

## **WELCOME TO HOMESCHOOLING THROUGH HIGH SCHOOL 101**

Registering with a Church-Related “umbrella” School (CRS) is advised during the high school years, although not required. They offer transcripts, diplomas, support, and the guidance of knowledgeable counselors. Research your options before making a decision. There is a fee to register and often there are fees associated with graduating, transcripts, ID’s, etc. A few popular options in Tennessee are listed below, but you can find many more with a simple online search.

**HomeLife Academy (HLA)** – This is the most commonly used CRS in our area and provides all the information you need to know about homeschooling through high school. This information is even available to non-members. They have counselors available by phone or email. All grade reporting, payments, and registration can be completed online. HomeLife offers annual transcript reviews for high school students. Students receive a high school diploma from HomeLife Academy. Visit [www.homelifeacademy.com](http://www.homelifeacademy.com) for more information.

**Gateway Christian Schools** – Another widely used CRS for Tennessee homeschoolers. Gateway has a list of recommended curricula for high school classes, which can be a great resource for any high school student. Payments can be made online, and paperwork can be scanned and sent through email. Visit [www.gatewaychristianschools.com](http://www.gatewaychristianschools.com) for more information.

A survey of local homeschooling families resulted in the following additional umbrella schools: Family Christian Academy of East Tennessee, Cumberland Christian Academy, and Rhea County Academy. Again, a simple online search will result in many more options.

**Home School Legal Defense Association (HSLDA)** – This is not a CRS, but it has one of the most comprehensive websites with High School information, forms, examples of course planning, and advice. Members of HSLDA can also call for one-on-one advising. You may check with BCHE or your umbrella school for a discount code for an HSLDA membership. Visit [www.hslda.org](http://www.hslda.org) for more information on High School & Beyond.

### **High School Course Requirements:**

**1 credit = a full year of study = 150 hours (50 min/day x 180 days)**

**0.5 credit – half a year of study = 75 hours**

<b>Courses</b>	<b>22 Credits</b>	<b>Minimum Requirement</b>
English	4 Credits	Any 4 English Courses
Mathematics	4 Credits	Any 4 Math Courses
Natural Science	3 Credits	Any 3 Science Courses
US History	1 Credit	
Social Studies	2 Credits	Must include Govt & Economics
Personal Finance	0.5 Credit	Not an economics, nor a math course
Physical Education	1 Credit	150 Hours of Physical Exercise or Sports Activities
Health/Wellness	0.5 Credit	
Electives	6 Credits	Select electives based on the student’s goals/interests

## **Ideas for Course Selection (Check with your CRS before buying curriculum):**

### **English – 4 Credits Minimum Required**

English 9, 10, 11, and 12 includes the following components: Literature (Literary Analysis, World, American, British), Composition, plus any grammar or vocabulary that may be needed. These components (Literature, Composition, Grammar, Vocabulary) are combined into one course worth one credit per year. Other possible options: Business Communications, Journalism, Creative Writing, Etymology, African American Literature, Technical Writing, ACT Prep, and Speech. Your CRS can advise on additional recommendations.

### **Mathematics – 4 Credits Minimum Required**

Algebra I, Algebra II, Geometry, Advanced Algebra and Trigonometry, Pre-Calculus, Calculus, Discrete Mathematics with Probability, Statistics, Integrated Mathematics, College Algebra, Logic. Some Colleges may require students to take math all 4 years of high school, even if a math was taken for high school credit in the 8th grade. Other possible options: Accounting, College Mathematics, Math Foundations I and II, Math Tech I and II, Consumer Mathematics, Business Math, Computer Technology, Math for Technology I. Your CRS can advise on additional recommendations.

### **Natural/Physical Sciences – 3 Credits Minimum Required**

It is **recommended** that college-bound students take 3 courses containing labs. Biology, Chemistry, Physics, and Anatomy and Physiology are all great lab sciences. No credit is given for the lab portion. Some colleges may require students to take 3 science credits during high school, even if a science was taken for high school credit in the 8th grade. Physical Science (with lab), Biology (with lab), Chemistry (with lab), Physics (with lab), Anatomy and Physiology (with lab), Ecology (with lab), Geology (with lab), Nutrition Science, Astronomy, Botany, Zoology, Marine Biology. Other possible options: Horticulture, Life Science, Earth Science, Family & Consumer Science, and Meteorology. Your CRS can advise on additional recommendations.

### **Social Sciences – 3 Credits Minimum Required**

If a student takes more than 3 courses from this area of study, the extra course will be counted as an elective. U.S. history (Required for all U.S. students) (1 credit), Economics (0.5 credit), American Government (0.5 credit), Ancient History, European History, World Geography, World History. Other possible options: Western Civilization I or II, Macroeconomics, Microeconomics, Psychology, Sociology, Anthropology, Civics, Contemporary Issues. Your CRS can advise on additional recommendations.

**Personal Financial** – 0.5 credit; This is not a math or economics course.

**Physical Education and Health/Wellness** – 1 credit Physical Ed.; 0.5 credit Health/Wellness

**Foreign Language** – 2 credits; Recommended to take 2 years of same language.

### **Electives – So many choices...**

Dance, General Music, Instrumental Music, Art Appreciation, Music Appreciation, Music History, Music Theory, Theater Arts, Visual Arts, Vocal Music, Art History, Art of the Western World , Old Testament Study, New Testament Study, Bible, Bible History, Intro. to World Religions, Driver's Education (0.5 credit), Study Skills, ACT Prep (0.5 credit), Life Skills, Home Economics, Business Courses, Introduction to Computers, Computer Graphics, Auto Mechanic, Woodworking, Humanities, Drafting, Photography, etc. The list REALLY does go on and on.

### **Grading Guidelines:**

As per HomeLife Academy's Website: Most HLA parent-teachers do not use percentage grades in their teaching and grading. However, if you do prefer to use percentage grades, the HLA grading scale is as follows:

### **HLA Grading Scale**

**A+ (100) = 4.0**

**A (90-99) = 4.0**

**B+ (87-89) = 3.5**

**B (80-86) = 3.0**

**C+ (77-79) = 2.5**

**C (70-76) = 2.0**

**D+ (67-69) = 1.5**

**D (60-66) = 1.0**

**F (<60) = 0.0**

Note: All high school grades must be letter or numerical grades and not Satisfactory/Excellent or Pass/Fail. If you enter numerical grades, they will be converted to our grading scale above. Please refer to your CRS for complete guidelines.

**Work Permits** According to the TN Dept. of Labor & Work Force Development, the State of Tennessee does not require work permits. You can visit the following website [www.tn.gov/workforce/employees/labor-laws/labor-laws-redirect/child-labor.html](http://www.tn.gov/workforce/employees/labor-laws/labor-laws-redirect/child-labor.html) for details concerning ages, work hours, and work conditions. Students may receive course credit for Work Experience (300 hours=1 credit). Maximum 2 credits in high school. Please refer to your CRS for complete guidelines.

**Driver's License** [https://driving-tests.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/TN\\_DL\\_Manual.pdf](https://driving-tests.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/TN_DL_Manual.pdf)

The Tennessee Comprehensive Driver License Manual is available at the above link. Student must be age 15, pass a standard vision screening, and pass the Class D knowledge exam. Must hold permit for 180 days before permanent DL even if age 16. Documents needed: Proof of Citizenship, Proof of Social Security Number, Proof of Tennessee Residency, and a Minor/Teenage Affidavit. Must also provide a letter from school or CRS on letterhead within last 30 days stating student is registered and is progressing in classes. Please visit <https://www.tn.gov/driver-services.html> for the most up to date information.

### **Driver's Education**

So how do homeschooled students take driver's ed? There are several options. A good place to start is by asking those who have gone before you. For instance, what have people in your support group done for their young driver's training? Next, look at your state DMV website, which may provide a list of approved private driver's education services. Recent studies indicate that parental involvement is the most important factor in teaching teens safe driving behaviors. So check out home study courses. Some programs simply send you a curriculum, videos, and tapes providing systematic parent-taught driver's education. Others require the student and parents to track their progress and accomplishments through each lesson. States vary in what portions of parent dash taught drivers education your state will recognize for the purpose of your student qualifying for a driver's license, so be sure to verify that your home study course will count before you purchase it. Find out what driver's education discounts your insurance company offers and make sure that the program you choose will allow your teams to qualify. Two courses to check out are Driver's Ed in a Box at [www.driveredinabox.com](http://www.driveredinabox.com) and National Driver Training Institute at [www.usdrivertraining.com](http://www.usdrivertraining.com).

## **LET'S TALK TESTING...**

The ACT (originally American College Testing) is a standardized test used for college admissions in the United States and is the test most commonly used for students in our area. The ACT test covers four academic skill areas: English, mathematics, reading, and scientific reasoning. It also offers an optional direct writing test. It is accepted by all four-year colleges and universities in the United States as well as more than 225 universities outside of the U.S. The main four ACT test sections are individually scored on a scale of 1–36, and a composite score (the rounded whole number average of the four sections) is provided.

### **Just give me the basics...**

What: Test for college entry or for dual enrollment, usually taken 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, or 12<sup>th</sup> Grade

When: Six nationwide test dates during the year at local high schools/colleges

What: Register online, pay online, get scores online. Practice tests online as well.

Other: scholarships available for high scores, can take writing test or not, can have scores sent to colleges for dual enrollment or college entry. Taken spring of 10th grade for dual enrollment period need a score of 17 for dual enrollment at Lee University. Many schools require a minimum score of 19 on ACT. Please contact the dual enrollment coordinator at your college of interest for more information.

HomeLife Academy does not require students to take the ACT for graduation. Please check with your CRS or LEA to find out if the ACT is a graduation requirement.

### **Other tests you may explore:**

PSAT: Preliminary SAT

NMSAT: National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test

SAT: Reasoning Test (akin to ACT) for college entry

### **Dual Enrollment (Always check with your CRS):**

**What is it?** Dual enrollment is a student taking a class at a local college or university and getting both high school credit AND college credit for the same course. One semester of college is equal to one year of high school. Students can only take 100 and 200 level courses, but there are many choices of classes including PE, health, languages, the sciences, math, English, history, and tons of electives. Local classes are available at Lee University, Cleveland State Community College, and Bryan College.

**What are the benefits:** To lighten the student's course load in college years, learn to prioritize deadlines, time management, help them learn to respond to different world views they encounter, different teaching styles.

### **So how do I get started:**

- Must be a high school Junior or Senior (occasionally a sophomore, check with college)
- Have a GPA of 3.0 or higher
- Minimum ACT score of 19
- Online Applications (check with school for details)
- May be required to pay additional fees such as parking, application, books, etc.
- Check with student's future college to see if courses will count
- You can have transcripts sent to both umbrella school and college of choice

From [www.tn.gov/education/early-postsecondary/dual-enrollment.html](http://www.tn.gov/education/early-postsecondary/dual-enrollment.html): The dual enrollment grant is one of the Tennessee Education Lottery Scholarships, and it provides grant funding for dual enrollment tuition and fees. The dual enrollment grant pays the full cost of tuition and fees for a student's first two

dual enrollment courses at a community college. Information on grant eligibility and participation requirements is available on the Tennessee Student Assistance Cooperation website.

### **RECORD-KEEPING (TRANSCRIPTS/PORTFOLIOS)**

A *transcript* reflects the individualized progress of a student's academic work and is not designed to display all of the student's activities.

- It is best for a transcript to be simple and to the point – more is not always better.
- It is not recommended that a student complete more than 7-8 credits per year because the transcript may look padded.
- Courses such as Life Skills and Volunteer Work should not be on the transcript of a college-bound student, as that may actually weaken the transcript.
- Non-academic information such as character training, community service, volunteer work, descriptions of course work, achievements, and honors should be entered in the portfolio, which will accompany the transcript for college or scholarship applications, employment records, etc.

The *portfolio* is a formal record of all extracurricular activities, community service, awards, accomplishments, activities, projects, etc which we can print, seal, and send along with the official transcript. Colleges and universities love it it is like getting a record of all the classes a student completed (official transcript) WITH a complete resume (official portfolio). If you student is not college bound the portfolio can be sent to technical colleges, employers, or simply kept as a record for later use.

You should request a transcript from your CRS for college application. Most charge a fee. Colleges do want an official transcript with a school “seal”, not printed off by the student.

### **SPORTS TALK**

The Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association (TSSAA) permits a homeschooled student to participate in public school extracurricular athletics if that student's parent has filed a notice of intent for that student and has otherwise complied with the requirements of Tennessee Code Annotated § 49-6-3050(b). Homeschool students associated with a church-related school, or operating in a satellite of a church-related school, may also participate in public school extracurricular athletics, subject to compliance with TSSAA eligibility rules. (See other eligibility requirements: [TSSAA Bylaws](#), art. II, § 25, page 23). Please visit page 54 of the Bylaws for FAQ <https://cms-files.tssaa.org/documents/tssaa/2020-21TSSAABylaws.pdf>. Additionally, if your student athlete is college-bound, visit <https://www.ncaa.org/student-athletes/future/home-school-students> for all the information you need to know about playing high school sports and beyond, including a downloadable Home School Tool Kit for homeschool students.



Bradley Knights Sports Co-op is an athletic organization that serves our local homeschool community in a Christ-centered atmosphere. There are several sports opportunities available for high school students, including basketball, baseball, and football. Please visit [www.bradleyknights.org](http://www.bradleyknights.org) for more information about their current offerings.

### **Final Words of Advice:**

- Develop a network of “mentors” whose children are a few years older than yours
- Look over this info again and again, every few months
- Begin looking at colleges and help your child think about the future
- Pray about who and what God has designed your child to be and do
- Keep good record – even if they’re just papers in a folder
- Ask questions!

<b>Recommended Courses for College4</b>		
<b>ENGLISH</b>	<b>4 CREDITS</b>	English 9, 10, 11, 12 or Dual Enrollment courses.
<b>MATH</b>	<b>4 CREDITS</b>	Algebra I, Algebra II, Geometry, Pre-calculus, Calculus, Statistics, or Dual Enrollment courses.
<b>SCIENCE</b>	<b>3 CREDITS</b>	Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Dual Enrollment courses, or other lab sciences
<b>US HISTORY</b>	<b>1 CREDIT</b>	US History (required for US citizens)
<b>SOCIAL STUDIES</b>	<b>2 CREDITS</b>	World History, Government, Economics, or Dual Enrollment courses
<b>PERSONAL FINANCE</b>	<b>1/2 CREDIT</b>	Not the same as Economics and is in addition to the math requirement.
<b>HEALTH</b>	<b>1/2 CREDIT</b>	If Wellness is taken at a public/private school, it will transfer to HLA as 1/2 health and 1/2 credit of PE.
<b>PHYSICAL EDUCATION</b>	<b>1 CREDIT</b>	150 hours of any physical activity or sport.
<b>Recommended Electives—6 Credits</b>		
<b>FOREIGN LANGUAGE</b>	<b>2 CREDITS</b>	Two (2) years of same language.
<b>PERFORMING ARTS</b>	<b>1 CREDIT</b>	Music, Art, Drama, Dance, Art/Music History Appreciation
<b>COMPUTER COURSE</b>	<b>1 CREDIT</b>	Choose any computer-related course.
<b>OTHER ELECTIVES</b>	<b>2 CREDITS</b>	Choose any elective based on your goals or interests.
<b>TOTAL CREDITS</b>	<b>22 CREDITS</b>	<b>REQUIRED FOR GRADUATION</b>

\*Information obtained from HomeLife Academy