



## HEMPFIELD FOUNDATION

200 Church Street  
Landisville, PA 17538  
hempfieldfoundation@gmail.com

# The Barbara Gerke Memorial Scholarship for Literacy and Lifelong Learning

**Scholarship Purpose:** The purpose of this scholarship is to honor the memory of Barbara Gerke by providing financial support to a graduating Hempfield High School senior who plans to pursue postsecondary education in fields that advance literacy, research, information access, and student learning. This scholarship reflects Barbara Gerke's lifelong dedication to helping students become thoughtful readers, capable researchers, and lifelong learners. It seeks to support students who demonstrate intellectual curiosity, a love of learning, and a commitment to serving others through education, literacy, or information-centered professions.

**About Barbara Gerke:** Barbara Gerke faithfully served the Hempfield School District as a librarian at Centerville Middle School, Landisville Middle School, and Hempfield High School. Through her dedication to literacy, research skills, and student engagement, she impacted generations of Hempfield students. She believed libraries are more than collections of books. They are centers of inquiry, imagination, and lifelong learning. This scholarship honors her legacy by supporting students who carry forward that same commitment.

**Annual Scholarship Amount to Be Awarded:** \$5,000

**Eligible Fields of Study:** Students pursuing postsecondary education in fields such as the following are encouraged to apply:

### **Education and Literacy Fields**

Library Science  
Library Media Services  
Elementary Education  
Secondary English  
Education  
Reading Specialist  
Curriculum and Instruction  
Educational Technology  
Special Education with a literacy focus  
TESOL or ESL Education  
Literacy Studies

### **Information and Research Fields**

Information Sciences  
Archival Studies  
Museum Studies  
Digital Curation  
Knowledge Management  
Data and Information  
Management  
Records Management  
Information Technology  
with data or systems focus

### **Student Learning and Academic Support Fields**

School Counseling  
Instructional Design  
Learning Sciences  
Educational Psychology  
Academic Advising  
Publishing or Editing

Students pursuing related fields that meaningfully contribute to reading development, research skills, access to information, or student learning are also eligible.



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### **Key Recipient Criteria:** The recipient must:

- Plan to pursue postsecondary education in one of the eligible fields listed above or a closely related discipline
- Maintain a minimum 3.0 GPA
- Submit a short essay (500 words or less) describing:
  - The role literacy, libraries, or learning have played in their life
  - How they hope to support learning, access to information, or student growth in their future career
- Provide at least one letter of recommendation from a teacher, librarian, counselor, or mentor

Preference may be given to students who have demonstrated involvement in activities that promote reading, research, writing, tutoring, mentoring, or educational service.

**Use of Scholarship Funds:** The scholarship may be used for tuition, books and materials, technology, room and board, or other expenses directly related to the recipient's postsecondary education.

***A PDF of the completed application for this scholarship must be emailed to the Hempfield Foundation at [hempfieldfoundation@gmail.com](mailto:hempfieldfoundation@gmail.com) by March 27, 2026. If you choose to do the optional video, please include a link/attachment when you submit your PDF of the written application. Thank you!***



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## Application

Applicant's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Parent(s)/Guardian(s) Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Postsecondary Institution Attending: \_\_\_\_\_

Intended Major or Field of Study: \_\_\_\_\_

List any courses, activities, volunteer work, or leadership experiences that reflect your interest in literacy, research, education, or student learning (attach additional page if needed):

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Grade Point Average: \_\_\_\_\_

Attach the following:

- 500-word essay
- Letter of recommendation
- Any supporting documentation of program acceptance (if available)

The above information is complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge.

Applicant's Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_