



Lighthouse Academy of Nations

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CEEB# Code: 241-583 www.lighthouse.charter.k12.mn.us

Profile 2011-2012

“Pursue Perfection –
Catch Excellence”

SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY PROFILE

Lighthouse Academy of Nations is a public charter school founded in 2005. It is located in South Minneapolis, Minnesota and serves the Twin Cities metro area. Originally, the school targeted new immigrants to the United States but shifted its focus to becoming a college preparatory school in 2010. To this end, AP classes were introduced in 2011.

95% of students attending Lighthouse in 2011-2012 are English Language Learners of varying proficiency and are the first in their families to attempt post-secondary education. 100% qualify for the free or reduced price lunch program. Anticipated student enrollment for the 2011-2012 academic year is approximately 135, with a senior class size of 30.

The average class size is 18 with a student to faculty ratio of 7.9 to 1 and student to computer ratio of 1.5 to 1. Our school operates on a traditional semester schedule with year-long courses. Classes last 50 minutes with our AP classes blocked to last 100 minutes.

The school mission is to close the achievement gap, and that mission is at the forefront, being addressed in every class by every teacher and support personnel. This is evidenced by meticulous curricular planning, achievement of meeting AYP for a second consecutive year, and the development of ELL and Special Education programs that meet or exceed Minnesota state standards. We have also applied for national accreditation through AdvancEd with the intent to hold ourselves to a higher standard and better serve our students.

While we have a small campus that does not have its own athletic facilities, we coordinate with community organizations such as the YMCA for our athletics. Extracurricular teams this year include track and field, boys' basketball, and boys' soccer. A variety of clubs are also offered in an effort to engage as many students as possible. All such clubs are generated by student interest and change throughout the year to expose students to different cultures, interests, and arts. Some of the clubs this year include Student Council, Yearbook, choir, Arabic Club, Hmong Club, math club, aerobics, and Business Club.

STAFF

Lighthouse's dedicated professional staff is committed to providing a rigorous academic program. 81% of the faculty is from Teach for America. Approximately 13% hold advanced degrees (M.A., Ph.D. or Ed.D.) while 38% are finishing advanced degrees this year. In the classroom, teachers incorporate technology and instructional strategies that develop critical thinking skills, as well as content knowledge.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS FOR THE CLASS OF 2012

In order to graduate from Lighthouse Academy of Nations, students must receive a passing score on the Minnesota Comprehensive Assessment (MCA-II) in Writing, Reading, and Math. In accordance with Minnesota Department of Education guidelines, a student who attempts GRAD Math three times but is unable to pass the test must take a remedial math class offered by Lighthouse and/or pass a district math assessment. All students must also successfully complete a minimum of 26.5 credits, with the following requirements: (please note: 1credit = 1 credit year)

English.....4.0 credits

Math.....3.0 credits

 Must include Geometry

Electives.....11.5 credits

 Must include 2 credits of a foreign language unless identified as an English Language Learner

Social Studies.....3.5 credits

 Must include US History and World History

Science.....3 credits

 Must include Biology

PE/Health.....1/2credit

Art.....1credit

GRADING SCALE

Lighthouse Academy of Nations utilizes letter grades, including “plus” and “minus” designations for each letter grade. Both weighted (WGPA) and non-weighted (GPA) grade point averages are calculated. Only semester grades achieved in each course are used to compute GPA and WGPA. Courses graded as Pass/Fail are not used in these calculations. Cumulative GPA and WGPA are tabulated and posted on student report cards and the permanent transcript record at the conclusion of each semester.

Grade	Numeric Equivalent	GPA	WGPA-HNS	WGPA-AP
A+	97-100	4.0	4.5	5.0
A	93-96	4.0	4.5	5.0
A-	90-92	3.7	4.2	4.7
B+	87-89	3.3	3.8	4.3
B	83-86	3.0	3.5	4.0
B-	80-82	2.7	3.2	3.7
C+	77-79	2.3	2.8	3.3
C	73-76	2.0	2.5	3.0
C-	70-72	1.7	2.2	2.7
D+	67-69	1.3	1.8	2.3
D	65-66	1.0	1.5	2.0
F	<65	0.0	0.0	0.0

TESTING

SAT: Data incomplete

ACT: Data incomplete

AP: Data incomplete

CLASS RANK

It is not the policy of Lighthouse Academy of Nations to report class rank. The majority of our students are learning English as an additional language which requires acquisition of academic language as well. Furthermore, we offer a rigorous curriculum in a challenging academic environment. The majority of our students respond by meeting or exceeding our expectations within four years. We believe that the achievements and abilities of our students cannot be represented by a single statistic, but rather by a combination of achievement in language acquisition leading to course selection, grades earned and scores achieved on SAT, ACT and AP tests.

CURRICULUM

The instructional program at Lighthouse provides a variety of academic opportunities in order to meet the general and individual needs of our students, with rigorous academic standards encouraged and pursued. For a complete listing of current courses available at Lighthouse, visit the website at www.lighthouse.charter.k12.mn.us. Courses designated as Honors or AP (Advanced Placement) are weighted while those without these designations are standard level courses.

Post-Secondary Enrollment Option (PSEO) is available to juniors and seniors who meet admission requirements. These courses are taken at various colleges and universities in the Twin City metro area for college and high school credit.

CLASS OF 2011 COLLEGE ADMISSION AND POST-SECONDARY PLANS

4-Year College: 10%

2-Year College: 80%

Other: 10%

Governance

Board of Directors:

Chairman: Abdulkader Abdullah

Secretary: Teresa Gloppen

Member: Abraham Gadalla

Member: Abdiweli Mohamud

Parent: Zakiyya Islam

Member: Mohamed H. Mohamoud

Administration:

Director: Farhan Hussein

Dean of Students: Abdiweli Mohamud

Building Maintenance: Ahmed Elmi

Lead Teacher: Katia Holmers-Colon

DAC, Academic Advisor: Trudy Suleiman

Special Ed Administrator: Connie Bruner

Truancy: A Xiong