Evan McLean Gibbons Memorial Scholarship
$1,000 Scholarship
The Reagan High School Scholarship Committee shall submit (8) eight potential candidates from the Senior Class to the Gibbons family based on the following criteria.

1. Maintain a GPA of 3.0 unweighted or higher.
2. Good moral character.
3. Admired among fellow classmates.
4. Sensitivity to Creative Media and the Arts. (preferred but optional)
5. Quality of response to scholarship essay (below)

Candidates who wish to be considered should write a short paper on:
“Maintaining Integrity in the Face of Adversity”
Priority shall be given to personal (family) “medical” adversities (if applicable).

- The Gibbons’ shall make the final selection for the $1000 Scholarship recipient, based on this paper.
- The Gibbons’ will deliver the Scholarship Funds in the form of a check, along with a Memorial Plaque to Reagan High School for the presentation to the successful student at the appropriate time.
- This yearly scholarship will be announced, publicized and publically presented in honor, and memory of Evan.

Application form and detailed instructions are on Page TWO

Respectfully submitted,
Jeff and Debbie Gibbons

(This page and essay due to Student Services Office by May 2, 2016)
The Reagan Scholarship Committee will review all applications and choose 8 applicants who best meet the six criteria specified on page ONE of the application. The anonymous essays of those 8 applicants will then be delivered to the Gibbons family, and the family will select the scholarship winner.

Name of Applicant: (Write your name on the top of the BACK of this page!!!)

Office Use Only: | Unweighted GPA

If you have an involvement in the arts or creative media (art, music, theater, graphic design, film production, etc....) please list those activities and describe your involvement in the space below:

Submit a typed essay on the following topic on separate sheets of paper (no more than 2 pages double-spaced), with your name written ON THE BACK of each sheet (not on the front!):

“Maintaining Integrity in the Face of Adversity”
Priority shall be given to personal (family) “medical” adversities (if applicable).
Please note that it is expected that you read Evan’s biography (attached).
Your essay should reflect that you have taken Evan’s personal journey into account when examining your own experiences with adversity.

Evan McLean Gibbons Memorial Scholarship
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(Background Information)

Evan McLean Gibbons August 11, 1993 – August 26, 2012
"Evan was a beautiful bright star in our lives....He will be forever missed".

Character
Evan’s life was full of laughter and dancing. Since the young days as a toddler, Evan portrayed an innocent sense of curiosity mixed with energetic playfulness which shaped his personality. Evan’s presence was warm, which attracted others to seek his friendship. Evan’s temperament was calm, being slow to anger and careful with his words of response. And Evan was tender, with a desire to look for the good in others through the extension of kindness and patience.

Talents
Evan loved art and displayed a keen eye for design, composition, balance and color. As an elementary school student, he was found drawing or coloring in his spare time. This was a favorite pastime which left us fond memories of his artful skills. This natural talent was so evident that his dad, a seasoned architect, at times would ask for Evan’s opinion and critique for several of his notable designs. “Evan just had an eye for what was appealing and correct. His comments didn’t stop with why he liked, or didn’t like what he was looking at. He went on to describe to you why he felt as he did and what he thought would make it better” ... Unfortunately, Evan’s skills were not cultivated in the local school system, which left him frustrated, but it also allowed him to seek art in a different medium, photography and audio/video.

Sports
While Evan didn’t pursue his ability in Sports into young adulthood, he grew up playing Baseball at Northwest Little League, Basketball at WCCC, Tae Kwon Do, Soccer, and Lacrosse for Reagan High School his sophomore year. Evan’s sport of choice was Skateboarding. He began learning the tricks of skateboarding around eleven, and by the time he was seventeen, he had mastered many of the routine jumps, twist and turns. He became well known locally for his abilities on the board. He also mastered the art of Finger-boarding. While the continuous sounds of a fingerboard hitting the supper table became quite annoying, his love for the accomplishments he had attained became very entertaining. The love of audio/video, and his mastery with the boards launched Evan into the use of a video camera while he skateboarded or finger-boarded. He quickly became versatile in the use of this equipment and launched forward in the development of 112 videos viewed frequently on Youtube (snobbiGnaVE) and contest submissions to a company in Germany that supplies and supports the craft; Blackriver-Ramps.

Education
Evan attended pre-school at Calvary Baptist Church and attended Redeemer School for the first grade through seventh grade. In Evan’s desire to enter his high school years with experience in the public school community, he attended Jefferson Middle School for the eight grade before moving on to Reagan High School for his high school experience. Evan was quickly accepted into the student body of friends that he had known most of his life through the various local sports programs. Comparatively to his previous years of attendance in school, the size of Reagan was a little intimidating. However, with Evan’s positive outlook and the excitement of this new venture, he adjusted well and became one of the Reagan Raiders.

Medical Sickness
In February of 2011, Evan was diagnosed with Ewing’s Sarcoma, a rare form of bone cancer that affects less than 300 people a year in the United States. A tumor was found in his left tibia, and he immediately began 12 weeks of chemo therapy. On June 3, 2011, Evan had surgery to remove the tibia and replace it with a cadaver bone.
Twelve days after surgery he returned to 24 more weeks of chemo therapy. Weeks upon weeks passed and all Evan could do was endure the pain, the sickness, and the mental anguish of missing his friends at school, his inability to walk, and the fact that his life had changed forever. Evan completed his chemo therapy on November 25, 2011. He was sent home to heal from the devastating toll that was taken on his body and to endure the long battle which lay ahead for his complete recovery. From December 2011 through Spring and early Summer of 2012, Evan continued his school work, focusing on graduation and attending weekly physical therapy to regain his ability to walk again. Evan graduated with his Senior Class in June 2012. In July, six weeks ahead of schedule, Evan took his first step in thirteen months (picture). On Monday morning, August 20, 2012, Evan began Forsyth Community College. He had planned to attend here for two years and then transfer to a university to pursue a future in cancer research. On Thursday of that week, he became ill and returned to Wake Forest University-Brenner’s Hospital. Results of tests showed that Evan had contracted a very rare form of Leukemia. It was chemically caused by the chemo therapy medications that had saved his life from Ewing’s Sarcoma. On Sunday morning August 26, 2012, Evan died from this tragic disease. Throughout the nineteen months that Evan battled this horrific disease and its effects there was pain, tears, and sorrow, but Evan never lost hope and his fight remained steady and strong. This cancer did not define who Evan was. Evan defined his life by his Godly faith and his belief that his courageous battle against one of the most devastating diseases of our time, in the end would not reflect his defeat in life, but rather, display God’s victory over death.

It is our desire for Evan’s legacy to continue on in the hearts and memories of family and friends who knew him and for future students who read this short story. These truths, in how Evan’s life was transformed by the tragedy he faced, are unique in today’s society. Our hope is, in the midst of life’s trials and adversities, that the ability to persevere will be exhibited in the behavior and character of the young man or young lady this scholarship is presented to, in honor of our son, Evan McLean Gibbons.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeff and Debbie Gibbons