high school career. During that time, Maddox has proven himself to not only be an extremely successful student and a wonderful person, but also a young man of character and dependability.

I was fortunate to teach Maddox Biology during his freshman year and then had the privilege and honor of teaching him again last year as a junior in Dual Credit Biology I. Not only did he make a high A in each course, but he could always be counted on to be present, prepared and engage in class discussions often asking insightful questions. I look forward to having him in my Dual Credit Biology II class in the spring semester. Maddox has worked diligently to prepare for college by taking numerous dual credit courses and currently has a 4.0 GPA, an ACT score of 29, and is ranked 8 out of 170 in his class.

Maddox has also excelled outside of the classroom in numerous areas. Athletically, he has played basketball all four years during high school and has been a varsity letterman for three of those years. He has also been a member of the baseball program all four years and should receive a varsity letter in the spring season. He is not just a member of these programs but a leader and "go to" player his coaches and teammates count on. He also gives back to the community through athletics by volunteering with the Vancleave youth baseball and basketball programs.

Maddox is further involved in school and community activities outside of the classroom and athletics. He displays leadership and serves his school and community through involvement in the National Honor Society, Key Club, Student Council, First Priority Club, and Backpack Buddies. Through these organizations he has completed numerous community service hours and projects. He also is very involved in his local church, First Baptist Church Vancleave by serving in the youth program and being a volunteer for various service projects.

While it may be easy to focus on Maddox's previously mentioned successes, the main things that come to mind when thinking of Maddox are his character and personal attributes. He is well liked by his peers and teachers. He is the type of student that teachers like to see on their class roll. He has a desire to succeed but also a compassion and concern for others. He is always encouraging to and willing to help his peers. His peers often look to him for leadership. Maddox is dependable, trustworthy, honest, reliable and can always be counted on to work diligently to accomplish the task at hand.

Maddox has expressed a desire to pursue Optometry. He understands hard work and perseverance. He demonstrates the skills (time management, determination, academic success, social success, empathy) that speak very well for his future. He has the drive to succeed in whatever he attempts. It is without any reservation or hesitation that I recommend Maddox Henley for consideration of your scholarship. If I can be of any further assistance, please feel free to contact me.

Thank you for your time and consideration of Maddox.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Blackmon', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Derek Blackmon

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