

Endorsement Requirements



**Distinguished Scholars
Science**

Four-Year Academy

CATEGORIES	COURSEWORK	ENDORSE	ENDORSE WITH HONORS	ENDORSE WITH HIGH HONORS
Grade Level Academy Coursework	1.0 DS Freshmen Expedition (9th)	YES	YES	YES
	1.0 DS Symposium SCI (10th)	YES	YES	YES
	1.0 DS Symposium SCI (11th)	YES	YES	YES
	1.0 Distinguished Scholar Senior Capstone SCI (12th)	YES	YES	YES
Additional Required Academy Coursework	4.0 Honors/AP English (Grades 9-10)	YES	YES	YES
	1.0 Honors Biology (9)	YES	YES	YES
	1.0 Honors Chemistry (10)	YES	YES	YES
	1.0 AP Physics I (10)	YES	YES	YES
	1.0 AP Chemistry (11 or 12)	YES	YES	YES
	1.0 AP Physics II (11 or 12)	YES	YES	YES
	1.0 AP Biology (11 or 12)	YES	YES	YES
	1.0 AP Calculus AB OR AP Calculus BC	YES	YES	YES
	Two AP courses not listed above & <i>outside content area</i>		YES	
	Three AP courses not listed above & <i>outside content area</i>			YES
DS Required	PSAT – Grades 9-11	YES	YES	YES
	AP Exams: AP Physics I OR AP Physics II; AP Biology AND AP Chemistry	YES	YES	YES
Resume	Resume will be started during Junior year and continually edited through Graduation. Resume will be used for any applications for WBL internships at the end of Junior year for enrollment placements Senior Year	YES	YES	YES
GPA	Overall High School Unweighted Minimum GPA	3.5	3.7	3.85
eHours	eHours Total – <i>Extension hours or points, earned outside the regular school day and not tied to a course grade, are specific to each academy focus of study.</i>	200	300	400
Senior Capstone Presentation	Four-Year Academy Senior Capstone - <i>Each student's capstone project is individualized. Students will typically earn a Market Value Asset as part of their capstone project. Students will be evaluated in their capstone course and present their capstone to the public.</i>	Public Presentation	Public Presentation	Public Presentation

WHAT IS A FOUR-YEAR ACADEMY ENDORSEMENT?

The Four-Year Endorsement is a special notation on a student's transcript that indicates the student was part of a Four-Year Academy and attained a certain level of accomplishments specified for the academy. All Four-Year Academy students are encouraged to earn an endorsement.

HOW ARE FOUR-YEAR ACADEMY ENDORSED STUDENTS RECOGNIZED?

- Students receive a specific notation on their transcript
- Students are identified in the high school graduation program
- Students earn a special red, black, and white honor cord for graduation
- Students who do not endorse but complete all coursework within the Academy are recognized as completers.

The following endorsements can be attained by students in all academies and will be marked on their transcript as follows:

» Academy Name - Endorsed » Academy Name - Endorsed with Honors » Academy Name - Endorsed with High Honors

WHY SHOULD A STUDENT GET AN ENDORSEMENT?

- The endorsement is a good indication for colleges and employers that the student is dedicated and has a passion for a specific area.
- An endorsement is an honors designation.
- An endorsement recognizes a student for their subject-matter concentration.
- An endorsement is a great self-marketing tool.
- Students who complete endorsement requirements have a professional portfolio of coursework, extension experiences, student professional learning experiences & projects that can be shared with potential colleges, post-secondary institutions & employers.



HOW DOES A STUDENT EARN AN ENDORSEMENT? All academies have endorsement requirements. All Academies require an Individual Plan of Study, Academy Coursework, Extension Hours (eHours), GPA, Work-Based Learning/Post Secondary Assest, and Senior Capstone Presentation: (please refer to specific Academy endorsement tables on Academy webpage:olathepublicschools.org/careerpathways)

► **Some specifics related to Extension Hours:** eHours are specific to each Academy. They are extended learning opportunities earned outside the regular school day and not tied to a course grade.

- Continuously earned over all 4 high school years
- A minimum of [50] eHours earned each of the 4 years, including senior year
- eHours are tracked by the student and submitted to their academy facilitator for tracking (<https://academyendorsement.olatheschools.com>)
- Approval for what is accepted as an eHour is determined by the academy facilitator(s)
- Student may begin earning eHours as soon as they are accepted into an academy (2nd semester of 8th grade)

Examples of eHours include:

- Leading community presentations
- Academy related volunteer/community service
- Attending an Academy related guest speaker session
- Participating in academy related competitions
- Providing service to the Academy
- Participating in Academy events
- Submitting scholarship/award applications
- Participating in post-secondary visit related to the academy
- Facilitator approved
- Participating in an academic conference or a summer internship
- Taking prep classes for post-secondary admittance exams (i.e., ACT Test Prep classes)
- Taking a post-secondary entrance or certification exam (i.e., ACT, SAT, Compass, etc.)
- Participating in Employability Skills Workshops
- Participating in approved Work-Based Learning Experience outside of school day (Internship, client-based project)
- Presenting the Senior Capstone Project (outside school day)

► **Work Based Learning (WBL) experiences:** The purpose of a WBL is to connect skills students are learning in the classroom to authentic, real-world experiences. This helps students connect their school learning with post-secondary and career opportunities. Student WBL experiences take many forms during a student's Four-Year Academy experience. This includes various career presentations during school, job shadowing (typically short term), earning industry-standard certifications, practicing skills/knowledge in an authentic learning experience, doing projects for clients, internships, and more. WBL experiences may earn the student a Post Secondary Asset (PSA) which is part of the district's Portrait of a Graduate and a graduation requirement for the class of 2028 and beyond.

► **Senior Capstone Project and Presentation:** To earn an endorsement, all academies require students to complete a Senior Capstone and give a public presentation. Each student's capstone is individualized. It may consist of a content specific project and/or a placement with a community business partner (or another facilitator directed project). Students will be evaluated in their capstone course. Specific instructions and feedback is provided for the presentation.