

## **DISTINGUISHED ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM GUIDELINES**

**(Students may keep this page for future reference.)**

The following information is provided to add clarity, continuity and fairness to the Distinguished Achievement Program process. It is our intent that a student who is recognized by this award stands apart from his/her peers in many ways and not just academically. The suggestions listed below are not meant to limit the imagination and efforts of our participants but to lend direction to their efforts. Each contract will be gone over with the student to make sure all instructions and intentions for participation are clear. Each student will be contacted to check on progress toward meeting expected criteria. Students may turn in documentation evidence at any time, the earlier the better.

1. GPA will be figured on the standard formula of A = 4.00, A- = 3.67, B+ = 3.33, B = 3.00, B- = 2.67, C+ = 2.33, C = 2.00, C- = 1.67, etc. If a student does not meet this criteria, but does have 6 of the other standards approved, a 2.5 grade point must be maintained to receive the over-all recognition in this program.
2. Enrollment in two honors courses will be verified immediately. Success is a relative term, but we feel that a "distinguished" scholar should be able to maintain a "B" average in honor's coursework. (Algebra, Geometry, SAGE, and year languages are also considered honor's).
3. A fine arts activity may take a variety of forms but must be something above and beyond regular classroom expectations or outside the school curriculum. Demonstration of creativity is the main criteria. Some suggestions for activities or projects are listed below. Others may be worked out with school or private instructors. Verification of completion of the project or activity must be provided by an instructor or adult mentor. Some activities available at Antioch that would fulfill this requirement are the 8<sup>th</sup> grade school play, NKC District Honors Band or Orchestra, an entry in the spring Music Contest, an entry in a writing contest, artwork displayed or awarded, private dance, music, art, or drama lessons with a recital or performance demonstrating creativity.
4. A student activity that demonstrates action could simply mean participation, however, to include leadership, the student must devise a plan or structure for an activity and follow through with the plan to completion. Activities at Antioch that promote leadership skills are membership in student council, National Junior Honor Society and many after-school programs such as Peer helpers, tutoring, and captain or co-captain of a sports activity. Outside of school activities such as scouting, church, or neighborhood groups may also count. Verification will be documented by an adult instructor or mentor.
5. School/Community service must take place under the direction of an adult sponsor or mentor through an organized activity or as an individual effort. The activity must provide at least 4 hours of service. The activity must take place outside of school hours and may not be performed as part of another course or activity. Some examples of organizations that promote service activities are Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, YMCA, church or youth groups and many private organizations. We would like to encourage individual projects that could simply benefit someone in your own neighborhood who could use a helping hand. Verification of the activity must be provided by an adult sponsor or mentor.
6. Practicing good citizenship takes place on a daily basis and takes many forms. For the purposes of this program, good citizenship shall mean that a student conducts himself or herself in a safe, responsible, respectful, and ethical manner in all school endeavors. The student cannot receive office referrals of any kind during the course of the school year including tardies to class, bus referrals, and misconduct notices.
7. Career Exploration should take place under the supervision of an adult or relative outside the regular school day. It is expected that a student would spend at least 4 hours researching a job. Using their own words, verification of career exploration could include a typed report, PowerPoint, video, poster, etc.
8. One of the two awards required to meet this criteria may be making the academic Honor Roll quarter 1, 2, or 3. Other award opportunities become available during the school year such as attendance awards, art displayed, student of the month, as well as many others through special programs such as music, art, speech, sports, after school activities, Scouts, etc.