

**Tanya and Charles Brandes Foundation Merit Scholarship Program
San Diego Jewish Academy**

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Mission:

The Tanya and Charles Brandes Foundation has created and funded a merit scholarship program at San Diego Jewish Academy (SDJA), Maimonides Upper School. The purpose of the program is to identify, recognize and provide tuition support to students who are meritorious based upon their academic achievement, exceptional talent, demonstrated work ethic, commitment to others and their community; and afford them a rigorous Jewish and general education. The Foundation believes that San Diego Jewish Academy is committed to these values and through their programs nurtures these characteristics in their students.

The program will select up to 10 students each year for the multi-year scholarship. The Brandes Scholars will not only become successful leaders in their chosen field or profession, but even more importantly, will understand that success is measured by ethical behavior and actions, and by their personal commitment to Tikkun Olam and Gemilut Hasadim – repairing the world and deeds of loving kindness.

Recipient Benefits:

1. Up to four years of a scholarship equaling 50% of tuition each year
2. Recognized as a Brandes Merit Scholar
3. Opportunity to present to representative(s) of the Brandes Foundation his/her accomplishments each year. Brandes Foundation will take a strong interest in highly accomplished scholarship recipients.
4. If a recipient is also eligible to receive, or is receiving financial assistance, their FA award will be adjusted in accordance with the financial assistance formula. Their financial aid award will be calculated or recalculated based upon the lower net tuition now due based upon receiving the Brandes scholarship.

Eligibility Criteria:

1. Students entering 6th, 7th, 8th or 9th grade. Exceptions for older students may be granted, if deemed appropriate by the selection committee.
2. A minimum grade point average of 3.5, earned over the past academic year/s.
3. Demonstrates a passion and commitment to personal achievement, as evidenced through a strong work ethic, in both school and the community.
4. Possesses a strong desire to advance through education.

5. Demonstrated ability to set goals and follow through with deeds.
6. Evidence of serving others and enhancing the community (Tikkun Olam and Gemilut Hasidim), through volunteer efforts in the school or other venues.
7. Demonstrated outstanding achievement in a given area such as; mathematics, music, science, arts, athletics, literature, Jewish life, etc.
8. Eligibility is based upon the student's achievements and capabilities and is independent of any other family members standing in the community.

Identification of Eligible Students:

1. San Diego Jewish Academy will actively seek out potentially qualified students who have demonstrated excellence through programs such as, but not limited to: county and state competitions, e.g. science fairs, math competitions, music and art exhibitions, athletic competitions, etc.
2. The Tanya and Charles Brandes Merit Scholarship Program will invite selected students to apply in order to be considered for inclusion in this highly valued program.
3. Students may apply if they feel they meet the criteria.

Application Process:

The deadline to apply for the Brandes Scholarship is March 15th.

1. Complete and submit a full Brandes Merit Scholarship application, which includes the following:
 - a. The application form
 - b. Two Short Answer Essays
 - c. One Essay
 - d. Two Faculty recommendations
 - e. A Personal reference
 - f. Any additional materials.
2. The normal SDJA registration/deposit fee shall be refundable to the applicant's family if they are not selected to receive a scholarship.

Selection Process:

1. A selection committee will review all applications and make determinations as to who will receive Brandes Scholarship awards.
2. The committee shall be comprised of three to five community leaders, who are not employees or current board members of San Diego Jewish Academy
3. The names of these individuals shall be confidential so as to protect the integrity of the process and to reduce the potential of any undue influence upon the selection process.

Renewable Nature of the Scholarship:

1. Each scholarship is renewable annually for up to a total of four years
2. In order for the scholarship to be renewed, the recipient must minimally maintain a 3.5 GPA, demonstrate continued community service, evidence strong commitment to the school and community, and maintain full compliance with all school rules and standards regarding discipline and conduct.
3. Recipients will prepare a written portfolio, each spring, that evidences the minimum requirements and which addresses the initial eligibility requirements. This portfolio will include information regarding the prior year such as recipient's grades, evidence of significant community service and/or leadership contribution, a reflection upon the past year; including student's effort at accomplishing his/her personal best, and other noteworthy accomplishments
4. Recipients will orally present their portfolio to the review committee.
5. The review committee, which is not necessarily the same membership as the original selection committee, will determine whether the student's scholarship is renewed for the coming year

Last updated: November 3, 2008