

Important Information for High School Students

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We are thrilled you have decided to homeschool your child through high school. As homeschooling has grown more mainstream, colleges are in many cases actively seeking homeschoolers due to their motivation and well-rounded transcripts. I was personally homeschooled from 4th grade through high school and received a full college scholarship with my homeschool transcript. This handout is designed to familiarize you with our homeschool program for high school students as well as help you with planning as you create your child's high school transcript.

HSLDA puts out a helpful brochure on homeschooling through high school. You can download it from this link: <http://www.hslda.org/highschool/HSBrochure.pdf> I highly recommend you download this brochure and use it to help organize your high school plans.

OUR HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM

The State of Texas, beginning with the 2014-2015 school year, has revised their high school degree plans. In the past, Texas public schools offered three different high school programs: Minimum, Recommended, and Distinguished Achievement. The Recommended and Distinguished Achievement were both college preparatory. Now, all students complete the basic "Foundation Plan" degree but students add "endorsements" showing additional classes taken. For example, students can complete a "science" endorsement or a "fine arts" endorsement.

This brochure shows the "old" college plan: <http://thetrc.org/trc/download/tea/brochure.pdf>

This link shows the "new" high school plan:

https://d2pzlre54degw7.cloudfront.net/sites/tcta.org/files/current_hb5_grad_requirements_comparison_chart.pdf

We will be offering classes based on the Recommended and Distinguished Achievement program above, which is a standard college preparatory program seen nationwide and in private schools. Your child will have 4 credits in English, 4 Social Studies, 4 Science, 4 Math (optional 3) , ½ Speech, and 2 or 3 years of Spanish or other foreign language. It will meet the requirements of the "Foundation Plan" with endorsements.

Fine Arts electives such as music, theater, choir, band, drama, and art will be available each year. Other electives offered by our program may include journalism, computer programming, health, botany, music or art appreciation, and others. Classes taken outside of our program can be included as electives such as woodworking or dance classes, and these classes can be included on your transcript (more on transcripts below.)

TESTING/PSAT

Homeschoolers are eligible for National Merit Scholarships. To be eligible, students must take the PSAT their Junior year of college. Many students choose to also take the PSAT their sophomore year so that they have practice with the test format. Here are several links with info on National Merit Scholarships for homeschoolers:

<http://homeschoolsuccess.com/national-merit-scholarship/>
<http://www.flhef.org/pdf/National%20Merit%20Scholarships.pdf>
<http://www.nationalmerit.org/nmsp.php>

This is a great opportunity for very significant scholarships for your child. Many colleges offer complete scholarships for National Merit Finalists. Testing can be set up through the school district for the PSAT.

College Board has an app with “SAT Question of the Day” as well as a website for the same thing, these can be helpful for practice:

<https://sat.collegeboard.org/practice/sat-question-of-the-day>

TRANSCRIPT INFORMATION

Forest Path Academy does NOT provide a transcript for your high school student. In most cases, your child will have additional items that you will want to include on the transcript. We do provide grades for the classes and course descriptions for the classes your child takes through our program. You, the parent, will provide a transcript from your home-school for your high school student.

1. Keep track of all classes that your child takes- start a binder or folder to keep info throughout the year on classes taken, or a file on your computer with information. You will in most cases want to include them on your transcript. Did your child take dance or private music lessons? That’s a music or fine arts credit. Did you work on meal planning or take a sewing or cooking class? You may want to add a Home Economics credit on your transcript. Did your child perform in a play or musical? That’s a drama credit. Does your child participate in a sports team? It’s a PE credit. All of these extra curricular classes can be added to your child’s transcript.
2. Generally, a class that is a full year is one credit. A class that is one semester is ½ credit. For example, your child will have 4 credits in English because they took 4 full year courses in English. They will have ½ credit in Health because it was one semester only.
3. Homeschooling is legally considered a private school in the state of Texas. You can select a school name for your home-school and use that name on your transcript. For example, your school could be Live Oak Private Academy and that name can be placed on your transcript. You do not have to identify yourself as a homeschooler, although many colleges now have special procedures in place for home-schooled students.
4. Create a report card at the end of each school year for your child, while the information for the year is fresh in your mind. Show your grades by semester, not by year. Keep a brief course description for each class as well in case it is needed.
5. If you decide to transfer your child to public school, the high school is legally required to treat your transfer the same as they would a transfer from a non-accredited private school. The school may have different procedures in place for accredited and non-accredited schools, and may require placement exams. If your child is required to take an exam, be sure the school district is aware that the passing grade should be 70%, the same as for students who have already taken the

class- they should not be held to a 90% passing score that is required for students who have not previously taken the course. You can download a letter from the Texas Education Commissioner clarifying how to handle home-schooled students and take it to your school district – here is the link

[http://tea.texas.gov/About_TEA/News_and_Multimedia/Correspondence/TAA_Letters/Home_Schools_\(April_8,_2013\)/](http://tea.texas.gov/About_TEA/News_and_Multimedia/Correspondence/TAA_Letters/Home_Schools_(April_8,_2013)/)

6. There are many, many transcript templates online that can be downloaded. Simply google “high school transcript template” and they will pop up.

If you have any additional questions about our high school program, do not hesitate to ask!