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School and Community

Lighthouse Community Charter School (LCCS) is a tuition-free, public school committed to preparing every student for college and the career of their choice. LCCS currently serves approximately 850 students in grades K-12, including 300 high school students in grades 9 – 12. LCCS is celebrating its 18th year in 2020-21 and to date, has graduated twelve classes of seniors. Alumni from LCCS are four times more likely to earn a college degree than students of similar demographics across the country.

Students and Families

Students who attend Lighthouse come from predominantly immigrant neighborhoods characterized by high unemployment, poverty, linguistic isolation, and low educational attainment rates. Recent data shows that about 21% of Oakland's high school students drop out before they reach graduation. Of those who make it to graduation, only 43% have taken the coursework to be eligible to continue their education in four-year colleges and universities. LCCS exists to counter these grave trends.¹

90% of LCCS graduates will be first in their family to go to college. The Lighthouse educational program is set up to serve these students who face great obstacles in their pursuit of an excellent and equitable education. Of its students, 83% qualify for Free or Reduced Lunch and 78% are English Language Learners.

Accolades:

- Lighthouse was recently named the top school in the San Francisco Bay Area for low-income students. (Innovate Public Schools and the San Jose Mercury News)
- In 2013, the California Charter Schools Association presented Lighthouse with the Hart Vision award as the charter school of the year.

The students of Lighthouse also represent the ethnic diversity of Oakland's neighborhoods.

The composition of the student body is:

- 72% Latino
- 5% Asian
- 11% African-American
- 3% White
- 9% Other or Multiracial

Faculty

Individually and collectively, Lighthouse teachers are a distinguished and passionate team of professionals equipped with the knowledge, skills and character to ensure that all of our students have access to a rigorous and engaging college-preparatory education.

¹Oakland Unified School District Public Data Reports, <http://www.ousddata.org/community-members.html>, 9/11/15

Graduation Requirements

The table below outlines the graduation requirements at LCCS along with sample course offerings in all major subject areas.

subject area	sample course requirements	years required
A. Social Science	Ethnic Studies World History US History & Govt. Honors Ethnic Studies	3
B. English	English 9 English 10 English 11 English 12	4
C. Mathematics	Integrated Math 1 Integrated Math 2 Integrated Math 3 Calculus	3
D. Lab Sciences	Physics Biology Chemistry Honors Environmental Science	2
E. Foreign Language	Spanish 1 Spanish 2 Spanish 3 Honors AP Spanish	2
F. Visual & Perf. Arts	2D Design 3D Design Graphic Design Adv. Manufacturing	1
G. Other Electives	Creative Writing Debate & Mock Trial Psychology US Foreign Policy Digital Photo Entrepreneurship	1

Advanced Placement, Honors and College Classes

As a school of limited size and resources and where curricular depth is prioritized over breadth, Lighthouse offers just one AP class, AP Spanish. Lighthouse also offers Honors classes in Ethnic Studies and Environmental Science. Additionally, Lighthouse encourages students to take college classes at local institutions and/or online as their schedule allows.

Internships

During the second semester of 11th grade, all juniors at LCCS participate in internships at a local business or organization of their choice. Each internship is tied to a student's academic interests and personal goals and culminates with a presentation to the community demonstrating what they learned from this experience.

Product Innovation & Design Pathway

All students at Lighthouse Community Charter High School participate in our Product Innovation & Design Pathway. In this Linked Learning pathway, students develop skills and knowledge in three key domains: Design Process, Product Development, and Entrepreneurship by:

- creating real products using the design process
- working in design teams to develop products that fulfill a community need
- developing entrepreneurial skills and knowledge to craft and market products
- engaging with industry professionals and real world clients.

"One of the first things I am going to do when I get to college is find the good people, people who remind me of my friends and teachers at Lighthouse who have stood by me for thirteen years."

- Alberto, Lighthouse Class of 2016

Academic Program

In order to prepare all of its students for college and the career of their choice, Lighthouse Community Charter School (LCCS) offers a rigorous, engaging, and innovative college preparatory curriculum. LCCS' educational program is grounded in the belief that students learn best when study is integrated with authentic experiences such as projects, performances, fieldwork, and interaction with experts from the community.

These learning experiences provide students at LCCS with the opportunity to apply their knowledge of key academic concepts and content in meaningful ways while developing strong habits of mind and heart. Students at LCCS are held to high academic expectations in all classes through a series of internal assessment measures including grades, portfolios, presentations, and interviews.

Each academic course at LCCS is designed to meet the California state standards and earn the approval of the University of California Regents. Lighthouse is accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC).



COVID-19 Updates

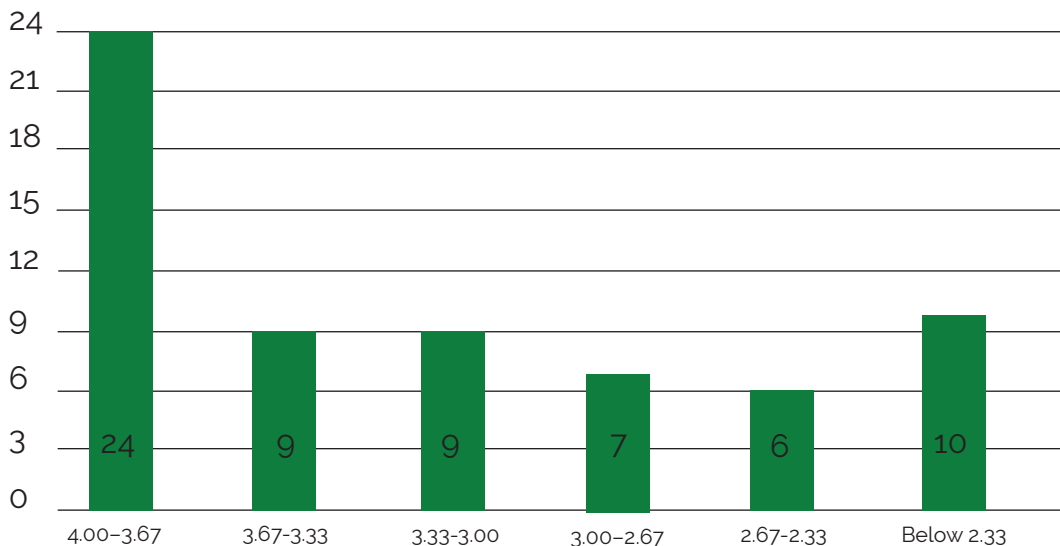
All students at LCCS transitioned to distance learning in March, 2020. Classes met synchronously and/or asynchronously for the remainder of semester two, and at the end of the year, students received letter grades in all of their classes. Lighthouse started the 2020-21 school year online. Right now, most academic classes meet synchronously four times per week for 50 minutes.

College Going Culture

Lighthouse is intent on ensuring that all of its students will attend some college after they graduate. In addition to our college preparatory curriculum, Lighthouse also provides full-time college and career counseling services, academic mentoring for current students and graduates, and an ongoing commitment to find programs and opportunities that enhance our students' ability to gain admission into college and thrive once there.

Grade Distribution

LCCS does not rank its students. As a small, community oriented school, we are concerned that such rankings adversely impact relationships and do not accurately reflect the potential of each of our students. In lieu of class rank, we have provided some basic information about grade distribution among our graduating seniors in the table below:



Cumulative (9-11) GPAs for Lighthouse's Class of 2020 - 65 Students Total

"High expectations, academic rigor, and a genuine focus on the whole child blend together at Lighthouse Community Charter. The school provides an unparalleled educational program in an environment that respects and engages families and community."

- David Castillo, Regional Director,
California Charter Schools Association

Grading System

Lighthouse employs a standards-based grading system that promotes understanding and helps students become leaders of their own learning by communicating to them exactly where they are in their progress towards concrete goals. It is also important to note that Lighthouse is on a year-round grading system where students earn one grade per year in each class. Grades are awarded as follows:

A = 90-100 = 4.0

B = 80-89 = 3.0

C = 70-79 = 2.0

NC = Anything below 70%

Results

Despite our high school's small size, every year, Lighthouse graduates earn coveted spots in:

- Many of the campuses in the CSU and University of California systems
- Private colleges near and far
- Competitive scholarship programs such as Gates, Posse, and Questbridge

