



Manhattan Irish Fest

**MANHATTAN IRISH FEST
IS PROUD TO ANNOUNCE
THE WINNERS OF THE
MICHAEL J. MCHUGH SCHOLARSHIP**



Ryan Gentile

KING

QUEEN

Sara Swanberg

**AND SHALL HENCEFORTH
BE RECOGNIZED AS
KING AND QUEEN
OF MANHATTAN IRISH FEST 2018**



The 24th Annual Manhattan Irish Fest is will be held on March 2nd and 3rd in Downtown Manhattan. The Irish American Society of County Will (IASCW) is the official Fest host in conjunction with the Village of Manhattan. The parade will begin at 11am on Saturday, March 3rd beginning on North Street then proceed to State Street.

The Manhattan Irish Fest Committee officially declares that the King & Queen Scholarship will forever be named the "Michael J. McHugh Memorial King & Queen Scholarship". Mike was a lifelong Manhattan area resident and business owner who dedicated himself to the community. He was a founding member of the IASCW in 1981 and one of the original founding organizers of the Manhattan Irish Fest. Mike gave back to his community in many ways and loved to talk about his Irish Heritage.

The 2018 Fest Committee is proud to announce the 2018 winners of the Michael J. McHugh Memorial King & Queen Scholarship. The King award goes to Ryan Gentile and the Queen award goes to Sara Swanberg, both of Lincoln-Way West High School. Each student will receive a \$1000 scholarship toward the school of his/her choice. The Manhattan Irish Fest has awarded \$27,000 in scholarships since 2004.



Ryan Gentile – King

Ryan is the son of James and Karen Gentile of Manhattan. He plans to major in biology at either The University of Illinois – Urbana or Lewis University, Romeoville. Ryan plans to study to become an optometrist after completing his undergraduate studies. Ryan says, “A significant inspiration for becoming an optometrist is my local eye doctor, Dr. Jeff Pietrzyk”.

Ryan has been extremely active during his high school years, participating in the wide variety of bands that West has to offer and being a member of many clubs and activities. He is a member of the Principal’s Cabinet, National Honor Society, Tri-M Music Honor Society and Mu Alpha Theta. He has volunteered with many groups and local non-for-profits since Junior High School.



Sara Swanberg - Queen

Sara is the daughter of Dale & Tracy Swanberg of Manhattan. Sara will study engineering in college and wants to use her degree to give back to the world. She loves math and has challenged herself in rigorous courses throughout her high school career.

Sara is a member of the basketball and badminton teams at Lincoln-Way West. She is a member of the Principal's Cabinet, Future Business Leaders of America, the Athletic Outreach program and numerous others. This past summer Sara volunteered to be a Unified Tennis Partner. This organization partners persons with special needs with a volunteer to learn and play tennis. Sarah and her partner played in numerous tournaments across the state. Sara said, "I bonded with my partner and learned how small events may be much larger to others."

For more information www.manhattanirishfest.com