Jonathan Noah Levy Carpe Diem Award

John F. Kennedy High School
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“To have a Purpose
To reach for goals...
To seize the day!”

Student Application Form 2009-2010

THIS IS THE 20th YEAR OF JONATHAN’S AWARD

All completed applications must be turned in to Ms. Katrele Carroll, College Career Information Coordinator, Guidance Dept., by Friday, January 29, 2010. Please note that in order to apply you must be a student in good standing at John F. Kennedy High School. (Students in any grade are eligible.)

To apply, please submit an academic transcript and a personal statement (on a separate sheet of paper) which includes:

1. Your name, address, phone numbers, and email address.
2. A list of your hobbies, interests, activities, volunteer and/or work experience, etc.
3. A statement about what “Carpe Diem” (Seize the Day) means to you, and why you feel you should get this award. This should include the challenge you are dealing with, and examples of how you are dealing with it.
4. Any additional information you think is important for the Award Selection Committee to know about you.

Please be sure to print your name, address, phone numbers and email address on each page of your application.

Finalists may have a brief interview with Award Committee. The award winner will be announced on Awards Night in May 2010.
John F. Kennedy -- An Academy High School

Jonathan Noah Levy Carpe Diem Award  (“Carpe Diem” is Latin for Seize the Day)
Jonathan Noah Levy graduated from J.F. Kennedy H.S. in May 1989. In his graduation address, he talked about the important things in life - his life, and the lives of his fellow graduates. He shared some insights achieved at very high personal cost - his personal battle of life and death. During his battle he found out what the important things were...

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As a freshman, he was diagnosed with leukemia. He spent a lot of time in the hospital and home, very sick from the treatments. He missed the majority of school time - but he couldn’t stand being left out of the lives that his friends were having. With hard work, even when he felt very sick, he managed to keep up with school and be a top scholar. He was a National Merit Finalist, Maryland Distingui shed Scholar, and won a full scholarship (Francis Scott Key) at the University of Maryland, College Park. He loved music (flute/piano) and played in school band and played on the steps of the US Capital on the Bicentennial of the US Constitution. He was a writer/editor of the school newspaper. He enjoyed a broad spectrum of interests but especially enjoyed escaping into other worlds & times through reading Fantasy, Mythology and Science Fiction. He either met or corresponded with many well-known writers. He met Star Trek writer Howard Weinstein (who put a scientific space ship, the USS Jonathan Levy, in books, and comic books). The JFK media center is named after Jonathan and has a section of Fantasy and Science Fiction in his memory with books from his collection, as well as from family, friends, authors, publishers and bookstores.

Jonathan loved computers and he worked two summers at the Naval Surface Warfare Center, learning to use CAD and teaching it to the engineers. He had his own computer consulting business and did word processing and editing. He loved learning about Space and the Universe. One summer he worked at NASA as an intern. At JFK he was in the Astronomy Club. A star in Orion’s belt is named after him. We arranged for several speakers to come to JFK to talk about exciting subjects, including two astronauts, Ron Parise and Kathryn Sullivan (first woman to walk in space).

Friends were an important part of Jonathan’s life. They played role-playing games and he was usually the leader or Dungeon Master. He and his friends learned to drive and attended Medieval/Renaissance Festivals, * science fiction conventions, Kings Dominion and the like, hung out together and had good times. They planned their activities and planned and dreamed their futures. Like everyone else, he planned, dreamed and worked hard to make things happen. He didn’t throw up his hands in the 9th grade and give up when he was told he had leukemia. He tried, with all his might, to live - and to live well - to make the most of every minute, every day.

* (some years ago, JFK had a Medieval Faire organized by his family, friends and the school, it was a tremendous success)

Although Jonathan died (after his 3rd relapse) ten days after his 20th birthday in January 1991, he did not fail. He succeeded in living to the best of his abilities. He kept a journal on audio tape where he hoped, whether he lived or died, that he would have an impact, leave his mark, on the world. He is making an impact. He and his family, in sharing his philosophy of making the most, the best of oneself and one’s life, created this award to reward someone who has had to make an effort to make the most of things - to say congratulations for living your life in the best way you possibly can, for setting your goals, and seizing the day; and remembering to enjoy all the good things in life.

“How to Apply:
Applicants must submit their an academic transcript and a personal statement (described on page 1) to Ms. Katrele Carroll, College Career Information Coordinator, Guidance Dept., by Friday, January 29, 2010. Please make sure all information is included to enable the selection panel to ensure they know about the “whole” student, not only activities in school. We hope that the inspiration for the award will encourage students to continue doing the best they can, no matter what life brings their way.

Applicants should exemplify the drive and determination shown by Jonathan and do what they can to meet their goals. This award is to be used in whatever manner they desire. It is a reward for showing the spirit of “Carpe Diem” and moving ahead with their life, despite the roadblocks of adversity.

Initial funding was from donations from family, friends, community, and activities such as a car wash by his friends. The award is part of the Montgomery County Community Foundation, an affiliate of the Community Foundation for the National Capital Region. The grant is given to the school through the Community Foundation for the student award winner.

All tax-deductible check donations to the award may be made out to the J.N. Levy Carpe Diem Fund - and sent to either the Montgomery County Community Foundation, 8720 Georgia Ave, Suite 202, Silver Spring, MD 20910, or to Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Levy, 2901 S Leisure World Blvd., #130, Silver Spring, MD 20906. All contributions are very welcome and are fully tax deductible.

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