



NOYES HOME *for* CHILDREN

— *Established 1894* —

801 N NOYES BLVD, ST JOSEPH, MO 64506

2026

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 area) 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 12th 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
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Grades 6-12 Writing Prompt Rubric

Criteria	4	3	2	1
Organization	Writing is well-organized with a clear, logical structure. Introduction, body, and conclusion are fully developed. Ideas transition smoothly.	Writing is organized with a clear beginning, middle, and end. Some transitions may be unclear, but overall structure is intact.	Writing has some structure, but organization is inconsistent. Transitions may be weak or missing.	Writing lacks organization and structure, making it difficult to follow. No clear transitions.
Mechanics (Grammar, Spelling, Punctuation)	No errors in grammar, spelling, or punctuation. Writing is polished and easy to read.	Few errors in grammar, spelling, or punctuation, with minimal impact on readability.	Several errors in grammar, spelling, or punctuation that distract the reader.	Frequent errors in grammar, spelling, or punctuation that make the writing difficult to understand.
Supporting Details	Ideas are fully developed with specific, relevant, and well-chosen details that enhance the writing.	Ideas are supported by some relevant details, though more examples or elaboration may be needed.	Ideas are present, but supporting details are vague or lacking in depth.	Few or no supporting details. Ideas are underdeveloped or unclear.
Sentence Structure	Sentences are varied in length and structure, creating a clear and engaging flow.	Sentences show some variety, but there may be reliance on simpler structure ↓	Sentences are repetitive or lack variety, which affects flow and readability.	Sentences are unclear, choppy, or overly repetitive, making the writing difficult to read.
Overall Scoring	Writing fully meets the expectations of the prompt. Demonstrates strong control over content, language, and style.	Writing meets most expectations but may lack depth, control, or clarity in some areas.	Writing partially meets the expectations but lacks development or control in multiple areas.	Writing does not meet the expectations. Lacks focus, organization, or development.

KINDNESS

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Essay Contest for Saint Joseph Students in grades Kindergarten-12th 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 deliver 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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