

DISTINGUISHED SCHOLAR DIPLOMA

Whitney High School

The Distinguished Scholar Diploma is designed to recognize those students who have demonstrated academic excellence. This diploma distinction corresponds to an academic pathway which qualified students will take during their four years at Whitney High School. While the pathway is open to all students, the recommendation for qualification is that students decide, with parent approval, to choose this pathway when they enter the high school. Students in this pathway will choose to take some of the most rigorous courses on campus. The students will have, at minimum, a proficient CST score a 3.5 GPA and will maintain the same qualifications to continue in the pathway. Students DO NOT need to take all the courses listed for the pathway, but must choose to take 65% of the advanced, honors and AP offerings.

Eligibility for the Distinguished Scholar Diploma:

By the time a student is ready for graduation, he/she must have maintained the following in order to receive a Distinguished Scholar Diploma:

- Complete courses which meet the A-G eligibility requirements
- Complete 65% Advanced/Honors courses with three of those courses being Advanced Placement classes
- 3.5 weighted GPA
- Proficient CST scores in ELA and Math and upward band movement 8th through 11th grades
- 90% attendance rate each year
- No major disciplinary or attendance infractions
- Complete a minimum of 150 community service hours to earn a Distinguished Community Service or Service Learning award.
- Complete at least one WHS leadership course (Leadership, STARS, Senior Mentor, Peer Counseling or JROTC Officer Position).
- Completion of an academic portfolio

The Academic Portfolio

All students who participate in the Distinguished Scholar Program will be required to complete an Academic Portfolio which will include the following:

- Documentation of Distinguished Community Service or Service Learning Project completion.
- Reflective essay addressing learning skills acquired and personal growth achieved over their four-year high school experience.
- Documentation of 90% attendance record over four years.
- Transcript of courses completed.

Essays and portfolios will be graded by a cadre of teachers from Whitney High School. A passing score on the portfolio along with the grades and other requirements for the scholar distinction will determine if the student receives the diploma seal, the right to include this distinction on official transcripts and other graduation and school distinctions to be determined.