

# Homeschool High School: Path to Success

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## Overview

- The Facts
- The Benefits
- High School Courses
- Advanced Studies
- Sports
- Tests
- Transcripts
- Diplomas
- The Future
  - College
  - Military Option
  - Undecided

## Common Questions

- They question
  - What about friends?
  - What about sports?
  - What about extracurricular activities?
  - What about prom?
  - What will I miss?
- We question
  - What subjects should I teach?
  - What about science and labs and higher math?
  - What kind of records do I keep?
  - What about getting into college?
  - Can I teach everything they need to know?

## Reality Check - Dr. Jay Wile, Ph.D.

- Standards are low:
  - 3% of high school grads are proficient readers: 66% are not proficient.
  - 25% of high school grads functionally illiterate.
  - 63% cannot find the Soviet Union on a map.
  - 72% of seniors cannot distinguish between an atom and a molecule.
- “From each according to his abilities to each according to his needs.” CM
- Evolution is generally taught as fact.
- Sex education often teaches perversion.
- Religions other than Christianity are glorified.
- Less than 1/3 time spent on academics
- Low graduation rates
- Graduates who enter college require remedial classes

- Billions spent on retraining by businesses
- Peer influence 20% in elementary; 80% in high school

### **Benefits of high school at home**

- Reduced peer pressure
  - Direct influence over peer relationships
  - Oversee choices and time spent outside family
  - Mentor in life skills of evaluating and choosing friends
  - Mentor in resolving conflicts
  - Offer guidance in romantic relationships
  - Protect from the pressure to conform
  - Minimize the influence of the sex and drug culture
- A safe haven for learning
  - Not faced with drugs or gangs
  - Protected from physical harm and violence
  - Protected from emotional harm, bullying, & low self-esteem
  - Able to intervene if child exhibits at-risk behavior
- Academic environment
  - Academics have priority; less classroom distractions
  - Accelerate academic progress
  - College-level work during high school
  - Ahead in maturity & socialization
  - Opportunities to develop gifts and interests
  - Flexible family plans
  - Work & service opportunities
- Strengthen family relationships
  - Influence when developing character, personality, & worldview
  - Family continues as primary role model
  - No divided allegiance

### **Middle school changes**

- More independent learner
- Can take increasing responsibility for own education
- Reasoning and communication skills mature
- Relationship building time: homeschooling in high school can yield great dividends in the life of your teen.

### **Prep for High School**

- Grades 7-8
  - Little new information
  - Topics go deeper
- Review basics for mastery
- Master computer keyboarding skills
- Begin high school courses slowly
- Tentative goals

### **Develop a high school strategy**

- How will I teach difficult subjects?
- What study skills are needed?
- What about sports?
- What subjects should we cover?
- When do we schedule important tests?

### **How to teach difficult subjects**

- Hire a tutor
- Barter
- Use the Internet
- Join a teaching co-op
- Enroll in community college for dual credit
- Rent equipment from support groups
- Purchase videos or CDs
- Take on-line courses
- Learn with your student

### **Develop Study Skills**

- Researching
- Reviewing
- Outlining
- Listening
- Note taking
- Discerning
- Timed test taking
- Reading comprehension

### **Sports**

- Virginia High School League (VHSL)
- National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) scholarships

### **Typical High School Program**

- 4 years of English
- 2-4 years of math
- 2-4 years of science
- 2-4 years of history
- 2 years of a foreign language
- 2 years of health & physical education
- Electives
- Extracurricular activities

### **Methods**

- Textbooks
- Workbooks
- Co-ops
- Individual Sports
- Apprenticeships

## **Advanced Studies**

- AP Courses
- CLEP
- Distance Learning
- Dual Enrollment

## **AP Courses & Exams**

- AP: Advanced Placement courses
- 30 AP exams in 22 subjects for 9<sup>th</sup> grade +
- Courses: public schools, on-line, teacher
- 90 percent of four-year colleges accept
- Exam cost: \$87 each
- Exams at local government schools
- March 1, 2011, deadline to schedule AP test
  - May 2-6, 9-13, 2011, test dates

## **CLEP TESTS**

- CLEP: College Level Exam Placement
- Requires motivation, self-study
- Tests administered at local colleges
  - Five general exams = 6 credit hours
  - 27 subject exams = 3 credit hours
- Time: 90 minutes
- Type: computer, multiple choice, and writing essay
- Cost: \$77 + admin. fee for 3-6 credits
- Pass/fail format

## **Distance Learning**

- Available via Internet, satellite
- Most colleges offer on-line classes
- On-line high school/college courses
  - Liberty University
  - Regent University
  - Patrick Henry College
  - Bryan College
  - The Potter's School
  - Great Books Academy
- Cost: not cheap
- [www.petersons.com](http://www.petersons.com)

## **Dual Enrollment**

- Enrollment in community college
- High school and college credit
- Placement exam: COMPASS
- Confirm transfer of credits
- Age 16 yrs +
  - Provides the classroom experience
  - Builds confidence in classroom setting
  - Eliminates need to fill lab options at home
  - Cost: enrollment fees, tuition, & books

## **Let's make a plan!**

- Look at the BIG PICTURE!
- Space required subjects evenly
- Plan serious subjects vs. exposure subjects
- Teacher time vs. independent study
- Include "put-off" subjects
- Look at college requirements
- Interests: electives

## **Tests, Tests, & More Tests!**

- State Requirements
- COMPASS Test
- PSAT
- SAT
- ACT
- SAT II

## **State Law & Testing Requirements**

- Notice of Intent, Religious Exempt, Certified Teacher
- Achievement Test
- Independent Evaluation
- Exceptions
- Graduated
  - Reached 18<sup>th</sup> birthday

## **State Law & Testing Requirements**

- If you filed a Notice of Intent
  - Achievement test or
  - Independent evaluation
- Exceptions
  - Graduated
  - Reached 18<sup>th</sup> birthday
  - Religiously exempt
  - Taught by a certified tutor

## **COMPASS**

- Community college placement test
- Evaluates incoming students in English, reading, writing essay, and mathematics (Algebra I)
- Low score: Required to take non-credit preparatory classes
- Dual enrollment not allowed if low score

## **PSAT**

- Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test
  - 10<sup>th</sup> or 11<sup>th</sup> grade
  - Measures critical-reading skills, math problem-solving skills, and writing skills
  - Practice for SAT
  - National Merit Scholarship qualifier

- Once per year in fall at schools
- Register with school  
Homeschool high school code: 994799

## **Four-Year College Admissions Tests:**

### **SAT & ACT**

#### **SAT (Scholastic Aptitude Test)**

- ACT (America College Test)
- For freshman 4-yr. college admission
- Covers reasoning, verbal, & math skills
  - Pre-algebra, algebra, geometry, and trig
  - Reading comprehension
- Timed, multiple choice
- May take multiple times
- Submit best score
- Analysis of college readiness

#### **Differences in SAT & ACT:**

##### **SAT**

- Focus on logic, vocabulary, and reasoning
- Time: 3 hrs. 45 minutes
- Dates: Oct. 9, Nov. 6, Dec. 4
- Cost: \$47
- Register: on-line or by mail  
<http://sat.collegeboard.com>  
Homeschool high school code: 970000

##### **ACT**

- Also includes science reasoning
- Focuses more on subject content
- Time: 3 hours
- Dates: Sept. 11, Oct. 23, Dec. 11
- Cost: \$33-\$48
- Register: on-line or by mail  
[www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org)  
Homeschool high school code: 969-999

## **College Admissions Tests:**

### **SAT II**

- SAT II – Subject Tests
  - Measure knowledge and skill level in specific subjects areas
  - 20 SAT Subject Tests fall into five categories: English, history, mathematics, science, and languages
  - Some colleges recommend and others require
  - Check requirements of the colleges to which applying
- Offered several times yearly during SAT testing
- Cost: \$31-\$41

## **Record Keeping**

- Evaluating high school credits
- Developing a transcript
  - Grades
  - Credits
  - GPA
  - Extracurricular Activities

## **A High School Credit**

- Complete high-school-level text
  - 75%, not every problem
  - Usually takes one yr. to complete
- 50 minutes a day; 5 days a week; 36 weeks
  - Approximately 120-180 hours of work
- Dual enrollment credits
  - One-semester college course = 3 college credits
  - 3 college credits = 1 high school credit/1 yr. course

## **Calculating a Grade Point Average**

- Assign a letter grade (A, B, C, D, and F) for each subject.
- Convert the letter grade to a point value using this scale: A = 4 points, B = 3, C = 2, D = 1, and F = 0.
- Calculate the total grade points for all subjects.
- Calculate the total number of credits assigned to the same subjects for the period you want to average.
- Divide the total number of points by the total number of credits.
- Result is the grade point average for the semester or year.

## **GED Vs. Diploma**

- GED
  - Dropout stigma
  - Military does not require a GED
  - Not required for college admissions or financial aid
- Homeschool Diploma
  - Accepted by colleges
  - Accepted by employers
  - Accepted by military

## **Commencement**

- State Convention
- Local Support Group
- Church
- Family

## College Search

- Christian vs. Secular
- Academic Level
- Economic Factors
- Majors Offered
- Campus Visit
- Distance from Home

## Homeschool Military Options

- Scouts, drum & bugle corps, marching band
- Civil Air Patrol (CAP) – emergency services, aerospace education (AF program)
- Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps – JROTC
- Navy Sea Cadets

## Military Career

- Military Academy: Congressional appointment
- Enlistment:
  - Be a homeschool graduate
  - Homeschooled last 9 mo.
  - Provide copy of diploma & transcript (Tier I)
  - Verification of legal homeschool
  - Meet regular entrance physical & test req.
  - GED not required
  - Will not accept on-line or virtual school grads

## Undecided ? ? ? ?

- Mission work
- Bible college or discipleship training
- Military reservist
- Local community college
- Work while living at home
- Pray and read to determine God's will

## Where to Get More Information

- *The Virginia Homeschool Manual*
- [www.heav.org](http://www.heav.org)
- *The High School Handbook* - Mary Schofield
- *Homeschooling High School* - Jeanne Dennis
- *Guidance Manual for the Christian Homeschool* - David Callihan
- *Senior High: A Home-Designed Form-U-La* - Barb Shelton
- [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com) – official SAT website
- [www.act.org](http://www.act.org) – official ACT website
- [www.nathhan.org](http://www.nathhan.org) – physically & mentally disabled
- [www.petersons.com](http://www.petersons.com) – distance learning
- [www.hslda.org](http://www.hslda.org) – Home School Legal Defense
- [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov) – free application for student aid
- [www.careers.crosswalk.com](http://www.careers.crosswalk.com) – career info
- [www.ncaa.org](http://www.ncaa.org) – athletic scholarships