Merit Scholarship Application for Incoming High School Students

Class of 2031

Deadline: Monday, November 16, 2026

Submit: admissions@theelms.org

Our Mission

Our Lady of the Elms, a private Catholic school rooted in the Dominican tradition educates girls and young women to live their lives boldly with purpose, confidence, kindness, resilience, justice and faith.

Dominican Pillars

Woven into the experience of every Elms girl is Veritas, the pursuit of truth and justice. Boldly forming the base for our work are the four pillars of the Dominican Charism:

Study Preaching Community Prayer

Scholarship Requirements

- Students must be in good academic standing at their current school.
- Parents must complete our FACTS financial aid available at www.theelms.org/FACTS. Financial need is considered but it is only one factor.
- Students must take the HSPT and shadow at the Elms.
- Letters of recommendation from a teacher, coach, or family friend will be accepted but not required.
- If awarded:
  Students must actively participate in at least one extra-curricular activity by their sophomore year.
  Students must participate in donor gratitude events.

Merit Scholarships

- Our Lady of the Elms scholarships are made possible through the generous support of alumni and friends

How to Apply

In one packet, please submit the following to admissions@theelms.org by November 14, 2026.

- Student Information Form
- Essay Prompts found on the Student Information Form
- Student 7th and 8th grade report cards
- List of student extracurricular activities (clubs, sports, dance, volunteer work, etc.)
- HSPT scores if taken at a school other than Our Lady of the Elms
- Letters of recommendation

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Student Information Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

Student Email: _____

Current School: _____

Parent Phone: _____

Parent Email: _____

Place of Worship: _____

Essays Prompts

We ask that the student complete the following writing prompts. Write a well-developed essay of 150-200 words.

1. Describe a challenge you have had in your life. What did you do to meet the challenge and how did this challenge change you?
2. St. Catherine of Siena, a Dominican, tells us, "Do not be satisfied with the little things, because God wants great things." What great things do you see happening in your future, and how do you think the Elms will help you in your journey?

Class of 2031 High School Admissions Timeline

September - December 2026:
Shadow Visits

October - November 2026:
Open Houses -
Dates & Times: Oct. 4, 12PM – 2PM & Nov. 4, 6PM - 7:30PM

October - December 2026:
High School Placement Test (HSPT)
Dates & Time: Oct. 24, Nov. 14, 9AM – 12:00PM

November 16, 2026:
Deadline to apply for merit scholarships and financial aid
Deadline to apply for first round admission
(Public, private, and non-Diocesan Catholic school students)

November 20, 2026:
Notification of scholarships and financial aid awards

December 12, 2026:
Diocesan Catholic schools applications open in Digital Academy

January 11, 2027:
Deadline to apply for first round admission
(Diocesan Catholic school students)

February 11, 2027:
Official notification of admissions decisions for first round applicants. Accepted students will receive an enrollment contract & state scholarship paperwork at this time.

February 25, 2027:
Deadline to return contract and registration fee

March 2027:
Deadline to apply for Diocesan Tuition Assistance for students
(Must be indicated in FACTS application)

March/April 2027:
Class of 2030 Scheduling Day