Hilltop
Christian School

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS: To receive a standard diploma, students must take a minimum of 22 credits. Seniors must take a minimum of 5 credits ( 4 must be HCS classes). To receive a college prep diploma, a minimum of 24 credits is required. Students must earn a Bible credit for each year at HCS, 4 units of English, 4 units of math, 3 units of science, 3 units of social studies, and 1 unit of PE/health. Additional courses will be recommended to comply with standard requirements for college entrance. Electives will vary based on demand and availability, and online options will also be available.

COLLEGE-PREP REQUIREMENTS:

| SUBJECTS | REQUIRED CREDITS |
| :--- | :--- |
| Bible | 4 credits (1 each year at HCS) |
| English | 4 credits |
| Mathematics | 4 credits, 3 higher than Algebra I |
| Science | $3-4$ credits (2-lab classes) |
| Social Studies | 4 credits |
| Foreign Language | 2 credits |
| Electives | 2 or more |

Students must take Algebra I and 3 higher-level math courses, 2 years of the same foreign language, 3 years of science ( 4 are recommended), 4 years of social studies, and other electives. Remember that electives (full credit, half credit, in-class, online, or dual-enrollment) are given a pass/fail credit on the student's transcripts and will not be considered for the valedictorian and salutatorian award.

## COMMON TRACK FOR COLLEGE-PREP STUDENTS:

| $9^{\text {th }}$ Grade | $10^{\text {th }}$ Grade | $11^{\text {th }}$ Grade | $12^{\text {th }}$ Grade |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Bible | Bible II | Bible III | Worldviews (Bible) |
| English I | English II | English III | Pre-Calculus |
| Algebra I | Geometry | Algebra II | English IV |
| World History | Gov/Civics | US History | Social studies |
| Phys Science | Biology | Chemistry | Physics |
| PE/Health | Spanish I | Spanish II | Elective |

HALF-CREDIT ELECTIVE OPTIONS FOR 2022: HS Chorus (M/W), drama (M/W/F), art (T/Th), yearbook (M-F), teaching assistant (upper classmen only), Life Applications Class (T/Th; preference to $10^{\text {th }}$ graders), and online electives.

CREDIT: Students will not receive credit for a class if absent for 15 days in a semester or 25 days in a year. This policy applies to each individual class; students will not receive credit for attending all classes if they arrive late or withdraw early in the day. Credit for one unit courses (e.g. English) will be awarded based on the yearly average, not the semester average. Credit recovery options may be available if a student fails only one semester (transcripts will show a pass/fail credit but not a grade). Students may not drop a course after the fifth week of the first quarter unless the principal grants an exception due to an extenuating hardship.

HONORS AND AP COURSES: The availability of these courses vary according to demand and scheduling factors.

- Math honor courses from Pre-Algebra for $7^{\text {th }}$ graders through Calculus for $12^{\text {th }}$ graders
- English honors courses for $9^{\text {th }}-12^{\text {th }}$ graders
- AP courses will not be offered as on-campus courses this year. AP courses taken through Edgenuity will require students to pay for Instructional Services since HCS teachers will not be available to help with AP courses. Instructional Services provides an Edgenuity teacher to assist students taking online courses.
- Honors High School Chorus (10 th $-12^{\text {th }}$ graders only)

| High School <br> Honors Courses | Qualifications | Qualifications to Continue the <br> Honors Track |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Honors Math | Grade $=90 \%+$ | Grade $=85 \%$ (Pre-Alg \& Alg. I) <br> $80 \%$ (Geom, Alg II, \& PreCal) <br> To earn honors credit $=80 \%+$ | 1 additional GPA <br> point if the final <br> grade is an 80\% |
| Honors English | Grade $=88 \%+$ <br> IOWA achievement scores: <br> $50 \%$ tile in reading | Grade $=85 \%+$ <br> To earn honors credit $=80 \%+$ | 1 additional GPA <br> point if the final <br> grade is an 80\% |
| AP courses | Qualifications differ <br> according to the school <br> providing the courses. IOWA <br> achievement scores can <br> provide some guidance: <br> 95\%tile in Math or ELA | To earn AP credit = 80\%+ <br> AP exam required | 2 additional GPA <br> points if the final <br> grade is an 80\% or <br> above |

DUAL ENROLLMENT: Not all college dual enrollment courses may be substituted for an on-campus class; limited approval is designed to protect the biblical instruction and academic rigor of our school. Dual enrollment courses, upon approval, may substitute for a core class; other courses will be considered an elective and will not be calculated in the student's GPA. To read more information about our policies, as well as advice about choosing dual-enrollment courses, access the "Dual Enrollment Guidelines" under the Academics menu on our website.

COLLEGE ENTRANCE EXAMS: All $11^{\text {th }}$ graders will take the PSAT in October; the school will set up this test and no additional fees are required. SAT and ACT at school dates will be scheduled, but students may also choose to take these tests off campus as availability allows. To determine which test is best for you, check the requirements at the college of your choice. All college-prep graduates are required to take one of the tests before graduation.

ONLINE COURSES (not dual enrollment): Students may choose to take online electives that are not offered on campus. An additional one-time fee of $\$ 100$ applies for courses taken through the online service, Edgenuity, that HCS contracts. Any course not taken through HCS must be approved first, and the student will assume all financial responsibilities for that course. A request to substitute an online course for an on-campus class (e.g., Algebra, Spanish, U.S. History) will only be granted due to unusual circumstances, such as a legitimate learning difference, doubling subjects to enter an honors track, or scheduling conflicts. Examples of the electives offered by Edgenuity are as follows (contact the office for a complete list):

- Foreign Languages: French, Chinese, German, and Latin
- AP Courses (additional costs for online teacher support is required)
- Vocational courses, computer applications, and other technology courses

