AIS Distinction

Distinction in American Indian Studies
ACADEMICS * CULTURE & LANGUAGE * SERVICE * LEADERSHIP
What is the AIS Distinction?
Saint Paul Public Schools is proud to offer a “Distinction in American Indian Studies.” Much like college students choosing a major field of study, secondary students may choose to specialize in American Indian Studies (AIS). Students in the program have the same graduation requirements as their peers, but they elect to learn about Native culture and language, history and art, and they are involved in the Native community. With the successful completion of program criteria, students will earn the “Distinction in American Indian Studies” mark on their final transcripts and their honor will be noted at the Indian Education and Harding High School graduation ceremonies.

To earn the Distinction, students will...

- Study (at least) 2 years of Ojibwe or Lakota Language, GPA 3.0 or higher
- Earn a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher in AIS classes
- Participate in AIS leadership activities (i.e. Quiz Bowl, Drum & Dance) while at Harding
- Complete a minimum 20 hours of Native community service
- Complete a senior AIS reflection that’ll be included in your senior exit interview

How do I apply for the Distinction Program?
Write a brief statement (350-500 words) explaining why you are interested in participating in the Graduation with Distinction Program. Attach your statement to this form and submit it to Ms. Harper at Harding High School by November 30th. A committee of teachers, counselors and administrators will review your application and you will be notified of acceptance or non-acceptance into the program by letter.

If you have any questions about the program, please feel free to contact Ms. Harper in room 1425.