



TREASURE VALLEY
CLASSICAL ACADEMY

The Love the Beautiful Scholarship Guide

1. What is the Purpose of the Scholarship?

The *Love the Beautiful Scholarship* is rooted in the TVCA school's pledge: "I will learn the true, I will do the good, I will love the beautiful." Its purpose is to recognize and reward a student who demonstrates not merely creativity and skill, but the ability to discern **Beauty** as the result of **Truth** and **Goodness**. The scholarship is awarded to the student who creates a work that possesses formal integrity and philosophical depth, bridging aesthetic appreciation to intellectual and moral virtues.

2. Who is the Scholarship For?

This award is available to **Seniors in good standing attending Treasure Valley Classical Academy (TVCA)** who will enroll as full-time students in an accredited post-secondary institution (college, university, or vocational-technical school) for the fall semester immediately following their graduation.

3. How Do You Apply?

The application requires a dual submission:

1. **An Original Work:** A tangible creative work, created by the student applicant within the last 12 months, using any medium that demonstrates mastery of its form.
2. **An Original Short Essay (250–500 words):** An accompanying essay that serves as the philosophical bridge, explaining how the original piece reflects the guiding principle of "Love the Beautiful." This essay must move beyond simple aesthetic preference of beauty to articulate the true meaning of "Love the Beautiful" through order, harmony, truth, and goodness.

4. When Does the Scholarship Occur?

The original Creative works and Essays are submitted by **March 30, 2026**. The Award recipient is determined by **May 1st**.

5. What is the value of the scholarship

The Scholarship Award is **\$1,000 for the first year**. The scholarship may be **renewed for \$1,000 for a second year** if the student maintains satisfactory performance during their first year of post-secondary education. Satisfactory performance is defined as meeting one of the

following criteria: obtaining a 3.5 GPA or higher during the first year of a traditional college or university program; or achieving a "B" equivalent average (or passing all required courses) in a trade school or vocational program. The scholarship recipient must provide an official, verifiable transcript or equivalent documentation of performance to the TVCA Upper School Principal by July 15th of the renewal year. The scholarship may be applied to any form of post-secondary education, including a university, college, or trade school. The student shall provide confirmation of full-time enrollment or letter of acceptance at the time of the initial award.

6. How Are Applications Judged?

Applications are judged equally, split 50/50 between **Artistic Merit & Execution** and **Understanding & Articulation of the Guiding Principle**.

The judging process for **Artistic Merit** focuses on technical mastery: the effective use of formal elements (Line, Color, Value), spatial elements (Shape, Form, Texture), and compositional success (Unity, Balance, Craftsmanship).

The judging process for **Understanding and Articulation** focuses on the essay's success in defining and demonstrating Beauty and the work's relationship to Order, Harmony, Truth, and Goodness.

A Guide to Understanding Beauty

In its classical form, Beauty is not an isolated property of a created work, but rather the *claritas*—the clear, easily understood, radiant qualities that result from the convergence of Truth and Goodness. The order of the relationship is hierarchical, requiring the understanding of Truth before the realization of Goodness, culminating in the revelation of Beauty. The transcendental concept of “Love the Beautiful” links aesthetic appreciation to the intellectual and moral virtues necessary for a truly free and ordered life, a life lived with reason and virtue.

As students and judges, we must consider that “If an object, whether a mathematical proof, a piece of music, or a human action, possesses formal integrity and fulfills its inherent purpose, it necessarily possesses beauty.”¹ The Hillsdale approach requires us to “reach across the divide between fields of study and apply our skills to looking for Truth and the Beautiful.”² In this way, we may discover Beauty beyond where it is expected. For example, mathematics Professor Jonathan Gregg implores his students to think critically about mathematics as a whole: “By using logic and reason, we would ultimately find Beauty in how math interacts with the world.”² Similarly, we must strive to understand the purpose of a created work and the value of its transcendental properties in order to find the beauty within.

“The good of anything is found in its ability to accomplish what it was created for...to realize its purpose for existence as intended by its maker. Where Truth and Goodness exist, you will find Beauty”³. In many cases, the purpose of a created work may be obvious whereas in other cases the purpose may be hidden or require deeper study. “A lack of fundamental knowledge about how a technology or work functions makes it impossible to determine its aesthetic value, as the Beauty lies in the structural necessity and the realization of its intended purpose.”⁴ With study and understanding of a created work's purpose, we may uncover the Truth and Goodness

that make a work Beautiful whether it be a traditional piece of fine art, a mechanical work, or something we may not have considered to be Beautiful in our everyday use.

The creation and judging of the submissions require deep intellectual effort with an attempt to understand each work's Truth and Goodness. When required, a focus "on tangibility allows the application of classical aesthetic criteria to everyday physical objects. This approach looks for Beauty in an object's physical Truth, such as its weight, texture, and visible process, confirming that it is Beautiful because it is honest about its material design, the order, and clarity it displays."⁴ Yet, as we embark into the exploration of the definition of Beauty, it is also helpful to have a simpler explanation in mind. John-Mark Miravalle suggests an everyday definition of Beauty that can be used as a guide: "order combined with surprise."⁵ This is a good place to start our journey as we work through the hierarchical understanding of Truth and Goodness, because "Beauty is found only where Truth and Goodness exist," and these are the principles that must guide our judgement.

Sources Referenced:

1. Hillsdale College BCSI Classical Education Philosophy
2. Nolan Ryan "Beauty Across the Lines"
3. [Hillsdale College Introduction Video](#)
4. Mark Naida "Tangibility and the New Place of the Artist"
5. John-Mark Miravalle "Beauty: What It Is and Why It Matters"

7. Application Form

The application form can be found at [this link](#)

If the link does not work, copy and paste this URL into your web browser:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfXM9hs2oYo78tnMfG7KP08E_cwfRKHR2Lcg2nFttsZIJKzEw/viewform