

Lake Highland Preparatory School

Cultivating Intellect & Character

Merit Studies Program

Grades 9-12

2011-2012

Warren P. Hudson, President
Michael Jakubisin, Director of Upper School
Lisa Parrish, Merit Studies Coordinator
Kathleen Taylor, AP Coordinator, Special Assistant to the President
For Curriculum & Academics PK-12



From the Upper School Director

Mike Jakubisin

Dear Parents and Students,

Lake Highland Preparatory School's Merit Studies Program is the premier method of highlighting the academic accomplishments of our most ambitious scholars. Students who accept the challenge of working through the program are demonstrating to our community and to institutions of Higher Education that they are committed to the highest levels of academic pursuit at the secondary level. Lake Highland is proud of this commitment and the excellence it represents in our students, faculty, and scholastic programs.

In the 2010-2011 school year, 48% of the upper school students were enrolled in the Merit Studies Program. Not only were they committed to take a challenging course of study, but they were also receiving the benefit of special opportunities such as the seminar on competitive college admissions designed to help those students who have set their sights on the most competitive of colleges.

Merit Studies requirements ensure that these students will be among the best prepared in the country. The requirement that each Merit Studies Student complete at least three years of study in one foreign language helps prepare them for productive roles in the fast developing "global village." This is important because the Merit Studies Program aims to prepare students, not only for college admissions, but also to successfully meet challenges during and well beyond the college years.

A key ingredient to this preparation is participation in Advanced Placement courses. AP courses (which are the equivalent of freshman level college courses and often receive college level credit) challenge students to higher levels of critical thinking and to advanced skills in study, time management, problem solving, and responsibility. Lake Highland offers a wide range of AP classes, with some in every discipline. Our philosophy is that as many students as possible should attempt these courses for the experience this will give them before arriving on their college campuses.

I encourage you to look through this brochure and learn about the many advantages of the Merit Studies Program and participation in Advanced Placement courses. I know you will be impressed as you meet a few of the many Lake Highland students who have achieved great academic success through their participation in both Merit Studies and AP. You will see how both programs are working together to help us fulfill our mission of "preparing students for college and lifetime learning."

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "M. Jakubisin". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

Mr. Michael Jakubisin
Director of Upper School

Questions & Answers

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What is the Merit Studies Program?

The Lake Highland Merit Studies program offers the academically gifted and motivated student challenges both in and out of the classroom. Classroom coursework, discussions, and seminars support and encourage an enriched intellectual atmosphere. Upon completion of the Merit Studies Program, each participant will be prepared to successfully attend the most competitive colleges and universities in the United States and abroad.

The rigorous academic curriculum a Merit Studies Scholar will study includes each of five core subject areas:

- English (4 credits)
- Mathematics (4 credits)
- Science (4 credits)
- Social Studies (4 credits)
- Foreign Language (3 credits)

A minimum of twelve honors level classes, of which at least four must be Advanced Placement (AP), will be completed upon graduation as a Merit Studies Scholar.

What are AP courses?

AP courses are college-level courses that provide the most talented high school students the opportunity to master advanced material. Students who successfully complete the AP Exams can receive college credit, advanced placement, or both from thousands of colleges and universities.

How difficult are AP courses?

Compared with regular high school courses, AP courses are more demanding. Depending on the subject, you may read and write more, analyze material, synthesize ideas, solve problems, and evaluate. Classes are comparable to sophisticated college courses. The intellectual skills and interest you can develop in AP courses – critical reading, analyzing data sets, synthesizing evidence to develop new insights, etc. – equip you for life long learning. Your investment in any AP course is sure to provide many returns.

Why should I take a more difficult course and risk getting a lower grade?

An AP course gives you an opportunity to learn a subject in greater depth and helps you develop skills that will be critically important to successful study in college.

What are AP Exams?

At the conclusion of an AP course, you will take the corresponding AP Exam. AP Exams are two to three-hour exams, given in May, made up of multiple-choice and free-response (essay) questions. They're graded on a scale of 1 to 5, with 3 considered a "qualifying" score. The more selective colleges and universities accept a 4 or 5 for credit. There is an \$87 exam fee, which will appear on your January financial statement.

Why should I take an AP course?

The extra effort and time you'll put into an AP course are definitely worth it. Consider these benefits:

- ✓ You'll have the opportunity to study a subject in-depth, at the college level, so you'll be more prepared for college work.
- ✓ If you receive a qualifying grade on an AP Exam, you may be eligible for advanced placement or course credits at the vast majority of colleges and universities in the United States.
- ✓ More than 1,400 insititutes in the United States alone grant a full year's credit to students with satisfactory grades on enough AP Exams. It's called "sophomore standing."
- ✓ The AP Program offers a number of Scholar Awards to students for outstanding performance on AP Exams. This achievement is noted on the AP transcript and recognized by colleges.
- ✓ Both public and private colleges have reported to us that 2011 LHPS graduates have received credit for a total of 445 college courses as a result of AP courses taken at LHPS. Individual students have received as many as 45 credit hours.

I'm not sure I'm interested in college credit or advanced placement. Why should I join the Merit Studies Program?

Participating in the Merit Studies Program provides you with extra learning opportunities. The AP courses give you the kind of background and preparation that will prove beneficial in your college courses, and an AP grade shows your college that you have learned college-level material and deserve credit and/or advanced placement for meeting that challenge. The additional learning opportunities in the Merit Studies Program help facilitate the integration of the knowledge and insights introduced in your classes.

I'm not sure I am ready for an AP course and examination. What do I need to succeed?

You need to be willing and you need to be able. "Willing" means motivated to study and learn on the college level. If you are committed to participating actively in an AP class and doing the out-of-class assignments, you have met a major prerequisite of success. "Keeping up" is a basic practice for any college-level course. These courses move rapidly and cover a lot of ground. Your record in earlier courses is the most obvious indicator of that ability. Your LHPS College and Career counselor will help you decide which AP courses and how many are best for you.

How do I become a Merit Studies Scholar?

The criterion for entrance into the Merit Studies program is initiated by an application process. Students will be selected who have a minimum 3.7 GPA in an Honors curriculum, standardized test scores in the 7-9 stanine range, and demonstrate a keen desire to participate in an accelerated program. An overall 3.7 GPA, with no D's or F's, is the minimum standard for maintaining satisfactory Merit Studies status.

What makes the Merit Studies experience attractive?

Merit Studies Scholars traditionally score higher on college placement tests. Lake Highland's ninety-three 2011 Merit Studies Scholar graduates were no exception. The figures below indicate the middle range of GPA, SAT, and ACT scores for the 2011 Merit Studies graduates:

Middle 50% weighted GPA: 3.936-4.430

Middle 50% SAT: 1280 - 1460 (based on SAT 1600)

Middle 50% ACT: 28 -33 (based on ACT 36)

Merit Studies students wear a gold/red cord at graduation and receive a special seal on their diploma.

History of Lake Highland's Merit Studies Program.

The LHPS Merit Studies Program was initiated in 1994-95 for our gifted and motivated students. The program began with specific requirements for entrance including a selection of 3 honors courses per semester, 4 AP classes by graduation and maintaining a 3.0 GPA. The program began with 7 students who had a mean SAT score of 1270. The program has grown as follows with the most recent percentages of graduating seniors completing the program:

Year	# of Students	% of Class	Mean SAT
04-05	76	55%	1319
05-06	88	58%	1294
06-07	70	46%	1308
07-08	88	53%	1309
08-09	91	53%	1304
09-10	95	55%	1290
10-11	93	47%	1354

AP Courses Offered at Lake Highland

Language Arts:

AP English Language & Composition
AP English Literature & Composition

Math:

AP Calculus AB
AP Calculus BC
AP Statistics

Science:

AP Biology
AP Chemistry
AP Environmental Science
AP Physics B

Social Studies:

AP European History
AP Macroeconomics
AP Microeconomics
AP Psychology
AP US Government/Politics
AP US History
AP World History

Foreign Language:

AP French Language
AP Latin Vergil
AP Chinese Language & Culture
AP Spanish Language

Elective:

AP Computer Science A
AP Music Theory
AP Studio Art
AP Art History

Typical Merit Studies Program

Language Arts:



Math:



Science:



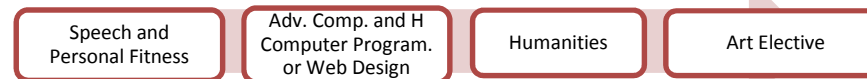
Social Studies:



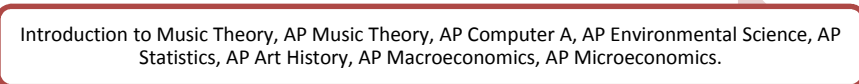
Foreign Language:



Required Courses:



Elective Courses:



AP Scholar Awards

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The College Board offers several AP Scholar Awards to recognize high school students who have demonstrated college-level achievement through AP courses and exams. Although there is no monetary award, in addition to receiving an award certificate, this achievement is acknowledged on any grade report that is sent to colleges the following fall. For the school year 2010-2011, 188 LHPS students were named AP Scholars by the College Board.

Award Levels

AP National Scholar

- Granted to students in the United States who receive an average score of at least 4 on all AP Exams taken **and** scores of 4 or higher on eight or more of these exams. The class of 2011 had 19 National Scholars.



Jonathan Burnett National Merit Commended AP National Scholar

AP Courses:
Calculus AB & Calculus BC
Computer Science A
English Language and Composition
English Literature and Composition
European History
Psychology
US History
Studio Art

AP State Scholar

- Granted to the one male and one female student in each state and the District of Columbia with scores of 3 or higher on the greatest number of AP Exams, **and then** the highest average score (at least a 3.5) on all AP Exams taken.

Lindsey Capone AP Scholar with Distinction

AP Courses:
Calculus AB & Calculus BC
Macroeconomics
English Language and Composition
English Literature and Composition
Biology
Chemistry
US Government/Politics



AP Scholar with Distinction

- Granted to students who receive an average score of at least 3.5 on all AP Exams taken, **and** grades of 3 or higher on five or more of these exams.

AP Scholar with Honor

- Granted to students who receive an average score of at least 3.25 on all AP Exams taken, **and** scores of 3 or higher on four or more of these exams.

Danielle Salerno **AP Scholar with Honor**

AP Courses:
Macroeconomics
English Language and Composition
English Literature and Composition
US Government/Politics
US History
World History
Calculus AB
Statistics



AP Scholar

- Granted to students who receive grades of 3 or higher on three or more AP Exams.



Nicholas Scavone **AP Scholar**

AP Courses:
Macroeconomics
English Language and Composition
English Literature and Composition
Psychology
Calculus AB & Calculus BC
US History

Sophomore Standing in College

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“You may earn a full year’s credit from more than 1,400 higher education institutions by earning satisfactory scores on enough AP Examinations.

The college or university, not the College Board, awards advanced Sophomore standing. Credit is usually awarded when you are admitted, although some colleges and university award sophomore standing only after you have demonstrated the ability to do satisfactory college work.”

Many colleges and universities outside the United States have formal AP policies, including universities in Great Britain, Germany, Australia, New Zealand, France, Spain, Sweden, and Norway, to name just a few countries.

College Board Online provides a list of colleges and universities in the United States that award college credit.

You can access that list at: www.collegeboard.com.

Audrey Leasure **AP Scholar with Distinction**

AP Courses:
Calculus AB
English Language and Composition
English Literature and Composition
Psychology
European History
Chemistry



AP Course Descriptions

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AP Art History

- The AP Art History course engages students in critical thinking, visual analysis, and developing understanding and knowledge of diverse historical and cultural contexts of architecture, sculpture, painting, and other media. Students shall examine art in the context of politics, religion, patronage, gender, function, and ethnicity.

AP Studio Art

- The Advanced Placement Studio Art course is a college level course in the visual arts. Students enrolled in this course will be expected to produce a minimum of 40 works of art in a variety of media. Major areas of emphasis will be drawing from observation, color, design principles, and the three dimensional realm. Students will choose their own subject matter and incorporate an understanding of the history of art in the development of project ideas. They will also learn to discuss their works of art in written and oral form. Students will submit an AP portfolio with an emphasis on drawing, 2D or 3D design.



Sam Rios
AP Scholar with Honor

AP Courses:

English Language and Composition
English Literature and Composition
Macroeconomics
Computer Science A

AP Biology

- AP Biology is an in-depth study of the facts, principles, and processes of biology and is designed to prepare students to take the AP Biology exam for college credit. Course topics include, but are not limited to, chemical composition of organisms, cell infrastructure and functions, enzymes, respiration and photosynthesis, cell division, principles of genetics, structure and functions of plants and animals, theories of origin of life, and principles of ecology. Ninth graders must successfully complete the Pre-AP Biology Institute during the summer session. AP Biology requires one period of lab in addition to one period of class.

AP Calculus AB

- This course is designed to begin the study of calculus, providing a basis for further study of more advanced mathematics and to develop the skills needed to solve problems in advanced science courses. The pace, rigor, and content is dictated by AP exam standards. Topics will include, but are not limited to, finding derivatives of algebraic and logarithmic functions and their inverses, differentiability and continuity, applying derivatives to find the slope of a curve and tangent and normal lines to a curve, identifying increasing and decreasing functions, maximums and minimums, concavity, and point of inflection, anti-derivatives, integration and definite integrals, finding the area between curves, and finding the volume of a solid revolution.

AP Calculus BC

- This course is a continuation of AP Calculus AB. It pursues in-depth topics introduced in AP Calculus and expands these topics to develop new concepts of Calculus applications.

AP Chemistry

- The Advanced Placement Chemistry course is designed to follow the syllabus of a first year college chemistry course for chemistry majors. It covers chemical principles with a strong problem-solving orientation and prepares students to take the AP Chemistry exam. Appropriate laboratory experiments will be included.

AP Chinese Language & Culture

- The AP Chinese Language and Culture course is designed to be comparable to college courses in Mandarin Chinese. This course focuses on language proficiency while interweaving cultural content and providing frequent formative assessment of students' developing proficiencies within the context of their learning. The course engages students in an exploration of both contemporary and historical Chinese culture in an international context. Students will develop necessary knowledge of the Chinese language, including pronunciation, vocabulary, idiomatic expressions, grammatical structures and written characters. By deepening students' immersion in the language and culture, students are expected to achieve proficiencies at the "intermediate range," as described in the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) Proficiency Guidelines.

AP Computer Science A

- This course is the College Board Advanced Placement Course in Computer Science, Part A. Students are introduced to computer science theory and methodology according to the current guidelines of the College Board.

AP English Language & Composition

- AP Language and Composition is a college level course in rhetoric which emphasizes the reading and writing of prose. Written discourse highlights the expository, analytical, and argumentative modes. The reading includes a survey of British Literature from Anglo-Saxon times to the 18th century as well as a focus on the essay genre.

AP English Literature and Composition

- AP Literature and Composition is a year long course in reading, discussing, and writing about the literature. The course prepares students to take the AP English examination in May. The curriculum focuses on British literature from 1800 to the present and world literature selections. Serious, lengthy reading selections are required, and students are expected to contribute to class discussions. The major emphasis of the course focuses on critical analysis. A paper incorporating both research and literary analysis will be the culminating project.

AP Environmental Science

- Advanced Placement Environmental Science is designed to be the equivalent of an introductory one-semester college course in Environmental Science. The goal of the course is to provide students with the scientific principles, concepts, and methodologies required to understand the interrelationships of the natural world, to identify and analyze environmental problems, both natural and man-made, to evaluate the relative risks associated with these problems, and to examine alternative solutions for resolving and/or preventing them.

Aubrey Schonhoff **National Merit Finalist** **AP National Scholar**

AP Courses:
Calculus AB & Calculus BC
Macroeconomics
English Language and
Composition
English Literature and Composition
European History
Psychology
US History



AP European History

- This course covers European history from the late Middle Ages to the present. Major themes include European exploration, the Renaissance and Reformation, National and Industrial Revolutions, Imperialism, and the World Wars. The course will specifically emphasize analytical thinking and the development of essay writing skills with special emphasis on document study.

AP French Language

- The purpose of this college level course is to prepare students for the AP French Language Exam. Emphasis is put on comprehending oral questions and responding appropriately, listening to short readings and responding to oral questions, participating in conversations on a variety of topics, completing unfinished statements, summarizing written passages and composing essays which demonstrate organization, grammatical accuracy, appropriate vocabulary, expressions and stylistic quality in the French Language.

AP Latin Vergil

- The basic objective of Advanced Placement Latin is progress in reading, translating, understanding, analyzing and interpreting Latin. The exam emphasizes:
- The ability to translate and understand original Latin text through knowledge of Latin grammar and vocabulary.
- The ability to recognize literary devices and their significance.
- The ability to write effective essays.
- In addition, the course includes the study of the cultural, social and political context of the literature.



Michael Dulfer **AP Scholar with Distinction**

AP Courses:
Calculus AB
English Language and Composition
English Literature and Composition
European History
Psychology
US History

AP Macroeconomics

- Macroeconomics introduces students to fundamental economics concepts such as scarcity and opportunity costs. Students study economic systems, supply and demand and analyze the workings of a free market economy. The course also introduces students to the business cycle to give students an overview of economic fluctuations and the dynamics of unemployment, inflation and economic growth. Students will understand how market forces and public policy affect currency demand and currency supply in foreign exchange markets and lead to currency appreciation or depreciation. This college course prepares students for further economics study in college or gives students a strong useful foundation for understanding basic principles of economics.

AP Microeconomics

- This one semester AP course in Microeconomics provides a thorough understanding of the principles of economics that apply to the functions of individual decision makers, both consumers and producers, within the larger economic system. It places primary emphasis on the nature and functions of product markets, and includes the study of factor markets and of the role of government in promoting greater efficiency and equity in the economy. The course is divided into five major areas: basic economic concepts, the nature and function of product markets, theory of the firm, factor markets, and the role of government.

AP Music Theory

- This course helps students gain the ability to recognize, understand and describe the basic materials and processes of music that are heard or presented in a score. The achievement of these goals may best be approached by initially addressing fundamental aural, analytical and compositional skills using both listening and written exercises. Building on this foundation, students will progress to include more creative tasks, such as the harmonization of a melody by selecting appropriate chords, composing a musical bass line to provide two-voice counterpoint, or the realization of figured-bass notation. Students will work both inside and outside the classroom. Regular homework is an indispensable part of this college level course. A background in music (band, orchestra, chorus, piano, etc.) is recommended.

AP Psychology

- This course is designed to introduce students to the systematic and scientific study of the behavior and mental processes of human beings and other animals. Students are exposed to the psychological facts, principles and phenomena associated with each of the major sub-fields within psychology. Students also will learn about the methods psychologists use in their science and practice. Critical thinking and clear concise writing demonstrating knowledge of psychological concepts will be emphasized.

AP Physics B

- This course provides a systematic introduction to the main principles of physics and emphasizes the development of problem-solving ability. It is assumed that the student is familiar with algebra and trigonometry; calculus is seldom used, although some theoretical developments may use basic concepts of calculus. In most colleges, this is a one-year terminal course and is not the usual preparation for more advanced physics and engineering courses. However, the B course provides a foundation in physics for students in the life sciences, pre-medicine, and some applied sciences as well as other fields not directly related to science.

AP Statistics

- This course is designed to introduce students to the major concepts and tools for collecting, analyzing, and drawing conclusions from data. Students will be exposed to four broad conceptual themes: exploring data, planning a study, anticipating patterns, and statistical inference.

AP US Government/Politics

- Students are provided an analytical perspective on government and politics in the United States. The course materials cover the fundamental institutions of the American Government process. Emphasis is placed upon how policies are implemented into law. Additionally, students will evaluate current policy issues in contemporary America with the objective of developing an understanding of the complexity of balancing multiple interests in our pluralistic society.

AP US History

- This elective available to academically talented students provides the opportunity to develop analytical skills and factual knowledge necessary to deal critically with the problems, content, and materials of American historic development. Studies focus on persistent themes and changes in history and apply historic reasoning to seek solutions to contemporary problems. Students enrolled are expected to read widely, research thoroughly, and write often.

AP World History

- This rigorous world history course is for the highly motivated student and is designed to cover information, skills, and assignments found in the corresponding college world history course. It guides students through the steps a historian would take in analyzing historical events and evidence worldwide. The course highlights the nature of changes in international frameworks and their causes and consequences, as well as comparisons among major societies. Constructing arguments, using documents and primary data, interpretation and analysis connecting patterns and commonalities between global and local processes and developments are addressed. A fast paced reading and writing schedule is demanded along with additional time for independent writing, reading and study.

Sheena Karkal
National Merit Finalist
AP National Scholar

AP Courses:

Calculus AB & Calculus BC
English Language and Composition
English Literature and Composition
European History
Spanish Language
Biology
Physics B
US History
Psychology



AP Spanish Language

- The Advanced Placement Spanish Language course continues to develop language skills (listening, speaking, reading, writing) in a variety of activities. The goals are as follows:
- The ability to understand the spoken language in both formal and conversational situations.
- The ability to speak with accuracy and fluency using appropriate pronunciation and intonation.

Final College Decisions

Merit Studies Graduates 2011

Auburn University

- Christina Grajales

Brown University

- Nicolas St. Laurent

Clemson University

- Clayton LeMasters

Columbia University

- Michelle Marchese
- Molly Winger

Cornell University

- Sabrina Kirmani
- Lawrence Nault
- Alejandro Sanchez-Masi

Davidson College

- Alexis Winograd

Emory University

- Ranbir Ahluwalia
- Martin Sigalow

Florida State University

- Dorian Evans
- Eric Fernandez
- Jennifer Gilbert
- Ryan Kagrise
- Eric Martinez
- Madeline Perrotta
- Kelsey Shaver

Georgetown University

- Kees Michael Duffer
- Sheena Karkal
- Matthew Tall

Georgia Institute of Technology

- Mara Azzouz
- Whitney Goodman

Johns Hopkins University

- Alexandra Baker
- Audrey Leasure

Lehigh University

- William Ziegler

Maryland Institute College of Art

- Allen Hiu

McGill University

- Vinita Akula
- Gregory Johnston

New York University

- James Bagley
- Praveen Kamarsu
- Bailey Miller

Northwestern University

- Aric Barrow
- Dylan Bruschi
- Zueber Juma

Princeton University

- William Rotatori
- Jason Zhou

Rhodes College

- Elizabeth Ross
- Aubrey Schonhoff

Rollins College

- Andrew Lesmes

Savannah College of Art & Design

- Gabriella Serralles

Spelman College

- Nia Gordon

Stanford University

- Arjun Mathur
- Elaine Zhou

Swarthmore College

- Danielle Greenberg

The George Washington University

- Neil Chokshi
- Hannah Spector
- William Young

The University of Alabama

- Martin Toole

The University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill

- Rachael Martin

U S Military Academy

- Eric Johnson

U S Naval Academy

- Ethan Willings

University of Central Florida

- Travis Fort
- Cole Mears
- Rebekah O'Brien
- Francisco Samuel Rios

University of Chicago

- Tej Amin

University of Denver

- Parker Quackenbush

University of Florida

- Joseph Battista
- Jonathan Burnett
- Carl Candela
- Lindsey Capone
- Christina Cook
- Mark Daley
- Stephani DioGuardi
- Max Eichenblatt
- William Frazee
- Constantine Kechriotis
- Gennifer Rubin
- Steven Sahlsten
- Nicholas Scavone
- Shannon Stockton

University Georgia

- Margaret Roll

University of Miami

- Kelly Heinle
- Vincente Nehgme
- Ayeesha Patel
- Sarah Qureshi
- Danielle Salerno
- Caroline Saunders

University of Michigan

- Jordan Grauer

University of Pennsylvania

- Daniel Maser
- Michael Rasmussen
- Srikar Reddy
- Hayley Springman

University of Wisconsin, Madison

- Kevin Heaney

Vanderbilt University

- John Stephens

Wake Forest University

- Blake Habicht
- Kendra Ross
- Richard Walker

Warren Wilson College

- Forrest White

Washington & Lee University

- Bryant Becker
- Warren Berenis

Wofford College

- Rachel Jones



NOTES:

All information included in this handbook is subject to change, whether by addition, deletion, or modification at the sole discretion of Lake Highland Preparatory School, Inc.