

Academic Honors Diploma Application for:

Please submit this application with the Diploma Request Form

The **Diploma with Academic Honors** recognizes the student who has gone beyond the minimal academic requirements or has distinguished himself academically through additional course work. This is recommended for college preparatory students and with this in mind the following criteria have been established. The following criteria are **in addition to the general diploma criteria**, which are listed on the **Annual Summary Form** and detailed within the Guide. Please check items below as accomplished and submit to MDHSA with all attachments required.

Requirements:

1. Students applying for academic honors must use letter grades, percentages, not Pass/Fail grades-2006 & beyond.
2. The student is expected to challenge himself in his reading selections. Quantity is not nearly as important as quality and the student who desires an academic honors diploma will demonstrate that his reading selections have challenged him in some way. With that in mind, the student should have had an extensive reading list with selections from more than three of the following categories, in his portfolio for each evaluation: *fiction, non-fiction, Bible, essays, poetry, magazine articles, classics.* Reading selections for the honors diploma should include a majority of high school or college level selections.
3. The student has had instruction in literary analysis. *This includes learning terms such as simile, metaphor, plot, foreshadowing, doing rhyme, rhythm & meter in poetry, etc.--much of this information is found in literature text or programs, or other materials.*
4. The student has completed *at least one research paper that is a minimum of five pages*, which includes three non-encyclopedia resources. These resources may include interviews. There is no need to send the research paper to MDHSA. However, the evaluator should note if the research paper for the honors diploma is well written, and it should have a cover page, an outline, footnotes or endnotes, and a bibliography. See English textbooks for examples of research papers.
5. The student has studied Biology and Chemistry OR Physics, one course accompanied by a lab and a lab report. (*circle courses studied*). (See science texts, Internet for resources for lab reports).
6. The student has completed at least two years of foreign language study in a single language.
7. Mathematics instruction—there are two tracks to satisfy the criteria of the academic honors program, choose one.

Track 1 - Enriched Math program

At least 3 units of math: Choose any three or more of Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II, Trigonometry, Pre-calculus, Calculus, or any other college preparatory course.

Track 2 - Math with an Enriched Language Arts program: check all that apply

At least 3 units of math: One unit in Algebra and one unit in Geometry **OR** 2 units of algebra and geometry integrated; **AND** one unit of Consumer/Business Math or Accounting.

PLUS a fifth English unit **OR** 4 social studies units, **OR** 3 units of the same foreign language.

Attachments :

A recommendation written by the evaluator or other person who has worked with the student *in an academic setting* explaining why s/he is recommending the student for this honor. *A parent may not write an academic honors recommendation.*

One sample (one-page) of the student's writing either from the current year's work, or written specifically for the honors program application.

We certify that the all information given above and attached is not exaggerated but is true and accurate to the best of our knowledge. (Signatures required below).

Student

Supervisor

Date

The Diploma with Distinction Application for:

Please submit this application with the Diploma Request Form

The **Diploma with Distinction** is presented to the student who has demonstrated excellence or eminence of character, reputation, compassion, or performance in extra-curricular or leadership activities. Throughout his service, the student will have proven possession of exceptional standards and diligence of effort. This diploma is designed to recognize the student for accomplishments outside the academic area. Anyone may recommend an MDHSA diploma candidate for this honor, including a parent for a student who has taken on significant responsibilities at home, or a student's basketball coach, pastor, employer, etc. The person making the recommendation shall submit a letter explaining why the student qualifies for this honor.

Recommendation attached

We certify that all information, given above or attached, is not exaggerated but is true and accurate to the best of our knowledge. (Signatures required below).

Student

Supervisor

Date

Diploma for Performance in the Fine Arts Application for:

Please submit this application with the Diploma Request Form

The **Diploma for Performance in the Fine Arts** is awarded to the student who has completed, *in addition to the requirements for a general diploma*, the following requirements in **Theater Arts, Performing Arts, or Fine Arts**. A recommendation may be made by an evaluator, a music instructor, drama coach, dance instructor, etc. or other person who is able to attest to the student's knowledge, understanding and pursuit of excellence in that area. ***A parent may not make a recommendation for a fine arts diploma.*** Please check items below. If you believe your student qualifies for the academic honor, but does not exactly fit the criteria listed on the application, write a letter defending your position and it will be considered.

Theater Arts

1. A minimum of three units of theater or drama in addition to the general diploma requirements in English is required. These units should include study of theater history, influential writers, and famous performers and directors as well as other related topics. This course work has been included on the **Annual Summary Form** as it was completed.
2. Participation in various aspects of production such as sets, lighting, costume, sound, and/or stage management.
3. The student has been active in at least two productions.

Attached is a recommendation from an instructor or other knowledgeable person who is able to attest to the student's pursuit of knowledge, understanding and pursuit of excellence in the theater arts. A parent may not make a recommendation.

Performing Arts: Music

1. A minimum of three units of music study in piano, voice or another instrument is required.
2. Music theory must be studied either separately or incorporated into instrumental or voice instruction. A music checklist found in the guide should be used to identify the concepts required. This checklist covers concepts that many colleges require of students entering their music programs.
3. One half unit of either sight singing or sight reading must be included in the above units. If this was incorporated into instrumental or voice instruction, a statement to that effect from the instructor will satisfy the requirement.
4. Competency with at least one instrument or in vocal performance.
5. Proof of participation in at least two recitals or performances, preferably one as a soloist.

Attached is a recommendation from an instructor or other knowledgeable person who is able to attest to the student's pursuit of knowledge, understanding and pursuit of excellence in music. A parent may not make a recommendation.

Performing Arts: Dance

1. A minimum of three units of dance is required. These are in addition to the physical education requirement on the annual summary form.
2. Participation in at least two recitals or performances.

Attached is a recommendation from an instructor or other knowledgeable person who is able to attest to the student's pursuit of knowledge, understanding and pursuit of excellence in dance. A parent may not make a recommendation.

Fine Arts

1. Three units of studio work in at least two media of the student's choice such as drawing, painting, ceramics, or fiber arts. This should include study of both two-dimensional and three-dimensional properties.
2. One Credit of art history/humanities in addition to the minimum English and History requirements.
3. Participation in at least one art show or gallery display, or other exhibit.

Attached is a recommendation from an instructor or other knowledgeable person who is able to attest to the student's pursuit of knowledge, understanding and pursuit of excellence in the fine arts. A parent may not make a recommendation.

We certify that the all information given above and attached is not exaggerated but is true and accurate to the best of our knowledge. (Signatures required below).

Student

Supervisor

Date