



# HIGHLANDS LATIN *Nashville*

## Homeschooling in High School

- Check to see what 8th grade credits can count for high school credits: Algebra 1, Foreign Language, Science with Lab, World History. Sometimes there is a maximum of 3 credits allowed. Check with your state requirements.
- Book List for college applications: Create a separate one-page Book List of everything your child has read in high school to send with the college application. [Sample HLN Booklist](#) of a recent HLN senior.
- Portfolio:
  - List all jobs, volunteer hours, extracurricular activities. Start keeping track in 9th grade because you'll forget things. Volunteer hours are especially difficult for most homeschoolers to acquire. Leadership experience can also be hard to get.
  - Things like Governor's School (rising 11th and 12th graders). List any leadership positions such as camp counselor, youth group advisory member. List any awards or certificates earned in high school, such as National Latin Exam Gold Medals, black belt, poetry contests.
  - Apply for summer academic camps: farm, scholars, science, music, sports, law, writing, media, healthcare, theology, computer.

**\*\*You might not use all of these activities for resumes or post high school plans, but keeping track as you go makes life easier later when filling out applications.**

- *There is a 5-year high school plan where students do an additional 12th grade year. Why choose this option?*
  - *Extra time for Dual Enrollment, more time to mature before college, student started Kindergarten too young or skipped grades, illness or family tragedy caused delays in plan, family traveled and spread out the course of study*

## **DUAL ENROLLMENT (DE)**

1 College Class=3-4 College Credits=1 High School Year Credit

You can take DE at community colleges, public, private, and even online.

- Advantages of already having college credits when starting college:
  - Students *sometimes* save money
  - Good for those who Double Major
  - Demonstrates student's ability to have academic success at a college level
  - Students finish college earlier. (Could also be a disadvantage by starting work force younger)
- Disadvantages of already having college credits when starting college:
  - Classes meet 2-4 times/week, maybe nights
  - Students are in classes with older students both during Dual Enrollment and during Freshman year of college.
  - Difference in academic calendar breaks. Fall/Spring breaks may not align with the rest of the family, or with tutorial.
  - Most colleges require students to declare a major at the end of their sophomore semester. Students who begin college with a lot of credits may have to declare a major before they are ready.
  - Students will be pushed into upper level, possibly harder, classes sooner because they have already taken many freshman level courses.
- Ideas for DE courses: Computer *Anything*, Communications, Psychology, Sociology, Computer Graphics, Marketing/Business, Photography, Art, Art History, History, Economics, Anthropology
- Check your state for a Dual Enrollment Grant

## AP/CLEP

- AP (Advanced Placement) courses and exams are created by The College Board. If a student passes the AP test, their college may award college credit for the course. Students can take AP **tests** without taking an AP **class**. **Note:** *Not all colleges accept AP college credits.* <https://ap.collegeboard.org/?navId=ap-lu>
- CLEP is a College Level Examination Program that offers exams to test out of a college course. Check with your colleges of choice to see about taking CLEP to receive college credit. CLEP exams are about \$87 each.  
CLEP: <https://clep.collegeboard.org/earn-college-credit/clep-basics>
- Some colleges may give tests for *placement* but not college *credit* if a student has done work in a subject area.
- PSAT <https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/psat-nmsqt-psat-10>
  - Take in 10th grade to practice; take in 11th grade to count for National Merit Scholarship. Must make arrangements with a school in spring to take in October.
- CLT 10 (\$44) and CLT 8 (\$34) Classical Learning Test version of PSAT  
<https://www.cltexam.com/products/clt10>
- Alternative to ACT/SAT:
  - Classical Learning Test (CLT): <https://www.cltexam.com/>
    - Online test only; Same-day test results
    - Over 200 colleges accept as alternative to ACT/SAT
- Tips for scholarship search:
  - Set up a different email account for this purpose
  - Do not enter drawings or apply for scholarships that do not require anything more than your name and email. These are not legitimate.
  - Make a list of things about yourself: interests, hobbies, intended major, religious preference, name brand products you use on a regular basis for your extracurricular activities (art supplies, sports equipment, dancewear, pens, paper, soda, car, clothes), name of bank, city, county, state, gender, learning difference, GPA, college test scores, favorite subject. Use any key word you can think of as search words for scholarships.
  - Be prepared to write essays for legitimate scholarships.

## **Suggested timeline of events depending on your path**

### **8th grade**

\*CLT8: an end-of-grade assessment for 8th-grade students as they prepare for high school.

### **9th grade**

\*Casually visit colleges starting now and for the next few years. Have a little fun and take some notes.

\*Much of what you “need” to do in high school is based on the college you plan to attend, if any. Research colleges you are interested in and get their exact requirements; some specify, some do not. Search college’s website for the word “homeschool” as many have dedicated information for homeschooled students.

\*CLT10: a preparatory assessment for 9th- and 10th-grade students.

\*If you want to take the PSAT in October of 10th grade as practice, contact a testing site (possibly a private school in the area) to register in the spring of the **9th** grade year.

### **10th grade**

\*Take ACT/SAT in April or June (no prep necessary) for baseline testing

\*Use this information to see what areas need work.

\*Do ACT/SAT prep as needed.

\*CLT10: a preparatory assessment for 9th- and 10th-grade students. Creates eligibility for certain scholarships (similar to the PSAT).

\*If you want to take the PSAT in October of 11th grade, contact a testing site (possibly a private school in the area) to register in the spring of the **10th** grade year. Taking this test in October of 11th grade PSAT determines a student’s eligibility for the National Merit Scholarship. See below.

\*Continue casual college visits.

### **11th grade**

\*Take ACT/SAT as soon as possible.

\*Take CLT: new standard for college exams.

\*Take PSAT/NMSQT - qualifying test for National Merit Scholarship in October (1-2% will qualify). You must register in the spring with a testing site. Some private schools allow homeschoolers to sit for this exam, but you must contact them *the spring before*.

\*Narrow list of schools and consider official spring visits (some offer Junior Visit Days, allow you to attend a class, stay on campus overnight in a dorm, etc.).

\*Summer visits are often also offered but the vibe is different because students aren’t around.

\*Retake ACT/SAT in the summer or early fall to improve score, if needed.

### **12th grade**

\*Do final rounds of college visits in the fall, put due dates on calendars and start application and scholarship essays (start essays the summer before 12th grade, if possible).

\*Retake ACT/SAT if needed to improve score.

\*Apply for financial aid by Oct 1.

\*Reach out to teachers for letters of recommendation; give 3-4 weeks notice.

\*College applications due in the fall and winter (dates vary, including early decision options which can affect some scholarship opportunities).