

THE HIGH SCHOOL YEARS

Homing in on the key challenges

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1) A whole new game.

Need to be clearheaded about this choice — difficult to reverse course.

- *In our state, legislation leaves the whole issue of refusing/accepting credits to the discretion of local school boards & administrators; you need to inform yourself about how it works in your state.*
- *Think your teen may change her mind? — Before you start home-schooling, you may want meet with your schoolboard to learn about their policies*

Changes in your student

- *A period of intense physical / emotional / intellectual change*
- *The pushback*

Outside pressures: credits for graduation, college requirements, etc.

- *Content balancing student's interests & aims with general needs*

Changes to your role

- *Keeper of the plan, the strategy*
- *Keeper of educational values & standards*
- *Counselor & Record-keeper*

2) Your student's social needs

Easy to underestimate the importance for your student of contact with peers.

— *It's probably the number-one reason kids ask to go back to school.*

— *End up sacrificing your own academic standards.*

Solution: Get connected to your local homeschooling communities.

— *Seek out local homeschooling groups in your area: Facebook groups, church groups, Meetup.com, etc.*

— *Go further: Look for co-ops / weekly meet-ups / activities. —Host something yourself!*

— *Look beyond the homeschooling world: what's in your community?*

3) Academics.

When your students were little, the focus was getting them excited about learning; this objective is more valid than ever during the H.S. years!

— *Our solution: Hold high standards — help your student achieve really high standards. (Prepare to be surprised...)*

Make an educational plan for your student.

— *Cover all the subjects across the curriculum.*

Three tracks (opposite) — tailor to your student's goals.

— *What if your student's goals are not so clear?*

For coursework, lots of options:

— *Online—asynchronous vs. live/interactive*

— *Co-ops, college classes, “learning pods”*

— *Build-your-own (build courses using external resources, like Great*

Courses, Coursera, etc.)

- *Curriculum in a box (Bob Jones Grade 9, Memoria Press Grade 11)*

Watch your student closely:

- *If you see signs of struggle, re-evaluate your choices.*

- *Get to the root cause:*

- 1) Is your student over-booked?*
- 2) Are there fundamentals (skills, knowledge) not being addressed?*

Find the best teachers.

- *Tempting to focus on course types: AP, dual enrollment, co-op, etc. — but that's not the priority.*

- *Need teachers who are not only content experts but have the ability to inspire.*

- *Your student is figuring out her own interests, passions, ambitions.*

- *The high school curriculum gives one bite at each of many apples: chemistry, geometry, foreign language, U.S. history, Jane Eyre, Shakespeare... — one taste of each subject.*

- *Reach out to prospective teachers; find out what you're buying.*

Three tracks for high school

	Possible courses	Suggested credits for		
		high school graduation	general college	highly selective college
English	Composition, literature, rhetoric, creative writing, speech/communications, journalism, debate. <i>For general college:</i> AP or college courses should be considered. <i>For highly selective colleges:</i> AP or college courses are strongly recommended.	4	4	4+
Math	Algebra 1 & 2, geometry, precalculus/trigonometry, calculus, AP calculus. <i>For highly selective colleges:</i> AP courses strongly recommended. Consider statistics and accounting.	3	3–4	4+
History	World history, American history, U.S. government. <i>For general college:</i> Consider AP courses, economics, geography, constitutional law. <i>For highly selective colleges:</i> Also consider sociology, psychology, political science. AP and college courses strongly recommended.	2–3	3–4	4+
Science	Physical science, general science, earth science, biology, chemistry, physics. <i>For general college:</i> Consider AP courses. <i>For highly selective colleges:</i> AP courses strongly recommended.	2–3	3–4	4+
Foreign language	French, Spanish, Latin, German, Russian, etc. <i>At least two years of same language is preferred.</i>	2–3	3–4	3–4
Physical education	<i>Many options available.</i>	1–2	1–2	1–2
Fine arts	Art, music, drama, photography, film, etc.	1–2	1–2	1–2
Electives	Practical arts, life skills, computer skills, Bible, etc.	5	5	5
Total credits		20–22	24–28	26–30

For full explanation, see video:

“What course credits does my student need?”

<https://hscollegebound.com/hscbs.htm>

Online courses

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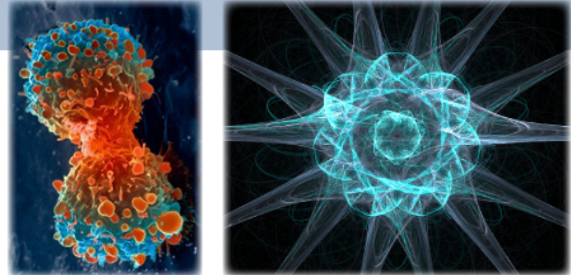
SCIENCE INTENSIVES — 8 weeks, 16 sessions

- **Ecology w/lab** — Sept. 25 – Nov. 22, 2024.
- **Genetics w/lab** — Jan. 15 – March 14, 2025.
- **Botany w/lab** — March 26 – May 23, 2025.



SCIENCE — Year-long, honors-level instruction

- **Honors Biology with Lab** — begins August 27, 2024.
- **Honors Chemistry with Lab** — begins August 27, 2024.
Includes instruction in writing formal lab reports



WRITING — Year-long, honors-level instruction

- **Writer's Guide to Grammar** — begins Sept. 11, 2024.
- **Logical Communication** — begins August 26 or 27, 2024.
- **Essay Writing & Appreciation** — begins August 26, 2024.



LITERATURE — Year-long, honors-level instruction

- **History & Lit. of the Middle Ages** — begins Aug. 27, 2024.
- **Novels by Women** — begins Aug. 26, 2024.



SHAKESPEARE INTENSIVES — 7–11 weeks

- **Romeo & Juliet** — begins Sept. 4, 2024. (10 sessions)
- **Hamlet** — begins December 4, 2024. (11 sessions)
- **Macbeth** — begins March 26, 2025. (7 sessions)



Free Summer Sessions

FOR PARENTS

The High School Years: The key challenges

The challenges unique to the high school years—and the things we parents tend to overlook or underestimate

7:00 pm EST, Wednesday, July 17, 2024

This one-hour workshop takes place online and is free to all registrants. Space is limited. To secure your spot, register here:

<https://hscollegebound.com/Online-Courses.htm>

FOR PARENTS

Study Skills: Intentional learning across the curriculum

Skills & practices vital to succeeding in the high school years & in college

7:00 pm EST, Tuesday, July 23, 2024

This one-hour workshop takes place online and is free to all registrants. Space is limited. To secure your spot, register here:

<https://hscollegebound.com/Online-Courses.htm>