

DONOVAN **D** CATHOLIC

2026-2027 SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

Nicholas Paggi Memorial Scholarship Application

About Nicholas Paggi



Nick was first and foremost a scholar. He had an amazing aptitude for science and math and an unquenchable thirst for knowledge. He was a brilliant software programmer and problem solver. His code has been described as having grace and style. He rarely was seen without his trusty and colorful backpack that carried his Macbook to capture spontaneous coding ideas and some light reading on topics such as string theory or Java classes.

Nick's greatest joy was attending MIT. He was at home at MIT where he was in his element surrounded by fellow students and faculty of like mind and interests. He truly loved his friends and colleagues at MIT. His face radiated when he was engaged in active technical discussions on topics impenetrable to most of us. For his first two years, Nick resided in the legendary Bexley Hall. He worked at the D-Lab at MIT, developing low-level software to provide medical care in developing countries. He continued to support the lab as a consultant after his graduation.

Nicholas was an avid lifelong sailor that spent countless hours plying the waters of the Toms River, Barnegat Bay, and Charles River. He was the 2006 and 2007 New Jersey State Junior Sunfish champion and a member of the Monsignor Donovan and MIT varsity sailing teams. He was a dock steward at Island Heights Yacht Club during the summers of 2010 and 2011. He enjoyed running, playing tennis, and biking to stay fit and filling his leisure hours reading and listening to a diverse range of music. Nicholas had a wicked sense of humor – typically dry, full of social insight, and always with a heavy dose of sarcasm.

This \$3000 scholarship will be awarded to a student based on the following criteria:

- 1) Complete all sections of the scholarship application
- 2) Be accepted and attend a four year university to study in a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) program
- 3) Special consideration will be given to students pursuing studies in Computer Science and/or Physics and/or to a student who is accepted and will be attending MIT
- 4) Review of applications by the Paggi family to determine the student(s) who most exhibits spirit and determination in his studies, along with the pursuit of knowledge that Nick demonstrated in his life.
- 5) The scholarship will be awarded over a four year period, \$400 per year and will receive a MacBook Pro (Nick's favorite). The recipient is required to write a note to the Paggi family each year regarding his/her continued success in a major in Physics, Computer Science, or another STEM major. The note is due no later than August 1 of each year. Address: Nicholas Paggi Memorial Scholarship, 30 Brooks Road, Toms River, NJ 08753

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Submit to Donovan Catholic High School - Attn: Advancement Office no later than March 16, 2026.

Student Name: _____

Street Address: _____

Town, State, Zip Code: _____

As of third semester:

GPA/Class Rank: _____

Grade in Physics:

AP: _____

Honors: _____

Grade in Computer Science: _____

List of top three outside activities (including sports, community service, work, etc):

1) _____

2) _____

3) _____

Describe your inspiration in pursuing the study of Physics, Computer Science or STEM. (Attach additional information no longer than one page if needed)

Nick was a scholar in the true sense of the word. A day without learning was a wasted day. Even after he completed his formal degrees he continued to find time to enrich his mind and skills by enrolling in online training and reading. Please describe a personal situation in which you prioritize your pursuit of knowledge over such things as social or athletic activities. (Attach additional information no longer than one page if needed)
