



Main Line Classical Academy

A journey of the intellect across epochs and continents

John Winthrop Merit Scholarship Program

Main Line Classical Academy, a small, rigorous private school in Bryn Mawr PA is pleased to announce the **John Winthrop Merit Scholarship Program**.

What: During each of the 24-25 and 25-26 academic years (and for exceptional midyear transfers in the 23-24 academic year), Main Line Classical Academy will select up to 10 merit-based scholarship recipients to receive four years of full funding for MLCA high school tuition.

Why: Founded in 2015 with just four students, today Main Line Classical Academy is a flourishing K-8 with ninety students in both lower and upper schools, comprising dozens of different nationalities, religions, and native tongues—a school whose students routinely place nationally and regionally across math Olympiads, international French and Latin examinations, science fairs, and writing competitions; a school that, in our time of narrow-minded specialization and the disintegration of traditional values, successfully educates Renaissance young ladies and gentlemen as devoted to Roman history as to Geometry; as fascinated by Astronomy as by the plays of Molière; as proud of their still life études as of their participation in a production of Shakespeare’s *Tempest* or in their novel scientific research.

Two years ago, MLCA inaugurated a pilot high school program. Our small but mighty trailblazing cohort of high schoolers has immersed itself in great literature, scientific and mathematical investigation, immersive study of languages, and deep reading in history; has taken in stride a wide variety of AP courses; and is engaged in a variety of extramural academic opportunities, including college classes at local and national universities. These students are now poised to matriculate into some of the most competitive BA programs as champions of true critical thinking, brave intellectual pursuit, and dedication to the good, the beautiful, and the true.

The resounding success of our pilot high school cohort is the catalyst for establishing the John Winthrop Merit Scholarship, a \$1.2 million commitment to funding full merit-based tuition scholarships for up to 10 students per year in each of the 2024-25 and 2025-26 entering cohorts. Named for the Puritan leader who sought to establish America as a “city upon a hill,” the goal of the scholarship is to confirm MLCA’s place as home to the best and brightest young people in the Philadelphia area and as a new model for the nation. We are thrilled at this opportunity to bring the signature MLCA education to a wider community.

Who: We seek to welcome to the Main Line Classical Academy high school the brightest, most motivated, and most intellectually ambitious students – students with a love of learning that is matched only by MLCA’s capacity to nurture extraordinary talent. The scholarship is open to rising 9th graders during the 2024-25 and 2025-26 academic school years (as well as select 2023-



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24 midyear transfers) and covers 100% of tuition for all four years of high school, contingent upon maintaining a minimum yearly GPA of 3.0 and adhering to the MLCA student code of conduct.

How:

- (a) **Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis until January 31.** Candidates submit the John Winthrop Merit Scholarship Application at the same time as they go through the standard MLCA admissions process which includes IQ test; PSSAT; teacher evaluations; interview; and visiting day. Please note that the scholarship application also requires parents to submit an essay detailing their vision of classical education and why they believe MLCA is the right choice for their child.
- (b) Semifinalists are invited to the school for a round of interviews and are asked to write an additional essay, on a literary topic, while at the school.
- (c) Finalists are notified that they have been awarded the scholarship.
- (d) To secure the award, finalists must submit official enrollment documents and a \$2,500 security deposit (to be refunded by the school by October 1 of the following academic year) **within two weeks of their acceptance.**