ACADEMIC INFORMATION

Credits: Twenty-five (25) credits are required for graduation. Honor Graduates must have 3.75 simple GPA by end of 1st semester. In addition, Distinguished Honor Graduates must take 4 AP/Core Dual Enrollment courses, earn 3 on AP exam prior to senior year, and have 20 A's. See the policy.

COLLEGE AND CAREER INFORMATION

- www.GAFutures.org one stop website to help students explore career, compare colleges, apply to colleges, send transcripts, and access your HOPE GPA, apply for HOPE scholarship or grant
- THS will approve 4 college visit days as excused absences. You must see Mrs. Cauthen in the registrar's office for an instructional interruption 5 days prior to the visit.
- College applications can be accessed through sites like gafutures.org, commonapp.org, and/or individual college websites
- > Apply to College Day: Tuesday, November 7, 2023 (Free application fees for Georgia schools).

COLLEGE/MILITARY ENTRANCE EXAMS

- SAT or ACT: You should have taken at least once. Take again early in your senior year.
- Websites for practice tests: www.act.org, www.collegeboard.org, www.khanacademy.org/sat, www.educationplanner.org, www.gocollege.com, www.number2.com.
- > ACCUPLACER: required for entrance to two year and technical colleges. WGTC: <u>706-845-4323</u>
- ASVAB (Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery). No military commitment is involved, but you could be contacted by a military recruiter. This test provides an excellent vocational aptitude test, which would cost you several hundred dollars if you had to pay for a similar test. (*plans to host at THS are underway for October and early March*)

FINANCIAL AID: SCHOLARSHIPS, GRANTS AND LOANS

- **www.fafsa.ed.gov** Free Application for Federal Student Aid **OPENS December.**
- GSFAPP: complete this on your gafutures.org account to apply for HOPE/Zell Miller Scholarship and/or HOPE/Zell Miller Grant
- Local Scholarships: Check monthly on our website at bit.ly/THSCounseling
- Financial Aid 101 Workshop: Wednesday, November 15, 2023 at 6 pm in THS FAA
- FAFSA Completion Event: Thursday, January 17, 2024 from 10:30-1:30 (Appointments will be made available and sent out through a link on Remind)
- > HOPE Scholarship & HOPE Grant: GAfutures.org
- ZELL Miller Scholarship: <u>SEND SAT/ACT to Georgia Student Finance Commission</u>
- www.fastweb.com free scholarship search and automatic email updates
- <u>http://studentaid.ed.gov</u> <u>www.finaid.gov</u> <u>www.scholarships.com</u> <u>www.savingforcollege.com</u> <u>www.findtuition.com</u>

REQUIREMENT FOR ATHLETES: <u>www.eligibilitycenter.org</u> (NCAA), <u>www.playnaia.org</u> (NAIA), <u>www.njcaa.org</u> (NJCAA)

BUILDING A RESUME

- A record of your involvement in high school activities, awards, honors, community service and volunteer work may be necessary for your chances for college admission and scholarships. Remember... colleges look for passion and commitment not quantity.
- MAKE SURE YOU ARE SIGNED UP FOR REMIND...TEXT 81010 WITH THE MESSAGE @ths2024a-f (*Pleasants*) OR @ths2024g-n (*Gill*) OR @ths2024o-z (*Benefield*)

Senior Year Countdown to College

September

- □ Update your resume and give a copy to your counselor for letters of recommendation
- Create admissions checklist for the colleges (dates and deadlines) Begin work on applications and college essays
- □ Research scholarship opportunities
- □ Register for the SAT or the ACT (take throughout year as needed to improve score)
- Consider taking the **ASVAB**
- □ Senior Pictures at THS: September 9, 2023 (register at www.cady.com)
- □ Attend Senior Meeting 9/14/2023 at 10:30 a.m. to hear about cap and gown/THS FAA
- □ Order Cap and Gown with Herff Jones on 9/19/2023 during lunch (Herff Jones will also be her 9/20, 10/4, 11/10, 1/26 (final time before price increase); www.herffjones.com

October

□ If applying for ZELL MILLER Scholarship, send SAT/ACT score to Georgia Student Finance Commission

- □ If applying for early decision, complete and submit applications.
- Athletes who plan to play in college, register with the appropriate Eligibility Center (NCAA, NAIA, NJCAA)
- □ Ask teachers/counselors for letters of recommendation (don't forget to provide a resume)
- □ Schedule Senior pictures at THS for October 21, 2023 (register at www.cady.com)

November/December

- □ Complete and submit applications- (most are on-line); Apply to College Day: 11/7 at THS
- □ Pay for senior yearbook ad by 11/1 (ABSOLUTE DEADLINE); 11/28 is the deadline for messages and pictures
- \Box Submit senior quote and have senior pictures made by deadline for yearbook by 11/15/23
- □ Send HS transcript to in-state colleges electronically through your GAFutures.org account and out of state colleges by completing a Transcript Request Form and returning the form plus \$5.00 to Guidance Office.
- □ Attend Financial Aid 101 Workshop on November 15, 2023 at 6 pm at THS FAA
- □ Complete the FAFSA online at: <u>www.fafsa.ed.gov</u> ~ Contact the Georgia Student Finance Commission (1-800-505-GSFC) for help completing the FAFSA ~ FAFSA will require the prior/prior year's tax return information
- □ Contact the Financial Aid/Scholarship Office of each school you are applying to-find out what is required to apply for financial aid or scholarships.

January/February

- □ Check to make sure your applications have been received
- □ Make sure FAFSA has been completed and submitted (FAFSA Completion Event: 1/17/2024
- □ Check the THS website Guidance Dept. for scholarship news

March/April

- □ Register for Senior Academic Signing Day
- □ Contact scholarship and financial aid offices at your school of choice to check on your status
- Compare the award letter you receive from each school to assist you in making your final decision
- □ If you are wait-listed, send updated information
- □ Check the THS website Guidance Dept. for scholarship news
- □ Make sure you have paid Herff Jones the cap and gown fee or diploma fee (\$50)
- □ Senior Meeting to get Cap and Gown: April 11, 2024
- □ Senior Class Picture in Cap and Gown: April 18, 2024 at 7:30 a.m.

May

- □ Make your decision (usually by May 1st)/Send your Deposit to school of choice
- □ Take AP exams (if applicable)
- □ Participate in Senior Academic Signing Day on May 2, 2024 at 5:30
- □ Honor's Night: May 16, 2024 at 6:00
- □ Request a final HS transcript to be sent to your college (\$5 for out of state) (bit.ly/THSTranscript)
- □ If you participated in Dual Enrollment, send your final DE college transcript to your college (fee)
- □ High School Graduation: May 24, 2024 at 8 p.m.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS ENTERING FALL 2019+

	Courses			
ENGLISH 4 units	 Must include Literature/Comp (recommended 9th) American Literature/Comp (EOC) (recommended 11th) One additional from World Literature, Tenth Literature, Advanced Composition, AP Language, AP Literature, ENG 1101/1102 			
MATH 4 units	 Must include: Algebra I (EOC) or Honors Algebra I (EOC) Geometry or Advanced Geometry Algebra II or Advanced Algebra II One from: Foundations of Algebra (will not meet college entrance requirements), Advanced Math for Decision Making, GSE Accelerated Pre-Calculus, MATH 1111/1113, AP Statistics, or AP Calculus 			
SOCIAL STUDIES 3 units	 Must include: World History Amer. Govt. or , AP U.S. Government U.S. History (EOC) or AP U.S. History (EOC) Economics 			
SCIENCE 4 units	 Must include: Biology or Adv Biology (EOC) Physical Science or Physics Chemistry or Earth Systems or Environmental Science 4th Science from above or from the following list: AP science course (Biology, Chemistry, Environmental Science), Anatomy/Physiology, Forensics, or CTAE course (see list-can take any year) 			
PATHWAY - CTAE/FOREIGN/ LANGUAGE/FINE ARTS** 3 UNITS	 CTAE Advanced Academic Fine Arts World Language 			
HEALTH/PER FITNESS 1 UNIT	 Health and Personal Fitness Or 3 Units JROTC 			
FINE ARTS 1 UNIT 6 ADDITIONAL	Choose from Art, Drama, Drama Appreciation, Music Appreciation, Chorus, Band, Guitar			
ELECTIVES	ΤΟΤΑΙ			
TOTAL 25 UNITS (Class of 2024)				

- Pathways require a concentration of at least 3 classes in a specific area (CTAE, Foreign Language, Fine Arts)
- Post-Secondary Option hours are accepted based on equivalent Carnegie Units.
- **Students planning to enter into a University System of Georgia institution or other post-secondary institution must take 2 units of the same foreign language.
- EOC=End of Course Test counts 20% of final class average

GPA Considerations:

Simple GPA: average of every class taken based on 4.0 scale. Used to determine Honor Graduate Status (3.75 simple).

Weighted GPA: average of every class taken based on awarding Honor points for AP and Dual Enrollment classes. Used to determine class rank.

HOPE GPA: average of every core class taken based on 4.0 scale. Used to determine if you qualify for HOPE (3.0) or Zell Miller Scholarship (3.7 plus 26 on ACT or 1200 on SAT). Student also has to have taken at least 4 rigor courses. This GPA is only found on gafutures.org

Honor Graduate:

□ Simple 3.75 GPA (no rounding) at conclusion of 1st semester of senior year

Distinguished Honor Graduate:

- □ Simple 3.75 GPA (no rounding) at conclusion of 1st semester of senior year
- □ Score of 3 or better on at least one AP exam before start of senior year
- □ At least 4 AP and/or Dual Enrollment core classes on transcript
- □ At least 20 A's earned in the following areas (increasing rigor):
 - o 4 ELA
 - 4 Math
 - 4 Science
 - o 3 Social Studies
 - o 2 Foreign Language
 - 3 from Fine Arts, Health/Physical Education, CTAE, or additional Foreign Language

Valedictorian/Salutatorian

- Distinguished Honor Graduate AND
- □ Taken at least one AP class and exam in each of the following:
 - o English
 - o Math
 - o Science
 - Social Studies
- □ Final class rank is based on highest and second highest weighted GPA
- $\Box\,$ Member of the graduating class cohort

SELECTION FOR VALEDICTORIAN, SALUTATORIAN, DISTINGUISHED HONOR GRADUATES, AND HONOR GRADUATES FOR THE GRADUATING CLASS OF 2024 AND BEYOND

For the graduating class of 2024 and beyond, the Valedictorian, Salutatorian, and Distinguished Honor Graduates are those who have demonstrated the highest level of performance in all academic content areas in the most rigorous courses of study. These honors represent the best performance of the local high school graduating class; therefore, students must be enrolled in the Troup County School System for a minimum of four (4) semesters prior to their graduation date to be considered for Valedictorian and Salutatorian. Students receiving Honor Graduate status represent those who have maintained a high simple grade point average in their desired course of study. Selection of Valedictorian, Salutatorian, Distinguished Honor Graduates, and Honor Graduates will be based on the criteria described below.

CLASS RANK DETERMINATION:

Class rank will be based on weighted GPA and used to determine the system's Valedictorian and Salutatorian. Transcript grades and grades that are posted to the report card at the end of the third nine weeks of the senior year will be used to calculate class rank. Class rank of students will be established using a four point scale where four (4) points are given for an A, three (3) points for a B, and two (2) points for a C for all classes, each receiving equal weighting with the exception of Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate (IB), and dual enrollment. Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate (IB) courses will carry honor weights of six (6) points for an A, five (5) points for a B, and four (4) points for a C. Dual enrollment in academic classes (English, Math, Science, Social Studies, and Foreign Language) will carry honor weights of five (5) points for an A, four (4) points for a B, and three (3) points for a C.

Per the Georgia Student Finance Commission, effective for the 2020-2021 school year and beyond, the Dual Enrollment program is subject to a Funding Cap. The Funding Cap is a maximum amount of financial assistance for tuition paid by the Dual Enrollment funding program for terms of enrollment. Only Dual Enrollment credit earned within the Funding Cap will be included in class rank and Valedictorian and Salutatorian calculations.

CRITERIA FOR SELECTION OF HONOR GRADUATES OF EACH HIGH SCHOOL:

Honor Graduates will be determined using a simple GPA calculation at the conclusion of the first semester of the senior year. Students earning a simple GPA of 3.75 or above (without rounding) will receive the Honor Graduate distinction. Only students having attained the status of Honor Graduate will be considered for Distinguished Honor status. Distinguished Honor Graduates, Valedictorian, and Salatorian will be determined at the conclusion of the third nine weeks of the senior year. The grade that is received in the registrar's office on this date is the grade that will be used in determining Distinguished Honor Graduates, Valedictorian, and Salutatorian.

In order to attain the title of Distinguished Honor Graduate, the student must first receive an A in the categories using any combination of half or whole credits. The combination must be earned in an increasingly rigorous course of study.

- Four (4) units of mathematics
- Four (4) units of English
- Four (4) units of science
- Three (3) units of social studies
- Two (2) units of foreign language
- Three (3) units of fine arts; health and/or physical education; career, technical, agricultural education; or an additional foreign language unit(s).

Additionally, Distinguished Honor Graduates must take a minimum of four (4) Advanced Placement/IB and/or dual enrollment courses in academic classes (English, Math, Science, Social Studies, and Foreign Language) while enrolled in high school, and earn a score of 3 or above on at least one (1) AP test or 4 or better on at least one (1) IB test before the beginning of their senior year.

CRITERIA FOR SELECTION OF THE VALEDICTORIAN:

- The Valedictorian must be a member of the graduating class cohort.
- The Valedictorian must be a Distinguished Honor Graduate.
- The Distinguished Honor Graduate who has taken one or more AP/IB class(es) in each of the four academic areas (ELA, math, science, social studies), taken at least one AP/IB exam in each academic area, and who has the highest weighted GPA will be the Valedictorian. These testing requirements must be met prior to the student's date of graduation. If the testing is scheduled to take place after the announcement of honors distinctions and the student fails to complete the requirements, the student's honor graduate status will be changed prior to graduation. The Valedictorian will be awarded the highest class rank in the graduating class.
- In the event where a school has no Distinguished Honor Graduate(s), the Valedictorian will be the student with the highest weighted GPA, and by default will be a Distinguished Honor Graduate.
- In the event of a tie for Valedictorian, the honoree will be the student with the highest simple GPA on a 100 point scale calculated to four decimal places.
- In the event there is still a tie: the student with the highest number of Advanced Placement test scores earning a 3 or higher will be Valedictorian.

CRITERIA FOR SELECTION OF THE SALUTATORIAN:

- The Salutatorian must be a member of the graduating class cohort.
- The Salutatorian must be a Distinguished Honor Graduate.
- The Distinguished Honor Graduate who has taken one or more AP/IB class(es) in each of the four academic areas (ELA, math, science, social studies), taken at least one AP/IB exam in each academic area, and who has the second highest weighted GPA will be the Salutatorian. These testing requirements must be met prior to the student's date of graduation. If the testing is scheduled to take place after the announcement of honors distinctions and the student fails to complete the requirements, the student's honor graduate status will be changed prior to graduation.
- In the event where a school has no Distinguished Honor Graduate(s), the Salutatorian will be the student with the second highest weighted GPA, and by default will be a Distinguished Honor Graduate.
- In the event of a tie for Salutatorian, the honoree will be the student with the second highest simple GPA on a 100 point scale calculated to four decimal places.
- In the event there is still a tie, the student with the highest number of Advanced Placement test scores earning a 3 or higher will be Salutatorian.

TRANSFER CREDITS

- For the determination of Distinguished Honor Graduates, Valedictorian, and Salutatorian, only those transfer credits which are equivalent to those available to all TCSS students will be considered.
- For the determination of Distinguished Honor Graduates, Valedictorian, and Salutatorian, only courses approved by TCSS will be considered. Only Dual Enrollment credit earned within the Funding Cap will be included for honors distinctions.*

PROCEDURES FOR THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF VALEDICTORIAN, SALUTATORIAN, AND DISTINGUISHED HONOR GRADUATES:

- Written explanation of selection process will be provided to all high school students in the student handbook each fall.
- Each high school principal will provide the Director of Secondary Education with information and documentation regarding the candidates for Valedictorian, Salutatorian, and Distinguished Honor Graduates for review prior to the April Board of Education meeting. Valedictorian, Salutatorian, and Distinguished Honor Graduates will be announced at the April Board of Education meeting.

*The state funding cap as of June 2023 is 30 hours. If this cap should change, this policy will adjust to align with the new state guidelines.

HOPE AND ZELL MILLER SCHOLARSHIPS

Academic Eligibility from High School

HOPE Scholarship

- 3.0 HOPE GPA as calculated by the Georgia Student Finance Commission (GSFC) in core curriculum courses (English, math, science, foreign language, social science)
- Rigor requirements

Zell Miller Scholarship

Rigor requirements and one of the following:

			_		
igodol	Designated valedictorian	•	3.7 HOPE GPA as		
	or salutatorian		calculated by GSFC in		
			core curriculum courses		
	C	∣ PR ●	AND		
			Test component:		
			1200 SAT combined		
			score (Critical Reading		
			and Math) or 26 ACT		
			composite score		

WHAT ARE RIGOR REQUIREMENTS? Rigor courses: Advanced Math, Advanced Science, Foreign

Language, Advanced Placement (AP) in core subjects, International Baccalaureate (IB) in core subjects, degreelevel Dual Credit Enrollment courses in core subjects taken at an eligible postsecondary institution.

Students graduating from high school must earn four full credits from the above list.

Award Amounts

	HOPE Scholarship*	Zell Miller Scholarship*
Public Institution	Portion of standard tuition †	Full standard tuition ⁺
Private Institution	\$2,152 per semester (fall, spring, summer)	\$2,808 per semester (fall, spring, summer)
Full-time	\$1,436 per quarter (fall, winter, spring, summer)	\$1,914 per quarter (fall, winter, spring, summer)
Private Institution	\$1,077 per semester (fall, spring, summer)	\$1,404 per semester (fall, spring, summer)
Half-time	\$719 per quarter (fall, winter, spring, summer)	\$957 per quarter (fall, winter, spring, summer)

*Complete award amounts available on GAfutures.org. [†]Up to 15 credit hours.

MAINTAINING

HOPE Scholarship

• Students must maintain a cumulative 3.0 GPA* at designated checkpoints (end of every spring semester and at 30, 60 and 90 attempted semester hours; end of every spring quarter and at 45, 90 and 135 attempted quarter hours). If a student's GPA falls below a 3.0, they will lose the HOPE Scholarship and will only be eligible to regain it once.

Zell Miller Scholarship

• Students must maintain a cumulative 3.3 GPA* at designated checkpoints (end of every spring semester and at 30, 60 and 90 attempted semester hours; end of every spring quarter and at 45, 90 and 135 attempted quarter hours). If a student's GPA falls below a 3.3, they will lose the Zell Miller Scholarship but may still be eligible for the HOPE Scholarship. Students can regain the Zell Miller Scholarship only once.

*Postsecondary GPA calculation refers to all attempted hours after high school graduation. Approved postsecondary STEM courses taken fall 2017 and later receive .5 weight to grade B, C or D. Approved courses can be found at **GAfutures.org**. STEM courses taken during high school are not given the STEM weight for postsecondary GPA calculation.

LOSING ELIGIBILITY

A student will lose eligibility for the HOPE Scholarship and the Zell Miller Scholarship due to one of the following:

- GPA requirement not met
- Maximum attempted and/or paid hours reached (127 semester/190 quarter)
- Funds not used within seven years of high school graduation or equivalent (military exception)
- Bachelor's or first professional degree received

HOPE GRANT

Academic Eligibility

No high school graduation requirement

Must be enrolled in a certificate or diploma program at a University System of Georgia (USG) or Technical College System of Georgia (TCSG) school

AWARD AMOUNT

Portion of standard tuition, up to 15 credit hours; award amounts available on GAfutures.org

MAINTAINING

- Cumulative 2.0 postsecondary GPA or higher at designated checkpoints (30/60 paid semester hours; 45/90 paid quarter hours)
- Only eligible to regain the HOPE Grant once

Losing Eligibility

- GPA requirement not met
- Maximum paid hours reached (63 semester/95 quarter)
- Bachelor's or first professional degree received

ZELL MILLER GRANT

Academic Eligibility

- No high school graduation requirement
- Must be enrolled in a certificate or diploma program at a University System of Georgia (USG) or Technical College System of Georgia (TCSG) school
- First term awarded retroactively after earning a 3.5 or higher postsecondary GPA

AWARD AMOUNT

• Full standard rate of tuition, up to 15 credit hours; award amounts available on GAfutures.org

MAINTAINING

- Cumulative 3.5 or higher postsecondary GPA required at the end of every semester/quarter
- Eligible to regain Zell Miller Grant if minimum GPA earned at the end of the next term

Losing Eligibility

- GPA requirement not met
- Maximum paid hours reached (63 semester/95 quarter)
- Bachelor's or first professional degree received

HOPE CAREER GRANT

ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY

- Enrolled in certain high-demand certificate and diploma programs at a University System of Georgia (USG) or Technical College System of Georgia (TCSG) school
- HOPE Grant and Zell Miller Grant eligibility requirements apply
- Dual credit and/or joint enrollment students not eligible

AWARD AMOUNT

- Awards are a fixed amount per term based on the program and number of hours enrolled
- O Approved programs and award amounts available on GAfutures.org

For more information on the HOPE Programs, visit GAfutures.org.

Should My Student Take The ACT Or The SAT?

Colleges will accept either test. If your student has not yet decided on a specific college, it may be a good idea for them to take both exams. Students can register for the ACT at <u>www.actstudent.org</u> and for the SAT at <u>www.collegeboard.com</u>: both sites offer free online test questions to give students a preview of the real tests. <u>Collegeboard recommends www.khanacademy.org/sat</u>.

THE ACT IS MADE UP OF:

WHAT IS ON THE TEST?

- English (45 minutes) 75 questions relating to five prose passages (punctuation, usage and grammar, and sentence structure)
- Math (60 minutes) 60 questions covering algebra, geometry, and trigonometry
- Reading (35 minutes) 40 questions that require students to draw conclusions from four prose passages representative of reading required in college freshman courses
- Science (35 minutes) 40 questions that require students to analyze sets of science information (earth science, physical science and biology are all covered)
- Optional writing (30 minutes; at the end of the test) one prompt that asks students to write an essay explaining their point of view on a given issue

THE SAT REASONING TEST IS MADE UP OF:

- Reading (65 minutes) 52 questions (drawing conclusions, piecing facts or incidents together to understand relationships, combine information from a graphic and passage)
- Writing and Language (35 minutes) 44 questions covering vocabulary, sentence structure, organization, tone and factual support (some science and history topics to demonstrate and expand knowledge)
- Math (80 minutes) 57 questions multi-step problems, geometry concepts and reasoning, statistics (sampling; inferring; correlation; and causation), some trigonometry
- Optional Essay (50 minutes; at the end of the test) one prompt which allows the student to engage in and demonstrate the deep critical reading, analysis, and writing skills learned in high school.

ACT

- KNOW THE DIFFERENCE
- Achievement test measuring what a student has learned in school
- Five components: English, math, science, reading, and writing (optional)
- Multiple choice math test
- Does not penalize for wrong answers or questions left blank
- Given seven times per year
- Report scores on a scale from 1 to 36

SAT

- Reasoning test measuring what a student has learned in and outside of the classroom and how well he/she can apply that knowledge
- > <u>Two section</u>: Math, Evidence Based Reading and Writing (EBRW), and optional essay
- Some multiple choice math questions and some written response
- Does not penalize for wrong answers or questions left blank
- Given seven times per year
- Reports scores on a scale from 400 to 1600 (Essay results reported separately)

SAT TEST DATES: Register at <u>www.collegeboard.org</u>

<u>Test Date</u>	Registration Deadline	Late Fee Required
August 26, 2023	July 28	August 15
October 7, 2023	September 8	September 26
November 4, 2023*	October 6	October 24
December 2, 2023*	November 3	November 21
March 9, 2024*	February 23	February 27
May 4, 2024*	April 19	April 23
June 1, 2024*	May 17	May 21

ACT TEST DATES: Register at <u>www.act.org</u>

<u>Test Date</u>	<u>Registration Deadline</u>	Late Fee Required
Sept 9, 2023	August 4	August 18
Oct 28, 2023	September 22	October 6
Dec 9, 2023*	November 3	November 17
Feb 10, 2024*	January 5	January 19
April 13, 2024	March 8	March 22
June 8, 2024	May 3	May 17
July 13, 2024*	June 7	June 21

*Tests given at THS