

Marcus Ferrell - LHS Class of 2025 - Senior Awards Night Scholarship Application

From what middle school did you graduate? *

Arrowview Middle School

List the college(s) to which you applied *

Howard, Clark Atlanta, LSU, UNLV, Uni of New Mexico, North Carolina A&T, Jackson State, Xavier, Uni of Arizona, Northern Arizona, Uni of Oklahoma, Uni of Utah, Oregon State Uni, Oregon Tech, Uni of Missouri, Baylor,

To which college(s) were you accepted? *

Clark Atlanta, LSU, UNLV, Uni of New Mexico, North Carolina A&T, Jackson State, Xavier, Uni of Arizona, Northern Arizona, Uni of Oklahoma, Uni of Utah, Oregon State Uni, Oregon Tech, Uni of Missouri, Morehouse

Which college/university will you be attending next year? *

University of Arizona at Tucson

What will be your major? *

Nursing or Civil Engineering

What are your future career goals? *

Engineer or Doctor

What are your hobbies? *

Basketball, reading, spreading the Gospel, weightlifting, nature walks

Tell us a fun fact about yourself: *

A fun fact is that I can write legibly with both hands.

Are you from a single-parent household? *

☐ Yes

☒ No

Are you a first-generation student (a college-bound student whose parents did not complete a four-year college degree in the US)? *

☐ Yes

☒ No

Are you the first in your family to graduate high school? *

☐ Yes

☒ No

If you answered YES to the question above, please answer the prompt:

Who has inspired you most from the black community and why? (400 words minimum)

With thousands of influential African American men and women that are inspirational, Stephen Curry has inspired me the most. Reflecting upon my childhood, I've always been infatuated with the Golden State Warriors. What has drawn me to this team are the leadership characteristics of Stephen Curry. Though there are numerous other professional athletes, particularly from the black community, from whom I could draw inspiration, it is Stephen Curry from whom I draw the most inspiration.

First, I am inspired by how he maintains his image. On the surface, he is an example of what a great media-trained athlete should look like, he's well spoken, a family man, and personable. What is truly inspirational, however, is his authenticity. Stephen Curry is not simply embodying the suggestions of his public relations team, he's embracing his authentic self. There aren't many instances where an African-American man is expressive of his black identity, while remaining authentic to himself. However, Stephen Curry does not allow media or environmental circumstances to dictate how he upholds his own persona. Whether he is on the court perfecting his craft or off the court building relationships, he seemingly carries himself in a way that's conscious of how his actions may affect his family, his fans, and his teams' franchise.

Secondly, the Golden State Warriors are part of the National Basketball Association but their camaraderie was unlike any other team I'd seen, and it was reflected in their postseason record for 3+ years. More importantly, I believe that their success began from the leadership qualities of Stephen Curry. He has a very unnatural ability to make his teammates around him better like nothing I've seen before. I've heard various stories of Kobe Bryant and Michael Jordan's work ethic, however, they weren't as companionable as Stephen Curry. He engages with his teammates, coaches and even fans as if he's communicating with family members, while still maintaining his competitive edge. For being a 4x NBA Champion, he makes time to be socially engaged with his substantial fan base. Previously and currently after games, Stephen Curry and a handful of his teammates host Bible Study for fans of the Warriors' franchise. I even recollect a time where I was watching Stephen Curry shoot a video with a Christian Rap Artist by the name of "Bizzle" in his newly released video titled "Warriors".

Lastly, I am truly inspired by Stephen Curry, the family man. Seeing a Black man with strong family values is of great significance for me, as that is something that I did not experience in my own life. When not playing basketball, Stephen Curry is rarely seen publicly without his wife Ayesha Curry. Being a loving husband to his wife, Stephen Curry has not only reciprocated the support she has shown him, he has leveraged his success to help her develop herself into a very successful businesswoman, chef, and actor, from whom other young black women will also be inspired. Furthermore, Stephen Curry has 4 children specifically born in each year he's won an NBA Championship. I am most inspired by how often he is seen in post game conferences with his sons and daughters. Observing his relationship with his children from what is portrayed gives me a very clear picture of how much his family means to him. Their importance to him is evident, as he finds ways to maintain his family relationships despite his overwhelming personal success.

Extracurricular Activities

Please list all of your school-related extracurricular activities. State how long you (have) participated and any position(s)/leadership role(s)/honors.

****Example:**

Lawndale Girls Volleyball, 2018-2020, Varsity Captain in 2020
AVID, 2017-2021, member

Activity 1

Lawndale Mens Basketball, 2023-2025, Varsity Captain in 2023-2025

Activity 2

Lawndale Mens Football, Player in 2024-2025

Activity 3

Lawndale Track and Field, Member in 2024-2025

Activity 4

Disciples Club, President in 2024-2025, Member in 2023

Activity 5

Activity 6

Activity 7

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Activity 8

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Activity 9

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Activity 10

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Other Activities/Work/Volunteering

Please list off-campus activities such as church involvement and work, and/or community service commitments/volunteering.

****Example:**

Volunteer, Playa Vista Beach, 2019-2020, 10 hours, beach cleanup with my classmates

Other Activity/Work/Volunteering 1

Jamba Juice, Team Member in 2023

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4. Describe how you have taken advantage of a significant educational opportunity or worked to overcome an educational barrier you have faced.

5. Describe the most significant challenge you have faced and the steps you have taken to overcome this challenge. How has this challenge affected your academic achievement?

The most significant challenge I have faced is my unstable living circumstances for nearly two years of high school. During my Freshman and Sophomore years of high school, I lived in San Bernardino, California, where I resided with my younger brother, and eight others in a two bedroom home. During this time, I was not only estranged from my father, my brother I were both subject to physical abuse at the hands of my mother and her romantic partner. With no room or bed to sleep on, my brother and I were forced to sleep on the floor. I endured countless personal traumas, including me witnessing my mother's partner "discipline" my ten year old brother by pointing a pistol on his stomach. Once finally rescued from this toxic and dangerous environment, I lived six months in a group home, before finally being re-united with my father. I have and will continue to work to overcome this challenge by leaning into my faith. At a time when I felt I had no one to lean on, I had no choice but to Jesus. Daily prayer has helped me to focus on the aspects of my life which I can control.

This challenge has affected my academic achievement, as I was essentially forced to navigate my first two years of high school without any home support or resources. In many ways, this served as a blessing in disguise. I found myself devoting my energy to my studies, in many ways to distract myself from the realities of my tumultuous home life. As a result, I proudly was able to maintain a B-plus average during this time, in spite of my challenges.

6. Think about an academic subject that inspires you. Describe how you have furthered this interest inside and/or outside of the classroom.

Throughout my high school experience I've been given the opportunity to experience various remedial classes like English and Math, as well as unique electives like Geography and Anatomy. However, the most inspirational academic subject that I've taken part in during my last year of high school is Ceramics. For a long time, I'd proudly favor Math or Anatomy over any other class that I had taken, until I experienced what it was like to create my very own sculpture. In the first few weeks of ceramics class I had 0 interest towards everything about it, from the stench and dust from the clay made me sneeze continuously to the coating of the clay that somehow always ended up on fresh clothes. Through a lot of trial and error, I found ways to combat the minor issues that made me dislike the pottery class, like wearing an apron to prevent my clothes from getting grimy and wiping down my table to ensure I wouldn't sneeze repeatedly. Collectively, my class and I began to get different projects to strengthen our crafting ability. Our first assignment of the semester was creating a smartphone holder with a 5 inch by 3 inch base and the support for the phone was up to our creativity. I chose to make my smartphone support a very well known Dream Works character named Humpty Dumpty. Through the very demanding process of sculpting and shaping the eggs' body, I finally completed the piece and I felt the happiest I'd been in a while. I went from finding no fulfillment in fidgeting with clay to being on of the first students to ask for more time creating things.

7. What have you done to make your school or your community a better place?

While the value of my contributions to my school and community will ultimately be determined in the future, I can humbly say that my contributions to the school community leadership in the Disciples club will be viewed as a net positive to the school and my classmates. When I joined the Disciples Club as a Sophomore, there were at most ten members. I am proud to say that, today, the Disciples Club has over thirty active members. I'm hesitant to claim full responsibility for this growth, however, it is undeniable that much of this growth occurred under my leadership.

Secondly, I believe my participation in varsity athletics has positively contributed to the school and my classmates. Not only was I a participant on our Varsity Football and Track and Field teams, I proudly represented Lawndale High School as a two year Captain of the Varsity Basketball Team. During this time, I helped contribute to a notable revitalization of our basketball program, as we were able to earn a berth to the CIF Playoffs for the first time in three seasons. Though I may not have led our team in any measurable statistics, I was able to find other ways to be a leader to our team and our basketball program. Throughout my three years at Lawndale High School, I always prided myself on being a good teammate. Regardless of whether I was leading from the floor as our starting point guard, or as a bench player supporting my teammates, I always sought opportunities to make contributions to our team goals. As a Senior, I served as a mentor to the Freshmen on our Varsity team. My most proud memory was organizing a team meal following our game on Senior Night. Even though I had to beg my Aunt and Uncle to help sponsor the meal, this was something that I really wanted to do to celebrate my teammates and coaches on a successful season.

8. Beyond what has already been shared in your application, what do you believe makes you stand out as a strong candidate for a 2024-25 Lawndale HS Senior Awards Night (SAN) Scholarship?

Throughout this application I've spoken about significant challenges that I've overcome and how it affected my academic achievement as well as my contributions to Lawndale High School as a student. I believe that the encounters with irregular situations in my life that I recently discussed compared to my grades and success that I've experienced makes me stand out as a strong candidate for the Senior Awards Night Scholarship.

Additional Information

If you have any special circumstances (e.g., concerns over finances) that the scholarship committee should know of, or anything else that you would like to inform them of, please indicate it in your statement here. This might include parents being out of work, a large family, a brother/sister already in college, large medical bills, and/or being the first in the family to graduate high school/attend college/attend university.

I don't really have the opportunity to not be great, because I have a very large family who's somewhat relying on me to succeed. My father works severely hard to provide for my 5 siblings, although we live in a 2 bedroom house. My mother isn't in my life because of past physical and verbal abuse towards my brother and I. As for medical bills I haven't gotten my braces adjusted in a while and I need to see an orthodontist as soon as possible, but that is being postponed because I have college enrollment fees due as well as a prom ticket that needs to be paid for.

Picture Time 📷 📱

Please upload two (appropriate) pictures of yourself to possibly be featured in our PPT. Make sure to title them "Last Name, First Name 1" and "Last Name, First Name 2." *

IMG_0710 - Marc...

IMG_0839 - Marc...

📁 Add file

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