**Use the space below to provide a personal narrative explaining why you think you are the kind of student MSMS desires. In drafting your statement, consider questions like the following: What sort of person are you? What things are most important to you and why? Do you feel you have difficulty being away from home? Are you prepared to be in more difficult classes and have more homework than you are probably accustomed? Have you had any experience living away from home with your peer group? Is there anything else the selection committees should know about you? Please keep your response between 500-750 words**.

I am a good person. My education is the most important to me. I do not have difficulty being from home. I am prepared to be in more difficult classes and look forward to more homework than usual. I have experienced many times living away from my home and with peers, and I have always enjoyed it.

My education is the most important to me because anything without it (in life) will become meaningless. Socializing without any education will quickly become boring because I would run out of things to talk about. I do not like to talk about what happens in people’s lives, not only because there is not much that is worthy of talking, but also because it is easy to be biased or exaggerated. I also don’t like to talk about celebrity gossip or anything like it. I had much fun talking about new knowledge that is relatable to my life because I like getting to know people without any absurd details; I also like to talk about new knowledge with my friends that I have researched recently, for example the historical records, current technologic developments and frontiers in science when I was in debate program and National History Day program. Just having leisure would become boring without any break from leisure. Leisure is very repetitive.

I don’t have any difficulty being away from home. I have lived with my parents for about 15 years, and have learned and been trained to be independent, which I greatly appreciate. I know them very well, so I don’t have things to socialize much about with them. I don’t feel bad living outside of my home, and frankly I enjoy it and team very well with my peers, such as in a tent or on an air mattress when I was with the Boy Scouts team in 2015 and joined the FBC’s Belize Mission Trip in Spring 2019. .

Doing more homework than usual will not catch me off guard. For instance, I do lots of homework from AP US History, AP Computer Science, AP Statistics classes, and I have lots of free time at home. I am willing to do more homework than usual. At MSMS, I look forward to doing more extra homework.

I am ready to have harder classes because I have learned harder things than other kids when I was young, and I want to do the same when I grow up. I participated in MATHCOUNTS when I was in the middle school. I also participated in Science Olympiad events that involve mathematics, such as optics. I won more state Science Olympiad events than anyone else in my three years of Science Olympiad at Armstrong Middle School. Additionally, I was the only person to win in a state Science Olympiad event in my school’s graduating class during my 7th grade year. I was on the First Lego League team in Armstrong middle school in 8th grade. There were only around 30 other peers that are on the team when I was there.

I have experience in living with peers and away from home. The 1st time I lived away from peers in the summer of 2016 at an outdoors Survival Camp where me and my peers lived in tents for a week while learning about surviving in the wild. The second time was at the one-week Music Camp at Mississippi College in 2017. Me and my peers lived in dorms. We learned about different instruments and history of music. My 3rd time living outside of home and with peers is the Bulldog Bytes Camp in 2017, which was also one week, and we learned about computer science, living and studying in a dorm on Mississippi State University campus. The 4th time was in 2018 in National History Day, we lived in dorms, and I and my peers toured most museums in Washington DC and competed in the national competition. I went to Music Camp at Mississippi College for the 2nd time in 2019. During the 2019 Spring Break, I further went outside of USA to a mission trip in Belize. I had fun all the time when I lived away from home and with my peers.

**Why do schools like MSMS (residential high schools targeting academically talented students) exist, what value do they provide their home states, and what factors are motivating you to apply?**

There are many things MSMS provides to Mississippi. MSMS provides leadership development in a residential environment, in which all students can participate in clubs, group communications and discussions. MSMS offers needs of students to provide to their home state, Mississippi because MSMS has classes, such as multivariable calculus, number theory, and many other challenging classes. There are many more factors that motivate me to apply to MSMS. Similar schools exist because MSMS exists and has been successfully developing, and some schools want to be like other schools.

Schools like MSMS provide wonderful leadership development to students. First, the existence of diverse clubs helps students to experience leadership. Clubs have a hierarchy structure. Hierarchical structures have leaders. Secondly, MSMS makes students live in dormitories without their parents. This will make students develop their independent leadership skills by making students experience what it is like to live without family leaders. A high school student needs leadership skills to be able to live without a leader, such as a parent. Thirdly, MSMS’ residential environment is diverse enablers and catalysts for young scholars. MSMS’ leadership development provides not only the satisfaction of MSMS’ students but also an excellent environment to enhance student’s ability to function as an adult.

Schools like MSMS offers challenging classes to students. Every MSMS student I have talked to thinks that the school - they went to before had little to no challenging classes, but MSMS had many challenging classes. They also did not regret going to MSMS. This means that MSMS and schools like it will exist due to people’s wants and needs for it. Challenging classes provide lots of value to their home states because challenging classes help people to learn more knowledge quicker.

I want to apply because I want to meet gifted students and talented students, for they are like me. Every MSMS students I met recommended me to join MSMS. I want to experience learning at MSMS because I have experienced and like experiencing learning by participating in MATHCOUNTS, Science Olympiad, First Lego League, and National History Day. Another main reason why I want to experience learning in MSMS is that MSMS provides better math classes than Starkville High School. For example, MSMS has multivariable calculus, but Starkville High School doesn’t. At the same time, I want and like to develop my leadership skills because I like to socialize. I want to experience living in a residential area because I have lived in dormitories with my peers, and I like to live in dormitories without daddy or mommy. One example of me living in dormitories and liking it is when I received MMTA (Mississippi Music Teachers Association) scholarship in 2017 and 2019 to attend a Music Camp at Mississippi College for one week in the summer 2017 and 2019, respectively. According to all MSMS students that I talked to in debate tournaments and my friends that successfully graduated from MSMS, MSMS provides much better learning experiences in all fields than the schools they went to previously. Many of the MSMS students I have met are my friends. I have concluded that all the reasons above motivated me to apply to MSMS.

On average, other residential schools (targeting academically talented students) like MSMS will offer similar residential experiences as MSMS. I think MSMS offer better learning experiences than other residential high schools because it is the only public residential high school in Mississippi. Public residential high schools provide better learning experiences than private residential high schools because of more excellent teachers and potential funding. Additionally, residential schools have more clubs than regular high schools because the residential high schools need to compete against normal high schools by entertaining and providing learning experiences with the use of clubs. Such schools like MSMS exist and are successfully developing, and they have gained enough popularity to function well for the future.

**When you think about your personal traits and accomplishments, what are you most proud of.**

I think of my personal traits and accomplishments, and I am proud of somethings. I am most proud of my intelligence as a personal trait, and I am proud of winning in Science Olympiad as my accomplishment. I am also proud of many other personal traits and accomplishments, but I am proud of intelligence the most out of all my personal traits whereas my winnings in Science Olympiad are my proudest accomplishments.

My intelligence is what I am most proud of. It made me realize that if I had not had as much intelligence as I have now, then life would be very different. When I learned about Theodor Kaluza, I learned that he developed a theory which included the 5th dimension. I was skeptical of his work because I thought that he did it to get famous, and he used previously known concepts (electromagnetism and gravity), and claimed they were in the 5th dimension. As I researched more about him and his work, I learned that electromagnetism was difficult to explain without the 5th dimension and equations involving electromagnetism are difficult to simplify without the use of the 5th dimension (dimensions increase the size of matrices instead of adding more variables). Last fall, I heard my classmates creating a science fiction scenario about future scientist discovering a “bump” in space-time. I asked them weather they knew how the theory of many dimensions came to existence. They said they didn’t know about how it came about. I told them Theodor Kaluza’s work. They showed little interest and understanding; they continued to talk about the science fiction after my lecture. One of the traits of an intelligent person is curiosity. The fact that “I was curious into science, and many of my classmate weren’t” made me conclude that I may be more intelligent than them.

Another reason of why I wanted to be proud of my intelligence is that I didn’t want to be less intelligent. In my chemistry class, my class were going over a bonus question calculating the concentration of a solution after mixing 2 other solutions. Everyone except me took two extra steps to convert moles to grams and formula mass and converting it back. I knew about this because the chemistry teacher mentioned it. In my computer science class, many of my classmates were confused and bored about the concepts starting from unit 1 and wanted to drop the class. However, I found it easy. In both cases, I concluded that my intelligence made a significant difference in perceiving the world and science.

An accomplishment that I am proud of is my winnings in Science Olympiad. I receive 5 state medals and 7 regional medals; I earned exactly 4 Science Olympiad medals each year in my middle school. They were the prettiest medals I have every gotten to this day. They were much prettier than debate tournament medals, National History Day medals, piano competition medals, First Lego League medals, and MATHCOUNTS medals. I have won more Science Olympiad state medals than any of my schoolmates that have participated in Science Olympiad in my 3 years of middle school.

Science Olympiad was the first club I ever joined. I met a few friends that convince me to join MATHCOUNTS in the first meeting in 6th grade. At the time, MATHCOUNTS was known to a few people. There were no intercom messages detailing about it. Once MATHCOUNTS regional competition came in the spring of 6th grade year I won nothing, but the medals I won from Science Olympiad encouraged me to try again in the 7th grade. I won 7th place in regional MATHCOUNTS in my 7th grade year. I decided that I should keep going and join National History Day in 8th grade. I didn’t hear about National History Day until the end of 7th grade. My experiences with extracurricular activity encouraged me to join clubs in high school and apply for MSMS. Also, I continued to inspire others to join the same clubs as I have joined.

In conclusion, my greatest achievement is the prizes I got from Science Olympiad. My greatest trait is intelligence. Although there may be other great achievements, Science Olympiad medals was my proudest. My intelligence is my proudest personal trait.