

PRESS RELEASE

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MEDIA ADVISORY

Washington Post Names Lincoln Prep Most Challenging High School in Missouri

International Baccalaureate school among the best in the nation

Kansas City, May 5, 2017: Lincoln College Preparatory Academy got the highest rating among all high schools in Missouri in the [Washington Post's 2017 ranking](#) of the nation's most challenging schools.

The annual list is compiled by Jay Mathews, the newspaper's longtime and well respected education reporter. Mr. Mathews' goal, according to [a column he wrote](#) about this year's rankings, is to encourage more challenging curriculum and better educational opportunities for all students, especially those in urban school systems.

The schools included in the list are ranked from an index based on the number of graduates at each school and the number of Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate (IB) and Advanced International Certificate of Education exams given.

Lincoln Prep's index of 4.583 placed it in the top spot in Missouri and 218th in the nation. This is a recognition of the high level of achievement the IB school expects of its students, according to Principal Steven Evans.

"This is great news for our students, staff, KCPS and the entire community," Mr. Evans said. "Everybody at Lincoln Prep holds themselves to very high standards and this ranking by the *Washington Post* really validates all of our hard work."

In 2016, Lincoln Prep was the only high school in Missouri to earn a Blue Ribbon designation, awarded by the U.S. Department of Education to recognize the best schools in the nation. Lincoln Prep's senior classes regularly receive millions of dollars in scholarships and grants, and the school's alumni have advanced to some of the most prestigious colleges and universities in the world.

The IB program is widely considered to be the most rigorous and elite academic system of its type in the world for high schools. Schools spend several years developing their curriculum, facilities and staff in order to qualify for IB designation. Students are expected to complete an extremely challenging course load, 150 hours of community service and independent study projects before earning the prestigious IB diploma.

Learn more about Lincoln Prep by visiting www.kcpublicschools.org/Lincoln.

