



2023-2024 High School Diploma Program

The Highlands Latin Cottage School offers a partnership with committed homeschool families in the Louisville area. Our High School Program offers access to knowledgeable instructors, a rigorous curriculum, classroom training and accountability. The Highlands Latin Cottage School is a Classical Latin School Association (CLSA) accredited program. High school students are free to enroll in classes as an a-la-carte option that supplements further coursework at home.

Students interested in our High School Diploma Program can apply after the completion of their 8th grade year but must apply prior to January 1st of their sophomore year. Exceptions may be made on a case-by-case basis, in which case the school will require a comprehensive homeschool transcript and interview. In order to graduate, students must meet the schedule and course requirements outlined below.

Each student graduating must earn at least 26 credits, 16 of which must be completed in our Cottage School classrooms during high school. Students in pursuit of our diploma must take a minimum of four courses at the Cottage School each year. Remaining credit requirements can be fulfilled with us at the Cottage School, at home, with Memoria Press Online Academy, at a local co-op, or community college. To award credit for non-Cottage School classes, some documentation will be required. For example, a small sampling of exams and essays will be reviewed. Classes taken outside of the Cottage School are not placed on the student transcript but can be used to satisfy our curricular requirements.

Diploma Program Requirements

Subject	Credits
Latin - must be taken at HLCS	3 - one of which must be translation class (Caesar/Henle III)
Math	4
Science	3
History	2
Classical Studies - must be taken at HLCS	4
Literature	4
Logic - should be taken at the CS unless exception is granted by administration prior to student's junior year.	2 (Traditional Logic can be taken during the 8th grade year or any year thereafter)
Electives	4
Total	26

Please note that state required writing/composition credits can be satisfied by our Material Logic, Literature, Senior Thesis, Common Topic, or Art and Architecture courses. These classes have a strong writing component. Transcripts can be itemized to isolate those writing requirements upon parent request.

Students who cannot meet every one of these credit requirements should still contact us if interested, especially if the students have taken Cottage School classes in the past. We are happy to look at the student's completed coursework for consideration in the High School Diploma Program.

Application

The Diploma Program is not for everyone. We encourage parents and students to discuss expectations and aspirations for high school before applying. Ideally, parents and students feel a collaborative effort towards achieving the HLCS diploma.

Once parents and students are ready to pursue application, please contact Mrs. Nicodemus at knicodemus@hls.org for an application. Applicants should be in good academic standing (cumulative grade average of 83% without inclusion of Fine Art/Choir, Health/PE and Yearbook). School administration may contact teachers to provide insight regarding the applicant's class participation, timely completion of homework and assignments, and overall work ethic. If it is determined that the student is a good fit for the Diploma Program, parents/students will complete an application with a \$25 application fee. Confirmation of acceptance will result in notification by HLCS administration following an interview with our school director. This interview is scheduled following the application submission.

Transfer students may be asked to provide a body of work to substantiate qualification for the program.

Transferring Credits

Transfer students will be asked to provide transcripts or records from previous schools.

Credits for courses taken before high school will not be included on a student's high school transcript – except HLCS Logic. Since our Logic courses may be taken from 8th to 12th grade, those courses will count towards a Diploma Program requirement and the 1 hour credit will be applied towards the 26 required credit hours for the Diploma Program.

Students are expected to progress at a level specific to their capabilities.

Diploma Program Costs

Costs are kept to a minimum. Cost per student is:

- \$25 Application Fee
- Cottage School Tuition \$1,700 - \$3,225 (estimate based on course selections)
- Varied - Homeschool, Co-op, or Community College Courses (selected by parents)
- Varied - Book Fees per course

Additional fees (optional, based on participation):

- \$55-75 - Graduation Ball (with HLS)
- \$150 - Athletics (per high school child, per sport)
- \$18* PSAT (10th and/or 11th Grade)
- \$60* ACT (10th-12th Grade)

*Subject to change - cost determined by College Board.

Consultation

Meetings will be set up for all applicants following review of application by the Director. During the course of the year, you may require another consultation with the Director, and this is scheduled by appointment.

If a student is not accepted into the Cottage School Diploma Program this does not mean that he or she cannot take individual courses at the school. Students are free to take any and all courses that they so choose. Students who are denied acceptance may apply again the next year (through the first semester of 10th grade year).

Course Planning

Parents and students are encouraged to plan out all four years of high school to ensure DP requirements will be met and a path for success is determined for the student. **Latin progression requires careful planning.** Please maintain records for classes taken outside of HLCS and provide documentation so that we may know DP requirements are being met.

Academic Expectations

Students must maintain a cumulative **average of 83% (B) for all courses** that they are enrolled in at the Cottage School. This average is determined without elective credits (based on core classes). Diploma Program standards are lofty, and the program is not for every student. In addition to maintaining high grades, DP students are expected to work hard and faithfully turn in work. They should be known as students who are always prepared, striving, and producing high quality written and oral work.

Diploma Program students' grades are reviewed on a random basis throughout the school year. If we discover a DP student is struggling academically (less than 83% cumulatively), the student's teachers will be asked for input regarding the student's class performance. The student will be placed on academic probation from the Diploma Program and parents will be notified. Students on DP academic probation may not play sports with Highlands Latin (full-time) School. Reinstatement is possible after a student has improved his/her grades and/or faithfulness with assignments. A paper application may be required (no additional cost). The student will also need to produce a consistent body of work that indicates higher standards have been achieved.

Probation from the Diploma Program may be a consequence of other academic or behavioral infractions. This includes, but is not limited to, plagiarism, cheating, or repeated behavior problems, both in and out of the classroom.

Character Expectations

In addition to academic expectations, Diploma Program students are expected to demonstrate leadership qualities. We look to our Diploma Program students to be hard-working, goal oriented, honest, willing to serve others, and capable of making good decisions, both in and out of the classroom.

Our Diploma Program students must comply with the Highlands Latin Cottage School Code of Conduct. This encompasses behavior, dress code compliance, and respect for teachers, staff, and fellow students. Students risk dismissal from the Diploma Program if the Code of Conduct is not upheld, if students display disruptive or disrespectful behavior on campus (this also includes failure to adhere to dress code).

Accreditation

Highlands Latin Cottage School is accredited by the Classical Latin School Association. Accreditation is meant to help our students earn an accredited high school diploma while simultaneously enjoying classical education at home. This is the same organization that accredits our full-time school here in Louisville. We are not accredited by an organization

associated with any state government. This is intentional. We select grading systems, curriculum, and teachers to ensure that we maintain academic standards.

State-by-State Requirements

While we have done much of the legwork in designing our program, parents are ultimately responsible to ensure that all state's laws and guidelines for homeschooling are followed. Many states have high school graduation requirements that universities use (among other things) when evaluating applicants. The Diploma Program was designed and organized to meet or exceed the requirements in all 50 states and is completely consistent with the homeschooling law in all 50 states.

If you already know where your student may want to attend university or college, see the institution's website for their specific expectations from homeschool applicants. Please note that occasionally standards change from state-to-state and parents must follow all applicable homeschooling laws and stay aware of this information.

Each state has its own high school graduation requirements. In some states no requirements exist, only guidelines. In other states there are minimums and other requirements are determined locally.

Students in the Diploma Program are still technically considered a homeschooled student in their state of residence but are also simultaneously in a High School Diploma Program with Highlands Latin Cottage School. Keep in mind homeschooled students do not have to pursue everything a student in a public or private school may pursue in his/her state. That is part of the freedom of homeschooling!

Rest assured that our Diploma Program has been designed to exceed the academic requirements of state governments in every respect. Please note as well that some states require state-specific testing requirements as well (i.e. MA, NY, PA, RI, VT).

Athletics

According to the guidelines set forth by the Kentucky High School Athletics Association, students in the Diploma Program may participate in high school athletics at Highlands Latin (full-time) School (pending tryouts). The availability of this benefit is subject to changes in the legislation of the state and KHSAA bylaws.

College Planning Support

Students in the Diploma Program will receive college planning support. College Information Meetings are held during the school year and planning tools and documents are provided.

Highlands Latin Cottage School Diploma Program Staff

Director: Mandy Groce (mgroce@hls.org)

Assistant Director: Mariah Frantz (mfrantz@hls.org)

Administrator and College Advisor: Kim Nicodemus (knicodemus@hls.org)

Teacher Liaison and Academic Coordinator: Kelsey Lozada (klozada@hls.org)

Reference:

<https://hsllda.org/content/laws/>

<https://education.ky.gov/curriculum/hsgradreq/>

<https://www.doe.in.gov/school-improvement/home-school>

<https://www.kheaa.com/website/kheaa/kees?main=1>