Dante Commission on Education/Culture
Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, Sons and Daughters of Italy

1518 Walnut Street, Suite 1410
Philadelphia, Pa 19102
Phone: (215) 592-1713
Fax: (215) 592-9152

September 15, 2025

Dear Eighth Grade Student:

The Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, Sons and Daughters of Italy, awards scholarships to eighth grade students through our Dante Commission on Education/Culture. This year grants of $500 each will be awarded to Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania children who have been **members of the Order for 2 years prior to application or whose parent(s) have been member(s) (including social members) of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania for 2 years prior to application,** who will complete 8th grade at the end of the 2025-2026 school year and plan to enter a private or parochial high school in the Fall of 2026.

To be eligible to compete for a grant from the Dante Commission, you must have an overall **grade average** of at least **B+ or 88**. Membership in the Order **(child or their parent)** must predate the application by at least two (2) years.

If you are interested in applying for a grant, complete the attached scholarship application. Give the enclosed letter and forms to your school principal to complete. Also be sure to provide a stamped envelope addressed to the ***Dante Commission on Education/Culture***. Remind your principal or guidance counselor to send the transcript and forms directly to our office. In addition, a typed 250-300 word essay described in the attached rules.

Your completed application must be received at the Grand Lodge office by **April 30, 2026** to be considered. Please note that the President of the lodge to which membership in The Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, Sons and Daughters of Italy is based must also sign your application.

Sincerely yours,

Amato T. Sanita
Your President

Encs.

Dante Commission on Education/Culture
Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, Sons and Daughters of Italy

HIGH SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION 2026

Qualifications:
- Only **8th grade students** may apply.
- Applicant must have an overall average of **B+ or 88**.
- Applicant must be a **member or a child of a member (including social members)** of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, SDI
- Membership must predate application by at least **two years**.
- 250-300 word essay stated on the Eligibility Requirements.

Important:
The applicant's middle school must send the following material directly to the Grand Lodge Office:
- 7th grade transcript
- First semester 8th grade transcript

All of the above items must be received before the application can be processed.

DO NOT INCLUDE LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION

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(please print or type)

Applicant ____ Date of Birth _________ Phone______________
(Last Name) (First) (Initial)

Applicant's Address ____
(Street) (City) (State) (Zip)

Name of School ____

Address of School ____
(Street) (City) (State) (Zip)

Principal ____ Phone ________________________

High School the Applicant Plans to Attend ____

Application is based on the following membership in the Grand Lodge of PA, SDI: *(check all items that apply)*

☐ I am a member ☐ My father is a member ☐ My mother is a member

Name of Member(s) ____ Month & Year Enrolled __________

Lodge Name ____ No. __________ District _________

To the best of my knowledge, the above information is accurate.

Signature of Applicant ____ Date ___________________

Signature of Lodge President ____________________________________ Date ___________________

APPLICATION AND MATERIALS MUST BE RETURNED BY APRIL 30, 2026.

Mail to: Dante Commission on Education/Culture
Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, SDI
1518 Walnut Street, Suite 1410
Philadelphia, PA 19102
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HIGH SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS 2026

The Dante Commission on Education/Culture awards merit-based grants of $500.00 each. These grants will be awarded to eighth grade students who are enrolled to attend his or her freshman year in a private/parochial high school in September 2026. These grants will be funded by the Charitable & Education Trust, which supports the efforts of the Grand Lodge on behalf of quality education for Italian-American youths.

Eligibility

1) Only eighth grade students may apply.
2) Applicant must have overall average of B (85) during their 7th and 8th grade years.
3) Applicant must be a member or a child of a member of the Grand Lodge of PA, SDI
4) Membership must predate application by at least two years.

Requirements for Grant Competition

1) Completed application must be received at the Grand Lodge by **April 30, 2026.**
2) The academic institution attended during 2025-2026 must submit official transcript. All transcripts must be stamped by the institution and included in a separate, sealed envelope. Transcripts of the applicant's 7th grade and the first semester of 8th grade marks must be received at the Grand Lodge office by **April 30, 2026.**
3) A typed 250-300 word essay describing their unique life and contributions to America must be submitted about one of the following Italians:

Giovanni Caboto (John Cabot)	Antonio Meucci
Saint Frances X. Cabrini	Dr. Maria Montessori
Christopher Columbus	Enrico Tonti
Enrico Fermi	Amerigo Vespucci
Filippo Mazzei	Francesco Vigo

The essay must include a bibliography with a minimum of two sources, of which at least one source is print (i.e. book, magazine article, etc.). If computer source is utilized, website/author must be listed. Essays will be qualified on three criteria: a) Adherence to topic, b) Quality of presentation and originality, and c) Mechanics (grammar and spelling). Grading of essays and selection of winning candidates is made by the Dante Commission.

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September 2025

Dear School Principal:

The Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, Sons and Daughters of Italy, will provide scholarships of $500 each to members or children of members who will complete eighth grade at the end of the 2025-2026 school year and attend a private or parochial high school in the Fall of 2026. Many factors are reviewed in the grant awarding process. Key among the elements considered are:

- 7th grade transcript marks.
- Major subject marks received for the first semester of eighth grade.
- A 250-300 word essay submitted by applicant.

Each applicant must submit a transcript bearing the middle school's seal and the attached transcript supplement form also bearing the seal of the institution and signed by the principal. The transcript supplement form will assist the selection committee in assuring fairness when comparing academic histories.

Please submit all documents for the student to the above address. The forms must be received by **April 30, 2026** for the student to be considered for a grant.

Please accept our appreciation for your assistance in helping to identify scholarship recipients. You will be notified if the applicant will receive a scholarship.

Again, thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely yours,

Amato T. Sanita

President

Enc.

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HIGH SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP 2025-2026
TRANSCRIPT SUPPLEMENT FORM

Name of Student: _____
(Last) (First) (Initial)

Please provide the following information concerning the scholarship applicant:

1. Cumulative 7th grade average of classes: _____

2. Major subject marks - 1st semester of 8th grade:

Subject	Mark	Subject	Mark
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

3. Is the study of the Italian language available at this school? Yes ☐ No ☐

Name of Middle School_____

Address of School _____
(Street) (City) (State) (Zip)

Principal _____ Phone _____

Signature of Principal _____ Date _____

School Seal

This completed form, signed and stamped with the school seal, and an official transcript must be postmarked and sent to the above address by APRIL 30, 2026.