

PTO Scholarships

Each year, the Arbor Park PTO awards two general scholarships. Entries are judged on academics, leadership, a personal accomplishment statement and an essay written on a predetermined subject. The individual with the highest score is awarded the Dr. Upchurch Scholarship. The 2011 recipient is Sara Salman. Sara, currently a senior at Oak Forest High School plans to continue her education at South Suburban Community College in the fall. In her essay she discussed possible changes to the current methods for funding education.

The second highest scoring entry is awarded the Mr. Ahern Scholarship. The winner this year is Jordan Zaplatosch, a senior at Tinley Park High School. Jordan's essay describing her idea for a way to improve the educational experience at Tinley Park High School earned her the award.

Each year, the PTO facilitates the award of the JoEllen Bolden Memorial Scholarship. Ms. Bolden was a teacher here at Arbor and it is her love of teaching that inspires this \$1000 scholarship. Arbor Park alumni pursuing education are eligible to earn this scholarship and this year's winner was Julia Janes, a senior at Oak Forest High School. In her essay, Julia described an important lesson that she learned from a teacher and how it applies to her future career in education.

I would like to thank the applicants this year for sharing their stories and to congratulate all of our Arbor Park Class of 2007 as they graduate high school this year. Thank you to the teachers that dedicate themselves to our children's learning experience and the staff and administration that support these efforts. Finally thank you to the parents that support the PTO and to Mrs. Kavalauskas and the board for their leadership.