

Hillcrest Christian School Independent Study Program Middle School

Hillcrest Christian School Independent Study Program (HCSISP) is designed for those wishing to home school their children with minimal assistance from the professional staff at Hillcrest Christian School. The program offers record keeping, support, encouragement, standardized testing and cooperative activities. Its purpose is to encourage and support families who have chosen a home-based education, and who seek the benefits a Christian school can offer.

Our Purpose and Philosophy of Home Education

HCSISP seeks to partner with families as an extension of their home-based program. HCSISP will provide families with the guidance to enhance the training of their children, both academically and spiritually.

- The ultimate purpose of the Hillcrest Christian School Independent Study Program is to glorify God.
- Quality education – academically, spiritually, socially, physically, culturally, and emotionally is provided, from a Biblical point of view.
- The Biblical point of view helps parents raise their children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.
- As a school, our goal is to assist our students in developing a Biblical worldview, while encouraging parents to do the same.
- God is the author of all truth, and the Bible should be the foundation and center of education.
- Regular evaluation and accountability with other believers is an integral part of home education.
- Parents are responsible for the oversight of both the academic and spiritual education of their children.

- **The Program**
- The Independent Study Program is available to those families who desire to closely direct and monitor their children's learning. This program offers:
 - The option of involvement in Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI) events.*
 - Participation in sports, music and other programs at Hillcrest Christian School.*
 - Enrichment programs at Hillcrest Christian School, such as Discovery, Dance, Cheer, etc.*
 - Planned field trips and activities with the child's grade level peers at HCS.*
 - Access to the HCS library.
 - Stanford Achievement Test administration for grades K-10.
 - Academic recordkeeping service including progress reports and report cards for grades 6-8.
 - State filing as necessary.
 - Transcript service.
 - Diploma Program*
 - Eighth grade graduation*

HCSISP Opportunities and Activities Include:

- On-campus classes for grades 6-8 during school hours.
- Attendance at class field trips (parent pays admittance fees).*
- Participation in the Discovery Program if needed and requested.*

- Participation in afterschool athletics.*
- 6-8 boys' flag football, basketball, soccer; girls' volleyball, softball, basketball, cheer. There is a required participation fee for each sport played.
- Participation in after school performing arts academy and afterschool classes and activities.*
- **Students and parents are encouraged to attend weekly chapels and the twice yearly spiritual emphasis week chapels.**
- Option to participate in major fundraisers and prizes.
- School photos and ID's.*
- Yearbook.*
- Library use after school.
- Parent Student Handbooks and school calendar are provided.

Enrollment Requirements

To be eligible for HCSISP, families must meet the following requirements:

- Complete the application form and all other required forms.
- Parents must provide current TB/immunization test results.
- Submit the testing fee or Stanford scores from within the last six months (Fee non-refundable).
- **Interview with the Principal.**

Other Requirements

- When admitted, pay the registration fee (non-refundable).
- Follow appropriate payment schedules.
- Choose on-campus courses. **Bible is a required on-campus course.**
- While parents may choose any curriculum (except for on-campus courses), the course work must be based on a curriculum approved by HCS and consistent with the philosophy and academic rigor of HCS.
- Provide and pay for any home school curriculum approved by HCSISP.
- The student must adhere to the same standards of behavior and citizenship as those outlined in the HCS Parent/Student Handbook. **This includes participation on sports teams, in sports events, choir and other events.** Appropriate discipline will be taken if these standards are not met. Students who leave the team either by their own volition or who are asked to leave by the school administration will not be given a refund for fees paid.
- Uniforms purchased from our school vendor are required for on-campus classes.
- **Students are required to attend weekly chapels and the twice yearly spiritual emphasis week chapels**
- **Students must adhere to the same standards of behavior and citizenship as those outlined in the HCS Parent/Student Handbook. This includes behavior when participating on sports teams and in sports events. Appropriate discipline will be taken if these standards are not met. *Students who leave the team either by their own volition or who are asked to leave by the school administration will not be given a refund of fees paid.***

Fees

- Registration Fee \$325 (non-refundable).
- Testing Fee \$100 (non-refundable).
- Coordinator/Advisement fee \$400 (yearly fee, payment plan available)

- Class fees for courses taken on campus. \$1000 per course. (payment plan available). **Bible is required to be taken on campus.**
- **Cost for sports and other activities will be the same as charged to HCS families.**
- **Independent School parents are responsible to:**
- Maintain membership in Home School Legal Defense Association (HSLDA).
- Comply with all recordkeeping requirements including but not limited to: lesson plans, attendance, assignments with grades and etc.

Attendance Record Requirements

1. One Attendance Record is required for each student enrolled. You may use the form that is found online at the HCS site or may make your own that follows the same guidelines. The form is due June 15th or the end of your second semester each year.
2. The top portion of the Attendance Record must be neatly hand-written or typed. You may use the form provided by HCSISP or you may use your computer to make a similar form.
3. Enter the letter "E" for the first day you begin schooling. Thereafter, you will only enter slash marks for each day of school. Do not enter sick days, vacations or holidays. Leave weekends blank unless schooling takes place. Use black or dark blue ink, (no pencils) and make slash marks bold and dark.
4. Total the columns for each month. At the end of the school year, record the total number of days schooled. You will turn in your original with all totals recorded. Keep an additional copy for your records.
5. A minimum of 175 days of attendance is required to meet state regulations.
6. If you leave Hillcrest Christian School's ISP, you must enter the letter "W" in the square corresponding with student's last day of school. Then mail the original Attendance Record along with the ending Report Card to the school.

Failure to turn in paperwork on time may result being dropped from HCSISP.

Grade Report Requirements

Grade reports are mandatory for all students. You may use the form that is found online at the HCS site or may make your own that follows the same guidelines. Grade reporting needs to follow HCS protocol, that is: A = 90-100%, B = 80-89%, C= 70 – 79%, D = 60-69% F = less than 60%.

HCSISP requires that at least two grades per subject be entered each week. Grade reports are turned in at the end of each semester. If students are schooling year-round and their end-of-semester does not correspond to Hillcrest Christian School's, they must turn in interim report cards at the end of each semester. Indicate that the report card is not the final copy. When you have finished your semester, please turn in your final report card. (Please indicate that this is the final copy.)

Grade report may be hand-written or done on computer. If your report card is hand-written or has any errors, a new copy for school records will be made. A copy of this will be given to you so that you may review it and make sure it is the same as the one you turned in. If it is not, call HCSISP.

List the courses the same way they are listed on the Course Summaries form. Be sure to use "A" and "B" when required. Courses that can be taken for more than one school year must indicate the course year and semester. For example, Algebra IA, Spanish IIB. In these examples the student has completed one semester of first year Algebra, and two semesters of the second year of Spanish.

Lesson plans must contain the following:

- Student's legal name.
- The present school year.
- The student's grade level.
- The name of the curriculum you are using recorded at the beginning of each quarter.
- Dates schooled.
- The pages and concepts covered, videos viewed, reports and essays written, etc.
- A record of sick days, vacations, holidays and field trips.

Choosing Curriculum:

Independent studies education offers the tremendous opportunity to design a program that uniquely fits your child and your family. It is important to take into account the child's learning style, the parent's teaching style, the child's level of success, what character and academic goals you have for your student, and your curriculum budget. Most standard textbook companies follow a typical course of study for those topics that should be taught within each grade level. You the parent know your student better than anyone and love your child more than anyone! You are the best person suited to make the decision about which curriculum is best for your child. When you have chosen a curriculum and before purchasing, it is to be submitted to HCHSISP for approval.

Suggested Reading for Inquiring Parents:

- The How and Why of Homeschooling, by Ray E. Ballmann, 1995
- The Ultimate Guide to Homeschooling, by Debra Bell, 1997
- The Hurried Child, by David Elkind
- Should I Home School?, by Elizabeth and Daniel Hamilton

Home School Legal Defense Association (HSLDA):

P.O. Box 159; Paeonian Springs, VA; 22129; (540) 338-5600;

Book Sources (and Catalogs):

- Answers in Genesis Ministries (science) (800) 778-3390 or www.AnswersInGenesis.org
- Beautiful Feet Books (history through literature) (508) 833-8626 or www.bfbooks.com
- Critical Thinking Books & Software (800) 458-4849 or www.criticalthinking.com
- Educators Publishing Service (800) 225-5750
- Explorer's Bible Study Curriculum (800) 657-2874 or www.explorerbiblestudy.org
- Home Training Tools (science equip and materials) (800) 860-6272 or www.HomeTrainingTools.com
- How Great Thou Art (art curriculum) 800-982-3729 or www.howgreatthouart.com
- Lifetime Books: (800) 377-0390 or (863) 676-6311
- Modern Curriculum Press (800) 321-3106
- Nasco (science and math catalogs) (800) 558-9595
- Saxon (Phonics and K-12 Math) (800) 284-7019 www.saxonpub.com
- Timberdoodle (variety of supplies) (360) 426-0672
- Total Language Plus (novel studies) www.totallanguageplus.com

Textbook Companies:

ABeka Books (800) 874-2352 www.ABEKA.com
Bob Jones University Press (800) 845-5731 www.bjup.com
Calvert School (888) 487-4652 or www.calvertschool.org
Christian Liberty Academy School System (800) 348-0899
Christian Liberty Press (800) 832-2471 or www.homeschools.org
Modern Curriculum Press (800) 321-3106
Sonlight Curriculum (303) 730-6292 www.sonlight-curriculum.com
School of Tomorrow (800) 925-7777 www.schooloftomorrow.com

Unit Study Style Curriculum:

Konos (Character based) (972) 924-2712 info@konos.com

Magazines:

The Teaching Home, Box 20219; Portland, OR 97294 (503) 253-9633
Homeschooling Today, P.O. Box 1425; Melrose FL, 32666 (954) 962-1930
Practical Homeschooling, P.O. Box 1250; Fenton, MO 63026-1850 (800) 346-6322

State Organizations:

Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI)
Christian Home Educators Association of California (CHEA of California) (800) 564-2432
or visit their website: www.cheaofca.org

NOTICE OF NON-DISCRIMINATION Hillcrest Christian School admits students of any race, color, national and ethnic origin to all rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national, and ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship and loan programs, athletic and other school-administered programs.