

Academic, extra-curricular

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In any organization or institution, some system must be maintained to recognize effort or achievement on the part of its members. A school is no exception and Westlane has such a system. Aside from trophies and scholarships, etc., which are awarded, there exists a student award system. I'd like to explain this system to both students and parents alike.

Years ago, student awards at Westlane were run similar to the most popular system used by elementary schools — presentation of bars. Participation or achievement in an activity was rewarded by small piece of felt

about four inches long and an inch wide, on which was printed the name of the activity. Naturally, the bars were designed in the school colours, and always were prestigious decorations for one's jacket. I still recall how, as grade 7 students, we added up the number of bars we owned and held them in much the same esteem as a gunslinger holds notches on his belt.

This resulted in a great many bars being presented at long tedious assemblies, for Westlane, even then, was a school considerably larger than junior highs. A change was designed, and this became the awards system now in effect. It is described in the

Student Handbook (a publication which every new student is issued and few read), and the quotes below are taken from the '71-72 edition. The system was placed under the jurisdiction of the student council, and its stated aim is "to encourage participation in all aspects of school life and to reward students for noteworthy achievements, and contributions to the life of the school."

One teacher is placed in charge of administering the keeping of awards records. In recent times, this has been Mr. H. Bacsu. Furthermore, although there is no provision made for such a post in the Handbook, Mr. Bacsu is assisted by a student arbitrarily called the student awards officer. Since September, 1971, I have held this post, and, next year, it will be Ron Koudys.

Each student has a card in the records. On these cards are recorded points a student has earned. To earn these points, a student simply must

activities earn Westlane points

participate or achieve or both. When any activity is complete, the teacher supervising the activity hands in the awards office a list of participants in the activity and the points each has earned. The amount of points a student may earn in any given activity is, in the final analysis, up to the supervising teacher, but a general guideline is published in the Handbook. For instance, football and basketball players (boys) each receive

six points for regular participation in either of these sports. The greater effort required, or the greater achievement attained, the greater the number of points awarded. Academic achievement is rewarded by a strict schedule directly dependent on a student's final average.

These points are kept on file throughout a student's stay at Westlane. When he or she attains 35 points (with a maximum of 15 academic) he

is presented with a minor crest which is the familiar Spartan Head. This level of achievement is easily obtained by a student from grade through 13 who maintains a passing average for five years and participates in two or three activities year. In other words, the minor crest is readily within the grasp of most students. In fact, most minor crests are awarded after a student has completed only two years at Westlane,