

The Abernethy Award for Excellence in Creative Writing

Established in Memory
of

Edgar and Louise Brown Abernethy

*What is art,
But life upon the larger scale,
The higher,
When, graduating up in a spiral line
Of still expanding and ascending gyres
It pushes toward the intense significance
Of all things, hungry for the Infinite?
Art's life—and where we live,
We suffer and toil.*

from Aurora Leigh
Elizabeth Barrett Browning

The Abernethy Award

The Abernethy Award for Excellence in Creative Writing was established in May, 1997, by Thomas and Emma Richardson in memory of Edgar and Louise Brown Abernethy, great-uncle and great-aunt of Mississippi School for Mathematics and Science graduates Cameron Brown Richardson (MSMS, '97), and Thomas Brown Richardson (MSMS, '04).

The Award honors the lives of two individuals who loved children, who valued education, and who believed in the power of imaginative literature to keep young people “emotionally alive and morally sensitive” in an increasingly technological age.

The Abernethy Award for excellence in Creative Writing is awarded annually to the MSMS senior whose creative writing is judged as exemplary and who shows promise for future success as a writer. Applicants for the Award submit a portfolio which includes a variety of writing genres; portfolios are judged by a writer not affiliated with MSMS.

The winner of the Abernethy Award is announced in May; the winner receives a cash prize and has his or her name engraved on a plaque which is on permanent display in the MSMS trophy case.

The Abernethy Award For Excellence in Creative Writing

Requirements:

Students who compete for the Abernethy Award for Excellence in Creative Writing must be seniors at the Mississippi School for Mathematics and Science who are enrolled in the Creative Writing course as seniors or who have taken Creative Writing at MSMS as juniors.

How to apply:

1. Students must submit a portfolio by April 26th to the Creative Writing teacher with manuscripts representing each of the following types of creative writing:
 - A. A short story (minimum of 1000 words)
 - B. Three poems (of any length)
 - C. A personal descriptive or narrative essay
 - D. A reflective letter (one-page) addressed to the “Reader” of the portfolio in which the student discusses his or her background and important experiences in Creative Writing, comments on his or her special interests in writing, explains why the student chose the pieces of writing contained in the portfolio, and suggests how creative writing might fit into the student’s future plans.
2. The manuscripts must be typed and printed on one side only on white, 8½” x 11” paper.
3. A cover sheet should be prepared with **the student’s name, MSMS address and telephone number, and home address and telephone number** centered and printed on a white, 8½” x 11” page.
4. The student’s name **should not appear** on any manuscript pages.
5. Manuscripts will not be returned, so copies should be made.