

## The Dr. Katharine Borgen Memorial Scholarship for Excellence in Mathematics

The family of Katharine Borgen has established an annual award of \$2000 to be given to a Grade 12 student who has excelled in their Mathematics courses and is planning post-secondary study in Mathematics or Mathematics Education.

### About the Scholarship

This award is given at the discretion of the Borgen family, to a Math 12 student who:

Excels in Math studies

Is planning post-secondary study in Mathematics or Mathematics Education,

Financial need will also be taken into consideration.

The award is available to students in all high schools in the Vancouver School District.

Students wishing to apply for this scholarship need to express an intention to enroll in post-secondary education at a recognized institution, college, or university. This intention needs to be expressed in a brief, one-page summary written by the applicant.

If you have a candidate who meets the following criteria, please have the student complete the attached application form and a written one-page summary, and return it to

Attn: Scholarship Committee

Re: Dr. Katharine Borgen Memorial Scholarship for Excellence in Mathematics

via email [plegg@vsb.bc.ca](mailto:plegg@vsb.bc.ca)

Criteria for applying for the Dr. Katharine Borgen Memorial Scholarship for Excellence in Mathematics:

1. Complete attached application form and return (by May 7, 2021) to:
2. Complete graduation requirements by August 31, 2021
3. Write a one-page summary demonstrating support for the intent of attending a recognized post-secondary institution, college, or university
4. Applicant requires superior achievement in Math 12
5. A letter of reference that may include volunteer and community work
6. Description of need, if applicable.

## About Dr. Katharine Borgen

Dr. Katharine Borgen was born in Empress, Alberta on July 12, 1946 and was raised on a farm near Acadia Valley. Early in life she developed a strong sense of the importance of family and involvement in the community. She completed high school in Calgary and earned her Bachelor of Education in Mathematics at the University of Alberta in Edmonton. She began her teaching career in Edmonton Alberta where she taught high school Mathematics for eight years before moving to BC with her husband. She then opted to be a stay-at-home-mum for 11 years while she raised three children.

Katharine resumed her teaching career in 1987 with the Vancouver School District. Upon returning to the classroom, she discovered a very different environment that included multicultural and multi-lingual classrooms and students with more diverse learning styles than in her previous experience. She taught in Sir Winston Churchill, John Oliver, and Prince of Wales Secondary Schools. She obtained a Masters of Arts degree in Mathematics Education from the University of British Columbia in 1998 and a PhD in 2006 while continuing to teach.

Katharine's primary interest was making Mathematics meaningful and interesting for students, and in helping new and experienced teachers enhance their approaches to teaching. This led her to accepting a position as a Math Mentor with the Vancouver School Board in 2007 and being appointed as an Adjunct Professor in the Department of Curriculum and Pedagogy at UBC in 2008, a position she held until 2013. During her time at UBC Katharine authored research articles and workbooks and contributed chapters to a number of textbooks that have been adopted for use by several provinces and territories across Canada. She was a consultant for Pacific Press, as well as an advisor for McGraw-Hill Ryerson and for Nelson Education. She also presented workshops on the teaching of Mathematics provincially, nationally, and internationally.

Katharine was a strong and independent woman who was known for her enjoyment of life and her professional and personal generosity and love. In the Spring of 2012, she was diagnosed with a rare form of neck cancer. In spite of the challenges presented by her illness, she continued engaging in a wide range of professional and personal activities with courage and dignity. She passed away on April 3, 2014.

2021

## Student Application for the Dr. Katharine Borgen Memorial Scholarship for Excellence in Mathematics

Surname: \_\_\_\_\_

Given Names: \_\_\_\_\_

Current Address:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Secondary School: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher/Counsellor/Scholarship Committee Contact (include name and work telephone number):

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Math Course/Related Course(s) currently enrolled in:

\_\_\_\_\_

On a separate page, please write your post-secondary intention in a one-page summary using the following as an outline (to be completed by the candidate)

- Identify your career-oriented program, and/or courses, and the post-secondary institution, college or university you plan to attend
- Identify the nature of your current superior achievement in Math 12
- Include a letter of reference that includes volunteer and/or community work and financial need
- Include a record of all Grade 12 marks.

I certify that:

I am a candidate for this scholarship

I am a registered Grade 12 student in a Vancouver School District Secondary School

My present program will fulfill the requirements for secondary school graduation by August 31, 2021

The information that I have supplied is correct.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Please return this form and your one-page summary, letter of reference, and record of marks to [plegg@vsb.bc.ca](mailto:plegg@vsb.bc.ca) by May 7, 2021.

**Late applications will not be considered.**

Thank you.