

Lighthouse Preparatory Academy
Student and Family Activities Handbook

2025–2026 School Year

Introduction

Welcome to the Lighthouse Preparatory Academy Student and Family Activities Handbook!

At Lighthouse, we believe that education extends far beyond the classroom. Our mission—to strengthen families by partnering with parents to develop witnesses for Christ through academic excellence and character development—guides every activity, event, and program we offer.

This handbook serves as a resource to help you and your student navigate the wide array of opportunities available at Lighthouse. From athletics and fine arts to service projects, dances, and discipleship groups, every activity is intentionally designed to cultivate community, encourage spiritual growth, and develop Christ-like character in our students.

As a parent-led and Christ-centered school, your involvement is essential. Whether you're cheering from the sidelines, coordinating field trips, or serving on our hospitality committee, you play a vital role in making the Lighthouse community strong and vibrant. We have listed partnership opportunities after every section to assist families in completing service hours. We look forward to partnering with you to make this year one of connection, growth, and joy for your family.

If you have any questions, need clarification, or would like to get involved, please don't hesitate to reach out. Throughout the year, important updates and details will be sent via the Lighthouse Look Ahead and through email.

We're excited to walk alongside your family in this journey—building faith, character, and community every step of the way.

In Christ,
Lighthouse Preparatory Academy Leadership Team

Table of Contents

1. **Leadership Credit Through Community Service Opportunities**
 - 1.1. Leadership Credit Information
 - 1.2. Operation Bugle Boy
 - Veterans Appreciation Night (VAN) Dinner
 - “I’m Writing You This Letter”
 - Wave ‘Em If You Have ‘Em
 - 1.3. Night to Shine
2. **Athletics**
 - 2.1. General Information
 - 2.2. Middle & High School Sports
 - Cross Country
 - Boys Soccer
 - Archery
 - Volleyball
 - Basketball (Girls & Boys)
 - Cheer
 - Track
 - Girls Soccer
 - Shooting Sports
 - Golf
 - 2.3. Elementary Athletics
 - Basketball
 - Cheer
3. **Field Trips**
 - 3.1. Elementary Field Trips
 - 3.2. MS/HS Field Trips
4. **Parties**
 - 4.1. Elementary Parties
 - 4.2. MS/HS Parties
5. **Dances**
 - 5.1. Middle School Fall Party
 - 5.2. High School Fall Dance
 - 5.3. Snowball Dance
 - 5.4. Prom

6. **Homecoming**
 - 6.1. Spirit Week Events
 - 6.2. Pep Rally and Saturday Family Event
7. **Student Council (STUCO)**
 - 7.1. Roles & Elections
 - 7.2. Middle School and High School Positions
 - 7.3. Advisor Opportunities
8. **LEAP (Lighthouse Educational Adventure Program)**
9. **End of Year Trip**
10. **Campout**
11. **Equip Program**
 - 11.1. Chapel
 - 11.2. College & Career Readiness
 - 11.3. Small Groups
 - 11.4. Student Life Friday Clubs
12. **Family Picnic**
13. **Christmas Parade**
14. **Fine Arts**
 - 14.1. Fall & Spring Shows
 - 14.2. Shine Your Light
 - 14.3. Elementary Showcases
 - 14.4. Praise Band
 - 14.5. Workshops
 - 14.6. Living Windows
 - 14.7. Clubs
15. **Family Ministries**
 - 15.1. Moms' Prayer Group
 - 15.2. Elementary Moms' Bible Study
 - 15.3. Fireside Chats
 - 15.4. Small Groups
 - 15.5. Seasonal Small Group Events
 - 15.6. Family Activity Events
 - 15.7. New Family Orientation
 - 15.8. New Family Mentors
 - 15.9. See You At The Pole (SYATP)
 - 15.10. Grandparents Day
 - 15.11. Pastor Appreciation

16. Teacher Luncheons & Hospitality Committee

17. Graduation Activities

- 17.1. Kindergarten Graduation
- 17.2. Senior Week Activities
- 17.3. Commencement Ceremony

18. Student Leadership University (SLU)

Contact Information:

- General Inquiries: lighthouse@lpajc.com
- Athletics: lpaeagles@lpajc.com
- Elementary Activities: lighthouse@lpajc.com
- Family Ministries: familyministries@lpajc.com
- Student Life: studentlife@lpajc.com

*Stay informed by checking the Lighthouse Look Ahead, Sycamore calendar, and your email inbox for activity updates throughout the school year. *Activities may be subject to change based on enrollment, interest, and weather.*

1. Leadership Credit Information Through Community Service - Partnership opportunities: adult representatives

High school students who participate in these activities have the option to earn .25 credits per year of leadership credit for 40 hours of leadership activities.. A leadership credit transfer form must be filled out and turned into the office.

Information for each event will be in the Lighthouse Look Ahead and specific emails. For specific questions, please contact: administrator@lpajc.com.

Operation Bugle Boy

Veterans Appreciation Night (VAN) Dinner (10th - 12th grade)

- High school students have the opportunity to volunteer at the Operation Bugle Boy Veterans Appreciation Dinner. Veterans from all over Missouri will gather for a dinner with local volunteers and students will help bus tables, escort veterans through the parking lot, and serve them pie and drinks.

"I'm Writing You This Letter" (3rd-12th grade)

- I'm Writing You This Letter is a letter writing activity/contest for students in grades 3-12 in the Jefferson City area and is sponsored by Operation Bugle Boy and MidMo Water Solutions. Students are being asked to write a letter to a relative, either living or deceased, who served or is serving in the Armed Forces, and submit a copy of this letter to Operation Bugle Boy. The original letter should be given to the recipient by Veterans Day. Should a student want to participate and not have a relative, living or deceased, that is/was a veteran, or is currently serving, this student may submit a copy of a letter that is written to a family friend who meets this criteria.

Wave 'Em If You Have 'Em. (K-12th grade)

- Families will gather along Amazonas Drive near Lighthouse and wave flags as the VIP guests for the VAN dinner drive by before the dinner begins. Lighthouse provides the flags and it takes about 30 minutes!

Night to Shine (9th-12th grade)

- Night to Shine is an unforgettable worldwide celebration event sponsored by the Tim Tebow Foundation. Centered on God's love, honoring and valuing people with special needs, high school students can volunteer to be a "buddy" for a guest, or fill other areas during the special event.





2. High School and Middle School Athletics - Partnership opportunities: coaching, concessions, scoreboard, line judges, etc.

Varsity level sports at Lighthouse Preparatory Academy belong to the Missouri Christian School Athletic Association (MCSAA). We are also an affiliate member of The Missouri State High School Activities Association (MSHSAA) in cross country, track, volleyball, golf, and basketball. Since we are a small school, we allow students to participate in more than one sport and/or Fine Arts activity in any one season. Coaches and the student-athletes work together to make it possible for the student-athlete to participate in multiple sports/fine arts activities at a time, as best we possibly can.

General information:

Lighthouse offers sports at the middle school level (6th, 7th, and 8th grades) and the high school level (9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th grades) in the sports listed below, with the exception of archery which is also open to 4th and 5th grades.

Sports Fee: Fees for each sport and activity vary each year and are based on the number of students participating. This information will be communicated with the parents during the parent meeting before each respective sport. A uniform deposit is also required for every sport but is returned when uniforms are turned back in.

Information for each event will be in the Lighthouse Look Ahead and specific emails. For any questions, please contact: lpaeagles@lpajc.com

Sports

- *Cross Country*
 - Season: Fall
 - Who: Boys and girls in middle school and high school
 - When: August/Start of school to mid-October with the conclusion of the varsity season competing in the MCSAA State Tournament
 - Other: Sports Physical is needed before the start of practice

- *Boys Soccer - Varsity Only*
 - Season: Fall
 - Who: Boys in high school, middle school is encouraged to participate with parental permission
 - When: Early August to the mid-October ending with the MCSAA State Tournament
 - Other: Sports Physical is needed before the start of practice

- *Archery*
 - Season: Spring
 - Who: Elementary boys and girls 4th/5th grade, middle school, and high school
 - When: Practice begins in November and ends with the State Archery Tournament in March
 - Other: Sports Physical is needed before the start of practice. There is only one archery team with three divisions of archers.

- *Volleyball -*
 - Season: Fall
 - Who: Girls in high school, middle school is encouraged to participate with parental permission.
 - When: Early August to the mid-October ending with the MCSAA State Tournament
 - Other: Sports Physical is needed before the start of practice. Depending on the interest level, we generally field a middle school, junior varsity, varsity team.

- *Basketball - Girls and Boys*
 - Season: Winter
 - Who: Girls and boys in high school, middle school is encouraged to participate with parental permission
 - When: Mid-October to mid-February ending with the MCSAA State Tournament
 - Other: Sports Physical is needed before the start of practice. Depending on the interest level, we generally field a middle school, junior varsity, varsity team.

- *Cheer*
 - Season: Winter
 - Who: Girls in high school, middle school is encouraged to participate with parental permission
 - When: Early October and finishes in late January- cheer and perform during home boys basketball games
 - Other: Sports Physical is needed before the start of practice

- *Track*
 - Season: Spring
 - Who: Boys and Girls in high school, middle school is encouraged to participate with parental permission - a middle school team will be formed if enough enroll or middle school will be allowed to run with the high school
 - When: Late February and finishes in early May with the MCSAA State Meet
 - Other: Sports Physical is needed before the start of practice

- *Girls Soccer*
 - Season: Spring
 - Who: Girls in high school, middle school is encouraged to participate with parental permission - a middle school team will be formed if enough enroll or middle school will be allowed to run with the high school
 - When: Early March and finishes in early May with the MCSAA State Meet
 - Other: Sports Physical is needed before the start of practice

- *Shooting Sports*
 - Season: Spring
 - Who: Boys and Girls in high school
 - When: March and ends in June or July with state and national meets for team members qualifying for those two tournaments.
 - Other: Sports Physical is needed before the start of practice. Our shooting sports team participates in the trap shooting discipline.

- *Golf*
 - Season: Spring
 - Who: Boys and Girls in high school
 - When: March and ends in early May with the MCSAA State Tournament.
 - Other: Sports Physical is needed before the start of practice.

Elementary Athletics

Sports Fee: Fees for each sport and activity vary each year and are based on the number of students participating. This information will be communicated with the parents during the parent meeting/parent email before each respective sport.

Information for each event will be in the Lighthouse Look Ahead and specific emails. For questions, please contact: lighthouse@lpajc.com

- *Basketball* - Lighthouse Elementary offers a basketball program to Kindergarten through 5th grade students based on interest. The purpose of this program is to teach the boys and girls the fundamentals of the game of basketball. The elementary boys basketball program meets each Saturday morning in November and December with the exception of holidays. The girls program meets each Saturday morning in January and February. The first part of practice is devoted to a fundamental understanding of the rules and skills needed to play the game. During the second part of practice, the boys and girls are divided into teams and play against each other. Each practice is roughly 30 minutes and then directly following the practice is a game for 30 minutes.
- *Cheer* - The Lighthouse Cheer team is open to all girls in elementary. They will learn the basics of being on a cheer squad and will cheer at the boys 2nd-4th grade games each Saturday morning in November and December. This activity does not conflict with the elementary girls basketball season.

3. Field Trips - Partnership opportunities: plan, chaperone



- Elementary field trips are opportunities to have a unique, family strengthening experience together. Another purpose of the field trips is to create opportunities for families to fellowship with one another. A committee of parents plan, schedule, and send out information about the field trips. Field trips vary from Fisher Farms Pumpkin Patch, to Capitol tours, to ornament painting, to Lab Space Robotics, to the Runge Center, roller skating, ice skating, and a trip to the gymnastics gym. Parents will be invited to a field trip planning meeting in the summer. Field trips are optional and sometimes include additional fees per child.

- MS/HS field trips are on a course by course basis planned by the teacher in partnership with the parents. Significant information and permission forms will be provided.

4. Parties - Partnership opportunities: planning, decorations, food, clean up

- Elementary party planning happens in the first part of the school year with a parent meeting. Parents are encouraged to attend and to help sign up for parties with additional party sign up opportunities sent out via email before each party. Parties are celebrated in October (Fall Party), December (Christmas Party), and February (Valentine's Day).
- MS/HS parties are planned during Equip time by grade level or small groups leaders.

5. Dances - Partnership opportunities: decorations, food, clean up, chaperone

Middle School "Fall Party"

Each year, the middle school has a "Fall Party" where middle school students gather after school to play games, eat snacks and get to know one another. This typically takes place at the end of September.

High School Fall Dance

High school students attend a "Fall Dance" (dressy casual). Parents are welcome to attend. This typically takes place at the end of September.

Snowball (semi formal dress)

Snowball is a winter formal in January. The high school/middle school dance is held on a Saturday evening. Elementary's Snowball is held on the same day but in the afternoon before the high school dance. All parents (K-12) are encouraged to attend with their child.

Prom

Formal Dance for high school juniors and seniors. This dance is held in April.



6. Homecoming - Partnership opportunities: decorations, food, clean up

In the fall, student council plans homecoming spirit week in which all students may dress according to the theme on school days. Special homecoming events include a high school ManSlam volleyball game and PowderPuff game held at Binder and then an all school pep rally at 11am on Friday. Parents and younger students are encouraged to attend all events. On Saturday, a family event is held that also encourages alumni to attend. Potluck style dinner with games and activities makes it a fun activity to connect with other families. Information is sent out via email.

7. STUCO - Partnership opportunities: adult representative

Our student council is made up of elected individuals spanning all grade levels 6th through 12th. Their responsibilities include planning student life events and modeling servant leadership to the school. Information will be sent out via email at the beginning of the school year to explain more about positions. What do they do? StuCo members are elected to represent their classmates and take the ideas of their classmates and put them into action.

There are two adult advisor positions available each year (middle school and high school). This is filled by a few parents who are passionate about seeing their students grow in personal responsibility and leadership. More information will be sent out via email on how to apply.

What are the Student Council positions?

High School

- President
- Vice President
- Secretary
- Chaplain
- Activities Coordinator
- 12th Grade Class Representative
- 11th Grade Class Representative
- 10th Grade Class Representative
- 9th Grade Class Representative

Middle School

- President
- Vice President
- Secretary
- Chaplain
- Activities Coordinator
- 8th Grade Representative
- 7th Grade Representative
- 6th Grade Representative



Candidates not elected to the position they are running for may still be allowed to join StuCo as a Member at Large.

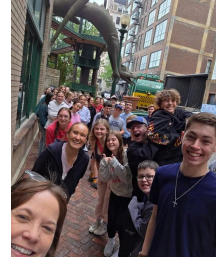
8. LEAP - The Lighthouse Educational Adventure Program - Partnership opportunities: organizing, hosting, chaperoning.

The Lighthouse Educational Adventure Program (LEAP) is designed to introduce basic knowledge and skills of popular adventure activities, which may include shooting sports, angling, repelling, rock climbing, canoeing and wilderness living. LEAP emphasizes attitudes, skills, environmental awareness, safety, teaching methodology and principles of group leadership and community building as they relate to adventure activities. To fulfill the requirements for the Lighthouse Educational Adventure Program, students must participate in a weekend campout and 4 additional LEAP activities. Forms for submission are available through Sycamore. There is planning that goes into each event, and students will be required to help with the planning or preparation that makes each event a success. Other students who do not wish to earn the credit that year, may still sign up for individual activities and campout.



9. End of Year Trip - Partnership opportunities: chaperone, supply lunch food

This is a fun trip held at the end of the school year to celebrate a great year. Each year it is in a different location in Missouri. The past locations have been Branson, Kansas City, and St. Louis. This is for our high school students (and 8th graders who are attending 9th grade the following year). Middle school students may attend for a one day excursion with an authorized parent or “go to” adult. More information will be sent out via email.



10. Campout - Partnership opportunities: supply food, help organize, help haul supplies to campground

This is a family event, in conjunction with the LEAP program, that takes place during the fall of the year. Elementary through high school families are encouraged to attend. It will be a three day event- Friday evening through Sunday morning - with the option of coming one day for elementary families. It is an excellent way for families to get to know each other! All elementary/middle school students have to have their own adult with them at all times during this event. More information will be sent out via email.



11. Equip - Partnership opportunities: Chapel speaker, supervise Wednesday Equip and Friday Clubs

Middle and high school students are required to attend Equip every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 11:00am - 11:30am.

- Mondays - chapel with a worship time and a Bible message. The family ministry dean coordinates the chapel speakers.
- Wednesdays - college and career readiness (coordinated by the academic advisor) alternating with small groups (coordinated by the family ministry dean)
- Fridays - student clubs (coordinated by the student life dean). Students and parents are able to volunteer to lead a club based on their interests. For example- chess, water color, gardening. New clubs and new leaders are established each quarter. Students are required to join a club.

12. Family Picnic - Partnership opportunities: grill, donate food, help with decorations, clean up

Before school begins, we have a family picnic in August. This is an opportunity for students/families in each grade level to connect with one another with a potluck meal at a park. This is a great way to connect with new and current families, meet with the deans and administrative team and get ready for a new school year!



13. Christmas Parade - Partnership opportunities: provide trailer, pull trailer, decorations, supervision during float

Lighthouse will have a float in the Jefferson City Christmas Parade that goes through downtown JC. Families are encouraged to join us and hand out candy!

14. Fine Arts - Partnership opportunities: set, costumes, props, supervise rehearsals, provide food, etc.

- **Fall & Spring Shows:** These are opportunities for students to perform, be a part of the crew, or support their classmates in fall & spring shows which might be a play auditions at the end of August for the fall show and in December for the spring show. Performances are planned for mid-November and mid-March. The shows will be announced at the beginning of the school year. There are parts for all students (K-12).



- **Shine Your Light:** Shine Your Light is similar to a talent show. It allows the students to perform a talent God has blessed them with.
- **Elementary Showcases:** In the winter and spring the elementary students have the opportunity to showcase and perform songs they have learned in music class, as well as their artwork.

- **Praise Band:** Select students lead worship during chapel and perform at other events throughout the school year.
- **Workshops:** This is an opportunity for students to learn more about the fine arts. These have been offered in the fall and will be decided by interest level.
- **Living Windows:** Students are provided the opportunity to perform in downtown Jefferson City the first Friday evening in December.
- **Clubs:** We have fine arts clubs and have focused on improv in the past.

**The Lighthouse Fine Arts opportunities may change year to year, but we will keep families updated via emails and fliers.*

15. Family Ministries - Partnership opportunities: set up, provide supplies for activities, new family mentor (veteran parent)

- Entire School Moms' Prayer Group
 - Information will be sent out at the beginning of the year.
- Elementary Moms' Bible Study
 - Information will be sent out at the beginning of the year.
- Fireside Chats - a time for parents to gather together around the fire, enjoy snacks, and discuss a particular topic. For example: discipleship in the home, raising kids, social media, etc.
- Small Group Leadership - application process for sophomores-seniors
 - Small Group Leader Training - July/August
 - Small Group Leader Lunches - once a quarter
- Small Groups - 6th-12th graders are divided into groups - guys are with guys and girls with girls. The focus is on discipleship and building relationships. Small group leaders will lead discussions from that week's chapel topic, as well as provide activities to build community.
- Seasonal Events with small groups:
 - October - Pumpkin Carving/Painting Contest
 - December - Gingerbread House Decorating Contest
 - February - Cookie Decorating Contest
 - March/April - Bible Scavenger Hunt
- Family Activity Events - Roller Skating at Sk8 Zone with the entire Lighthouse family (Little Lighthouse-High School)

- New Family Orientation - Before school begins in the fall, new families are required to attend an orientation in order to prepare them for the University-Model and walk them through what a class day looks like, how to use assignment sheets, etc.
- New Family Mentors - a mentor (veteran parent) from each grade level will be assigned to new families for support and connection, as well as answer any questions.



- See You At The Pole (SYATP) - a prayer rally where students/teachers/families meet at the school flagpole before school to lift up their friends, families, teachers, school, and nation to God. SYATP is a student-initiated, student-organized, and student-led event held on the last Wednesday of September.
- Grandparents Day - a time in the fall to invite grandparents to chapel and spend a few minutes in their grandchild's classroom.
- Pastor Appreciation - a time to honor our pastors at Lighthouse in the fall.

16. Teacher Luncheons - Partnership opportunities: make a dish, provide decor, help decorate, clean up



As part of the Hospitality Team's endeavors, teacher luncheons honor our staff, board, and administration every quarter. Christmas gifts and random surprises are sometimes added into the fun. An email will be sent out to sign up for the hospitality committee at the beginning of the school year or feel free to reach out to the office to be included in the email list.

17. Graduation Activities - Partnership opportunities: provide food, set up, clean up, commencement ceremony sound

- Kindergarten Graduation - Usually scheduled during the last chapel of the school year. Graduates will wear a provided white cap and gown, receive their kindergarten certificate, and pose for a picture for their parents.
- Senior Week. The last week of school is “Senior Week.”
 - Monday - Seniors lead Chapel and then attend lunch with the admin team
 - Wednesday - Senior Awards ceremony where parents present them with their sashes and cords
 - Thursday - Senior/Parent Breakfast. Seniors and their parents set up the senior tables in the Lighthouse gym while they have breakfast provided by staff members. Then they will proceed to graduation practice at the Capitol.
 - Friday - Senior Fun day. The seniors prepare a fun activity for all underclassman and elementary students.
- Graduation Celebration - The junior class and their parents provide and serve a brunch to seniors and their families on Saturday morning. It is required that all junior families contribute.
- Commencement Ceremony - Graduation is held in the Capitol Rotunda.



18. Student Leadership University - Partnership opportunities: chaperone, help with fundraisers

Student Leadership University (SLU) is a faith-based experiential leadership training program that will put your students' future in focus and change the way they think, dream and lead from the feet of Jesus. At SLU, students will see the world in a way most never do, combining unforgettable experiences with top-notch executive leadership training designed to change and shape the rest of your students' lives! Whether it is behind the scenes at SeaWorld (101), exploring our Nation's Capital (201), being immersed in the history of Europe (301) or walking where Jesus walked in Israel (401), SLU students learn to think bigger, ignite their calling, impact their world and lead like Jesus. To fulfill the requirements for the Student Leadership University, students must participate in a weeklong intensive training event and complete the required reading. There is planning that goes into each event, and students will be required to help with the planning or preparation that makes each event a success. Activity fees and extended field trips are required. Only students returning to Lighthouse the following year are eligible to attend.

-Students who attend SLU will be expected to serve in leadership roles at Lighthouse whether that is in StuCo, or as a club leader, or apply to be a small group leader.



3 For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you. 4 For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, 5 so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. 6 We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your^[a] faith; 7 if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; 8 if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead,^[b] do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully. Romans 12:3-8