

Lion Academy  
2024-25 Contract

The Lion Academy (LA) is a satellite program of Escondido Christian School (ECS) that provides parents of 7th through 12th grade students, who desire to homeschool, access to a distinctly Christian educational program.

While enrolled at ECS, LA students may not enroll in another school, as ECS is the sole record holder for the students.

Students and parents must agree to and adhere to the ECS K-12 Handbook.

Once a student is enrolled in the traditional upper grades program at ECS, transfer opportunities are limited and may only be approved by the Head of Schools for extraordinary circumstances.

### **Courses and Curriculum**

#### **Course Requirements:**

All Lion Academy students must be enrolled in at least four courses administered by ECS, whether school-taught or home-taught to comply with various agencies, which includes the on-campus Humanities course required for all LA students. In addition to Humanities, LA students may take additional courses on campus, depending on grade level and the program options available. 7th and 8th-grade students may choose to take one additional on-campus course or enroll in the 2+1 option (two full days per week plus every other Friday). Students in 9th through 12th grade may enroll in one additional course on campus per semester.

#### **Curriculum Selection**

LA students are expected to follow the grade-level course progression as traditional ECS students. See the course plan here: [Upper Grade Course Plan](#).

The purchase of curriculum for home-taught courses is the responsibility of the parent. For these courses, families may choose to implement the same curriculum used in the traditional program at ECS or request an alternative program for approval. If the same curriculum is implemented in a home-taught course, a suggested quarterly course overview will be provided. Alternative curriculum may be submitted for curriculum approval. It is required that the request curriculum matches the rigor implemented in the traditional program at ECS. Please contact the LA Coordinator for more information on curriculum selection.

Upon selecting the curriculum, a Course Study must be completed for each LA student. One week prior to the start of each school year, this form must be submitted to the LA Coordinator.

### **Curriculum Changes**

For any desired curriculum changes after the annual Course of Study has been submitted, the LA Coordinator must be notified and a new Course of Study must be received for review and approval no later than three weeks after the beginning of each semester.

### **Curriculum Completion**

LA students are expected to finish the entirety of the curriculum for their home-taught courses by the end of the school year. It is the responsibility of the parents to pace their students through the curriculum so that the student progresses one-fourth of the way through each quarter as evidenced by Quarterly Progress Reports. Exceptions to the measure of progression must be approved by the LA Coordinator.

### **Grading, Testing, and Quarterly Progress Reports**

#### **Grading**

Grades must be reported at percentages unless an outside vendor assigns a letter grade. Separate gradebooks must be kept for each of the student's home-taught courses. A user-friendly gradebook template is available, if needed. It is expected that the gradebook, quarter grade, and work samples for each home-taught course match. Contact the LA Coordinator if assistance is required or a review of the current record-keeping method is desired. Physical education courses are monitored using required logs and are graded on a pass/fail basis.

Grades must be turned in by the progress reporting deadlines provided on the Quarterly Progress Report. When grades are not received on time for any particular course, an incomplete ("I") will be entered into FACTS for that course. An incomplete must be cleared within two weeks of the progress report deadline, or the student's eligibility for athletics and extracurricular activities will be affected, as well as possible academic probation.

When a student enrolls in classes through an outside vendor, the following requirements must be met.

- A progress report from the outside vendor must be submitted by the quarterly progress report deadline.
- An official transcript or equivalent must be provided to the LA Coordinator when the course is completed. All official transcripts must be submitted within two weeks of the

conclusion of the course. The grade for an external course will remain incomplete until the official transcript has been received.

- Obtaining the proper documentation from outside vendors is the responsibility of the parent, not of ECS staff.

### **Testing Policy**

In order to meet the expectation that home-taught courses maintain the integrity of the classes that are taught on campus, the following guidelines regarding testing must be followed:

- All tests must be taken in a testing environment, under the supervision of a parent.
- LA students must take at least one test per subject during every 9 week progress period in all home-taught core courses.
- High school home-taught courses must include a semester final exam which makes up 20% of the semester grade. These exams must be proctored by an ECS staff member, either on campus or virtually. The exam and answer key must be provided to the LA Coordinator.
- Visual and Performing Arts (VAPA) courses involve one project or paper per semester, due to the LA Coordinator by the determined date (typically one week prior to the end of the semester). The LA Coordinator will grade this project and return it to the parent for entry into the gradebook. This project/paper is in addition to the required work samples for VAPA courses.

### **Standardized Test Program**

Once admitted to the program, LA students are encouraged, but not required, to participate in standardized testing. Middle school students take the Iowa Assessment annually in the Spring. High school students complete the Classical Learning Test (CLT) in the fall and spring. The LA Coordinator must be notified when an LA student desires to participate in the standardized testing program.

### **Quarterly Progress Reports**

The ECS academic calendar is divided into four nine-week periods. A Quarterly Progress Report is to be at the end of each quarter. Grades recorded for each student's course on the Progress Report will be entered into FACTS. For external courses, a current grade must be provided by a printed "snapshot" of the student's current grade and progress in the course. At the end of quarter, LA students must submit the following items for review:

- Quarterly Progress Report (course grades must be noted as percentages)
- A gradebook copy for each home-taught course
- No less than nine original samples per subject, including a variety of the following:
  - Homework assignments

- Quizzes
- Tests
- Papers/writing samples
- Projects
- Portfolio pieces (VAPA courses)
- Logs for Physical Education and VAPA courses
- Documentation of progress and/or final grades for classes taken through external organizations

The items listed above are to be submitted to the LA Coordinator or front office staff in a large envelope or folder. This packet should be received no later than one week after the end of any given progress period.

### **On-Campus Activities**

#### **Uniforms/Dress Code**

When on campus, LA students are required to adhere to the campus dress code, including uniforms when applicable. The dress code guidelines for middle school and high school can be found in the Parent/Student Handbook.

#### **Campus Arrival and Departure**

During school hours, LA students must sign in and out at the front office. If it is necessary that an LA student must leave during their normal program hours, a parent must sign them out. Students may not be unsupervised on campus.

#### **Chapel**

Chapel is held weekly and is an essential component of the ECS program. It is highly recommended, but not required, for LA students to attend chapel. Families of students are also encouraged to attend.

#### **Field Trips and Mission Trips**

Field trips and mission trips are considered to be a part of the educational program at ECS and can be attended by LA students, however participation is not mandatory. Clear communication with the LA Coordinator regarding participation in off-campus trips is necessary.

#### **Extracurricular Activities**

LA students may be eligible to participate in all extracurricular activities provided by ECS, including sports and musical theater. Please see the Parent/Student Handbook for eligibility requirements for these programs.

**Lion Academy**  
**Academic Contract Signature Page**  
**2024-2025 School Year**

Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

For the purpose of mutual accountability between Lion Academy families and Escondido Christian Schools, please be sure that you have carefully read each section of the Lion Academy Academic Contract. By signing below, you acknowledge that you have read and agree to all sections of the Eagle Academy Contract.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent's Name (print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent's Name (print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date