

Graduate of Merit Applicants and Parents:

Plans are underway for the 2021 Graduate of Merit program. Due to the continuing complications caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, it has become necessary to make adjustments to the program once again for 2021. It has been determined that the Graduate of Merit banquet will not be held since the future is uncertain and the event planning commitments begin in January. While we regret that the banquet/recognition event will not be held, we will still recognize the outstanding accomplishments of these students by awarding scholarships (amount pending based on funding from sponsors). It is anticipated that students will be recognized at Awards Day at their individual schools and again at graduation if conditions permit.

To assist students in the GOM process, the following timeline has been established:

- **2021 Application Deadline:** January 13, 2021, last day of first semester, is the deadline. Submit the application earlier if possible. Submit the completed application to the base school counselor.
- **GOM Candidate Information PowerPoint:** It will be released in early February via PCS student email.
- **GOM Candidate Bio Survey:** It will be released in early February via PCS student email. Deadline for completion will be noted in an Information PowerPoint. An anticipated deadline will be before the close of February.
- **GOM Awards Package:** All GOMS will receive a certificate and a scholarship. Amount will be determined based on funding secured. GOMS will also receive a GOM medallion to be worn at graduation.
- **Additional GOM Scholarship Applications** (pending confirmation) – Students must apply to compete for these scholarships. Applications will be emailed via PCS student email account.
 - Essel Propack - \$5,000
 - IALR - \$1,000
- **College Partnership Scholarships:** Scholarships will be available from Averett University and Liberty University for GOMS enrolling in fall of 2021 (pending confirmation). Scholarship amounts will be included in Information PowerPoint. Enrollment will be confirmed with applicants in mid-April.
- **James E. McDaniel 212 Award** - \$500 will be awarded to the top GOM applicants based on total point ranking.
- **Pinnacle Award** – Top GOM applicant will be based on the total point ranking; amount will be based on funding secured.
- *Above and Beyond will not be awarded for 2021. This award was based on additional community service. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it was determined that this award could not be considered this year as students have limited options for volunteering.*

Potential sponsors will be notified in early January of the delay in the Graduate of Merit process due to first semester ending in mid-January. In early February, sponsorship applications along with a listing of Graduate of Merit candidates will be mailed (application will also be available on the website). **Sponsorship of any Graduate of Merit is based on a first-come first-serve basis by contacting Mrs. Anita Adams.**

If you have questions, or need additional information, please feel free to contact Mrs. Anita Adams (Extension 5018) at 434-432-2761 or anita.adams@pcs.k12.va.us.

Thank you.