



LAKE
FOREST
ACADEMY



1857



LAKE FOREST ACADEMY

Midwestern Heart.
Global Mind.

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ABOUT US



Who We Are

Lake Forest Academy is a co-educational boarding and day college preparatory school for 9th to 12th graders. The campus is located in the Chicago suburb of Lake Forest, Illinois. School community members enjoy a vibrant boarding school environment characterized by a culture of participation, rigorous academics, a global outlook, and Midwestern values.

The Academy is an international school with 435 students who come from 40 countries and 16 states in search of rich and rewarding learning experiences. The 113 faculty and staff are committed individuals who are passionate about education.

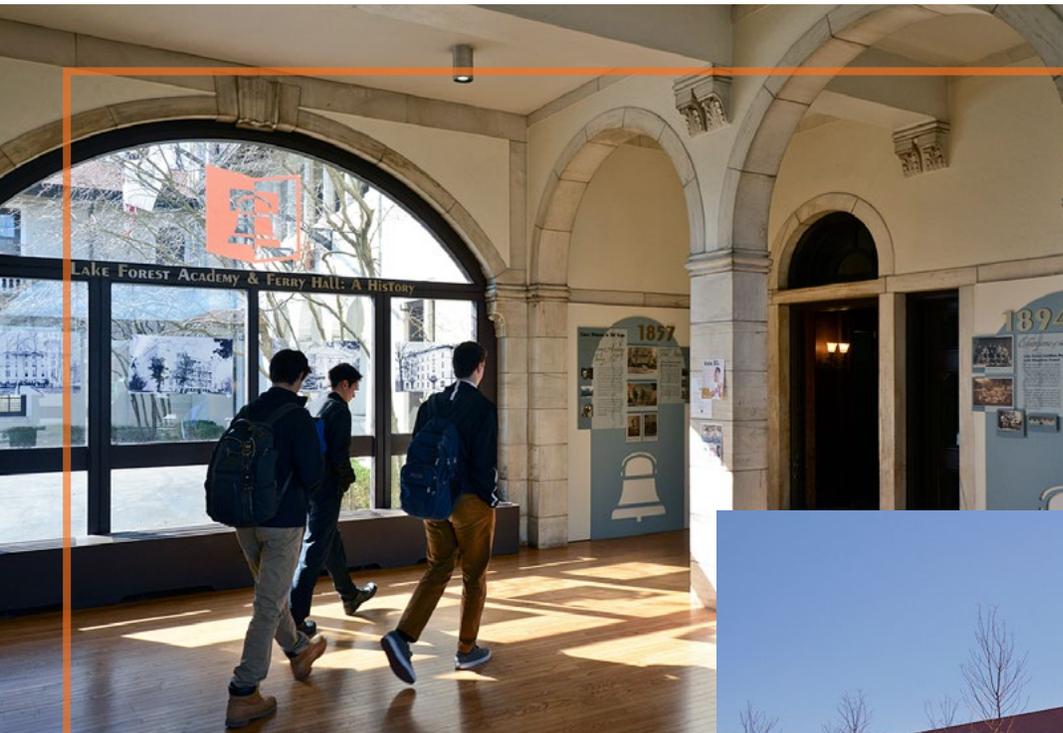
Mission

LFA strives to embody in its practices and to cultivate in its students excellence of character, scholarship, citizenship, and responsibility.

HISTORY

LFA was established in 1857 as the boys' preparatory department of Lind University. The girls' preparatory department, Ferry Hall, was added in 1869. In 1925, LFA and Ferry Hall legally separated from the university to become secondary educational institutions. In 1974, the two schools merged into a co-educational independent school.

Since 2001, under the leadership of Dr. John Strudwick, LFA has built ten new buildings, renovated or improved nearly all other existing facilities and implemented three strategic plans (2003, 2008, 2014). The [website timeline](#) furnishes additional historical detail.



CAMPUS



LFA sits at the western edge of the city of Lake Forest, a small lakeside municipality overlooking Lake Michigan. The 150-acre campus is on the former estate of J. Ogden Armour and now consists of a complementary mix of historical and modern buildings. The area is private, secluded, and surrounded by extensive woods, wooded trails, gardens, and ponds.

The Academy is located 30 miles north of Chicago, a major metropolis brimming with opportunities to engage LFA students in art, sporting, cultural and educational activities. LFA's proximity to O'Hare International Airport and the Illinois Tri-State Tollway provides convenient access to the airport for domestic and international air travel, as well as to Chicago and neighboring states in the tri-state area.

Curriculum



ACADEMICS

4-Year Program

The Academy's four-year sequential program offers students various opportunities to pursue their unique interests. In addition to required courses, students may take independent studies as upper-classmen to seek more in-depth subject matter, partner with local experts, or explore a subject that is not traditionally offered. [Visit the curriculum page](#) to see descriptions of LFA courses.

LFA's Library Media Services offers an expansive collection of digital resources, and the [one-to-one iPad program](#) encourages interactive learning activities within the classroom. Other distinctive curricular features include the English Language Program and the [summer program](#).

Academics at a glance

- 21 AP Courses
- Average class size is 12
- Liberal arts foundation, college-prep focus
- More than 100 courses offered



ACADEMICS

Unique
Opportunities

Global Concentration

LFA offers the Global Concentration Program, a two-year academic experience for juniors who are interested in political, historical, and cultural issues at the international level. Currently, 11 students are collaborating on projects as a cohort and developing their own individualized programs under the guidance of the Assistant Dean of Academic Affairs – Director of Curriculum. In 2018-2019, the program will be housed under the new **Global Department**, which will offer interdepartmental courses.



Biochemistry Research using Chromatography

Juniors and seniors interested in complex scientific research topics have the opportunity to collect and analyze data using high performance liquid chromatography, gas chromatography, and thin layer chromatography. In the spring each student presents his or her findings at a poster session open to the entire LFA community.

ACADEMICS

Unique
Opportunities

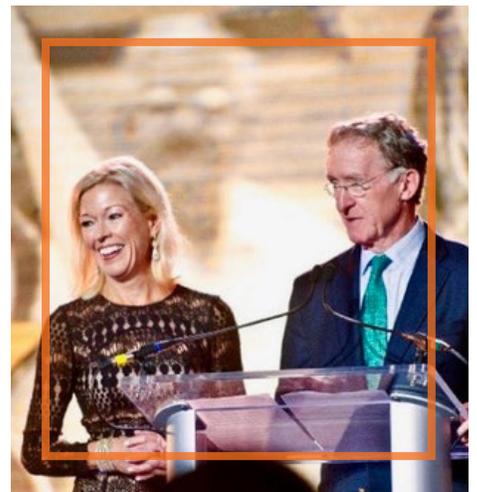


Dr. Ray Bird Colloquia

The Bird Colloquia is a series that aims to emphasize the power of writing and speaking as acts of courage and to help students become active participants in complex conversations. In addition to in-class exercises, students attend special workshops with prolific writers and speakers to hone their writing and speaking skills. For example, this past year, [LFA hosted Irshad Manji](#), Creator and Director of the Moral Courage Project, for an All-School Meeting, as a feature of the program.

Video Project – The Global Generation

NBC Network News & Features correspondent Mike Leonard '66 and his co-creator at [Leonard Films](#), multiple Emmy Award winner Mary Kay Wall, are partnering with LFA in an innovative, nationally unprecedented educational mentorship and film project entitled “Global Generation.” Through instruction on production fundamentals combined with exploring youngsters’ unique perspectives as a global generation, the project will create a documentary to air on public television. Twenty-five students are directly involved, but the project is engaging the entire



LFA community in multiple ways. Its goal is to tap LFA's diverse student body as a voice of their generation and to establish the project as a regular annual offering.

ACADEMICS

Arts

Students at LFA have a multitude of opportunities to show off their talents through the fine and performing arts program. Arts offerings include Choir, Orchestra, the Fall Play, Laptop Orchestra, the Winter Musical, VOX (musical theater performance group), Co-ax (student/faculty rock band), 2D and 3D art, and Yearbook. Concerts and other events are uploaded to the official [LFA Youtube channel](#). Visual arts students enter the [Scholastic Art and Writing Awards](#) every year.



ACADEMICS

College Counseling

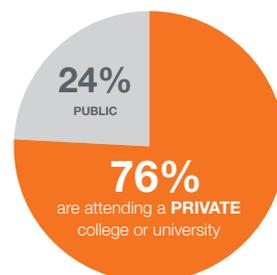
LFA college counselors know the students. They live on campus and act as advisers, dorm parents, and coaches. They each advise 30 students and begin meeting regularly with students the second semester of junior year. In the process they serve as editors, interview coaches, and liaise frequently with the parents. Admission officers from over 200 American and international universities visit LFA annually. Last year, 115 students from the Class of 2017 matriculated at 72 different institutions.

COLLEGE MATRICULATION 2014 – 2017

Popular Destinations

Boston University
Cornell University
Johns Hopkins University
New York University
Northwestern University
University of Illinois
University of Michigan
University of Southern California
Stanford University
Tufts University
Washington University

CLASS OF 2017



STUDENT ATHLETES
are playing 6 different sports at
10 schools at the DI and DIII levels

Life at LFA



LIFE AT LFA

Boarding School Environment

Life at LFA is 24/7. On any given day during the academic year, there are over 300 people on campus. Boarding students live in one of five single-sex dormitories. Each dorm is supervised by residential faculty members – known as dorm parents – who either live in the apartments attached to the dorm or in faculty houses nearby. Many day students stay for evening study hours and attend weekend activities like the annual Six Flags trip or hiking excursions to nearby state parks.



LIFE AT LFA

Pluralism and Multicultural Affairs

LFA dedicates consistent and comprehensive efforts to create and sustain a safe, inclusive environment. The Dean of Pluralism and Multicultural Affairs leads these efforts with help from the Assistant Dean of Pluralism and Multicultural Affairs, the Diversity Advisory Council, and the [Multicultural Affairs Committee](#). The school strives to cultivate appreciation for the enriching aspects of cultural diversity, to foster respect for the integrity of every individual's life experiences, and to develop an understanding of the multiple vocabularies with which individuals interpret their lives.

LFA is a racially, ethnically, culturally, and socio-economically diverse school, and there are multiple opportunities throughout the year to continue conversations about diversity and pluralism, such as

- [multicultural dialogues](#)
- [affinity group discussions](#)
- [presentations from speakers](#)
- [Multicultural Celebration Day](#)
- [LFA Book Club](#)



LIFE AT LFA

Service



Service at LFA allows students to apply classroom concepts directly to programs and activities that address social concerns. These experiences expand world views while developing initiative, compassion, and commitment. All students participate in the [Service Learning Program](#), and the entire community engages in the annual [Service Learning Day](#) in April by visiting over 20 different sites throughout Lake County, Illinois, to pack food, fill sandbags, plant trees, and interact with local residents.



LIFE AT LFA

Athletics

The athletic program offers many athletic opportunities, ranging from preparing for collegiate athletic competition to physical fitness and personal development. The essence of the program is the promotion of sportsmanship. Whether it be varsity athletics, intramurals, physical education, or general recreation, LFA honors participation, achievement and effort. Success is measured not only in victories, but also in the individual development of each athlete.

[Visit the team pages here.](#)



In addition to numerous soccer, field hockey, and baseball fields, students have access to LFA's modern [athletics facilities](#), to practice with teammates and work with LFA's own athletic trainers. Faculty typically coach two seasons a year, allowing them to bond with the students outside the classroom.

LIFE AT LFA

Traditions



The Academy upholds many of the traditions established throughout its history. The school year opens with the All-School Handshake, where every single member of the LFA community — approximately 600-plus people, including students, faculty, and staff — gathers in the Formal Gardens in a large circle. The Head of School and the All-School President start in the middle, and lead the entire group in individually greeting one another.

Other traditions include:

- [LFA Charter Day](#)
- [Ferry Hall Anniversary](#)
- [Homecoming Chariot Races](#)
- [Faculty v. Seniors sports games](#)
- [Move Up Day,](#)

a traditional Ferry Hall ceremony that celebrates student accomplishments, the promotion of each class, and the winner of the House Cup

Meet the CAXYS



The LFA mascot is the “Caxy,” ancient Greek for “ribbet” – the croaking sound made by a frog. In the early 1900s, Aristophanes’ comedy, *The Frogs*, was the subject of a popular Greek literature class, and the Frog Chorus croaked “caxy, caxy, caxy.”

ENROLLMENT

Each year, LFA welcomes approximately 130 new students into the community. Typically this includes 90 freshmen, 25 new sophomores, and 15 new juniors and seniors.

In 2016–2017, LFA dedicated more than \$5.1 million of financial support to qualified students to promote and maintain a diverse, inclusive and excellent student body. The Academy also awards a modest number of Head of School Scholarships designed to recognize and attract students of high academic achievement.

2016–2017 Admissions Stats

Total Applications: 775

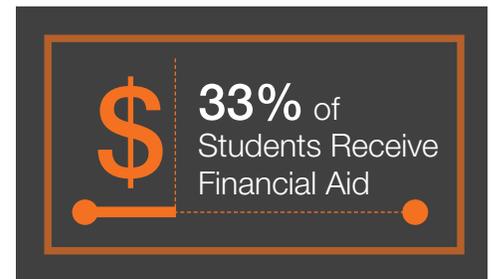
Total Accepted: 225

Total Enrollment: 435

Newly Enrolled: 143

Acceptance Rate: 29%

Yield Rate: 64%



STUDENT BODY

LFA students are as unique and distinctive as a group as they are individually. Their communal spirit and identity are unmistakably displayed at sporting events, House Cup competitions, and school trips. They also contribute their cultures, languages, and passion for adventure, thereby enriching LFA's campus life. They take independent studies in criminal profiling, raise funds to donate dictionaries to teachers abroad, and make presentations to inform the whole community about political situations in their home countries.

In addition to planning student council initiatives, like school dances or puppy playtime before exams, students fulfill the roles of prefect and proctor to guide their peers in the classroom and in the dorm. Prefects assist with major school events, such as the Opening of School, and serve on committees related to discipline and student activities. Proctors run Dorm Council and help their fellow boarding students manage safe, successful routines in the dorms.

Students are at the heart of LFA, and their development into young adults with aspirations is of paramount importance.



Demographics

- Caucasian American: 44%
- African American: 6%
- Asian American: 10%
- Latino/Hispanic American: 6%
- Multi-Racial American: 7%

- International Students: 26%
- Domestic Students: 74%



FACULTY & STAFF



LFA's faculty and staff endeavor to create an educational experience that students will cherish throughout their lives. Seventy percent of LFA teachers have advanced degrees, and more than 75% of faculty live on campus. In addition to teaching, coaching, and supervising dorms, faculty and staff help guide students as advisors. Each advisory consists of five to eight students, and advisors see their advisees almost every day.



Twenty-nine percent of the faculty self-identify as people of color; eight percent identify as Caucasian International. The Board, the Administration, and the current strategic plan make it a priority to recruit and retain a faculty and staff whose diversity reflects the composition of the student body.

ALUMNI & PARENTS



Alumni

LFA graduates join a network of more than 5,000 alumni and alumnae who remain connected to the school as trustees, parents, grandparents, donors, panelists at school events, and mentors for current students. A multitude of alumni return to campus for annual class reunions, and the school hosts a variety of alumni events across the U.S. and around the world. Additionally, the Alumni Advisory Board consists of 35 members who serve as ambassadors for the Academy.

Parents

Wherever they live, over 800 parents and guardians remain active participants in LFA's daily campus life. The Parents Association organizes a plethora of local events, from class coffees to on-campus volunteer activities. Members also lead fundraising events such as the Caxy Life Auction and Spring Gala. International parents support LFA considerably by hosting new students at admission recruitment events, showing hospitality to visiting faculty, and inviting alumni and parents to receptions abroad.



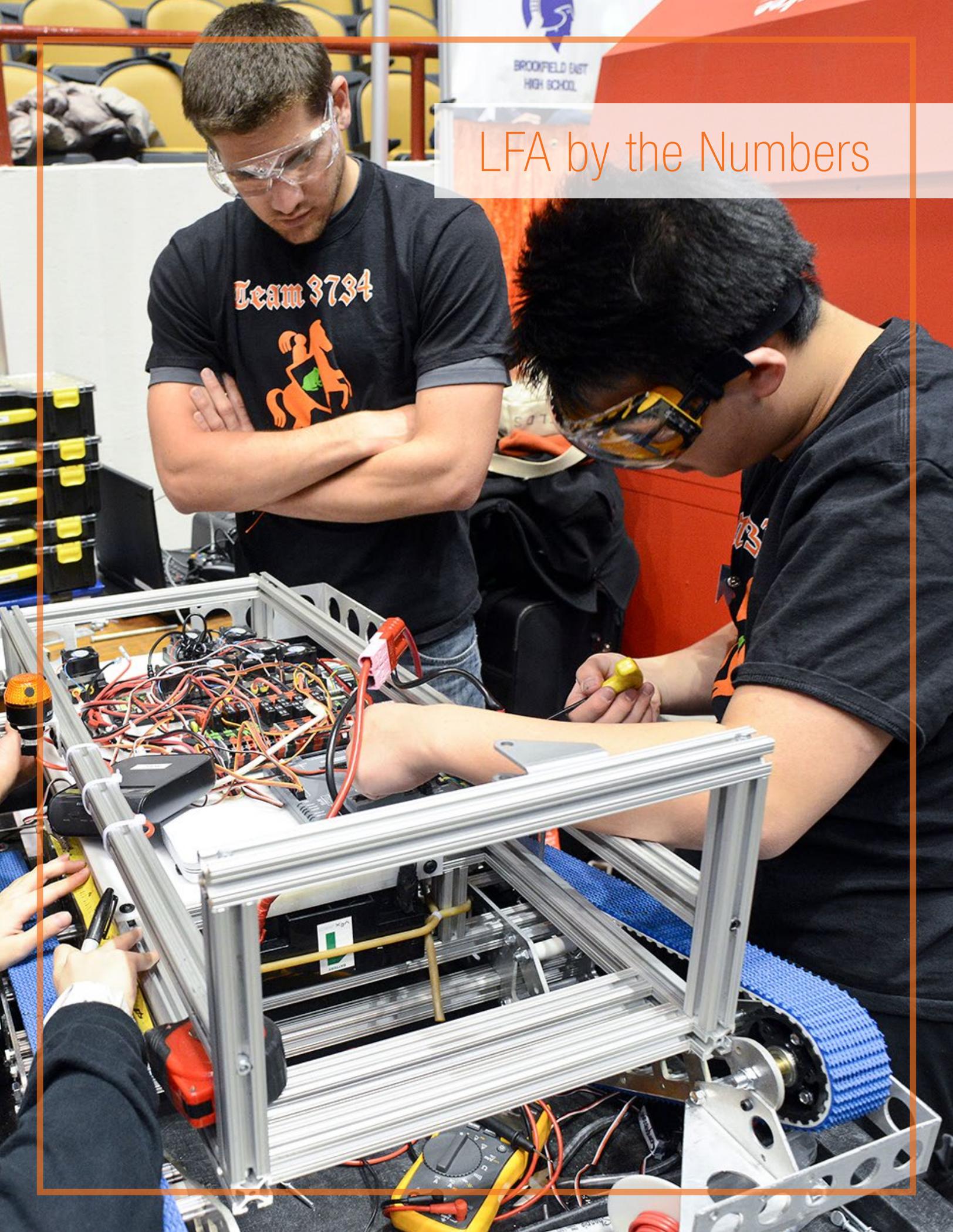
GOVERNANCE



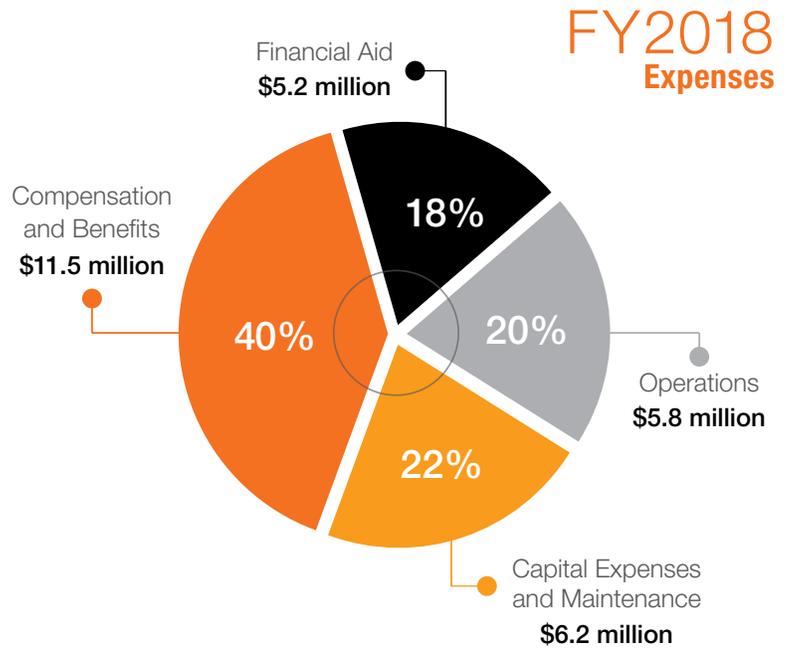
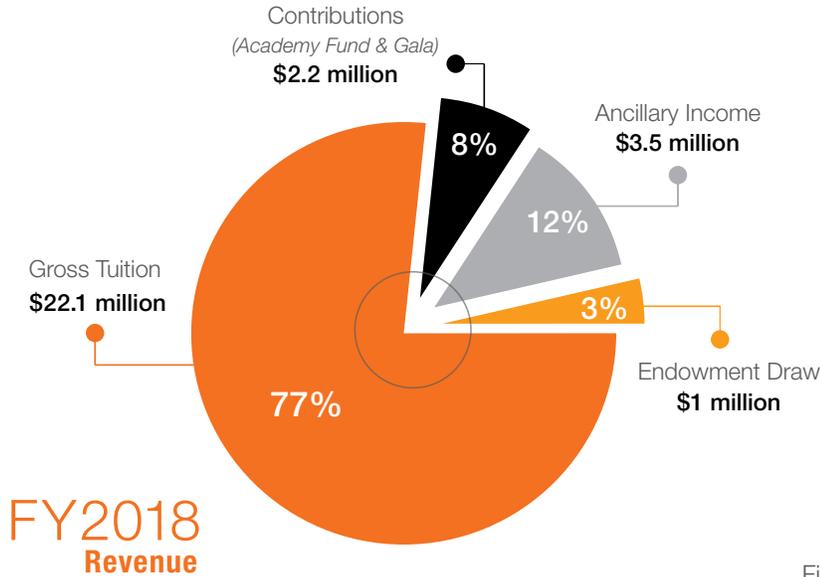
LFA's Board of Trustees consists of 35 members serving three-year staggered terms. The Board meets three times annually in the late fall, mid-winter, and spring. Trustees serve on seven standing committees and four ad hoc committees. The Board focuses on fundamental long-range and strategic issues, and actively supports the school's mission.

The Head of School, the Associate Head of School, and nine deans meet regularly as the Deans Council to carry out initiatives in specific areas of administration. The Deans Council administrators provide written reports to the Board of Trustees and manage the administrative faculty and staff in their departments.

LFA by the Numbers



Fiscal 2018 Operating Budget



\$90 million raised 2001–2017

Academy Fund | Endowment Gifts | Capital Improvements

2018 – Endowment Growth Campaign Begun

Fiscal Year 2017

Capital & Endowment \$1,900,000 + Academy Fund \$1,600,000 + Gala Dutch Auction \$530,000 + Other Charitable Events \$37,000 = \$4.1 million

62
PEOPLE HAVE GIVEN
25+
CONSECUTIVE
YEARS to LFA

1,279
DONORS DURING THE 2016–17
SCHOOL YEAR;
236 PEOPLE VOLUNTEERED
THEIR TIME + TALENT

24
FAMILIES HAVE LIFETIME
GIVING OF
\$1
MILLION
OR MORE TO LFA


100%
of the Class of 2017
donated to the
Senior Class Gift

LOOKING AHEAD

LFA's 2014 Strategic Plan, *Educating for Tomorrow: Developing Global Citizens*, focuses on developing global citizens through unique educational experiences within a diverse and caring community. The Strategic Planning Steering Committee is currently updating goals within the four main initiatives – educational experience, multiculturalism, marketing, and financial strength.

For over 161 years, the Academy has stayed true to its core values of educating the innovative minds of the next generation. The institution and its people are poised to achieve higher levels of success and look forward enthusiastically to a new chapter in LFA's history.



