

Guidelines for Sterling Scholar Applicants

Submit the application form, the personal essay, a transcript, and any other forms to Mrs. Gilgen (S-216) for each area in which you are applying by

Thursday, October 1st, 2026 at 2:45 p.m.

Please read the following Instructions:

1. **Obtain a copy/copies of your transcript** from the registrar's office. You must give them some "turn-around time" to print your transcript. Do not expect to walk in and receive it immediately! Therefore, **PLAN AHEAD**. Do not leave this until the day your application is due. You must use this transcript!
2. Submit a **complete application** for **each category** for which you apply.
3. Choose your categories carefully. Apply for the ones in which you feel most qualified. Please attach a copy of your transcript for each category. You may use the same essay or submit a different essay for each category. Your applications will be given to different committee members in different departments for review.
4. Make a favorable impression with your writing. Don't be modest; tell us what you have accomplished.
5. Candidates will be evaluated by a department committee. A nominee and alternate will be recommended to a final selection committee. The final selection committee will make the final determination of which area nominees will represent. However, every effort will be made to place students in areas for which they applied. **The committee reserves the right to make placements where necessary in order to best fill a slate of nominees for the school.**
6. Sterling Scholar nominees are judged on the basis of:
 - a. **Scholarship (20%)**
 - b. **Category (20%)**
 - c. **Leadership (20%)**
 - d. **Citizenship (20%)**
 - e. **Interview (20%)**
7. Although the judging process may vary slightly from department to department because of factors unique to each area, the following factors are major considerations in the selections of nominees:
 - 1) **High grade point average**
 - 2) **Course schedule:** The number of AP, honors, content specific courses, etc. taken
 - 3) **Participation in academic and leadership pursuits**
 - 4) **Scholarly pursuits-** research, writing, publication, projects, etc. in regard to the category
 - 5) Response to departmental **interview** questions

Checklist for each application:

1. Completed application (1 for each category)
2. Official transcript attached to each application
3. Personal Essay (1 for each category)
4. Staple together and TURN IN to Ms. Gilgen by Thursday October 1st, 2026 by 2:45 pm

For extra information, or keys to helping your application stand out visit the sterling scholar website:
<https://www.sterlingscholar.org>

If you are applying in multiple categories, please list them with choice preference.

First-

Second-

Third-

Sterling Scholar Categories:

NOTE: Upon entering the building for semi-final or final interviews, any interview exhibits, displays and/or artwork **MUST** be limited to what can be carried in the arms of the nominee **without the help of others**. (Parents, fellow nominees, etc. **may not** assist in any way.) Nominees may not use carts or similar devices. Accompanists may only stay during the performance portion of the interview and must leave the room upon conclusion of the performance.

ENGLISH – For scholarship and achievement in one or more of the following areas: creative writing, English, journalism, literature and related subjects. Two examples of work either published or prepared as classroom assignments must be submitted. There will be an additional four portfolio pages allowed for this submission. The quality of thought, maturity, originality and technical skill will be considered.

MATHEMATICS – For scholarship and achievement in mathematics and related areas. Scholars may exhibit outstanding records in mathematics competitions and evidence of potential contributions to mathematical knowledge. Nominees should be prepared to calculate a mathematical equation(s) in the judging interviews. Nominees should submit state and national math scores and other standardized mathematics test scores.

SOCIAL SCIENCE – For scholarship and achievement in one or more of the following areas: American government, geography, history, economics, social issues, world affairs and/or related subjects. Scholars should have a broad background in the social sciences and demonstrate, exemplify and practice good citizenship. The nominees may have shown inventiveness in relating social studies to existing problems and in translating concepts into experiment.

SCIENCE – For scholarship and achievement in advanced work, inventiveness or outstanding service in one or more of the following areas: biology, chemistry, engineering, physics, health science, science and related subjects. Imagination, originality or special contributions will receive major consideration in judging.

WORLD LANGUAGES – For outstanding scholarship and persistence in the study of a world language. Nominee should have made unusual contributions to the field of world language study or demonstrated increasing interest in such studies at their school. Rankings received in world language festivals should be submitted. Nominees should also submit a brief resume of language projects or adventures in which they have participated. Nominees should be prepared to demonstrate their ability to communicate in the language by speaking, listening, reading and writing. For languages lacking a written component (for example American Sign Language and some native American languages) the written component may be replaced by a translation, interpretation or literature exercise that demonstrates skills in grammar, syntax, and artistic forms. **NOTE: *World Language includes any language, other than English, offered for credit in the general curriculum (not as an independent study) of any high school, college or university within the state of Utah. A foreign-born nominee attending an English-speaking high school may not use English or their native tongue as a “foreign language.” CANDIDATES MAY NOT COMPETE IN A LANGUAGE SPOKEN IN THEIR HOME (NATIVE LANGUAGE). Deaf nominees, for whom ASL is their first language, are considered native language users. Children of Deaf Parents are considered in the same manner as children of first generation native world language users.***

COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY – For outstanding scholarship and achievement in one or more of the following areas: Computer programming, interfacing, networking, repair, construction, design and illustration, media and multi-media, or other related fields. The nominee may have won awards or recognitions, implemented their skills in behalf of their school and community or demonstrated innovative progress in their field. Nominees are not expected to have experience in all listed fields, but expertise in at least one discipline.

SKILLED AND TECHNICAL SCIENCES EDUCATION – For outstanding scholarship and achievement in one or more of the following areas: Agriculture sciences, automotive services, automotive collision repair, cabinetmaking/millwork, carpentry, cosmetology/barbering, drafting/CADD, graphics/printing technology, law enforcement, machinist technician/CNC, welding, film making and other related fields. The nominee may have won awards in competitions, devised equipment or materials for school use or shown unusual progress in this study. Nominees are not expected to have experience in all listed fields, but expertise in at least one discipline.

FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES – For outstanding scholarship and achievement in one or more of the following areas: child development and care, interior design, family living, food and nutrition, culinary arts, clothing and fashion and other life skills. Nominees are not expected to have experience in all listed fields, but expertise in at least one discipline. Nominees may have won awards in youth organizations, other competitions or may have used skills to render service to their school, church or other organizations.

BUSINESS AND MARKETING – Demonstrate a high level of scholarship and achievement in one or more of the following areas: Business management, non-profit management, accounting, entrepreneurship, sales, marketing and other fields related to business occupations. Nominees may have won awards in competitions or exhibited proficiency in working with or in small or large businesses. Nominees may have held elected offices, captainships, and other evidences of peer acknowledged leadership. Nominees are also encouraged to provide evidence of successful outside activities that support business career development and interests. Evidence of excellence in standardized test scores, GPA, class ranking, IB classes and quantitative AP courses should be provided.

SPEECH/THEATER ARTS/FORENSICS – For scholarship and achievement in one or more area of speech, theater arts and Forensics: debate, public speaking, oral interpretation, and/or (non-musical) theater. Nominees are not expected to have experience in all listed fields, just expertise in at least one discipline. Nominees should include in their portfolios two examples of their work or descriptions of their activities related to this category. Where possible, students are encouraged to submit their student record of accomplishments from the National Forensics League and/or International Thespian Society. They should also be prepared to give a brief demonstration of a past speech and theater arts performance, appropriate to their specialty, approximately two to three minutes in length. (Nominees should not be discouraged if judges interrupt the performance so that they can continue the interview.)

VOCAL PERFORMANCE - For demonstrating outstanding scholarship and achievement in one or more of the areas of musical theatre, opera, or vocal performance. Exceptional talent in composition will be considered, but service to school or community through this talent also will be among determining qualifications. Nominees are not expected to have experience in all listed fields, just expertise in at least one discipline. Nominees should include in their portfolios two examples of their work or descriptions of their activities related to this category. They should also be prepared to give a brief demonstration of their talent appropriate to their specialty, approximately two to three minutes in length. (Nominees should not be discouraged if judges interrupt the performance so that they can continue the interview.)

VISUAL ARTS – For scholarship and achievement in creative expression in one or more of the following areas: drawing, artistic photography, commercial art, mixed media, graphic art, painting, sculpture and related fields. The nominee may have demonstrated professional potential in one or more disciplines, contributed outstanding service to the school and successfully completed in district and state art shows. Nominees are allowed to display actual artwork during judging but only if the piece can be carried without assistance of any kind. Visual arts nominees must show some examples of artwork in their portfolio.

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC – Nominee demonstrates outstanding scholarship and achievement in one or more of the areas of music. Exceptional talent in composition will be considered, but service to school or community through this talent also will be among determining qualifications. Nominees should be prepared to demonstrate their musical talent during a period of two to three minutes by performing with an instrument. (Nominees should not be discouraged if judges interrupt the performance so that they can continue the interview.)

DANCE – For demonstrating exceptional skill, achievement and creative expression in artistic dance (ballroom dance included). Portfolios should include training received, dances choreographed, major performances and dance service rendered to the school or community. Nominees should be prepared to demonstrate their technique and choreographic skills by performing a self-choreographed solo composition, approximately two minutes in length. Nominees will also be asked to respond to an improvisational problem during part of the interview. No performance videos required – but should be included in the electronic portfolio. (Nominees should not be discouraged if judges interrupt the performance so that they can continue the interview.)

Corner Canyon Faculty Advisor over each category:

*English: Anne Torgersen

*Math: Amber Toney

*Social Science: Kara Bray

*Science: Devin Shields

*World Languages: Lindsey Nielson

*Computer Technology: *See Jordan Denos

*Skilled and Technical Sciences: Tim McNeill

*Family and Consumer Sciences: Megan Francis

*Business and Marketing: Jon Hansen

*Speech/Theater/Forensics: Phaidra Atkinson

*Vocal Performance: Melissa Thorne

*Visual Arts: Amelia Davis

*Instrumental Music: Randal Clark

*Dance: Candice Wilson

Corner Canyon High School

Sterling Scholar Application 2026-2027

Name: _____

Sterling Scholar Category: _____

Other Categories you are applying in: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email: _____

Overall Scholarship 20%

List all AP, Honors, Concurrent Enrollment and Advanced Classes that you have taken or are currently taking. List which AP tests you have taken and the scores you received. List your ACT score, class rank and cumulative GPA, all signed by the school Registrar.

Freshman	Sophomore	Junior	Senior

ACT Score:	Class Rank:	Cumulative GPA:
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School Registrar Signature: _____

Category Scholarship 20%

List any achievements that you have earned in this category. Examples include awards received, published articles, talent you have demonstrated, projects that you have completed relating to the category, etc. You may attach copies of certificates, awards, photos of competitions, performances, etc.

Leadership 20%

List any leadership roles that you have held in the school and community. This can include sports leadership, club council and student government roles and projects that you have overseen in these capacities.

Community Service/Citizenship 20%

List any service projects that you have participated in or brought about in your school and community. Explain your role in the project and how that made a difference.

Interview 20%

To prepare us to meet you in the interview, please write an essay about why you are passionate about this category, how you have used your talent in the past and how you plan to use your skills in this area in the future.