

PURPOSE:

As part of our commitment to diversity, equity, inclusion, and access, the Hyla Merit Scholarship fund exists to make Hyla's upper school tuition more accessible to more students and is available for students entering grades 9-12. The Tuition Assistance Committee reviews scholarship applications, and distributes available funds based on qualifications, financial need, and availability of funds.

AWARD CRITERIA:

Hyla Merit Scholarships are based on two factors:

1. **Financial Need:** Families will demonstrate financial need in the Parent Portion, 2C below (on page 3). If a family's total household income is less than \$250,000 per year, please also complete an application for Tuition Assistance through Clarity by February 3, 2026 (links and more info at www.hylaschool.org). Merit scholarship awards can supplement tuition assistance awards.
2. **Student Merit:** Hyla Merit Scholarships reflect our school values of inclusion, participation, accomplishment, sportsmanship, academic courage, self-awareness, social-emotional health, and service/activism. Hyla Merit Scholarships are awarded to students who demonstrate commitment, growth, accomplishment, and/or leadership in any of the following areas:
 - **Academics:** This looks like intellectual courage, motivation, sustained engagement, perseverance, and positive contribution to any learning environment (school, camp, workshop, etc.). Students who apply should consistently demonstrate the following work habits: completion of classwork and homework, stretching themselves academically, and completing assignments and creating projects that are representative of their best effort and work.
 - **Athletics:** Beyond sportsmanship (the fair and honest treatment of others), this looks like integrity, encouragement of others, and perseverance in any athletic endeavor, such as team sports, dance, martial arts, or long-distance running.
 - **Activism/Service:** This looks like contribution to a cause or effort through sustained engagement, collaboration, outreach, and co-creation.
 - **Extra-curricular Activities:** This looks like enthusiastic and sustained commitment, progress towards goals, encouragement of others, and positive contributions beyond attendance and practice.

TIMELINE:

Please email Suzanne at suzannem@hylaschool.org to notify the school that you plan to apply for the Merit Scholarship.

Your completed merit scholarship application must be submitted prior to a contract being issued. For new students, please submit your merit scholarship application at the same time as your admissions application.

Please submit completed applications by February 3, 2026 to Suzanne at suzannem@hylaschool.org. Please note that if your family applies for Flexible Tuition, that application is also due on February 3rd.

THANK YOU!

STUDENT NAME: _____

GRADE IN 2026-2027: Δ 9 Δ 10 Δ 11 Δ 12

1. STUDENT ESSAY QUESTION

Please choose from the questions below and answer ONLY ONE in a written essay (250 – 500) words. In lieu of an essay, students are welcome to reply in a different format, such as a painting, poem, presentation, or other format, and then present their work in an in-person interview.

- A. The Hyla motto, “We take care of each other” speaks to the rhythm of giving and receiving that defines community: sometimes we are the outstretched hand seeking help, and sometimes we are the one giving the help, but we are always working together. Please tell us about how you see yourself as a leader in a community that welcomes diversity, includes others, collaborates, serves others, and actively practices a growth-mindset.

- B. Please read Hyla’s upper school guiding framework (found on the website) made up of six sets of educational behaviors. Please choose a set that speaks to you and tell us about how you would put it into practice in high school at Hyla.

- C. Please describe a teacher or an educational experience that has influenced you in the past, and how that experience will shape what you bring and share in high school at Hyla.

- D. Please select a topic of global significance (such as climate change, social justice, etc.) and discuss why this topic is important to you personally, why it deserves global attention, and how you would make a meaningful contribution to its progress as a student at high school student at Hyla.

- E. In an increasingly interconnected world, global citizenship is an essential practice and awareness. To support the growth of citizenship in our students, we create opportunities for students to engage with others – our Winslow neighbors, groups based in Seattle, and with the global community beyond our borders. All Hyla students are expected to learn from and with others, engage with difference, collaborate, and contribute – all essential practices of citizenship. Please describe the importance of citizenship and how you will exemplify it both in the classroom and beyond the classroom.

2. PARENT PORTION

- A. Please tell us why Hyla is the right school for your student.
- B. Please tell us about how your student would make a positive contribution to Hyla's upper school program.
- C. To help our committee understand your financial circumstances and needs, please:
 1. Attach the first page of each parent/guardian's most recent tax return.
 2. Indicate what level of scholarship would help put a Hyla education within reach of your family. Please note that this is not a request for a specific amount, nor does it guarantee a scholarship amount.

\$ _____ - \$ _____.
 3. Please explain special financial circumstances we should know about.

THANK YOU!

Please submit completed applications by February 3rd to Suzanne at suzannem@hylaschool.org. Please note that if your family applies for Tuition Assistance, that application is also due on February 3rd.