

ACADEMIC RECOGNITION

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to establish a criterion based academic honor system which recognizes high academic achievement the School (“the School”).

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

Students are encouraged to strive for excellence. It is the responsibility of all school employees to challenge and support all students in the pursuit of their highest levels of academic and personal achievement. Accordingly, the School will provide a positive and stimulating learning environment which inspires students to reach their fullest potential. The curriculum offerings provide the necessary rigor to allow students to excel and meet the highest academic standards. The Lakes International Language Academy- Upper School diploma represents the pursuit of academic excellence. A student’s transcript reflects their personal achievement and rigorous course selection. The District has established an academic honors system to commend and recognize students for their academic excellence and success. In order to realize these goals, the system must: reflect high academic achievement; be honest, transparent and fair; be criterion-referenced; and reflect high expectations for all students across all courses and programs.

III. DEFINITIONS

- A. “Criterion-Referenced” is a standard on which a judgment or decision may be based.
- B. “Cumulative Grade Point Average” is a calculation of the average of all of a student’s grades for all courses completed up to the present academic term.
- C. “Eligible Student” means any student, including a transfer student, who has completed all courses and has met state and local graduation requirements. When a student has a unique circumstance, an administrative team will review the student’s transcript to determine whether the student has demonstrated academic excellence and success consistent with the spirit of this policy.

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D. “Grade Point Average (GPA)” is the student’s numerical average for all courses taken. It is computed by adding the total number of all grade point values and dividing it by the number of credits completed.

E. “Grade Weighting” is the assignment of a greater numerical value to the grade’s typical numeric point value to recognize a student completing an International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme Course.

F. “Term” is a period of time equaling one year at the end of which grades are recorded on a student’s transcript.

G. “Term Grade Point Average” is the student’s numerical average for year-long coursework. It is computed by adding the total number of the grade point values and dividing it by the number of credits for a given year.

IV. HIGH ACADEMIC HONORS RECOGNITION

A. Effective with the adoption of this policy, the Laude Latin model will be used to recognize academic excellence for recognition at commencement. Eligible students will work to compete against the criterion for academic honors, rather than each other.

B. An eligible student’s final cumulative, weighted GPA at the end of the senior year will be used to determine the level of honor on a high school transcript, and for academic recognition at commencement.

C. The three levels of honors to be awarded to eligible students who have acquired academic excellence are:

1. Summa Cum Laude: With Highest Distinction Cumulative weighted GPA of 4.0 or above.
2. Magna Cum Laude: With Great Distinction Cumulative weighted GPA of 3.90 - 3.999.
3. Cum Laude: With Distinction Cumulative weighted GPA of 3.80 - 3.899.

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D. The weighted cumulative GPA will be used to calculate all academic honors. In the event that a miscalculation occurs, honors may be awarded after the fact; however, honors mistakenly awarded will not be retracted.

E. Honor Rolls

1. The Honor Roll will be calculated based on the weighted yearly GPA.
2. Students with a term GPA of 3.67 and above will be listed on the A Honor Roll.
3. Students with a term GPA of 3.0 to 3.669 will be listed on the B Honor Roll.

F. Academic Lettering

Earning an Academic Letter is another way that students can be recognized for their achievements. LILA high school students will earn an academic letter upon earning a 3.67 GPA during the preceding high school year.

V. POST HIGH SCHOOL REPORTING

Official student transcripts will include the cumulative weighted and unweighted cumulative GPA. The transcript will also denote any cum laude honors.

VI. TREATMENT OF TRANSFER STUDENTS

Students transferring to the School will be eligible for recognition upon a review of their transcript, application of grade weighting, and verification of course rigor when applicable.

VII. IMPLEMENTATION

The principal or designee is directed and authorized to develop and approve specific procedures for the implementation of this policy.