



# LFHS • Scout Spotlight



**About our Community**

**District Mission**

**About LFHS**

**Curriculum**

**Lake Forest High School  
1285 North McKinley Road  
Lake Forest, Illinois 60045  
847.234.3600**

## About Our Community

Located 30 miles north of Chicago on the shores of Lake Michigan, Lake Forest High School serves the residents of Lake Forest, Lake Bluff and Knollwood. The community of 24,000, primarily business and professional residents, evidences a strong demand for excellence. The community is exceptionally supportive of its many diverse institutions. For Lake Forest High School, this assistance takes the form of college scholarships, foreign exchange programs, internships, funding of special equipment, underwriting leadership training and summer workshops for students and staff.

Originally built in 1935, the facilities and curricular offerings have had substantial and continual refinement to prepare LFHS students for life and work in an increasingly technological and competitive global economy. To support its challenging curriculum, Lake Forest High School offers state-of-the-art science and language labs, media center and student resource centers, a student publication center, photography labs, extensive technology enhancements including multimedia production areas, studio and auditorium theaters, modern music and practice spaces, a complete array of special education programs and services, extensive athletic facilities, a climbing wall and Olympic size swimming pool with diving well.

Emotional Wellness is an initiative threaded throughout the building curriculum and school community, which focuses on each student as a whole person - emotional intelligence and relational skills as well as intellectual and physical development.

The average tenure of faculty members at Lake Forest High School is 11 years and 96 percent of the faculty hold a master's degree or beyond. Members of the faculty have been instrumental in the development of Advanced Placement courses, serve on a number of state curriculum committees, and have authored articles in professional journals and textbooks.



LFHS

**FACT!**

More than 96% of the faculty members at LFHS hold a Master's Degree or beyond



### District Mission

“To inspire the passion to learn, the insight to know oneself, and the courage to make a difference.” *Adopted 2011*

### About Lake Forest High School

Lake Forest High School is a high-performing district on the North Shore of Lake Michigan. Our students receive excellent instruction from our teachers and 95% of our students go on to higher-level education. We emphasize outstanding delivery of instruction and are looking for innovative teachers who have multiple endorsements and who are passionate about teaching. These individuals must be committed to departmental collaboration and value an atmosphere of academic freedom.

### What Makes Us Different?

At Lake Forest High School – we recognize we are different. Individualism has true meaning. Our students receive personal support from teachers, coaches, administrators, and from each other. They develop relationships with the faculty that last not only beyond the school day, but beyond graduation day. Relationships that are based upon mutual respect, positive reinforcement, and high expectations are routine – not exceptions. There is a true sense of community, whether it’s custodians supporting student athletics at sporting events, or teachers spending their own time to work with a student who is struggling in class or in life.

AP Scholars	50
<u>Scholars with Honors</u>	<u>22</u>
Scholars with Distinction	79
<u>National Scholars</u>	<u>12</u>
National Merit Commended Students	20
<u>National Merit Semifinalists</u>	<u>5</u>
National Merit Finalists	5
<u>National Merit Scholarship Winner</u>	<u>0</u>
Advanced Placement Scholars	107
<u>Illinois State Scholars</u>	<u>139</u>
Mean ACT score: composite 26.8 Highest ever in LFHS history	

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**FACT!**

95% of our students go on to higher-level education



# curriculum

## The Curriculum

Lake Forest High School offers a strong, yet diverse, college preparatory program. College Prep, Honors, and Advanced Placement courses are provided in all areas in addition to quality enhanced courses in fine and applied arts, technology, and communication arts. Independent study and seminars are available to talented students who wish to pursue inter-disciplinary studies. Latin and fifth year foreign language study is offered. Extensive offerings in music and the performing arts enrich the educational studies.

## Art

Through hands-on activities in the art program, students acquire an understanding of basic design, develop freedom to experiment creatively, master skills in various techniques, and form meaningful communication of original ideas. Classes offer students the opportunity to develop creative problem-solving skills. Through evaluating, critiquing, and articulating ideas, students grow in appreciation and understanding of other artists' work. As a department, we hope to facilitate aesthetic appreciation and artistic development in students who choose art as an enrichment as well as in students who choose art as a career.

## Business Education

To provide educational opportunities for the entire student population, the department will offer courses which will develop business, legal, and technological skills and knowledge commensurate with needs identified in the present and the future job market. The department will also prepare students for post secondary studies in the area of business. In addition, the courses will develop an awareness of career opportunities in the business world, develop responsible consumer and economic behavior, and provide students with a technological foundation. Students enrolled in Business Education courses will have a basis for further study and preparation for entering a technology-oriented market.

## English

The English Department strives to create an environment and a curriculum that will foster life-long reading, writing, and learning as attainable goals for both students and teachers. All Freshman, Sophomore, and Junior courses share common elements and approaches, even as the literature selections and thematic strands of study may vary from course to course. Shared Literature is the study of required texts at each level with the inclusion of literature reflecting multicultural and diverse perspectives. *Reading Workshop* rounds out the students' reading experience, offering the opportunity to pursue titles and authors of their own choosing. *Analysis Writing* springs from the literature and reflects the student's growth in critical thinking and writing competency over time. *Writing Workshop* is a student-centered writing program focusing on self-selected topics and offering instruction in writing technique and regular feedback from peer and teacher audiences. Each student produces, in addition to other forms of assessments, a culminating portfolio, an authentic demonstration of his or her growth over time.

## World Language

Lake Forest High School offers a complete program in French, German, Latin, Spanish, and beginning levels in Mandarin. More than 80% of Lake Forest High School students consistently enroll in a world language. The core curriculum consists of levels 1-5 and includes college preparatory and honors levels. An integrated teaching approach emphasizes the four skills of reading, writing, listening, and speaking. Communicating in the target language is a strategy adhered to by world language teachers at Lake Forest High School. Real language sources, language laboratory usage, classroom activities, and web-based textbooks all promote oral and written comprehension and skills. From the introductory courses through the AP level, the emphasis on language proficiency and global understanding fosters both academic and personal growth. Throughout the program students encounter a rich array of cultural topics and gain a deepened appreciation and understanding of global societies.

## Math

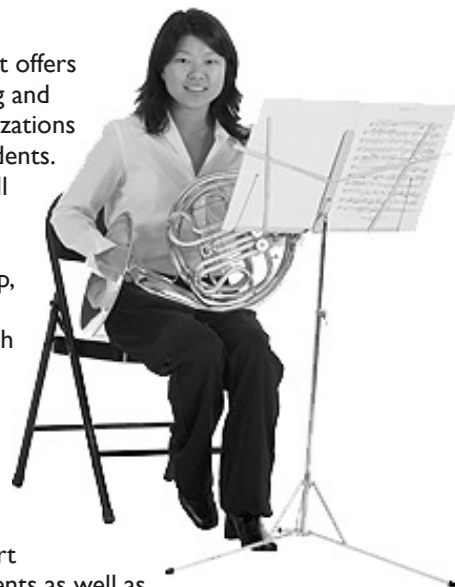
The Mathematics Department will prepare students for life in an increasingly technological world in the following core areas: problem solving, logical reasoning, communicating mathematical ideas, applying mathematics to real-world situations and using technology as a mathematical tool to solve mathematical problems. We will maintain learning environments and classroom situations in which students can develop confidence in the above endeavors.

- 99% of our student are enrolled in mathematics courses
- 96% of our seniors are taking mathematics courses
- 30% of our seniors are taking AP level mathematics courses.
- 60% of our freshmen are in a math program which concludes in Calculus.

## Music

The Music Department offers high quality performing and non-performing organizations and classes to our students.

Our mission is to instill in our students a sense of responsibility, leadership, musicianship, self-discipline and professionalism through daily rehearsals and performances. The Music Department seeks to promote civility by fostering a professional attitude toward concert etiquette for our students as well as our audience members. It is through these musical organizations, classes and performances that the music staff is able to offer a well-rounded music education to the student body at Lake Forest High School and to instill a life-long love for and involvement in music.



## Science

In order to read a newspaper or serve on a jury, citizens need to have a strong background in science along with the ability to analyze scientific results. The Lake Forest High School science curriculum provides this background while focusing on the importance of science to daily life. Our students achieve standardized test scores among the best in the state each year. However, we are not interested in teachers whose focus will be to “teach to the test.” We expect outstanding instruction from our teachers and high scores on the Prairie State Exam will naturally follow. We are looking for teachers with multiple endorsements who are passionate about teaching. We pride ourselves on the extent of collaboration within the department, but it is our atmosphere of academic freedom that allows each teacher to bring his or her special passion to the classroom.

- Approximately 90% of our students are enrolled in a science class. This represents a six percent increase over the past ten years.

## Social Studies

Education for citizenship is the central mission of the Lake Forest High School Social Studies Department. To prepare students for life in a world characterized by pluralism, interdependence, and change, the Social Studies program draws upon the knowledge base of history and the social sciences and incorporates the critical thinking and decision-making skills needed to strengthen student commitment to democratic values and processes and to make informed and reasoned decisions for the public good.

The Social Studies Department attracts substantial student participation in our courses, well beyond the established graduation requirements, because of the variety and quality of course offerings. The department's classes include a two year world history program, a focus on global studies including courses in Asian Studies, Latin American Studies and Middle Eastern Studies. A well-established African American Studies program has expanded to a two-semester sequence. Also offered is an array of one-semester social science classes including contemporary issues, economics, psychology, sociology and political science. Classes are offered at three different levels: regular, college preparatory and advanced placement.

- Approximately 92% of students at LFHS are enrolled in Social Studies each semester.
- The department also offers AP classes in World, European, and U. S. History; Economics (Micro and Macro), Political Science (U. S. and Comparative), and Psychology.
- Students took 420 AP exams in Social Studies with an average score of 4.0 (out of 5) with 95% receiving a score of 3 or higher on their respective AP exam.
- The department has also created a writing scope and sequence to support the development of critical thinking and writing skills.
- The integration of technology into the Social Studies curricula has become a priority as all classrooms now contain

a SmartBoard (courtesy of the Lake Forest Foundation), and the use of e-books and interactive student resources is in development.

## Applied Technology

The department strives to develop student potential in a comprehensive knowledge and activity based educational program ranging from college-bound students to those seeking technical employment after high school. By focusing on knowledge application, creativity and problem solving, this program will provide the student with an understanding of the impact of technology on individuals, society, and the environment. Through the use of computers and high tech tools of instruction, students learn to work effectively as individuals and team members to select the appropriate technology to solve problems. The curriculum offers CAD Architecture, CAD Engineering, introductory and advanced courses in Woodworking, and a Home Improvement and Design course that takes a “do it yourself” approach to home maintenance and repair.

## Telecommunications

Telecom-New Media offers students the opportunity to learn, engage and produce meaningful media for a variety of production mediums including studio and stage. Students learn through a hands-on process where students build confidence and find their voice through video, audio, and visual effects. All elements of the visual storytelling process are studied, practiced and critiqued within a relevant project based curriculum. Pre-production planning and organization is taught by producing stories to engage and evoke emotion from viewers. We replicate the professional visual storytelling process through tapeless HD cameras, professional microphones and Green Screen. Our students develop stories through the use of leading industry software including Final Cut Pro Studio and the Adobe Creative Suite. These professional tools are taught through the help of TAs, video tutorials, and fun, relevant projects completed during class time.

## Wellness

The four-year physical education program is designed to provide a variety of learning experiences designed to fulfill the physical, social, and emotional needs of each student. We encourage and assist each student to develop skillful movement through exercise, games, sports, aquatics, dance, and outdoor adventure activities. We stress the importance of culturally approved patterns of personal behavior and interpersonal relationships. We strive to improve the condition of the heart, lungs, muscles, and other organic systems of the body to meet daily and emergency demands. Students will acquire an appreciation and respect of good physical condition and a sense of well being. The curriculum includes a variety of lifetime activities designed to develop an interest and desire to pursue healthy lifestyles.

Certified Staff-to-Student Ratio: 1:11

## Health

Health offerings not only fulfill a state mandate but also provide students with a comprehensive understanding of all dimensions of wellness (physical, mental, emotional, and social). Emphasis is placed on personal ownership of one's health and choices in every dimension of wellness. Health and Wellness for Life provides a unique opportunity to support students' transition into the school community. Students build executive function strategies, social-emotional, and leadership skills. Counselors, social workers, deans, and upperclassmen mentors work with students in this class on a regular basis to provide leadership and transition support.

## Driver Education

The Driver Education program provides instruction to help students acquire appropriate and effective driving skills. It is the goal of the department to identify driving risks and influence individual decision making in order for students to become safe and defensive drivers. We conduct an integrated two-phase program. We also participate in the Cooperative Licensing Program endorsed by the Secretary of State.

## Special Education Department

The Special Education Department is committed to providing a supportive environment in which students with disabilities can develop intellectual, academic, physical, social, emotional, and civic life skills through a continuum of services. The department strives to assist each student to successfully access the rich variety of learning opportunities provided by Lake Forest High School courses, services, and extra-curricular activities. The Special Education Department supports each student's efforts to become a self-aware, self-advocating, self-directed learner.

Students are supported in the general education classroom, learning resource center, or self-contained classroom. The department encourages a cooperative philosophy with parents and encourages them to be an active member of their children's educational team.

## Student Services Department

The Student Service Department is a comprehensive service oriented department comprised of seven college and career counselors, three social workers, one school psychologist, and one nurse. These individuals enable the department to meet the diverse needs of our student population.

Our mission is to support the continued development of the emotional well being of our students through the use of support services. By expanding resources and maintaining current services, students will receive quality support.

## Extra-Curricular

Lake Forest High School is pleased to provide an interesting and diverse choice of extra-curricular activities to enhance our students' learning experience and broaden their horizons. Staff members are invited to serve as sponsors of clubs that include preventative/social service organizations, student publications, student government, and clubs ranging from Scholastic Bowl and Debate, to Automotive Club and Japanese Animé Club.

## Athletics

We believe that a dynamic program of student activities is vital to the educational development of the student. Among these activities, athletics is considered to be an integral part of the total education process. The athletic program provides experiences which promote the development of positive attitudes and habits in our student-athletes. We consider participation in interscholastic athletics to be a privilege, and while we strive to win as often as we can, we are mindful that how we win or lose tells more about us than the final score.

**Fall Sports:** Football, Boys Soccer, Boys Golf, Girls Golf, Boys Cross Country, Girls Cross Country, Girls Tennis, Girls Volleyball, Girls Field Hockey, Girls Swimming and Diving, Sideline Cheerleading, Pom Poms

**Winter Sports:** Boys Basketball, Girls Basketball, Wrestling, Boys Swimming, Girls Gymnastics, Competitive/Sideline Cheerleading, Competitive Pom Poms

**Spring Sports:** Baseball, Softball, Girls Soccer, Boys Water Polo, Girls Water Polo, Boys Lacrosse, Girls Lacrosse, Boys Track, Girls Track, Girls Badminton

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**FACT!**

Approximately 1710  
students attend  
Lake Forest High School



[Lake Forest High School Association of Parents and Teachers \(APT\)](#)

The Lake Forest High School Association of Parents and Teachers is a not for profit corporation incorporated under the laws of the state of Illinois. The purpose for which the corporation is organized is educational. The APT promotes cooperative action among Lake Forest High School, the administration and teachers, its students, the parents, and the community.

[Lake Forest High School Foundation](#)

The mission of the Lake Forest High School Foundation is to acquire and distribute resources to Lake Forest High School District 115 to enhance, enrich and supplement learning opportunities for its students, staff and community.

The Foundation achieves its mission through direct support for:

1. Student development,
2. Staff excellence and creativity, and
3. School/Community Collaboration.



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**FACT!**

Advanced Placement Subject  
Areas: 25; Scores of three or  
above 93%; seniors taking  
exam: 52%

## How Can I Learn More?

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Bookmark our website ([www.lfhs.org](http://www.lfhs.org)) and periodically check on areas of interest, [read the newspaper](#), or [attend or watch a Board meeting on the website](#). (Board meetings are televised live and videotaped for rebroadcast on LF Cable Channel 17 on Mondays at 8:30 pm and Tuesdays at 8 am.)

[Sign up for our E-Newsletter at www.lfhs.org](#). The "Sign Up" banner can be found on the homepage.

If your organization would like a guest speaker to address education in our community, please contact Anne Whipple, Director of Communications, at [847-604-7409](tel:847-604-7409) and we will be happy to join you!



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