

## Merit Scholarship Policy

Each year, Linden Hall awards a limited number of Merit Scholarships to the top applicants in our pool. Merit Scholarships recognize truly exceptional performance in and out of the classroom, and selection is made by committee based on the criteria listed below. All applicants are automatically considered for merit scholarship and no separate application is required.

Merit Scholarship recipients are selected from our Priority Admissions pool. Students who apply after the Priority Admissions deadline (January 15) will be considered for any scholarship funds remaining, if any. All new applicants are eligible; returning students are not considered for Merit Scholarships.

Merit Scholarships are for the first year only and cannot be renewed. However, Merit Scholarships are “stackable” meaning they are awarded on top of any need-based financial aid.

### Merit Scholarship Criteria and Amounts

#### *Option A: Merit Scholarship based on grades and test scores*

Candidates with a qualifying GPA and test score as listed in the table below, along with recommendation forms and an interview of a similarly strong nature, will receive a Merit Scholarship in the amount noted.

For those students not marked on a numerical grading scale (e.g., with letter grades only) we will calculate a GPA to determine eligibility. For candidates who receive written evaluations instead of grades, or are graded on a different scale, we will look for equivalent academic achievement. Exceptions may be made for extenuating circumstances.

The SSAT threshold used is the Total Percentile for Grade and Gender. This data point can be found on your SSAT Score Report, most often in the top grid toward the lower right.

Applicants who are required to take the TOEFL instead of the SSAT may submit TOEFL scores in lieu of SSAT. However, students without either a TOEFL or SSAT scores are not eligible for the Merit Scholarships listed below.

| <i>GPA of most recent completed year</i> | <i>SSAT scores</i> | <i>Merit Scholarship amount</i> |
|--|--------------------|---------------------------------|
| 3.3/4.0 or equivalent                    | 85% or higher      | 10% of tuition                  |
| 3.5/4.0 or equivalent                    | 90% or higher      | 15% of tuition                  |
| 3.7/4.0 or equivalent                    | 95% or higher      | 20% of tuition                  |

*Option B: Academic achievement with exceptional community engagement*

For those students who do not meet the numerical requirements listed in Option A above yet stand to make a remarkable contribution to our community, Linden Hall may recognize them with a Merit Scholarship. Candidates selected for a Merit Scholarship under this method typically have strong grades, usually a 3.3/4.0 or the equivalent of grades of “B” or better in all subjects. They also demonstrate exceptional and notable engagement in their community in areas such as student leadership at school, service beyond the school community, passion for and involvement with a project of significant meaning, or a long-term and impactful commitment to an important issue.

Examples of engagement that may be selected for Merit Scholarship include a particularly outstanding Girl Scout Bronze Award project, completing a successful art installation or exhibit in the community, participation in a competitive program (e.g., karate, equestrian, dance) at a regional/national level, Student Council leadership that includes the successful completion of a significant, impactful project on campus, notable scientific research or civic engagement, placing at a state or national spelling bee or other academic competition, creating and managing a serious and long-term community service project, or making an unusual contribution to your family.

Students who feel they would be contenders for a Merit Scholarship under these criteria may send a short email of additional information to the Admissions Office, if they feel their qualifications are not adequately highlighted in their application. Newspaper articles, links to short (<2 minutes) videos, samples of writing or artistic work, and other supporting items are always welcome.

Selection is made via committee, and Merit Scholarship amounts for academics and community engagement range from 5% to 20% of tuition.