

# Hillcrest Christian School Independent Study Program Elementary 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, Performing Arts Academy, 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 K-5.
  - State filing as necessary.
  - Fifth grade culmination\*

## **HCSISP Opportunities and Activities Include:**

- On-campus classes for grades K-5 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.\*

- K-5 coed basketball and soccer. 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 spiritual emphasis week.**
- 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 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 spiritual emphasis week chapels.**

### Fees

- Registration Fee \$325 (non-refundable).
- Testing Fee \$100 (non-refundable).
- Coordinator/Advisement fee \$400 (yearly fee, payment plan available)
- 50% reduction in the regular tuition for attending from 8:30 a.m. to lunch. (3 classes including Bible)
- 75% reduction in regular tuition for taking Bible and one other class.
- Class fees for taking Bible on campus. \$1000. (payment plan available for each option). **Bible is required to be taken on campus.**
- Students in the half day program can attend before school daycare (no charge) and stay for lunch.
- **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 170 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.

### **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](http://www.AnswersInGenesis.org)  
Beautiful Feet Books (history through literature) (508) 833-8626 or [www.bfbooks.com](http://www.bfbooks.com)  
Critical Thinking Books & Software (800) 458-4849 or [www.criticalthinking.com](http://www.criticalthinking.com)  
Educators Publishing Service (800) 225-5750  
Explorer's Bible Study Curriculum (800) 657-2874 or [www.explorerbiblestudy.org](http://www.explorerbiblestudy.org)  
Home Training Tools (science equip and materials) (800) 860-6272 or [www.HomeTrainingTools.com](http://www.HomeTrainingTools.com)  
How Great Thou Art (art curriculum) 800-982-3729 or [www.howgreatthouart.com](http://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](http://www.saxonpub.com)  
Timberdoodle (variety of supplies) (360) 426-0672  
Total Language Plus (novel studies) [www.totallanguageplus.com](http://www.totallanguageplus.com)

### **Textbook Companies:**

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

**Unit Study Style Curriculum:**

Konos (Character based) (972) 924-2712 [info@konos.com](mailto: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](http://www.cheaofca.org)

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