



T. Thomas Fortune Academic Merit Scholarship

Ranney School is proud to launch the T. Thomas Fortune Merit Scholarship, a program designed to recognize incoming 9th grade Black students for their outstanding academic achievement with a full, 4-year merit award for Upper School (grades 9 through 12). Students must also demonstrate financial need for a full scholarship. The T. Thomas Fortune Scholarship is inspired by generous and passionate Ranney families who are committed to social justice and systemic change. The scholarship is named in honor of Timothy Thomas Fortune, an American civil rights leader and writer in the late 19th and early 20th Century. Among his many accomplishments, T. Thomas Fortune was the editor of the Black newspaper *The New York Age* and was an adviser to Booker T. Washington. He is a local hero, having spent time living in Red Bank, and is the inspiration for the [T. Thomas Fortune Cultural Center](#).

Ranney School inspires our diverse community of students to strive to reach their full potential. Ranney offers a rigorous course of study and curricula that is innovative and flexible. Small classes and nurturing faculty teams offer a balance of challenge and support guided by the needs of each individual student. With myriad student-life programs, our students are encouraged to pursue not just one, but many interests while at Ranney School. Throughout Upper School, students are guided by a dedicated College Counselor as well as an academic advisor.

We are proud of our school's diversity—our families encompass a broad spectrum of cultures, races, religious backgrounds, countries, family structures, and socio-economic backgrounds. In terms of racial diversity, Ranney's students are: 64% White; 23% Asian; 5% Black; 4% multi-racial; 3% Hispanic/Latino—however, we are committed to expanding our connections with communities of color to invite families to consider Ranney for their children. Diversity, equity and inclusion are critical facets of Ranney's strategic plan. We have a Board-level Diversity Committee chaired by Ranney alumnus and Trustee [Dr. Walter Greason '91](#), a prominent historian, educator, and urbanist (@worldprofessor). Ranney is incredibly fortunate to have Dr. Greason's deep expertise in social justice guide and inspire our efforts to effect systemic change within Ranney—from our hiring practices and student recruitment efforts to our intentional academic and student life programs. We have approximately 20 student, parent, alumni, faculty and administrative leaders on our Board Diversity Committee. We have also established a Student Diversity Leadership Council to coordinate student diversity clubs and initiatives. Ranney's Coordinator of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion spearheads the faculty and student-led committees and also seeks opportunities to bring speakers, programs and professional development opportunities to our community.

We understand that tuition at Ranney is a significant investment; therefore, we offer flexible payment plans as well as academic merit scholarships and need-based financial aid. Our Ranney Scholars academic merit scholarship programs offers awards to students entering 9th grade. A new component of Ranney Scholars, the T. Thomas Academic Merit Scholarship program is a full, 4-year scholarship award for an incoming 9th-grade Black student who also demonstrates full financial need. Each year, Ranney will award at least two full-need academic merit scholarships, including the T. Thomas Fortune Scholarship.

In addition to academic merit scholarships, Ranney awarded \$1.8 million in need-based financial aid to 17% of our students for the 2020-21 school year. Ranney offers a range of need-based financial aid awards, from full need to more modest awards. Our school has been making intentional increases in financial-aid awards over the past five years and we are proud that our school's socio-economic diversity has been increasing significantly.

We look forward to welcoming prospective, eligible students to Ranney to apply for the T. Thomas Fortune Scholarship. We also welcome students to apply to Ranney and be considered for other academic merit scholarships or need-based financial aid.

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T. Thomas Fortune Academic Merit Scholarship

Ranney School is proud to launch the T. Thomas Fortune Academic Merit Scholarship (“TFF Scholarship”), a merit scholarship program designed to recognize incoming 9th grade Black students for their outstanding academic achievement with a full, 4-year merit award for Upper School (grades 9 through 12). Students must also demonstrate financial need for a full scholarship. The scholarship is named in honor of Timothy Thomas Fortune, an American civil rights leader and writer in the late 19th and early 20th Century. Among his many accomplishments, T. Thomas Fortune was the editor of the Black newspaper *The New York Age* and was an adviser to Booker T. Washington. He is a local hero, having spent time living in Red Bank, and is the inspiration for the [T. Thomas Fortune Cultural Center](#).

Who is eligible to apply?

- We welcome applications from 8th grade Black students entering 9th grade during the 2021-2022 school year.
- Students must also demonstrate financial need for a full scholarship.

What is the deadline to apply?

- **Scholarship applications are due no later than March 15, 2021.**

When will I be notified if I receive an award?

- Students will be notified of the committee’s decision by mid-April.
- Students who receive an award must enroll by May 15 to receive the award.
- Awards will be applied to Ranney tuition and not be awarded in cash.

What is entailed in the application process?

- New students who wish to be considered for a merit scholarship must complete the admissions process, which includes:
 - Complete online application for admission
 - Submit scholarship essay or creative work (can be submitted as part of online application or mailed/emailed to scholars@ranneyschool.org)
 - Transcripts and past standardized testing
 - Two teacher recommendations
 - Admissions interview
 - Submit Mentor or Community Organization recommendation if applying to be considered for a full merit award.
 - Submit financial documents demonstrating the family is unable to afford tuition to Ranney.

What criteria are considered by the scholarship committee?

- Exceptional and consistent achievement in academic coursework.
- Recommendations from teachers and Mentor/Community Organization.
- Scholarship application essay that demonstrates the student’s commitment to Ranney’s mission.

How much are the awards?

- The TFF Scholarship covers the full cost of tuition for four years.

How many awards will be given?

- Ranney will award at least one TFF Scholarship as well as at least one other full-need academic merit scholarship through Ranney Scholars each year.

Can I still apply if I am not sure my family will qualify for full financial need?

- Students are welcome to submit this application if their family does not qualify for full financial need and they will automatically be considered for a Ranney Scholars merit award and/or need-based financial aid.

Do you have similar programs for students of other races / ethnicities?

- Rising 9th grade students of all backgrounds are welcome to apply for an academic merit scholarship through Ranney Scholars. The process to receive a Ranney Scholars award is the same as the TFF Scholarship.

Contact Gwyneth Hecht, Associate Dean of Enrollment Management, at ghecht@ranneyschool.org or 732.542.4777 x1109 with questions.

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T. Thomas Fortune Academic Merit Scholarship Full, 4-Year Award Beginning with the 2021-2022 School Year

Ranney School is proud to launch T. Thomas Fortune Academic Merit Scholarship (“TFF Scholarship”), a merit scholarship program designed to recognize incoming 9th grade Black students for their outstanding academic achievement with a full, 4-year merit award for Ranney’s Upper School (grades 9 through 12).

Scholarship applications are due no later than March 15, 2021. The scholarship committee will consider:

- Academic performance (transcripts and test scores, if available)
- Scholarship essay or creative work (may be emailed or submitted as part of the online Admissions application)
- Teacher recommendations (2 required as part of the admissions process)
- Mentor / Community Organization recommendation (should convey why this scholarship will be a transformative opportunity for applicant; recommendations can be emailed to scholars@ranneyschool.org)
- Financial documents demonstrating full financial need

The scholarship essay or creative work may be uploaded as part of the online Admissions application. The student may also send their scholarship proposal to Ranney School, 235 Hope Road, Tinton Falls, NJ 07724 (Attn: Enrollment Management and College Counseling Office) or send via email to scholars@ranneyschool.org.

Please complete this application cover page and submit along with your typed essay, video or creative work.

Student Name: _____

Current School: _____

Current Grade: _____ **Years at Current School:** _____

Gender: _____ **Race/Ethnicity:** _____

Mentor/Organization Contact Name: _____ **Email:** _____

Scholarship Essay:

Ranney School’s mission is to nurture intellectual curiosity and confidence to inspire students to LEAD HONORABLY, THINK CREATIVELY, and CONTRIBUTE MEANINGFULLY to society. Explain or demonstrate how you will personally exemplify Ranney School’s mission. How will you lead, create, and/or contribute? You may write an essay (approximately 500 words), produce a video, or submit a creative work.

I attest that my answers are in my own words and represent my own work.

Student Signature: _____

Please note: By submitting a scholarship proposal, you hereby grant Ranney School permission to use such materials or portions of materials in future marketing initiatives, including print and electronic advertising.

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