



HIGHLANDS LATIN *Cottage School* — Louisville —

HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA PROGRAM Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What is the Diploma Program and why is it important?

A: The Diploma Program (DP) is an intentional, carefully structured program offered to Cottage School high school students in the Louisville area to earn their diploma through Highlands Latin Cottage School (HLCS). The Cottage School, in partnership with committed homeschool families, provides access to knowledgeable instructors, a rigorous curriculum, classroom training and accountability. Specific details may be found on our website at <https://hls.org/cottage-school/#diploma>

Q: What are the benefits of the Diploma Program?

A: There are many benefits to being part of the Diploma Program. First, it offers curriculum structure, which eliminates guesswork for parents and students regarding classes that are required for graduation. DP students are also eligible to participate in athletics with full-time Highlands Latin School (HLS) teams. Families receive consultation and course advising, college planning assistance, and receive a diploma from Highlands Latin Cottage School.

Q: Can a high school student still take classes at the Cottage School if they are not in the Diploma Program?

A: Yes, we welcome DP students and non-DP students alike!

Q: Is my student still considered homeschooled if he or she is in the Diploma Program?

A: Yes, he or she is still considered homeschooled. Letters are sent to the Department of Education by families at the start of each school year.

Q: How many credit hours does my student need to have to graduate from high school?

A: Each state has its own rules and regulations regarding graduation requirements for homeschooled students. Our Diploma Program exceeds the graduation requirements for public schools in Kentucky and Indiana.

Q: Can my student graduate from HLCS if he or she is not in the Diploma Program?

A: Yes! We recognize all graduating seniors.

Q: When do students typically apply for the Diploma Program?

A: Students typically apply right before or during their freshman year of high school. Students may apply as early as their 8th grade year and as late as the first trimester of their sophomore year.

Q: My student has taken 9th grade classes as an 8th grader. Do those classes apply to the requirements of the Diploma Program?

A: The Diploma Program is a high school program, developed for grades 9-12. We are thrilled to have students work at an advanced pace, but still expect students to take the required amount of

high school credit hours, which means 8th grade classes will not apply. Exceptional cases may arise and will be evaluated by the Director of the Cottage School on an individual basis. Please see the Diploma Program details on the website for the number of courses required for each subject. Some students take Logic, Latin, or Classical courses during their 9th grade years that are suggested 8th grade courses. This is acceptable as each student comes to us needing a unique progression of courses.

Q: Do you provide college counseling?

A: HLCS Administration offers family-specific meetings with DP students and their parents for college planning and provides on-going tools and support as needed. These meetings typically take place during the student's junior year unless otherwise requested. Non-DP students will receive documentation and tools to support them in their college planning efforts.

Q: How does dual enrollment work?

A: Some institutions offer dual enrollment opportunities for students. HLCS does not manage this for our students; this is up to parents to research. We recommend that parents contact the Admissions office of colleges for information on their dual enrollment offerings. Dual enrollment courses do not appear on the HLCS transcript, and parents are asked to notify the school at the start of the year with their plans for dual enrollment. Parents are responsible for selecting courses that meet the expectations of the state.

Q: What standardized tests do you offer?

A: We offer the PSAT, and HLS offers the ACT to both full-time and Cottage School students. There are fees associated with these opportunities. Information for both tests will come from the Cottage School. Parents will need to research where the SAT is offered if that is a test you wish for your student to take. At the Cottage School, we highly recommend students take the PSAT and the ACT, even though many schools are test optional.

Q: Why are standardized tests important?

A. The PSAT must be taken for 11th graders to be considered for the National Merit Scholarship. The ACT is strongly recommended for homeschooled and regularly enrolled students alike because scores are often a major factor in collegiate academic scholarships. While the ACT is a more popular test, the SAT is an option for students who prefer that testing format. In addition, some colleges accept the CLT (Classical Learning Test). Parents/students are responsible for researching the CLT.

Q: I don't understand how transcripts work. Can you explain?

A: Transcripts are provided for high school students only and provide GPAs (grade point averages) based on courses taken in grades 9-12. Students receive transcripts from HLCS for the courses they take at HLCS. We also include courses taken at HLS (applicable to transfer students) and Memoria Press Online Academy (parents must provide records to us). It is the parent's responsibility for keeping accurate records of credit hours and grades for courses taken outside of HLCS as well as creating their own homeschool transcripts. There are many helpful online resources to help homeschooling parents create a transcript.

Q: How does a student apply for the Diploma Program?

A: Please see our website for the application form. After submission of the form, students and one or both parents are required to meet with the school Director.