



2015 Scholar Application



inspireSTL Scholars – Application Form 2015

Greetings students and families,

Beginning in 7th grade, we empower our scholars to emerge as a collective of lifelong leaders in service of powerful change by providing them with preparation for, access to, and support throughout a transformative educational journey. We:

- Recruit high performing, high potential, underserved students from St. Louis Public and charter middle schools, and prepare them for a rigorous high school education
- Provide scholars with access to top college preparatory high schools
- Support scholars in realizing ongoing academic success in high school
- Support scholars in applying to, selecting, and succeeding in a four-year college of their choice
- Empower scholars to emerge as leaders in their high schools and communities

We work with more than 100 scholars, who attend the region's top college-prep high schools, including Metro, Collegiate, MICDS, St. Louis University High School, and Villa Duchesne, among others. Scholars are incredibly diverse and identify as African-American, Caucasian, Asian, Hispanic, and immigrant as well as other races and ethnicities. 86% received free or reduced lunch during middle school and are projected to be the first generation in their family to complete a four-year college education. With our support, scholars have maintained a solid B grade point average at their rigorous college preparatory high schools, have secured over \$1 million in scholarships and financial aid (over four school years) to fund their tuition-based high school education, and are emerging as change agents in their schools and communities.

The scholars, families, team, placement schools, and community partners who work with inspireSTL are collectively driving towards improving St. Louis. All members of our team are committed to the core values of knowledge, character, community, vision, and leadership, and we seek to recruit scholars and families who will positively contribute to our mission and embody these values. Beyond the core values, the pursuit of excellence is a non-negotiable, and we hold all members of the program accountable to this standard. We look forward to the Class of 2020 inspireSTL scholars joining us and preparing to emerge as transformative leaders in their schools and communities!

In pursuit of excellence and progress,

The inspireSTL Community



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Selection Criteria

- Student must currently be in 7th grade, must be a resident of St. Louis City, and must attend a St. Louis Public or charter school in St. Louis City
- Two teacher recommendations that indicate the student is diligent, hardworking, and of high character
- Strong academic performance – preferably 6th and 7th grade GPA of at least 3.2
- Strong performance on MAP tests – preferably Proficient or Advanced in both Math and Communication Arts

Program Expectations Upon Acceptance

Please evaluate whether you and your family are willing to commit to the following as you are applying to join the inspireSTL community:

- Embodiment of the core values of knowledge, character, vision, community, and leadership
- Attendance at all mandatory events, such as Induction Ceremony and various orientations
- Consistent attendance to all Academic Preparation classes (14 months: Two intensive eight week Summer Terms, each five days per week, before 8th and 9th grade, and throughout the entire intervening school year, twice per week)
- Steady mastery of academic content and completion of homework throughout the 14-month Academic Preparation Program
- Open, honest, and consistent communication with the inspireSTL team
- Commitment to the program from middle school through college completion
- A commitment to pursue leadership in and out of school

Application Process and Timeline

1. **February 17, 2014** – All application materials are due
2. **March 6, 2014** - All applicants will be notified of their status and finalists will be invited to interview
3. **Third and fourth weeks of March 2014** – Finalist Interviews held
4. **April 17, 2015** – Finalists will be notified of their status
5. **June 1, 2015** – Prep Academy begins for all Class of 2020 scholars



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Submitting Your Final Application

Please submit your COMPLETED application using one of the following methods:

- 1) Turn in all completed materials to your school representative**

- 2) Scan the application and send the documents via email to apply@inspireSTL.org**

- 3) Submit the application via USPS to:**

**inspireSTL
P.O. Box 693
St. Louis, MO 63188**

If you have any questions, feel free to contact us at apply@inspireSTL.org or 314-750-8224

Application Checklist

- Part I** – Student Information Form
- Part II** – Parent/Guardian Information Form
- Part III** – Financial Need Assessment
- Part IV** – Three typed Student Short Essays
- Part V** – One typed Parent/Guardian Short Essay
- Part VI** - Two completed Teacher Recommendations
- Part VII** - Signed Academic Release of Information Form
- Part VIII** - Official Transcript and MAP scores for 6th and 7th Grade



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Part I. Student Information Form

Applicant’s last name Applicant’s first name

Gender M F Date of birth

Address

City State Zip

Home phone number Cell phone number

Applicant’s email address

Middle school attended in 2013-2014

6th Grade MAP Score – Math 6th Grade MAP Score – Communication Arts

Cumulative GPA – 6th Grade Current Cumulative GPA – 7th Grade

Ethnic background (e.g. ‘Vietnamese’ rather than ‘Asian’). Write all different ethnic groups that describe you.

Where were you born? City: _____ Country: _____

Are you currently a U.S. citizen? (This will not affect your acceptance.) Yes No

Do you participate in extra-curricular activities – either inside or outside of school? (i.e. sports, religious organizations, mentorship programs) Yes No If yes, please complete the section below.

How many days per week? _____

Name of extra-curricular Leader of extra-curricular Leader’s contact number

Name of extra-curricular Leader of extra-curricular Leader’s contact number

Name of extra-curricular Leader of extra-curricular Leader’s contact number



Part II. Parent Information Form

Parent/Guardian _____

Parent/Guardian _____

Relation to Applicant: _____

Relation to Applicant: _____

Name: _____

Name: _____

Address: Same as applicant

Address: Same as applicant

Street Address _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Cell /Work Phone _____

Home Phone _____ Cell /Work Phone _____

Email Address _____

Email Address _____

Highest Level of Education Completed:

- Grade School Some High School
- High School Diploma Some College
- Associate’s Degree Bachelor’s Degree
- Master’s Degree Doctoral Degree

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- Grade School Some High School
- High School Diploma Some College
- Associate’s Degree Bachelor’s Degree
- Master’s Degree Doctoral Degree

Number of other children, if applicable: _____

Number of other children, if applicable: _____

Please select the places you have access to the internet:

- Home
- Work
- Library

Please select the places you have access to the internet:

- Home
- Work
- Library

Please select how often you check your email:

- Daily
- A few times a week
- Rarely
- Never

Please select how often you check your email:

- Daily
- A few times a week
- Rarely
- Never



Part III. Financial Need Assessment

Total Annual Household Income for the household in which the applicant lives:

(This information is required and will be kept confidential.)

Please select the income bracket that most closely reflects the annual household income

- Less than \$15,000
- \$15,001-\$20,000
- \$20,001-\$25,000
- \$25,001-\$30,000
- \$30,001-\$35,000
- \$35,001-\$40,000
- \$40,001-\$50,000
- \$50,001-\$60,000
- \$60,001 or above

Does your child qualify for free or reduced lunch? Yes No

Please list names and ages of everyone in your household:

Name _____ Age _____

Name _____ Age _____

Name _____ Age _____

Name _____ Age _____

Name _____ Age _____

Name _____ Age _____

Name _____ Age _____

Name _____ Age _____

Name _____ Age _____

Applicant’s Full Name: _____
First Middle Last

Parent/Guardian’s Name Parent/Guardian’s Signature

Date



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Part IV. Student Short Essay Responses

Please type a response of at least 2 paragraphs for each writing prompt.

1. Please describe, briefly, your academic and personal goals for high school and why you think being part of the inspireSTL will help you to reach those goals.
2. Think about a challenge that you have personally encountered. Please explain and describe how you overcame that challenge.
3. “Every day you have a choice: you can accept things as they are, or you can take responsibility for changing them.” - Senator Cory Booker of Newark, NJ.

Explain what this statement means in your personal life.

Explain what this statement means in your community.

Part V. Parent Short Response

Please type a response and attach to the application.

1. Explain how your child and family will benefit from inspireSTL and its services.



Part VI. Teacher Recommendation Form

Student’s Name: _____ Your Name: _____

In what year did you teach the student? _____ Which course? _____

Has the student ever been dismissed, suspended, placed on probation, or received other serious disciplinary action?

Yes No

What are the first three words that come to mind to describe this student?

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Characteristic	Outstanding (top 5%)	Very Good (top 10%)	Good (top 25%)	Average (top 50%)	Below Average (lower 50%)	Not Observed
Academic potential	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Academic Achievement	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Intellectual Curiosity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Effort/Determination	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Maturity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Oral skills	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Written skills	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ability to think critically	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Creativity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Organization	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Capacity for leadership	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ability to work independently	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ability to work with others	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Parental Involvement	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

On a separate page, please respond to the following prompts:

1. How has this student exhibited leadership? Please give a specific example.
2. Please describe this student’s character. Feel free to give an anecdote that better illuminates who they are.
3. In one to two sentences, how would you describe the student’s parental engagement?



Part VI. Teacher Recommendation Form

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Yes No

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Intellectual Curiosity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Written skills	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ability to think critically	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Creativity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Capacity for leadership	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ability to work independently	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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On a separate page, please respond to the following prompts:

1. How has this student exhibited leadership? Please give a specific example.
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Part VII. Academic Release Form

I /We authorize the release of my child’s:

Specific information requested may include:

- An official transcript, including all semester, quarter, and summer school credits
- Progress reports based on the school’s academic calendar
- Standardized test results
- Diagnostic testing
- Attendance Records
- Discipline Records
- Periodic student meetings
- Permission to conference with faculty and staff in regards to student progress

This information used is for educational planning.

To be forwarded to:

inspireSTL
P.O. Box 693
Saint Louis, MO 63188

I/We authorize inspireSTL to contact schools and other sources to obtain information relative to my/our child’s academic experience.

Applicant’s Full Name: _____
First
Middle
Last

Grade _____ D.O.B. _____ Current School _____

School Address _____
Street Address
City
State
Zip

School () _____ School Fax () _____

STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY: It is the policy of inspireSTL that all information received regarding our students is treated with complete confidentiality. Only authorized personnel have access to such information.

Signature of Parent or Legal Guardian Date

Signature of Parent or Legal Guardian Date



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Part VIII. Official Transcripts and MAP Scores

Please obtain a copy of your 6th and 7th Grade Transcript, including:

- Grades
- Attendance
- Discipline
- 6th Grade Official MAP Scores (Math and Communication Arts)

These materials can usually be acquired through your school secretary or counselor.

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