

# THE BRANCH SCHOOL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP

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Available to a limited number of K-8<sup>th</sup> graders, current or new Branch School Bear families, for partial tuition scholarships. Awards are given on an annual basis. Should a student receive an award and not perform up to expectations, the student may be put on probation and any awards for the following year may be in jeopardy. Scholarship awards and amounts are subject to funds available for this purpose.

Student qualifications for the awards could include, but are not limited to:

- Superior academic performance – maintain an overall 90 average in Middle School and no grades below S- in Lower School.
- Exceptional character/citizenship/leadership qualities in the areas of grace, grit, love, kindness, gratitude, and empathy as well as no grades below S in Conduct or Approaches to Learning grades
- Exceptional ability/performance in the Fine Arts as determined by individual teachers
- Exceptional athletic ability in sports as determined by coaches
- Exceptional abilities or achievements in specific subject areas as determined by teachers
- Other

## **How to apply:**

Complete the enrollment process by February 1, for returning students, and the admissions process by April 1 for new students:

- Please submit the parent application to the [Dean of Students](#), and the letter of recommendation to the person completing the recommendation, a teacher or coordinator/principal.

The Branch School Scholarship Committee will consider applications for the following school year with a February 1 deadline for current students, and an April 1 deadline for new students (please apply at the same time as the admissions application submission). Current and new families will be notified of decisions by March 15 and April 15, respectively. Should funds remain available after April 15, late/rolling admissions enrolling families will be encouraged to follow the application process for the Merit-Based Scholarship. Merit awards and award amounts are determined by consideration of merit qualifications and, as appropriate, the order of applications received.

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The Branch School adheres to the Principles of Good Practice of National Association of Independent Schools (N.A.I.S.) member schools:

## **NAIS PRINCIPLES OF GOOD PRACTICE FOR FINANCIAL AID ADMINISTRATION**

1. The school adheres to all applicable local, state, and federal laws and regulations, including those that require nondiscriminatory practice in administering its financial aid policies.
2. The school operates within the context of both short- and long-range financial aid budget and policy goals.
3. The school uses objective research to measure the effectiveness of its progress toward its goals, and communicates the outcomes to its constituents as appropriate.
4. The school provides clear and transparent information to families through outreach, education, and guidance on all aspects of its financial aid process and the factors that influence admission and aid eligibility.
5. The school determines eligibility for admission without regard to a student's application for financial aid.
6. The school commits to providing financial aid dollars to applicants who demonstrate that their family resources are insufficient to meet all or part of the total educational costs.
7. The school continues to provide support to students as long as they demonstrate financial need.
8. The school maintains the same standards of behavior and academic performance for recipients of financial aid as it does for non-recipients.
9. The school enacts documented procedures that ensure a fair, consistent, and equitable assessment of each family's ability to contribute toward educational expenses.
10. The school makes and communicates financial aid decisions in a manner that allows families to make timely, careful, and fully informed enrollment decisions.
11. The school establishes administrative and accounting procedures that distinguish the school's need-based financial aid program from tuition assistance programs that are not based on financial need.
12. The school safeguards the confidentiality of financial aid applications, records, and decisions while respecting the right of each family to discuss its own financial aid outcomes in an appropriate manner.
13. The school supports collaboration between the financial aid office and other offices within the school.
14. The school supports collegial relationships with other schools and organizations for professional development, exchange of best practices, and other information sharing as appropriate.

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## Recommendation Form for TBS Merit Scholarship

*This form is considered confidential and for in-house TBS use only.*

*Parents, please complete the first two lines, sign, and give this form to a teacher to complete.*

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher submitting recommendation \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature to waive right to see completed recommendation:

\_\_\_\_\_

Teacher: Please check the category(ies) below in which you feel the student qualifies for the Merit Scholarship. Check all those that apply and star the one which is most outstanding for this student, and [return this form to the Dean of Students](#).

- ☐ Superior academic performance – maintain an overall 90 average in Middle School and no grades below S- in Lower School.
- ☐ Exceptional character/citizenship qualities in the areas of grace, grit, love, kindness, gratitude, and empathy as well as no grades below S in Conduct or Approaches to Learning grades
- ☐ Exceptional ability/performance in the Fine Arts as determined by individual teachers
- ☐ Exceptional athletic ability in sports as determined by coaches
- ☐ Exceptional abilities or achievements in specific subject areas as determined by teachers
- ☐ Other

**Please comment on the above student and their qualifications for the Merit Scholarship. Use extra paper if necessary.**

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## TBS Merit Scholarship – Parent Application

*This form is considered confidential and for in-house TBS use only.*

*Please contact the Dean of Students with any questions.*

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_

Grade Entering \_\_\_\_

Parent Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher who will be submitting recommendation \_\_\_\_\_

Email of teacher submitting recommendation: \_\_\_\_\_

Parents, please check the category(ies) below in which you feel your child qualifies for the Merit Scholarship. Check all those that apply and star the one which is most outstanding for this student.

- ☐ Superior academic performance – maintain an overall 90 average in Middle School and no grades below S- in Lower School.
- ☐ Exceptional character/citizenship qualities in the areas of grace, grit, love, kindness, gratitude, and empathy as well as no grades below S in Conduct or Approaches to Learning grades
- ☐ Exceptional ability/performance in the Fine Arts as determined by individual teachers
- ☐ Exceptional athletic ability in sports as determined by coaches
- ☐ Exceptional abilities or achievements in specific subject areas as determined by teachers
- ☐ Other

**Please briefly share any comments on your child and their qualifications for the Merit Scholarship that you feel could be helpful.**