

Walter Kirby Memorial Scholarship

The Walter Kirby Memorial Scholarship was established by Mrs. Inabell Kirby with the Decatur Public Schools for a graduating senior, in memory of Walter Kirby, a foreign language teacher at MacArthur from the time of its opening in 1957 until June 1974.

In Inabel's words, "I relate the purpose of the scholarship to deal with a real concern which Walter had that so many students in America's schools take no foreign language. This is in contrast to most other countries where a second or even a third foreign language is required in the curriculum starting in elementary schools. He believed, and I do also, that this fact makes us somewhat arrogant in insisting that international business be conducted in English. He believed that a better world would exist if more members of our society could reach out to others whether in travel, government, or business by knowing at least a bit of their language."

The Walter Kirby Memorial Scholarship for a senior who has excelled in foreign language and plans to continue his or her foreign language education will be **\$1,500 per student this year** (one at each high school & not to be divided between students). The foreign language teachers are to be responsible for choosing the recipient. Income is not a factor. If no outstanding student is recommended, a music student may be chosen by the music department.

If you have questions, please call The Community Foundation at 217-429-3000 and ask for Missy Batman.