

Curriculum, Transcripts, Diplomas...oh my!

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Developing a High School Plan

1. Begin at the End

2. The 4-year plan.

3. Evaluating High School Credit

4. Grading Guidelines

5. Transcripts

6. Diplomas

Resources:

Homeschooling Thru High School: www.hslida.org

CHOIS Discount code for HSLDA membership is 299536

Book: *Accelerated Distance Learning* by Brad Voeller

Information about SAT and PSAT, and where to register: www.collegeboard.com

Information and registration for ACT: www.ACT.org

Transcript help at www.hslida.org

Book: *Home School Guidance Counselor* by David Calihan

Information about college financial aid: www.finaid.org and www.fastweb.com

Information on Career Resources and Grading Guidelines: www.hslida.org

Graduation: www.chois.org, click on the Graduation tab

IOWA test for Idaho dual enrollment and sports participation: www.iche-idaho.org

Register to attend homechool convention, subscribe to CHOIS Connection, sign up for e-newsletter: www.chois.org

CHOIS Facebook pages: CHOIS, Homeschooling Idaho, Idaho State Homeschool Graduation

Information about Congressional Awards: www.congressionalaward.org This is a very worthwhile program where students earn the only medals presented by the US Congress. They look fabulous on resumes and college applications!

Idaho Public School Graduation Standards: www.sde.idaho.gov/topics/hs-grad-req/

Website for evaluating credits: www.hslida.org/highschool/docs/EvaluatingCredits.asp

Website for calculating a GPA: www.quickstarhomeschool.com/2011/02/calculating-a-high-school-gpa/

A Few Curriculum Suggestions:

These suggestions are not an endorsement, and there are many other excellent curriculum choices available.

A. Math: Teaching Textbooks, www.teachingtextbooks.com; Videotext Interactive Algebra, www.videotext.com; Saxon math, but I recommend using Dive Into Math companion CD's, www.diveintomath.com; www.saxonhomeschool.com; Bob Jones HomeSat, www.bjup.com; Abeka and especially their Consumer Math, www.abeka.org; MathUSee, www.mathusee.com; Helpful free online math diagnostic tool and paid program www.aleks.com.

B. Science: Apologia Science, www.apologia.com

C. Literature: Bob Jones British and American Literature, www.bjup.com. Apologia American Literature, www.apologia.com;

D. Worldview: David Quine's Cornerstone Curriculum Project: Worldviews of the Western World, www.cornerstonecurriculum.com; Tapestry of Grace, www.tapestryofgrace.com; Understanding the Times, www.summit.org

E. English: Traditional Workbooks: Bob Jones English, www.bjup.com; Abeka, www.abeka.org, Easy Grammar, www.easygrammar.com, Composition: Writing for Excellence, www.iew.com;

College Board Exams

Sophomore's take PSAT National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Exam for practice. They are taken in the Junior year for qualifying. Register at www.collegeboard.com

Begin taking SAT or ACT in the spring of the Junior year, or fall of the Senior. Register for SAT at www.collegeboard.com. Register for the ACT at www.ACT.org. Students are allowed to take their own calculators, and #2 pencils with them. No scratch paper. If test is taken more than once, be aware that colleges will see ALL scores.

Take ACT Compass exam at any Idaho college's testing center. It is an automatically scored, computerized test. A student cannot take anything into the test with them. They will be given a 4-function calculator (add, subtract, multiply, divide) to use during the test. They are not allowed to use their own calculator. It is taken in 3 parts, Reading, English and Math. Once a student misses 3 questions on a test, the test automatically shuts off and a score is given.

CLEP tests and AP tests are given at a college testing center.

Tips for preparing your child for college:

1. Practice note-taking from Sunday sermons. Good note-taking skills are essential for college success.
2. Teach your child to study for tests that cover a lot of material. Colleges test less frequently, and have fewer assignments so good test grades are important. Give cumulative quarter and semester tests.
3. Begin giving assignments that have deadlines 2-3 weeks in the future. Set consequences for lateness.
4. Practice formatting compositions the way that a college requires. Every college has their own booklet on how to prepare papers so get your prospective colleges formatting book and start early.
5. Develop a rich vocabulary by reading good books. Most colleges have Suggested Reading lists. It is good to read these while your child is at home so that you can discuss big ideas with them, and have input prior to the input of a college professor. Good vocabulary building books include *Vocabulary Cartoons* by Sam Burchers. Other good SAT/ACT vocabulary preps are *How to Read a Book* by Mortimer Adler, and *Commas are Our Friends, Commas are Our Friends*, by Joe Devine.
6. Use some test preps. I like Princeton Review for SAT, and also like their preps for the writing portion of the SAT, which is a separate book. These books have many time-saving tips in them, so if you purchase them be sure to go through the chapters; don't skip the reading and go directly to the practice tests, or you will miss nuggets.
7. Remember that these are very special (and quickly expiring) days with your teen. Enjoy them to the maximum. Develop friendship and trust and be ready to enjoy a more adult relationship with your child.