



Lake Oswego School District
Lake Oswego, Oregon

An Invitation to Sophomore Students and Parents at Lakeridge and Lake Oswego High Schools

The Lake Oswego School District invites interested sophomores and their parents to join a three-year learning enrichment program called *Scholars' Alliance™*.

Students participating in the *Scholars' Alliance™* program work in a learning partnership with their parents focused on thinking more critically, insightfully, and reflectively. Students in the program learn to consider multiple points of view and share their thinking and problem solving with other students and parents.

What Is the *Scholars' Alliance™* Program

Scholars' Alliance™: A Collaborative Learning Partnership of Students, Parents, and Educators, is a unique academic program offered by the Lake Oswego School District to students at Lake Oswego and Lakeridge high schools. The program was conceived by Superintendent Bill Korach, who recognized the advantage of involving parents directly as participants and role models in their student's learning.

The goal of the *Scholars' Alliance™* program is to improve students' analytical, imaginative, and reflective thinking abilities while helping students develop deeper conceptual insight. Through the study of multiple subject areas, including emotional intelligence, psychological warfare, and gender perspectives, students are taught to make critical distinctions, vary perspective, suspend judgment, and shape their own assumptions and solutions. Another goal of the program is to help students learn to engage in dialog with other students and adults, as well as present their ideas in small and large-group settings.

Instructors for the program include Dr. Bill Korach, Dr. Donna Atherton, Dr. Marci Nemhauser, and Steve Duin. The college counseling part of the program is provided by the district's college counselors Lee Brown, Eric Delehoy, Kathy Hahn, Michele Tyra, and Julia Surtshin, private college counseling specialist.

As referenced above, students in the sophomore year are focused almost exclusively on the development of reflective thinking abilities in a variety of content areas. Popular sessions in the sophomore year include marketing, generational differences, dream theory, and courtship theory, as well as comic book realities and culture.

In their junior year, students are given a timetable and other materials to help them prepare their college applications and write their college essays. Approximately half of the junior sessions are focused on core content areas and thinking strategies and the other half of the junior year is focused on preparing for the college application process. The *Scholars' Alliance™* college counselors meet with students and families during the summer prior to their senior year to help guide them through the college application and selection process.

The primary focus of the senior year is the college application process. A *Scholars' Alliance™* packet is prepared by district staff, which includes a description of the program and an individualized letter of recommendation from Dr. Korach and Dr. Atherton. This packet is sent to all colleges to which a student applies. The senior year also includes large-group sessions focused on life lessons and college success strategies.

Who Should Consider Participating in *Scholars' Alliance™*

This *Scholars' Alliance™* program is open to interested students and their parents (or other adult) who are willing to engage in intellectual activity while developing a learning partnership relationship. Sophomore enrollment in the program is limited to approximately 80 students. Constraints which result in limiting the number of students in each of the *Scholars' Alliance™* classes include facility capacity, the availability of college counselors, and the district's capacity to support the three grade levels involved in the program.

Self-Selection Guidelines for Students and Parents

- Willingness to work to improve thinking abilities and skills
- Willingness to engage thoughtfully in intellectual discussions
- Willingness to learn in partnership with students and adults
- Willingness to make a personal time commitment to meet attendance requirements

How Do We Apply and What Is the Selection Process

Applicants will be admitted into the *Scholars' Alliance™* program through a lottery process. Details of the admission process will be shared with parents at an orientation meeting. After the application limit has been met, a waiting list will be established for additional interested students. Enrolled students must meet attendance requirements in order to remain in the program.

A complete application includes the application form **and** a tuition deposit of \$200. The application should be submitted to the LOSD Administration Building, attention *Scholars' Alliance™*. The deposit will be applied to the sophomore year tuition charge of \$400. The tuition covers all student/adult class sessions throughout the year, including materials, food, cafeteria support staff, and custodial services. Dr. Korach, Dr. Atherton, Dr. Nemhauser, and Steve Duin donate their time and expertise. The tuition also pays for the college counseling services.

Applications are available at the informational meeting, on the district's website (www.loswego.k12.or.us), at Lakeridge High School and Lake Oswego High School counseling offices, or at the district office.

For questions on the *Scholars' Alliance™* program, call Kelli Cranston at 503-534-2490 or Shari Huffmaster 503-534-2301.