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## NOYES HOME *for* CHILDREN

— *Established 1894* —

**801 N NOYES BLVD, ST JOSEPH, MO 64506**

Dear Saint Joseph Students, Parents and Teachers,

We are excited to share a new opportunity with all of you to celebrate KINDNESS in our community. We are challenging every student (public school, private school and homeschool students) in Saint Joseph (and surrounding areas) to identify the kindest person that they know who lives in Saint Joseph (and surrounding areas) and to write an age appropriate essay about who that person is and how they are making a difference in our community. All completed essays are to be turned in at Noyes Home, by mail (801 N Noyes Blvd; Saint Joseph, MO 64506) or delivered in person. All essays will be read by a panel of judges, with the top ten essays from each grade (kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade) being selected for a final reading by a second panel of judges in the month of December that will determine the top prize for each grade.

Winners from each grade level will be notified in January 2026. Each Student Essay Winner and their Kindest Nominee will be interviewed for a video to be shared at our Kindness Saint Joseph event. Each winner will receive 4 complimentary tickets to the Kindness Saint Joseph event (one ticket for the student, one ticket for their nominee and two additional tickets for parents/guardians). More information about the event will be made available when the winners are notified.

We are also looking for nominations for the Kindest School in Saint Joseph. A panel of judges will visit the top three nominated schools to experience their "culture of kindness" firsthand. If you would like your school to be considered for this honor, please write an essay explaining what makes your school unique and how the school staff and student demonstrate kindness.

We are eager to learn about all the Kindness Keepers in our community and honor the top nominees in the spring!

With kindness and gratitude,

Chelsea M. Howlett, MS  
Executive Director

**KINDNESS**  
— Saint Joseph —

## Writing Prompt Rubric

| Criteria           | Excellent (4)  | Good (3)  | Satisfactory (2)   | Needs Improvement (1)   |
|--------------------|--|---|--|---|
| Understanding      | Thoroughly understands the prompt and addresses all parts. | Understands most of the prompt and addresses main ideas.    | Addresses some aspects of the prompt but lacks depth.      | Fails to address key aspects of the prompt.                     |
| Clarity            | Clear and concise with well-organized thoughts and ideas.  | Mostly clear but may have minor organization issues.        | Some unclear ideas, with several organization problems.    | Confusing or disorganized ideas throughout.                     |
| Creativity         | Exceptionally creative, with original and engaging ideas.  | Some creative or original ideas, though not fully explored. | A few creative elements but mostly predictable.            | Lacks creativity or original thinking.                          |
| Grammar & Spelling | No errors in grammar, spelling, or punctuation.            | Few errors that do not detract from readability.            | Some errors that occasionally detract from readability.    | Frequent errors that affect the overall readability.            |
| Development        | Ideas are fully developed with strong supporting details.  | Well-developed ideas but may need more supporting details.  | Ideas are somewhat developed but lack significant details. | Ideas are underdeveloped with minimal or no supporting details. |



# KINDNESS

— Saint Joseph —

Essay Contest for Saint Joseph Students in grades Kindergarten-12<sup>th</sup> Grade.

Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Legal Guardian's Name & Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

School: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade Level: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher's Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Person Nominated for Kindness Saint Joseph: \_\_\_\_\_

Their Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Their Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail or delivered to Noyes Home for Children located at 801 N. Noyes Blvd; Saint Joseph, MO 64506. Call 816-232-5650 with questions.



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