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 2018-2019 school year, 54% of the upper school students graduated with the Merit Studies Program designation. 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.”

Sincerely,

Derek Daly
Director of Upper School
Questions & Answers

What is the Merit Studies Program?
The Lake Highland Merit Studies program offers the academically gifted and motivated student a challenging academic program. Interactive class presentations, collaborative projects and technology-based lessons provide coursework that 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)
- World Language (3 credits - 4 recommended)

The Merit Studies designation is awarded to students at the end of their senior year. Students will be selected who have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.7 with no D's or F's, as well as completion of a minimum of twelve honors courses, four of which must be at the AP level.

How difficult 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. 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.

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 are graded on a scale of 1 to 5, with 3 considered a “qualifying” score. The more selective colleges and universities may accept a 4 or 5 for credit. 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. There is a $94 exam fee, which will appear on your 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 will have the opportunity to study a subject in-depth, at the college level, so you will 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.
- 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 over the past five years have reported that on average, LHPS graduates have cumulatively received credit each year for approximately more than 400 college courses as a result of AP courses taken at LHPS. Individual students have received as many as 37 credit hours.
I am 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 courses many will be best for you.

How do I join and graduate as a Merit Studies Scholar?

There is no application for Merit Studies. Students who meet the requirements will receive the designation at graduation. Students and their counselors should monitor progress towards this goal throughout all four Upper School years.

What makes the Merit Studies experience attractive?

Merit Studies Scholars traditionally score higher on college placement tests. Merit Studies students wear a gold/red cord at graduation and receive a special seal on their diploma signifying successful completion of the academically rigorous program.
Advanced Placement 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 and Computer:  
AP Biology  
AP Chemistry  
AP Computer Science A  
AP Computer Science Principles  
AP Environmental Science  
AP Physics 1  
AP Physics 2  
AP Physics C (Mechanics, Electricity & Magnetism)

Social Studies:  
AP European History  
AP U.S. History  
AP World History: Modern  
AP Macroeconomics  
AP Microeconomics  
AP Psychology  
AP U.S. Government/Politics

World Language:  
AP Chinese Language & Culture  
AP French Language & Culture  
AP Latin  
AP Spanish Language & Culture

Art:  
AP Art History  
AP Music Theory  
AP Art and Design (2D, 3D and Drawing)
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 College Board issued AP grade report that is sent to colleges. In 2019, College Board granted 214 AP awards to Lake Highland students.

**International AP Diploma**
(1 Student)

 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.

**National AP Scholar**
(21 Students)

 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.

**AP Scholar with Distinction**
(85 Students)

 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**
(36 Students)

 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.

**AP Scholar**
(93 Students)

 Granted to students who receive grades of 3 or higher on three or more AP Exams.
Final College Decisions
2019 Merit Studies Graduates

Amherst College
• Jaren Andrew Nobie

Arizona State University
• Olivia Anne Shami Sher

Boston University
• Alexandra Grace Panepinto
• Juliet Kathleen-Ann Small

California Institute of Technology
• Moshe Heletz

Chapman University
• Aiden Min Kasch

Clemson University
• Tyler Tilton Dalton
• Rumsha Khurram Moin

Cornell University
• Pooja Kanumalla

Davidson College
• Alexandra Lucia Cisneros

Duke University
• Ainsley Marie Thurston

Elon University
• Caroline Grace Layson

Emory University
• Justin Alexander Melton-Tudor

Florida State University
• Caroline Ashley Abram
• Lauren Teresa Bonner
• Elle Grace Cardamone
• Nicolas Joseph Carter
• Alejandro Rafael Colon-Rivera
• Joseph Patrick Dougherty
• John Pao Fung
• Thomas Anderson Furry
• Zachary William Langford
• Raegan Marie Machado

Fordham University
• Emily Muir West

Furman University
• Maxwell Patrick Olson

Georgetown University
• Deena Azad Bhatt

Georgia Institute of Technology
• Varun Neil Aggarwal
• Cyrus David Newquist

Harvard College
• Grace Hanalei Allen

Johns Hopkins University
• Sarah Meredith Kind
• Harry Bevan Sukonik

McGill University
• Christina Anna Pilip

Michigan State University
• Briahna Joely Fatone

New York University
• Grace Elizabeth Arribas
• Grayson Lee Kim
• Alexander Armando Soto
• Hannah Isabel Siegel

Northeastern University
• Sydney Ellen Sypko

Northwestern University
• Caroline Mary Bates

Nova Southeastern University
• Mark Douglas Dowdy
• Serena Tien-Li Sha

Pennsylvania State University
• Chaney Belle Thornton

Purdue University
• Jacob James Fadool

Rollins College
• Marissa Emlyn Faris
• Taylor Ann Hahn
• John Alexander Wettach
Skidmore College
  • Morgan Marie Foster

Smith College
  • Haley December Brown

Southern Methodist University
  • Macy George Ramsby
  • Chase Conner Vaught

The Ohio State University
  • Ziwen Guan

The University of North Carolina
  • Parnika Agrawal

The University of Tampa
  • Sophie Amelia Levy

United States Air Force Academy
  • Katarina Alexya Svetz

University of California, Los Angeles
  • Jolie Talyn Sukonik

University of Central Florida
  • Elizabeth Katherine Breunig
  • Shae Ashlynn Carroll
  • Sonal Byakod Desai
  • Miles Mogul King
  • Nupur Shivani Kumar
  • Mary Hani Seifein
  • Kara Lou Semmen
  • Sachin Shah

University of Chicago
  • Vincent Paul Menozzi

University of Florida
  • Elise DeMarias Bell
  • Adrian Preston Brown
  • Laney Marie Cardenas
  • Joshua Fu
  • Rachel Marie Horvat
  • Cole Joseph Kinchla
  • Kyle Joseph Rathbun
  • Aleezeh Aniq Shaikh
  • Armaan Ahmad Shaikh
  • Jake Harrison Siegel
  • Jenny Xie
  • Jenna Annalise Yungmann
  • Francisco Zhou

University of Georgia
  • Sophia Elise Schugt

University of Hartford
  • Isabella Jenna Bohlen

University of Maryland
  • Brian Davis Sands

University of Miami
  • Priyanka Alpesh-Patel Khushal
  • Jayadev Srinivas Nagabhauru
  • Jasper Edward Ou
  • Caitlin Meade Owens
  • Brina Shreya Quaning
  • Christine Therese Rafferty
  • Sergio Malett Rivera
  • Joshua Pavel Rotman
  • Christian Pedro Stanfield

University of Michigan
  • Jackson Laird Zboril

University of Nebraska
  • Michael Philip Sowinski

University of South Carolina
  • Jackson David Torbert

University of South Florida, St. Pete
  • Tatiana Amari Zarsadias

University of South Florida, Tampa
  • Abagail Paige Jackson
  • Isaac Jonathan Jacobs
  • Vishaal Reddy Kunta
  • Margaret Maurine Nelson
  • Teah Elizabeth Wilson

University of Southern California
  • Paul Richard Hughes

University of St. Andrews
  • Annabel Grace Severns

Vanderbilt University
  • Kalini Rajul Patel
  • Alixandra Cailin Roy

Villanova University
  • Donovan Alexander Hill

Virginia Tech
  • Jeffrey Peter Spafford

Worcester Polytechnic Institute
  • Lucas Joseph Kamal

Yale University
  • Julia Jia Qi Wu
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