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Handley Class of 2026 earns record \$8.8M in scholarships

Star staff report

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John Handley High School's Class of 2026 received \$8,771,321 in scholarship awards, the highest total in recorded school history, according to a Winchester Public Schools media release.

The record-breaking amount includes \$1,459,644 in local scholarships awarded by community organizations, businesses, foundations, and individuals, as well as \$7,311,677 in additional scholarships and financial awards offered by colleges, universities, and other institutions.

The scholarship total was earned by a graduating class of 350 students, "reflecting the hard work, perseverance, and accomplishments of Handley's seniors as they prepare for a wide range of postsecondary pathways, including four-year universities, community colleges, military service, apprenticeships, trade programs, and direct entry into the workforce," the release states.

"We are relentless in supporting our students. This level of scholarship money doesn't happen without dedicated counselors, teachers and coaches combined with a culture of tenacity. This is impressive," stated Winchester Public Schools Superintendent Jason Van Heukelum.

Members of the Class of 2026 will attend institutions across the country, including the United States Air Force Academy, University of Virginia, University of Michigan, New York University, Northwestern University, and Laurel Ridge Community College, among many others.

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