

Leadership in Action™ – “Creating Leaders for Life”

FAQ

Why did LNC implement the Leadership in Action™ program?

ANSWER: "Together we Learn, Lead and Serve" is our school's motto and as a charter school, it is important that we provide opportunities for and expect that our students live our motto in their daily lives. In 2014, a committee was formed to assess and explore leadership at LNC. While there was a lot of organic learning going on, it was difficult to summarize all the various leadership learning activities and ensure that we were providing an experience that was consistent with our school's charter. Based on feedback from the Board, teachers, students, parents and LNC alumni, the committee identified seven essential leadership/life skills necessary for student success in school and beyond. The committee created Leadership in Action™ that reinforces the individual understanding of these skills and that will be easily recognizable within LNC (by students, teachers, administrators) and outside of LNC (by parents, community, colleges).

When does the Leadership in Action™ program start?

ANSWER: For the 2020-2021 school year, Leadership in Action™ will involve the entire school, K-12 grades. Leadership in Action™ is designed to be completed by the end of a student's 11th grade year.

Why does LNC believe it is important to teach its students leadership skills?

ANSWER: A strong leader is not always the person standing in the front of a room. Not everyone wants to be the CEO or key-note speaker nor is there room in society for everyone to serve in that role. There are numerous types of leadership styles required in today's world and students need a variety of leadership skills to help them adapt their leadership style to the circumstances around them. As a college preparatory school, LNC's focus is to distinguish our students from other college applicants as well as teach our students invaluable life skills that will serve them well in any academic or employment environment. Teaching the LNC Leadership Skills along with LNC's Service component enables our students to be more independent as they go out into the world and encourages them to find something they are passionate about (leadership) in order to "pay it forward" (service).

What are the seven Leadership Skills addressed in Leadership in Action™?

ANSWER: While there is some cross-over between the categories, below is a list of the seven major leadership skills on which Leadership in Action™ focuses.

<u>Problem Solving and Critical Thinking</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Compromising• Open-minded• Analytical	<u>Communication and Collaboration</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Working in groups• Listening• Writing• Courtesy and respect
<u>Integrity and Personal Accountability</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Time management• Dependability• Acting responsibly• Honesty• Leading by example	<u>Confidence</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Decision making• Negotiating• Public speaking• Able to support a position• Influential

<u>Adaptability and Creativity</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Self-awareness • Thinking on your feet • Ingenuity • Incorporating constructive criticism • Flexibility 	<u>Empathy, Humility and Compassion</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tolerance • Social awareness • Supportive
<u>Enthusiasm and Purpose</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Self-motivated • Well-balanced • Able to develop a vision • Perseverance 	

Is there a book or formal program/curriculum for the Leadership in Action™ program which explains how to teach the seven leadership skills?

ANSWER: Leadership in Action™ is really about teaching our students life skills that they will need during and after their time at LNC. As such, Leadership in Action™ is purposefully organically designed to allow flexibility and individuality in teaching and defining each Leadership Skill. Group discussions and examples from peers and teachers will help students understand that there are many different ways to effectively demonstrate each skill. Students will learn their individual strengths and weaknesses and be encouraged to focus on further development of a skill in a style and manner that best suits their personality and has an effective result when implemented.

Which LNC schools will be involved in Leadership in Action™?

ANSWER: Upon full implementation, all three schools (elementary, middle, high) will participate in Leadership in Action™ in an age-appropriate manner.

Why are 9th and 10th grade the only high school grade levels participating in 2018-2019?

ANSWER: Leadership in Action™ is tailored to be specific to the culture and environment of LNC. Leadership in Action™ enhances and formalizes the already existing leadership initiatives in the middle school. However, for the high school, Leadership in Action™ is new. With any new program, there can be changes that need to be made as lessons are learned during the implementation. Based on feedback from teachers, administration and the Board, it was decided to introduce Leadership in Action™ one grade at a time in the high school to encourage a successful first year.

What does the elementary school Leadership Program look like?

ANSWER: The elementary school program will teach the students the seven Leadership skills using concepts from the book *The Seven Habits of Happy Kids* by Sean Covey and set forth in the educator's book *The Leader in Me*. The elementary school uses age-appropriate language and stories to introduce our young students to life skills that will be reinforced in Middle and High School. For example, LNC's Leadership Skill - Communication and Collaboration is taught using the phrase "*Listen Before You Talk.*"

Which leadership skills are taught in the elementary school?

ANSWER: All seven leadership skills are taught each year in the elementary school.

What does the middle school portion of Leadership in Action™ look like?

ANSWER: Middle school starts out with a group-oriented program where the leadership skills introduced in elementary school are reinforced through lessons on grade-specific assigned skills and those skills are incorporated into existing leadership projects.

Which leadership skills are taught in the middle school?

ANSWER: All middle school grades will incorporate all seven leadership skills each year, with a different focus each year:

- **5th Grade:** Define the skills
- **6th Grade:** Application
- **7th Grade:** Self-assessment
- **8th Grade:** Reflection and Projection

What are the existing middle school Leadership Projects?

ANSWER:

- **5th Grade:** Souper Bowl of Caring; campus beautification.
- **6th Grade:** Guest speakers from local volunteer organizations; service project proposal; completion of year-long service project.
- **7th Grade:** Carpool project; focus on famous leaders and leadership styles; rocket building; Socratic seminars; Samurai unit.
- **8th Grade:** Letter to future self; local charity research paper; service hours.

What does the high school Leadership in Action™ program look like?

ANSWER: In high school, students will work to create a detailed portfolio that will include seven individual narrative reflections that showcase their understanding and implementation of each of the acquired leadership skills. The reflection will include evidence of the student completing a self-selected task and explaining how the task demonstrates a particular leadership skill. Students will have six sessions per school year (9th-11th grade) where they will meet with a leadership advisor and small group to receive instruction and guidance while using a rubric to complete their reflections.

Which Leadership Skills are taught in the high school?

ANSWER:

- 9th Grade: Communication and Collaboration / Integrity and Personal Accountability
- 10th Grade: Confidence / Enthusiasm and Purpose / Adaptability and Creativity
- 11th Grade: Empathy, Humility, and Compassion / Problem Solving and Critical Thinking

How does Leadership in Action™ fit into the existing high school curriculum and schedule?

ANSWER: Students will meet with their assigned group and leadership advisor four times during the school year on a midday pep rally schedule. This schedule is approved by Administration and has been set up to allow students time during the school day to work on their reflections. Leadership in Action™ was intentionally designed to be a reasonable time commitment for students and teachers and not create an undue burden on the existing academic workload.

Do the students get a grade for the Leadership in Action™ Program?

ANSWER:

- For the elementary school, leadership skills are introduced and reinforced through age-appropriate activities with the goal of having students recognize and use these skills daily without concern of being graded.

- As the students move to middle school, the students' participation and understanding of the leadership skills are evaluated by their teachers and calculated as part of their project grade.
- In high school, the Leadership Advisor gives feedback to the students for each skill based on a rubric. A final portfolio of all seven reflections is submitted by the middle of 4th quarter of 11th grade. The reflection portfolio is reviewed and the student must receive a 3 out of 4 (as outlined by the rubrics) for each skill. For high school, successful completion of the Leadership Program is required in order for a student to walk at the graduation ceremony. This is the same requirement currently in place for the LNC Service requirement.

What happens if a high school student does not receive the required score?

ANSWER: If a rising 12th grader does not receive the required score or has fallen behind and does not submit a final portfolio during 4th quarter of his 11th grade year, he will continue to participate in the program during his 12th grade year in order to complete or revise his seven reflections. This would also apply to any student new to LNC as a senior by participating in a truncated program and producing a portfolio prior to graduation.

How is a student assigned to a high school leadership advisor?

ANSWER: In most cases, students will be assigned a leadership advisor based on alphabetical order. Students will stay with the same leadership advisor throughout their completion of high school.

What is the role of the high school leadership advisor?

ANSWER: High school leadership advisors are trained on the seven leadership skills, the rubrics and the individual nature of teaching and learning in the Leadership in Action™ program. Leadership advisors will reemphasize the assigned skills, encourage group discussions, keep students on task and be available for questions and guidance both during the workshops and the school year in general.

What happens if a student did not start his education at LNC and enters the school at a later age?

ANSWER:

- The elementary school will teach all seven Habits each year. A student entering the elementary school after Kindergarten can easily begin to understand the seven Habits through repetition and individualized attention from his teacher.
- Middle school teachers will catch-up any student who enters LNC Middle School after 5th grade. Leadership Projects from a previous grade will not need to be made up.
- For the high school, the materials used to teach each skill are archived and the incoming student will be assigned to an advisor and guided through an accelerated track to catch-up. The extent of reflections required for successful completion for students entering LNC after 9th grade will be dependent on the grade level at which the high school student enters LNC.

Who should I contact if I have questions?

ANSWER: If you have any questions regarding Leadership in Action™, please send an e-mail to leadership@lncharter.org. You will also find information on the LNC website as well as you can follow us on Twitter @LNCIA.

Leadership in Action is subject to change based on the Pandemic in 2020.