



## About the Hart-Thomas Scholarship

The **Hart-Thomas Scholarship** is a one-time award of \$1,000 through the **Brighton Schools Alumni Association** (BSAA) in memory of **12 Corners Middle School** English teacher **Louise Thomas**, who instilled a lifelong understanding of, respect for and ability in grammar, spelling, punctuation and usage in her middle-school students, and **Brighton High School** (BHS) teacher **Elizabeth Hart**, whose influence on BHS students — through her AP English, Critical Reading & Writing, and other elective classes — created a lasting standard of excellence in writing, editing and proofreading.

The award recognizes a graduating BHS senior who has demonstrated initiative, originality, creativity, independence, critical reading and writing skills, and overall excellence in published materials. The recipient does not have to plan to major in English or journalism in college.

Submit **three to five examples** of articles, essays, fiction and/or poetry written for a class or accepted for publication; this can include blog posts, graphic novels and self-published books, and does not have to be paid work. Winning entries in the Brighton Memorial Library literary competition and similar contests are acceptable. Work published in *Trapezoid* and *Galaxy* will be considered, but at least one out-of-school publication is preferred.

The scholarship was established in 2020 by **Ruth E. Thaler-Carter** (BHS'71), who responded to being turned down for *Galaxy* by writing a column for the *Brighton-Pittsford Post* and creating a literary magazine with BHS classmates and friends outside of Brighton, and hopes to inspire students to carve out their own paths in writing and publishing. She credits Miss Thomas and Miss Hart, and the Brighton school system in general, with providing skills and confidence that have been key to her professional success as a writer, editor and proofreader. More than a dozen alumni have responded with generous additional support of the Hart-Thomas Scholarship in appreciation for the teachings of Miss Hart and Miss Thomas.

The scholarship is a one-time award per recipient. Depending on additional contributions to the Hart-Thomas Scholarship, the award may be increased in a given year or more than one student may each receive a \$1,000 award in the same year. Contributions are welcome at any time and may be sent to Hart-Thomas Scholarship, c/o BSAA, 2035 Monroe Avenue, Rochester, NY 14618.



The application deadline is **April 24**. Submit applications to English or journalism teachers, the *Galaxy* or *Trapezoid* advisor, or the **BHS Guidance Office**. Applications will be reviewed by a committee of three members of the BHS English Department and the recipient(s) will be selected by Ms. Thaler-Carter.

### **Publication tips**

Students are encouraged to contact local and out-of-town publications with ideas for articles they can write or acceptance of literary work they may already have written. Initiative in creating your own publication is encouraged. Works may be from before and including senior year.

Potential local outlets include *Life in the Finger Lakes*, *Lake Affect*, *LILAC*, *Rundelania*, *Logos*, *Murmur*, *Brighton Connections*, (585), *55 Plus* and *Upstate NY Gardener* magazines; and the *Brighton-Pittsford Post*, *Rochester Beacon*, and *Rochester Democrat & Chronicle* newspapers.

For information about literary publications elsewhere in New York State, go to: [https://www.nyslittree.org/index.cfm/fuseaction/DB.ListEntities\\_Public/EntityTypePK/6.cfm](https://www.nyslittree.org/index.cfm/fuseaction/DB.ListEntities_Public/EntityTypePK/6.cfm). For publications on the national level, go to the library for *Writer's Market* and *Poets & Writers* magazine.

If you do volunteer work or have a job outside of school, ask about the organization's newsletter and other publications that you might be able to write for, edit, proofread or illustrate. See if your church, synagogue or mosque publishes a newsletter that you could contribute to. If you have a hobby, see if there's a group for it that has an outlet where you could be published.

Before contacting an editor or publication, try to find a copy of a recent issue to read. Go to the publication's website for information about the topics it covers, recent stories (so you don't submit a query for something that was just published), style and submission guidelines, how editors prefer to be reached, and editorial calendars — topics and deadlines for upcoming issues. The goal is to **submit an idea that fits the publication**. Literary magazines are more flexible than news-oriented ones.

The standard format for submitting to most publications is 8.5 x 11 page size, margins of 1 inch on all sides, Times Roman 12 point type, double-spacing and black "ink." Many publications accept photos and original illustrations, which should be high resolution/quality.



**2022 Hart-Thomas Scholarship Application**  
(Additional pages may be used if needed)

**Student name**

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**Mailing address**

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**Phone number**

**E-mail address**

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**English and related courses at BHS** (AP English, writing, editing, proofreading, journalism, etc.)

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**Related courses at other institutions**

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**Titles of published work** — provide PDFs of works in any genre in publications, websites, blogs, self-publishing, etc. Include date of publication, name of outlet and genre of work.

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