Students meeting all Louisiana School graduation requirements are awarded a state diploma and a special Louisiana School diploma. Under no circumstances will a Louisiana School diploma be awarded to a student who has not successfully completed the requirements particular to LSMSA, including Work Service requirements.

NOTE: In order to receive the Tuition Opportunity Program Scholarship (TOPS), a student must graduate from a Louisiana high school. As stated in the "Academic Performance" section of this Handbook, if at any time it appears improbable that a senior will pass a required course, that failing grade will be grounds for dismissal from LSMSA but will allow the student to enroll in another Louisiana high school. While extremely rare, this involuntary dismissal may be applied to a senior during his/her final examinations. This procedure will apply even if the student anticipates attending a college or university outside of the state.

NOTE: Only those students qualified to receive the prestigious Louisiana School diploma will be allowed to participate in graduation exercises. In view of the fact that the Senior Recognition Ceremony is an integral part of the graduation process, students who do not successfully complete the requirements for graduation will be eligible neither to receive awards nor to participate in the Senior Recognition Ceremony.

GENERAL DIPLOMA REQUIREMENTS

1. All courses necessary for a state diploma are required
2. Twenty-six Carnegie units will be required for a Louisiana School diploma; and
   (See Curriculum Worksheet, used to track a student's course completion.)
3. Satisfactory completion of Work Service, Seminar in Special Topics, and Special Projects.

VARIOUS PROGRAMS AND DISTINCTIONS (SEE CHARTS ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES)

Chart 1: Minimum Requirements for LSMSA Diploma - for Classes of 2010 and 2011
Chart 2: Minimum Requirements for LSMSA Diploma – beginning with Class of 2012
Chart 3: Graduating With Distinction
Chart 4: Requirements for State Board Honors Curriculum
Chart 5: Requirements for Louisiana Honors Scholarship Program

GRADUATION CEREMONY V. DIPLOMAS

All students and parents/guardians are reminded of the following:

At LSMSA, once a student has successfully completed the course of studies required by the state and/or the Louisiana School for Math, Science, and the Arts, he/she has a RIGHT to the respective diploma attached thereto. However, participation in the ceremony of graduation is not a RIGHT at LSMSA. Participation in the ceremony of graduation at LSMSA is a PRIVILEGE granted only to those students who successfully complete the course requirements for a high school diploma in Louisiana **and** successfully complete the other rigorous course, character, and socialization requirements expected of an LSMSA graduate. Therefore, the privilege of participating with one's class in graduation ceremonies is governed, at a minimum, by **both** of the following conditions:

1. Successful completion of the course of studies required by LSMSA. Just successfully completing the course of studies required by the state entitles a student to the state diploma but not the privilege of participating in the ceremony of graduation at LSMSA**; <u>and</u>**
2. Certification by LSMSA's administration that the student has followed fully and faithfully all of the policies, procedures, and rules of the school's Academic Handbook and the school's Residential Life Handbook to such a degree that the student has earned the privilege of being an active participant in the graduation ceremony.

<u>SPECIAL NOTE</u>: These policies, procedures, and rules specifically include the sections on suspension and expulsion as found in the *Academic and Residential Life Handbook*. However, other egregious acts that are violative of the "Preamble to the School's Mission Statement," the "Mission Statement," the "Perspective on the Louisiana School Student," which description only applies to that insular and discrete group LSMSA has been founded to serve, and the definition of "socialization" for this insular and discrete group of students the Louisiana School is commissioned to serve, may be considered by the administration before bestowing on the student the privilege of being able to participate in the graduation ceremony.