



# Liberal Arts and Science Academy High School

CEEB Code: 440069

2017-2018 School Profile

7309 Lazy Creek Drive • Austin, TX 78724

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## SUMMARY

The Liberal Arts and Science Academy (LASA) High School is a four-year comprehensive, public, urban, advanced academic magnet high school of 1,191 students. The class of 2018 numbers 260 students. The program recruits the most academically advanced students from public and private middle schools in Austin; as such, admission to LASA is competitive, based on test scores, previous accomplishments and teacher recommendations.

## HISTORY

The LBJ Science Academy, Austin's first magnet program, was created in 1985. The Liberal Arts Academy at Johnston High School opened in 1987. The two programs were merged in 2002 and became the Liberal Arts and Science Academy (LASA), housed on the Lyndon Baines Johnson High School campus. In 2007, the school board voted to make LASA its own high school. The two high schools, LASA and LBJ, are housed on the same campus and still share fine arts and athletics classes. They compete in UIL events as one school.

## MISSION

LASA educates socially responsible leaders, problem solvers, and thinkers through a nationally recognized, rigorous, innovative, interdisciplinary curriculum.

## STUDENT PROFILE

Race/Ethnicity (2017-2018)	
Black/African-American	2.02%
American Indian/Alaska Native	0.08%
Asian	19.48%
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0.25%
Hispanic	19.56%
Multi-Racial	6.13%
White	52.48%

## POST SECONDARY PLACEMENT (Class of 2017)

- 95.5% matriculated to 4-year colleges and/or universities
- 2.9% matriculated to 2-year colleges
- 1.2% elected to take a Gap Year before enrolling in college
- 0.4% enlisted in the armed forces

## CURRICULUM

The curricular expectations for LASA students exceed that of a traditional curricular program. The curriculum for every course is written to go above and beyond state and district standards. LASA courses move at a quicker pace, cover more material, are project-based, and rely heavily on discussion and seminar style delivery of course information or the use, interpretation, and delivery of research.

Number of AP courses: 30      Number of Honors Courses: 121

## SIGNATURE COURSES

One of the cornerstones of LASA is the group of courses known as *Signature Courses*. These innovative classes are collaborative in nature. Student groups research, design, implement and present projects in the sciences and humanities. LASA freshmen take Electronic Magazine and Science and Technology; sophomores take Planet Earth and Great Ideas. These classes are described in more detail on the LASA website in the Prospective Students section.

## GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

All LASA students follow a course plan that is more rigorous than the plan required by the Distinguished Level of Achievement Graduating Plan (as prescribed by Texas Education Agency). All LASA students are also expected to work towards receiving the Magnet endorsement, which will result in the successful completion of the requirements for the following endorsements: Multidisciplinary; Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math; and Arts and Humanities.

## ADVANCED PLACEMENT

An upperclassman will typically take 4 to 5 AP courses per semester. In 2017, on their own initiative, LASA students took 2,410 Advanced Placement tests with an 87% passing rate. Advanced Placement courses are offered in the following areas: U.S. Government, Comparative Government, French Language, Computer Science, Spanish Language, Statistics, Chinese Language, Calculus AB/BC, English Literature, German Language, Japanese Language and Culture, Latin, U.S. History, European History, Studio Art, Biology, Music Theory, Physics B, Physics C:M/EM, Chemistry, Environmental Science, Psychology, English Language, Economics: Micro/Macro, Spanish Literature, Art History, World History, and Human Geography.

## GRADING SYSTEM

Letter Grade	Numeric Value	Weighted value	Unweighted value
A	90 – 100	4.0 – 5.0	3.0 – 4.0
B	80 – 89	3.0 – 3.9	2.0 – 2.9
C	70 – 79	2.0 – 2.9	1.0 – 1.9
F	69 or Below	0.0	0.0

The theoretical maximum GPA is 4.8 on a 4.0 scale, reflecting the number of required unweighted courses as well as 1 additional grade point for pre-AP, AP, and advanced courses. All courses are included in the cumulative GPA. GPA information for the class of 2018 is as follows:

Highest GPA: 4.7230	Lowest GPA: 2.2628
Mean GPA: 4.0002	Median GPA: 4.055

## CLASS RANK

Because admission to LASA is competitive and tested aptitudes are above the national average, rank in class cannot be regarded as a valid indication of preparation for college for the students at LASA. For this reason, we only report class rank for the top ten percent of the senior class applying to Texas public universities pursuant to Texas Education Code Section 51.803.

## LASA ACCOLADES

- US News and World Report's* 2017 Best High Schools in America: Ranked #27 nationally, #5 in Texas
- Niche 2018 Best Public High Schools in America: Ranked #12 nationally, #1 in Texas for 3 years running

## NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Commended	49	50	64	65	90
Semifinalist	32	33	33	24	39
Finalist	29	31	31	23	NA
National Hispanic Recognition	18	14	14	21	NA

## SAT SCORE DATA

(230 students tested)		Class of 2017		
	EBRW	M	Total	
Overall Mean	695	699	1394	

## ACT SCORE DATA

(153 students tested)		Class of 2017				
	E	M	R	S	Comp	
Overall Mean	30.8	30.0	30.7	29.9	30.5	

## LASA OFFICE PERSONNEL

Ms. Stacia Crescenzi – Principal  
 Mr. Andy Paulson – Academy Director  
 Ms. Alexandra Salinas – Assistant Principal  
 Ms. San Czaplinski – Assistant Principal  
 Ms. Shannon Bergeron – Lead Counselor (A-D)  
 Ms. Carole McPherson – Counselor (E-L)  
 Ms. Alawan Thomas – Counselor (M-R)  
 Ms. Sandi Woodrow – Counselor (S-Z)  
 Ms. Jamie Kocian – College Counselor  
 Ms. Cindy Dwinells – Registrar

## TRANSCRIPT EVALUATION

To aid in the evaluation of the transcript for admissions review, those courses, where further explanation is deemed appropriate, are listed below with corresponding codes. \*LASA Signature Courses; (DC) – Dual Credit

Class Code	Equivalent Course	Subject
INTHUML	Great Ideas*	Local Credit
GRAPHDI	Electronic Magazine*	Career Tech Ed
SCITECH	Science-Technology*	Elective
PLNEAR	Planet Earth*	Elective
INSTUMTH	Adv Mathematical Reasoning	Mathematics
INSTUMTH	Diff Equations (w/APCALCBC)	Mathematics
Discret Mth CS	Computational Problem Solving	Mathematics
Math IND STDY1	Logic, Set Theory, and Proofs	Mathematics
ADVBLOT	Advanced Biotechnology	Science
SCIRD	Organic Chemistry	Science
ENGDSPR	Engineering Design	Career Tech Ed
FIRE1/2	Firefighter Academy	Career Tech Ed
PROBS1	Digital Electronics	Career Tech Ed
SCIRD	Robotics 1	Career Tech Ed
SCIRD2	Robotics 2	Career Tech Ed

Class Code	Equivalent Course	Subject
SCIRD3	Robotics 3	Career Tech Ed
WEBTECH	Web Applications	Career Tech Ed
APTACSA	AP Computer Science	Technical App
TAIND1/2	Ind Study Tech App	Technical App
ENG IND 1st	Literature to Film	Elective
ENG IND 2nd	Philosophy	Elective
ENG IND 3rd	Songwriting	Elective
HUM 1 <sup>st</sup>	American Film Analysis	Elective
IND JOUR1/2	Newspaper/Yearbook Editors	Elective
LM1/2	Literary Magazine	Elective
SS ADV	Amateur Radio	Elective
SS ADV2	Model UN	Elective
Spec Top SS	Mock Trial	Elective
Spec Top SS2	Constitutional Law	Elective
Spec Top SS3	Contemporary Issues	Elective
Spec Top SS4	Facing History	Elective
TECH WR	Music & Revolution	Elective
DELTA (on Current Courses form) – Health		

## COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY ACCEPTANCES FOR THE CLASS OF 2017

(#) – Designates where members of the class of 2017 matriculated and corresponding number enrolled

Agnes Scott College	Eckerd College (1)	Miami University, Oxford	Scripps College (1)
The University of Alabama	University of Edinburgh	University of Miami	Seattle Pacific University
Alfred University	Elon University (2)	Michigan State University (1)	Seattle University
Allegheny College (2)	Embry-Riddle Aeronautical Univ-AZ (1)	University of Michigan	Sewanee: The University of the South (1)
American University (1)	Emerson College	Middlebury College	Simmons College (1)
Amherst College	Emory University (3)	University of Minnesota, Twin Cities	Smith College (1)
Arizona State University (1)	The Evergreen State College	University of Mississippi	University of South Carolina
The University of Arizona (1)	Fashion Institute of Technology (1)	Mount Holyoke College (1)	University of Southern California
University of Arkansas	Florida Institute of Technology	Muhlenberg College	Southern Methodist University (1)
Auburn University	University of Florida	University of Nebraska	Southwestern University (2)
Austin College (1)	Fordham University	New College of Florida	University of St Andrews (1)
Austin Community College (6)	Fort Lewis College	University of New Mexico	St. Catherine University
Bard College (1)	George Mason University	New York University	St. Edward's University (5)
Barnard College	The George Washington University (1)	North Carolina State University	St. Mary's University
Baylor University (1)	Georgetown University (1)	Univ of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (1)	Stanford University (4)
Beloit College	Georgia Institute of Technology	University of North Texas (2)	Stephen F. Austin State University
Bennington College	The University of Georgia	Northeastern University (3)	Syracuse University
Berklee College of Music	Gonzaga University	Northwestern University	Tarleton State University (1)
Blinn College (1)	Goucher College	Oberlin College (1)	Texas A&M University (17)
Boston College	Grinnell College	Occidental College	Texas A&M University, Corpus Christi
Boston University (1)	Hamilton College-NY	The Ohio State University	Texas A&M University, Galveston
Brandeis University (1)	Hampshire College	Ohio Wesleyan University	Texas Christian University
University of British Columbia	University of Hartford	Oklahoma State University (1)	Texas State University (5)
Brown University (2)	Harvard University	The University of Oklahoma (1)	Texas Tech University (1)
Bryn Mawr College (1)	Haverford College	Olin College of Engineering (1)	University of Texas, Arlington (1)
California Institute of Technology	Hawaii Pacific University	University of Oregon	University of Texas at Austin (66)
Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo (4)	Hendrix College	Pace University, NYC	University of Texas, Dallas (15)
University of California, Berkeley (1)	Hillsdale College	University of the Pacific	University of Texas, Rio Grande Valley (1)
University of California, Davis (1)	Hofstra University (1)	Pennsylvania State University (1)	University of Texas, San Antonio (1)
University of California, Irvine	Hope College (1)	University of Pennsylvania (1)	University of Texas, Tyler (2)
University of California, Los Angeles	University of Houston (3)	University of Pittsburgh	Trinity College Dublin
University of California, San Diego	University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign	Pitzer College (1)	Trinity University (3)
University of California, Santa Barbara	Indiana University at Bloomington	Pomona College	University of Tsukuba (1)
University of California, Santa Cruz	Iowa State University (1)	University of Portland (1)	Tufts University (1)
Carleton College	Ithaca College (1)	Princeton University	Tulane University (1)
Carnegie Mellon University	Johns Hopkins University (1)	University of Puget Sound	University of Tulsa (1)
Case Western Reserve University	University of Kansas (1)	Purdue University (1)	United States Air Force Academy (1)
Champlain College	Kenyon College	University of Redlands	Ursinus College
College of Charleston	Kettering University	Reed College (3)	Vanderbilt University (2)
University of Chicago (3)	King's College London	Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (2)	University of Vermont
Clark University	Knox College	Rhodes College (3)	Villanova University
Clemson University	Lafayette College (1)	Rice University (7)	Virginia Commonwealth University
Colby College	Lawrence University	Ritsumeikan University	Virginia Tech
Colgate University (1)	Lehigh University	Rochester Institute of Technology	University of Virginia
University of Colorado at Boulder (6)	Universitat Leipzig (1)	University of Rochester	Washington University in St. Louis
University of Colorado, Colorado Springs	Lewis and Clark College	Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology	University of Washington (2)
Colorado School of Mines	Long Island University, Brooklyn	Rutgers University	Wesleyan University
Colorado State University (3)	Louisiana State University	Saint Joseph's University	Western Washington University (1)
Columbia University (1)	Loyola Marymount University	Saint Louis University	Wheaton College IL
Cornell University (1)	Loyola University Chicago	Saint Mary's College of California	Wheaton College MA
University of Dallas (1)	Macalester College	Sam Houston State University	Whitman College (1)
Dartmouth College (1)	University of Mary Hardin-Baylor	San Diego State University	Whittier College (1)
Denison University	University of Maryland, College Park	University of San Diego	Willamette University (1)
University of Denver	Massachusetts Institute of Technology (1)	University of San Francisco	University of Wisconsin, Madison
DePaul University	University of Massachusetts, Amherst (1)	Santa Clara University	The College of Wooster
Drexel University	McGill University	Sarah Lawrence University (1)	Worcester Polytechnic Institute
Duke University	Merrimack College	Savannah College of Art and Design	
Earlham College		School of the Art Institute of Chicago	