

## 2023-2024 Academic Distinctions Handout

Please look over the following information about how you may earn an Academic Distinction in the 11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> grades.

If you are a Junior or Senior who is interested in earning an academic distinction this year, indicate your interest by going to <https://forms.gle/SKrT9JBj9CQHgw4B7> and filling out the brief form. The appropriate Department Chair will contact you to discuss your interest and match you with a distinctions mentor.

If you are a Freshman or Sophomore who is interested in earning an academic distinction in your junior or senior year, speak with your advisor about what courses you should be planning to take and what activities you should become involved in.

Department Chairs and Program Directors:

- *Visual and Performing Arts*: Mr. Gagliano
- *English*: Ms. Duke
- *Math*: Ms. Rome
- *Religious Studies*: Father Knight
- *Science*: Ms. Pulliam
- *Social Studies and World Languages*: Dr. Kuhn
- *ESTAAR*: Ms. Pulliam
- *Thesis*: Ms. Sutcliffe

Assistant Head for Academic Affairs: Dr. Fenske

**Upper School Academic Distinctions: 2023-2024**

	<b>Visual and Performing Arts</b>	<b>English</b>	<b>ESTAAR</b>	<b>Math</b>	<b>Religious Studies</b>	<b>Science</b>	<b>Social Studies</b>	<b>Thesis✦</b>	<b>World Language</b>
<p><b>Coursework and/or Performance Benchmarks</b></p> <p>A grade of “A-” or higher in all departmental coursework (unless otherwise specified here ✦).</p> <p><i>Shows outstanding character and growth as a member of these classes.</i></p>	<p><i>Level 1 Distinction</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>One course beyond the graduation requirement in the discipline of distinction (Dance, Visual Art, Drama, Music)</li> <li>Select Ensemble, Master-Seminar, or Honors course participation if offered</li> </ul>	<p><i>Level 1 Distinction</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>AP English</li> <li>OR two semesters of a humanities elective</li> </ul>	<p><i>Level 1 Distinction</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>be admitted to and complete a full year of SRME that includes a student-designed and executed project.</li> <li>be admitted to the ESTAAR program</li> </ul>	<p><i>Level 1 Distinction</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2 Honors Math courses</li> <li>Participation in one of the following:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“Early-Start Calculus”</li> <li>AP Statistics</li> <li>AP Calculus</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><i>Level 1 Distinction</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 course beyond the graduation requirement</li> </ul>	<p><i>Level 1 Distinction</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>at least 1 AP Science course in progress <b>or</b> 2 Honors courses, with a minimum grade of A- or higher</li> </ul>	<p><i>Level 1 Distinction</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A- or higher in <i>ONE Social Studies Course beyond graduation requirement OR Grades of A- or higher in TWO Social Studies Courses at the Honors or AP Level ( ✦ B+ or higher for AP US History taken in 10<sup>th</sup> grade)</i></li> </ul>	<p><i>Level 1 Distinction</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Be admitted to and complete a full year of Seminar</li> <li>Craft and submit a project proposal</li> <li>Meet all “major” deadlines involved with the project development and complete all steps of the research process with “satisfactory” evaluations from the Director and Advisor</li> </ul>	<p><i>Level 1 Distinction</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Grade of A- or higher in level I, II, III, and IV language</li> </ul>
	<p><i>Level 2 Distinction</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Level 1 Distinction</li> <li>A second course beyond the graduation requirement in the discipline of distinction</li> <li>Select Ensemble, Master-Seminar, or Honors course participation if offered</li> </ul>	<p><i>Level 2 Distinction</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Level 1 Distinction</li> <li>English 4</li> </ul>	<p><i>Level 2 Distinction</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Level 1 Distinction</li> <li>Complete a full year of ESTAAR (satisfactorily meeting all deadlines, committee meetings, presentations, etc.)</li> </ul>	<p><i>Level 2 Distinction</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Level 1 Distinction</li> <li>An additional AP Math Course or approved additional coursework in math</li> </ul>	<p><i>Level 2 Distinction</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Level 1 Distinction</li> <li>2 courses beyond the graduation requirement</li> </ul>	<p><i>Level 2 Distinction</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Level 1 Distinction</li> <li>An additional AP Science course <b>or</b> Grade of A- or higher in two yearlong sciences beyond graduation requirement (includes computer science or engineering)</li> </ul>	<p><i>Level 2 Distinction</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Level 1 Distinction</li> <li>A- or higher in TWO Social Studies Courses beyond the graduation requirement OR A- or higher in THREE Social Studies Courses at the Honors or AP Level ( ✦ B+ or higher for AP US History taken in 10<sup>th</sup> grade)</li> </ul>	<p><i>Level 2 Distinction</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Level 1 Distinction</li> <li>Complete the Thesis course</li> <li>Successfully complete required summer work toward completion of the project and earn a “satisfactory” evaluation by the Director and Advisor</li> <li>Deliver a public presentation</li> <li>Meet all “major” deadlines</li> </ul>	<p><i>Level 2 Distinction</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Level 1 Distinction</li> <li>A- or higher in level I, II, III, IV, and AP language OR an A- or higher in level I, II, III, IV, and an Earned-Honors in Global Studies Class</li> </ul>
<p><b>Experiences Beyond the Classroom</b></p> <p>Consistent and significant participation, demonstrating outstanding character growth, and passion for the subject through at least one specialized, extracurricular, enrichment experience for at least 2 years for Level 1 Distinction, and 3 years for Level 2 Distinction. Experiences beyond the classroom not listed on the Distinctions Handout provided each fall may be acceptable with appropriate department chair approval.</p>									

## 2023-2024 Academic Distinctions Beyond the Class Experiences

This is a list of examples to help students and mentors when considering experiences beyond the classroom.

### Visual and Performing Arts Department

- Create art pieces outside of classroom requirements
- Participate in external art shows
- Independent performance
- Independent project with presentation or recital
- Compose a piece of music for the band to perform
- Create original choreography
- Participate in school productions
- Assistant direct productions
- Stage manage Middle School productions
- Work on the technical crew for productions.
- Stage Manager/Light Designer for choir, band, and dance concerts
- Set, lighting, and/or costume design for school productions
- Thespian Club
- Participation in visual or performing arts honor societies
- Pursue music lessons outside of school
- Perform with outside theatre, choir, or band ensemble
- Participate in community productions
- Participation in national and/or district-level competitions or honor ensembles
- Approved service project

### English Department

- Troubadour
- Writing Fellow
- Poetry Slam
- Society of Words
- Book clubs
- Creative writing
- Writing contests
- Write for Knightly News
- Reading challenges
- Contribute to reading initiatives
- Book drives
- Library-based activities (school and public libraries)
- Promote reading and writing

### ESTAAR

- Required presentation at Junior Science Humanities Symposium, Science Fair, or other analogous presentation venue.

### Math Department

- Being an active member of Mu Alpha Theta for multiple years
  - Regularly attending practices
  - Regularly attending competitions
  - Holding an officer position
  - Creating quick videos with math competition strategies
- Peer Tutoring through the ARC
- Helping with MathCounts in MS
- Partnering with a Lower School classroom
- AMC (American Mathematics Competition)
  - Virtual Practices
  - Taking the test
- Participating recently in LSU Math Circle

### Religious Studies Department

- Student Vestry or other approved worship leadership
- Approved service-learning project addressing the needs of the community significantly beyond core service requirements.
- Eucharistic Minister service

### Science Department

- Lab Assistants
- Recording informational videos on lab protocols or special topics of interest (i.e. misconceptions on topics, confusing or complex topics)
- Participation in Science Olympiad Events
- Participation in Science Club (actively attending and contributing, organizing field trips, guest speakers, etc.)
- Participation in cross-divisional outreach (with LS and MS)
- Organization and/or participation in science-centered service projects
- Tutoring science in the ARC
- Robotics Club/ Robotics Team
- FRAME Lab projects and participation
- Chemistry Olympiad Participation

## Social Studies

- National History Day
- Youth Legislature
- MUN
- Mock Trial
- With the guidance of a teacher, design and present a social studies lesson
- Make a video lesson or help a teacher in the MS or LS with a lesson about a topic you are passionate about
- Participate in the National History Bee and/or Bowl
- With the guidance of a faculty mentor, record an Oral History and submit it to the [Story Corps](#) project.
- Submit to [social studies-related essay contests](#)
- Baton Rouge Teen Court participation
- Participate in Boy's State or Girl's State
- Participate in debate

## World Languages

- Publish a piece in French, or Spanish in a journal
- Regularly read stories or present to Lower and Middle School language students
- Design an in-person or video lesson about a topic
- Tutor a student in the language
- Participate in State Conventions and/or Festivals
- Design a lesson or experience for others through the French Club/Honor Society or Spanish Club/Honor Society
- Participate in a service learning project related to world languages or global awareness (example: [The Pulsera Project](#))