

ACADEMIC INFORMATION

Credits: Eighteen credits (18) are required to move from 11th to 12th grade. Twenty-six (26) are required for graduation.

Honor Graduate Policy: Students earning a simple GPA of 3.75 or above (without rounding) will receive the Honor Graduate distinction. In addition, Distinguished Honor Graduates must take 4 Core AP/ Core Dual Enrollment courses, earn a score of 3 or higher on one AP test, and have 20 specific As. **HONOR POLICY FOR STUDENTS ENTERING 2019 AND BEYOND – PLEASE SEE POLICY ON HANDOUT.**

MUST VISIT WEBSITES FOR CAREER AND COLLEGE INFORMATION

- 🖥️ www.gafutures.org – one stop website to help students apply to colleges, send transcripts and learn about financial aid.
- 🖥️ www.CommonApp.org - The Common Application is a not-for-profit organization that serves students and member institutions by providing an admission application
- 🖥️ www.bls.gov/ooh - Occupational Outlook Handbook

COLLEGE ENTRANCE EXAMS

- ***Do Not Wait Until Your Senior Year!***
- **SAT or ACT:** If you plan to attend a 4-year college, take at least once, if not twice, starting at the March (SAT) or February (ACT) administration of your **JUNIOR** year and again at the **FIRST** administration of your senior year. Practice tests are available on the web sites.
- **Websites for registration and practice tests:** www.actstudent.org; www.sat.org; www.khanacademy.org/sat; app.masteryprep.com
- **Students who qualify for free/reduced lunch may qualify for fee waivers; see your counselor for information**
- **ACCUPLACER:** may be required for entrance to two year and technical colleges.

COLLEGE ADMISSIONS INFORMATION

- ◆ **College Applications:** start now researching and choosing possibilities. **You do not need to wait until you receive your test scores to send in an application.** *Be sure to check application and scholarship deadlines of the schools for which you are applying.*
- ◆ Most applications are available online with the college or through GAFutures.org. You may send transcripts through the GAFutures.org website at no cost.
- ◆ Explore colleges at www.bigfuture.org
- ◆ **It is your responsibility to check admissions standards at any post-secondary school you are considering. There are NO guarantees for admission, and standards may change over time.**
- ◆ THS will excuse two days as college visit days. **You must** see Mrs. Cauthen in the registrar's office for an instructional interruption at least 5 days prior to your visit.

SCHOLARSHIPS

§ HOPE Scholarship –

- 3.0 high school GPA as calculated by the Georgia Student Finance Commission (GSFC) in core curriculum courses (English, math, science, social studies and foreign language)
- Earn 4 credits in HOPE rigor courses

§ ZELL MILLER SCHOLARSHIP

- 3.7 high school GPA and 1200 SAT or 26 ACT composite scores
- **Designated Valedictorian or salutatorian**

- Visit www.GAFutures.org for up to date information about the HOPE Program.
- § The **HOPE Grant Program** provides grant assistance to residents of Georgia pursuing Certificates or Diplomas at Georgia's public postsecondary institutions. Unlike the HOPE Scholarship Program, students are not required to graduate from high school with a specific grade point average. However, students are required to have a minimum postsecondary cumulative grade point average of 2.0 at certain checkpoints. The purpose of the HOPE Grant Program is to encourage Georgians to obtain technical training in order to increase the knowledge and skills of Georgia's workforce.
- § **www.fastweb.com** - free scholarship search and automatic email updates
- § **College Board Scholarship Opportunities: cb.org/opportunity**

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- **ASVAB** (Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery) there is no military commitment involved, but you could be contacted by a military recruiter. This test, given each year at THS, is an excellent vocational aptitude test, which would cost you several hundred dollars if you had to pay for a similar test.
- **NCAA ELIGIBILITY CENTER:** Athletes interested in Division I and Division II colleges must register with the NCAA Eligibility Center at **www.ncaaeligibilitycenter.org** and send test scores to the eligibility center. Use the following code: 9999.
- **BUILDING A RESUME:** Being involved in high school activities, community service and volunteer work will help you be a better and happier person. You will come in contact with other good people like you and make life-long friends. Additionally, the record of your involvement in high school activities, awards, honors, community service and volunteer work may be crucial to 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
@ths2027a-f (Pleasants) OR @ths2027g-n (Gill) OR @ths2027o-z (Benefield)

KEEP SAVING FOR SENIOR YEAR EXPENSES!

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS ENTERING FALL 2019+

| Courses | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| ENGLISH 4 units | <p>Must include</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Literature/Comp (recommended 9th) • American Literature/Comp (EOC) (recommended 11th) <p>Two additional from World Literature, Tenth Literature, Advanced Composition, AP Language, AP Literature, ENG 1101/1102</p> |
| MATH 4 units | <p>Must include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Algebra I (EOC) or Honors Algebra I (EOC) • Geometry or Honors Geometry • Algebra II or Advanced Algebra or Honors Advanced Algebra <p>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</p> |
| SOCIAL STUDIES 3 units* | <p>*Must include: (Since our courses are full credits, students will likely have 4 units to graduate)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • World History • Amer. Govt. or , AP U.S. Government • U.S. History (EOC) or AP U.S. History (EOC) • Economics |
| SCIENCE 4 units | <p>Must include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biology (EOC) • Physical Science or Physics • Chemistry or Earth Systems or Environmental Science <p>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)</p> |
| PATHWAY - CTAE/FOREIGN/ LANGUAGE/FINE ARTS** 3 UNITS | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CTAE • Advanced Academic • Fine Arts • World Language |
| HEALTH/PER FITNESS 1 UNIT | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health and Personal Fitness <p style="text-align: center;">Or</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 Units JROTC |
| FINE ARTS 1 UNIT | Choose from Art, Drama, Drama Appreciation, Music Appreciation, Chorus, Band, Guitar |
| 6 ADDITIONAL ELECTIVES | |
| TOTAL 26 UNITS | |

- 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 Exam– 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 must 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):
 - 4 ELA
 - 4 Math
 - 4 Science
 - 3 Social Studies
 - 2 Foreign Language
 - 3 from Fine Arts, Health/Physical Education, CTAE, additional Foreign Language, or additional AP core course

Valedictorian/Salutatorian

- Distinguished Honor Graduate AND
- Taken at least one AP class and exam in each of the following before start of senior year:
 - English
 - Math
 - Science
 - Social Studies
- Final class rank is based on highest and second highest weighted GPA
- 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 Salutatorian 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

- Minimum 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:

Designated valedictorian or salutatorian

OR

Minimum 3.7 HOPE GPA as calculated by GSFC in core curriculum courses
AND
 total test score of 1200 SAT on a single national administration or composite test score of 26 ACT on a single national or state/district administration earned by graduation date

**Academic Rigor courses are determined by the course number. Refer to the full Academic Rigor Course List on GAfutures.org.*

What are Rigor Requirements?

Rigor courses: Advanced Math, Advanced Science, Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB) in core subjects, degree-level Dual Enrollment courses in core subjects taken at eligible post-secondary institution.

Students graduating from high school must earn 4 full credits from the above list.

Award Amounts

| | HOPE Scholarship* | Zell Miller Scholarship* |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Public Institution | Portion of standard tuition [†] | Full standard tuition [†] |
| Private Institution Full-time | \$2,282 per semester (fall, spring, summer) \$1,523 per quarter (fall, winter, spring, summer) | \$2,977 per semester (fall, spring, summer) \$2,029 per quarter (fall, winter, spring, summer) |
| Private Institution Half-time | \$1,141 per semester (fall, spring, summer) \$762 per quarter (fall, winter, spring, summer) | \$1,489 per semester (fall, spring, summer) \$1,015 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 minimum cumulative 3.0 calculated HOPE 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 calculated HOPE 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 minimum cumulative 3.3 calculated HOPE 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 calculated HOPE 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.

**Calculated HOPE GPA refers to all attempted hours after high school graduation. Approved postsecondary STEM courses taken fall 2018 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:

- Calculated HOPE GPA requirement not met
- Maximum attempted and/or paid hours reached (127 semester/190 quarter)
- Funds not used within ten years of high school graduation or equivalent
- Bachelor's degree received
- On the second loss, a student becomes permanently ineligible

HOPE Grant

Academic Eligibility

- No high school graduation requirement
- Must be enrolled in a certificate or diploma program at a participating 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

- Minimum 2.0 calculated HOPE Grant GPA or higher at designated checkpoints (30/60 paid semester hours)
- Only eligible to regain the HOPE Grant once

Losing Eligibility

- Calculated HOPE GPA requirement not met
- Maximum paid hours reached (63 semester)
- Bachelor's degree received

Zell Miller Grant

Academic Eligibility

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

Award Amount

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

Maintaining

- Minimum 3.5 calculated HOPE Grant GPA required at the end of every semester/quarter
- Eligible to regain Zell Miller Grant if minimum 3.5 calculated HOPE Grant GPA earned at the end of the next term

Losing Eligibility

- Calculated HOPE GPA requirement not met
- Maximum paid hours reached (63 semester)
- Bachelor's degree received

HOPE Career Grant

Academic Eligibility

- Enrolled in specific high-demand certificate and diploma programs at a participating University System of Georgia (USG) or Technical College System of Georgia (TCSG) school
- HOPE Grant and Zell Miller Grant eligibility requirements apply

Award Amount

- Awards are a fixed amount per term based on the program and number of hours enrolled
- 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 www.actstudent.org and for the SAT at www.collegeboard.com: both sites offer free online test questions to give students a preview of the real tests. Collegeboard recommends www.khanacademy.org/sat.

WHAT IS ON THE TEST?

THE ACT IS MADE UP OF:

- 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 IS MADE UP OF:

- Reading & Writing (64 minutes) 44 questions (drawing conclusions, piecing facts or incidents together to understand relationships, combine information from a graphic and passage), vocabulary, sentence structure, organization, tone and factual support (some science and history topics to demonstrate and expand knowledge); lengthy reading passages have been replaced with shorter versions as only one question is tied to each reading passage
- Math (70minutes) 54 questions – multi-step problems, geometry concepts and reasoning, statistics (sampling; inferring; correlation; and causation), some trigonometry

KNOW THE DIFFERENCE

ACT

- Achievement test measuring what a student has learned in school
- Five components: English, math, science, reading, and writing (optional)
- 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

- The test is now fully digital and adaptive, which means how students do on the first set of questions affects the difficulty of a subsequent set of test questions
- Assesses skills on reading, writing, and math
- Test time has been reduced to 2 hours, 14 minutes
- Students can bring own graphing calculator or use the one provided online
- Does not penalize for wrong answers or questions left blank
- Given seven times per year
- Reports scores on a scale from 400 to 1600

SAT TEST DATES: Register at www.collegeboard.org

| <u>Test Date</u> | <u>Registration Deadline</u> | <u>Late Fee Required</u> |
|----------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| August 23, 2025* | August 8 | August 12 |
| September 13, 2025* | August 29 | September 2 |
| October 4, 2025* | September 19 | September 23 |
| November 8, 2025* | October 24 | October 28 |
| December 6, 2025* | November 21 | November 25 |
| March 14, 2026* | February 27 | March 3 |
| May 2, 2026* | April 17 | April 21 |
| June 6, 2026* | May 22 | May 26 |

ACT TEST DATES: Register at www.act.org

| <u>Test Date</u> | <u>Registration Deadline</u> | <u>Late Fee Required</u> |
|------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Sept 6, 2025* | August 1 | August 19 |
| Oct 18, 2025* | September 12 | September 30 |
| Dec 13, 2025* | November 7 | November 24 |
| Feb 14, 2026* | January 9 | January 23 |
| April 11, 2026* | March 6 | March 24 |
| June 13, 2026* | May 8 | May 29 |
| July 11, 2026 * | June 5 | June 24 |

***Tests given at THS**