

# STERLING SCHOLAR FAQ's

**Application Deadline: Friday, October 29<sup>th</sup> @ 11:59 p.m.**



## 1. What is Sterling Scholar?

Sterling Scholar is a prestigious scholarship competition that has been sponsored by Deseret News and KSL 5 Television for over 50 years. The purpose of the program is to publicly recognize and encourage the pursuit of excellence in scholarship, leadership, and citizenship of *high school seniors* in the state of Utah. Many state and private universities offer substantial scholarships and stipends to region and state finalists.

## 2. What are the content categories in the competition?

- |                  |                    |                       |
|------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|
| -ENGLISH         | -COMPUTER          | -VOCAL PERFORMANCE    |
| -MATHEMATICS     | TECHNOLOGY         | -BUSINESS & MARKETING |
| -SOCIAL SCIENCE  | -SKILLED&TECHNICAL | -VISUAL ARTS          |
| -SCIENCE         | SCIENCES           | -INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC   |
| -WORLD LANGUAGES | -FAMILY&CONSUMER   | -DANCE                |
|                  | SCIENCE            | -SPEECH/THEATER       |
|                  |                    | ARTS/FORENSICS        |

## 3. Can I apply for more than one category?

YES. You can apply for as many categories as you wish, but you can only be selected to represent the school in one category. You must submit a separate application for each category.

## 4. How do I apply?

Applications are available in two ways:

- You can find them on the Ram Fam Site in Canvas.
- Many teachers at Highland School have access to the application materials. Ask your teacher for information.
- Highland High School Website.
- If none of these resources works for you, simply email [kevin.smith@slcschools.org](mailto:kevin.smith@slcschools.org), and I will send you copies of the documents.

## 5. How are Sterling Scholars selected?

After the application deadline candidates will be interviewed by a panel of teachers in the student's chosen category. The head of each category will contact you to set up an interview between the dates of **November 4<sup>th</sup> -November 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2021**. School winners will be selected by each department and all applicants will receive notification of status through an email on or before **Monday, November 29<sup>th</sup>, 2021**.

Judgments at every level of the competition are made based on a student's achievements in five areas: *scholarship, category expertise, leadership, community service/ citizenship, and interview*.

- ☞ **SCHOLARSHIP- (15%)** A nominee's overall GPA, difficulty of class schedule, standardized test scores such as ACT and SAT, class ranking and similar scholarship items attained during high school will be used to establish points for Scholarship.

- ☰ **CATEGORY EXPERTISE - (15%)** Emphasis is placed on the nominee's ability and talent in their specific category. While judges seek evidence of growth and service in all activities, the nominee's talent and aptitude within their category will receive particular emphasis.
- ☰ **LEADERSHIP - (15%)** The qualities of leadership in Utah public high schools can be measured in part by the responsibilities placed on a nominee by his/her teachers and fellow nominees. However, evidence of positive influence with fellow nominees also shall be considered an indication of leadership.
- ☰ **COMMUNITY SERVICE/CITIZENSHIP - (15%)** Each Sterling Scholar nominee should exhibit a record of high standards of citizenship throughout his/her high school years. Service to school, community or other organizations will be considered. The nominee's attitude toward the acceptance of responsibility in contribution roles, as well as seeking out service opportunities, will be especially important. Evidence of a long-term commitment to service will also receive particular attention.
- ☰ **INTERVIEW - (40%)** –During the interview, judges will evaluate the nominee's ability to answer questions pertaining to their category. Body language, technical knowledge, communication skills, professional appearance and plans for continued education in the category will all be included in the interview point assessment.

## **6. What happens if I am chosen to be a Sterling Scholar for HHS?**

Students who win the school competition will each create a professional portfolio containing transcripts, standardized testing information, descriptions of achievements in scholarship, leadership, and citizenship, and personal reflections on major accomplishments. A panel of judges reviews each portfolio and selects certain students to interview at the semi-final competition, held at Copper Hills High School on **Thursday, February 10, 2022**. Some students will be selected from there to advance to the state final competition, where they will again be interviewed, this will be held on **Thursday, February 24, 2022** at Cottonwood High School. State winners and runners-up will be announced at the Sterling Scholar Awards Ceremony, held on **Thursday, March 17, 2022**.

## **7. Who can I contact for more information?**

For additional information, visit <http://www.sterlingscholar.org>. Kevin Smith is the Sterling Scholar coordinators for HHS, and he welcomes your questions.

**Email:** Kevin.Smith@slcschools.org

**Room:** E214

**Phone:** 801-484-4343 ext. 7214