

HAMILTON HIGH SCHOOL

Sussex, Wisconsin

Freshman/Sophomore Packet

Prepared by the Guidance Department

Hamilton High School

Graduation Requirements

The following requirements are necessary to graduate from Hamilton High School:

Twenty-eight credits must be earned and a passing grade must be received in the following course requirements:

- Communication Arts 4.0 credits
- Math 2.0 credits
- Science 2.0 credits
- Social Studies 3.0 credits
- Fitness Education 1.5 credits
- Health Issues .5 credits
- Electives 15.0 credits

Total 28.0 credits

*Please refer to the course catalog for specific courses that are required in each subject area.

POST-SECONDARY OPTIONS

Most careers require at least some education or training beyond high school. One career may require four years of college while another may require a six-month program at a technical school. In most cases, your career choice will determine which of the following options is the most appropriate:

- Technical College
- Career Training School
- Two-Year College
- Four-Year University
- Military
- Apprenticeship
- Employment

Technical College

Technical colleges provide affordable, career-oriented programs that enable students to begin their careers after only one or two years of college. Typically, class sizes are kept small and professors have worked, or are working, in a related career field. Students completing one-year programs receive certificates or diplomas, and students completing two-year programs earn associate degrees. Degrees that may be obtained include A.A. (Associate of Arts), A.S. (Associate of Science), and A.A.S. (Associate of Applied Science).

Students seeking a bachelor degree and who do not meet the entrance requirements of a four-year university and/or who want to save money and live at home, may start out at a technical college in a Liberal Arts and Sciences program or a program that is designed with a four-year college transfer in mind. The final decision as to whether a given course is transferable is made by the receiving institution. For this reason, when planning a particular program, it is recommended that a student verify the transferability of credits with the four-year university of choice.

Career Training School

Career training schools offer students short-term training in a wide variety of career fields. Some career training programs last only a few weeks while others could take up to two years to complete. These programs are designed

to prepare students for specific careers such as barber and cosmetology, massage therapy, or information technology to name a few. Students spend most of their class time in job related settings where they receive hands-on training from experienced instructors.

Two-Year College

Two-year colleges offer freshman/sophomore level university instruction. Students attend small classes and receive the personal attention of a private college at a public university cost. After freshman or sophomore year, students can transfer to a four-year university to complete a bachelor degree or stay and complete a bachelor's degree offered in partnership with certain four-year schools. Many students like to begin at two-year colleges because they like the smaller environment. In most cases, students are also able to save money while still living at home. Wisconsin two-year colleges allow students to apply through the *guaranteed transfer program* to a four-year University within the UW-System. Consult with an advisor from a two-year college for specific guidelines and requirements for the *guaranteed transfer program*.

Four-Year University

A four-year college education, or bachelor's degree, is necessary for approximately 20% of today's careers. A bachelor's degree can open doors, provide status, and prepare students for financially rewarding careers. All universities hope to attract bright, well-prepared students. Universities vary in their majors offered, admission standards, and costs. Four-year universities want students to have both a broad-based education and education in a specific subject area or major. To insure that students receive a well-rounded education, most four-year universities require that students take 25-50% of their classes in general education courses like English, math, science, and history. Since many of the general education courses are taken during freshman/sophomore year, "undecided" students can use their first year or so of college to fulfill general education requirements and to decide on a major.

Entrance requirements vary by each university with some universities being highly selective. In order to be accepted at a highly selective university, a student must usually have high ACT/SAT scores, a high grade point average (GPA), and rigorous preparation. Regardless of the entrance requirements,

all universities want applicants who have followed a college prep program in high school. This generally includes four years of English, three years of math (Algebra, Geometry, third year of math), three years of science, and three years of social studies. Foreign language is highly recommended, and two years of a single foreign language is required at some universities. If a student has not taken all of these courses it does not mean that he/she cannot go to a four-year university. In this case, the student may want to start out at a two-year college or a technical college then transfer to a four-year university after a year or two.

Degrees from a four-year university include a B.A. (Bachelor of Arts) and a B.S. (Bachelor of Science). After a bachelor's degree, some advanced degrees include M.A. (Master of Arts), M.S. (Master of Science), Ed.D. (Doctor of Education), Ph.D. (Doctor of Philosophy), J. D. (Juris Doctor/Lawyer), D.D.S. (Doctor of Dentistry Science), and a M.D. (Medical Doctor).

Military

The military trains young men and women to protect the interests of our country. In order to do this, the military offers qualified high school graduates a good salary and free job training. The military also provides discipline and structure as well as opportunities for career advancement and travel. The United States military is the nation's single largest employer. It offers training and employment in over 2,000 specialties, 75% of which have civilian counterparts.

There are four major branches of the military: The Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marines. Opportunities for students also exist in the Coast Guard, The National Guard, and the Reserves. College students who take ROTC (Reserve Officer Training Corp) will enter the military as officers while academically gifted students will find excellent educational opportunities at the four military academies.

Apprenticeship

Students who prefer a hands-on approach to learning may want to consider an apprenticeship program. Apprentices learn a skilled trade through a combination of classroom instruction and on-the-job training. Apprenticeships are agreements in which employers pay individuals while

they are learning their trade or profession. Apprenticeship programs demand hard work and dedication. Those who receive their training through apprenticeship programs are provided opportunities for advancement. Some apprenticeship programs include Cabinetmaking, Tool and Die, Roofing, Sheet Metal, Culinary, Cement Mason, Bricklayer, Early Childhood Education, Plumber, and Electrician to name a few.

Employment

Employment is an appropriate option for some high school graduates. Sometimes a job can be turned into a career where a person moves up the ranks into a management position such as at a restaurant. However, high school graduates with no vocational training will probably find that they have limited career options. In many cases they will find that they are, in reality, not entering a career field as much as they are just getting a job. In most cases they will also find that they will not be making much more than minimum wage. Opportunities for advancement will be limited.

Business and industry are always eager to find employees who are hard working, polite, punctual, well-groomed, willing to learn, and are able to get along well with others.

SELF-ASSESSMENT

Self-Assessment can be a good beginning in helping you sort out what you are all about. Take the time to assess yourself in the following areas.

Academic

1. What are the classes you enjoy most?
2. Are your grades an accurate reflection of your abilities? If not, why?
3. Who is your favorite teacher? Think about that person's teaching style and why he or she makes a positive impression on you.
4. Would you prefer that the academic atmosphere of your school be more competitive or relaxed?
5. If there was one aspect of your school environment that you could change, what would it be? Justify the change.

Extracurricular Activities

1. What activities do you enjoy the most? Why?
2. Describe the groups in your school. Which do you belong to? Why?
3. Are you satisfied with your contributions to the organizations to which you belong? Do you hold any leadership roles?

Community Service

1. Have you volunteered at school or community events?
2. Are you involved in any community service activities?
*If so, remember to keep a log of the activities and hours so you can remember them for National Honor Society and college applications.

Personal Attitudes and Values

1. What aspect of your life is most important to you?
2. How often have you encountered people who looked, thought, and acted differently than you? How did you respond?
3. How are you influenced by your parents? Friends? Teachers?
4. How do you make decisions? Do you have a process you follow?
5. Is the advice of others a significant factor in your decision-making? Do you follow "a feeling"?

Personal Attitudes and Values Continued

6. How do you respond to competition and challenge?
7. What do you consider to be your most significant contribution to your environment?
8. How would your closest friend describe you?
9. What types of situations/environments do you want to be in?

Freshman/Sophomore Planning Tips

Ninth Grade:

- You'll be meeting with your counselor soon for a 9th grade conference to learn about the activities that will help you with your educational and career decision making. You will have the same counselor for four years and s/he is the person who will help you with your college and scholarship applications.
- Counselors will be meeting with you in December during advisement to help you develop a four year educational plan that will help to prepare you for the next step after high school. If you "don't have a clue" about goals for after high school, we will help you design a program that will help you keep your options open.
- Work to improve your study skills and work habits. This year's grades count toward your cumulative grade point average (GPA) that colleges consider in admissions.
- Realize that turning in all assignments on time and reviewing your work regularly are very important in earning good grades.
- Participate in extracurricular activities and community service through volunteer work.
- Your teachers, counselor and sometimes administrators will be writing letters of recommendation for you in the future. Help them get to know you over your high school career.
- Try to do your best on any standardized test you take this year (MAPP, EXPLORE). The EXPLORE test helps to prepare you for the ACT that you will take as a junior/senior.
- Colleges want to see commitment. If something really excites you, explore it.
- It is never too early to start saving money for college.
- Begin to research careers and talk to your parents or other adults about your goals.
- Find opportunities to talk with people working in those professions that you think may interest you.
- Read and write as much as you can. A good vocabulary and reading comprehension skills will help you on college entrance exams.
- Keep a folder with records of your academic progress, volunteer work, part time jobs and any awards you receive. This will come in handy in the future when applying for a job, a school or for a scholarship.
- Explore opportunities for summer enrichment programs. Read announcements and the Parent Press for information. See your counselor for additional resources.

6 good reasons to get good grades

1. They're important for college admissions and scholarship consideration.
2. They're a solid indication that you are capable of doing challenging college work.
3. They sometimes count for college credit (Advance Placement classes).
4. They can get you better auto insurance rates.
5. They can get you a better part-time job.
6. They're a sign to parents of responsibility.

Source: www.makingitcount.com

Tenth Grade

- Continue to challenge yourself with a rigorous curriculum and get involved with what you are studying.
- Consider attending the National College Fair at the Midwest Center in Milwaukee, and the Wisconsin Education Fair at Arrowhead High School (North Campus) in October. Please stop in the guidance office for more information and specific dates and times.
- If you are planning on going to college after high school, register in the guidance office to take the PSAT (preliminary SAT). This test is offered every year for juniors OR sophomores in October. This test will help you assess how well you are developing skills important for success in college. When taken in your junior year, the PSAT is the qualifying test for the National Merit Scholarship Program. Listen for announcements or stop in Guidance in September for registration information.
- Do your best on the WKCE and PLAN tests when you take them this year. The PLAN will help you prepare for the ACT that you will take in your junior/senior years.
- Continue your involvement in extracurricular activities and volunteer work. Colleges will want to know how you spend your time outside of the classroom. Continue to keep track of these activities.
- Begin to explore careers. Your counselor can help you learn about resources that will help you to evaluate your interests and explore your options.
- Remember as you register for courses that colleges are more impressed with respectable grades in challenging courses than by outstanding grades in easier courses and they look favorably on students who are willing to tackle tougher subjects. The more challenging courses will pay off in your being better prepared to do well on the ACT or SAT.
- You will meet with your counselor in your junior year for a conference regarding your progress and plans for after high school, but feel free to schedule an appointment any time you need information or want help with decision making or planning.

Courses recommended for college preparation: (these are minimal requirements. Check with the school and program you are interested in applying to).

4 years of English
3 years of math (algebra, geometry and adv. lgebra)
3 years of science
3 years of social studies
2-4 years of world language
fine arts
other academic electives
electives to explore interest areas

Online Resources

For Information on Post-Secondary Schools/College Searches

www.uwhelp.wisconsin.edu

The UW System help page for campus info, info on career planning, precollege programs, exploring majors, financial aid and scholarships.

www.wisconsinmentor.org

Info on private colleges in WI., also free online ACT preparation.

www.witechcolleges.com

Info on the Wisconsin Technical College System, program majors, related careers, jobs in demand.

www.nacacnet.org

The National Association for College Admission Counseling site. Info on planning for college, timelines, college fairs, etc.

www.petersons.com

College information resource/college search engine. Can download applications from many schools.

www.makingitcount.com

Information from study skills to college searches.

NCAA Eligibility

www.ncaa.org

Learn about eligibility requirements for playing Division I and II sports in college. Apply for eligibility online.

Information on Tests/Test Preparation for College Admissions

www.act.org

ACT's web page. Sample ACT questions, C3 College Exploration, ACT registration. A wealth of information for the college bound student.

www.collegeboard.org

The College Board site for info on the SATI, SATII Subject Tests, PSAT. Can register online for the SATI and SATII. Also includes links to a school search program and financial aid information.

Information on Financial Aid/Scholarship Searches

www.ftc.gov

Federal Trade Commission's site---information on scholarship scams and how to avoid them.

www.finaid.org

Info on financial aid from loans to scholarships.

www.fastweb.com

Scholarship search engines.

www.ed.gov/studentaid

Online version of publications "Funding Your Education" and "The Student Guide" in English and Spanish and links to other resources.

Information on Career Planning and Occupations

www.myfuture.com

Information about careers, the military and more.

<http://mapping-your-future.org/features/careership>

Career planning, selecting a school, paying for school.

www.militarycareers.com

The military careers online guide.

www.bls.gov/oco

The Occupational Outlook Handbook for information on careers.

<http://www.JobProfiles.org>

Profiles of people actually working in the occupations highlighted.

www.jobhuntersbible.com/counseling

Resources to help chart a course for career and life success.

Volunteer Opportunities/Jobs in Non Profit Sector

www.volunteerwaukesha.com

Volunteer opportunities in Waukesha County.

<http://www.idealists.org>

"Action Without Borders" clearinghouse of nonprofit and community organizations in 140 different countries.

<http://www.impact.org>

www.waukeshateens.org

Job openings, volunteer opportunities and recreational opportunities. Also links to various resources.

Hamilton High School Scholarship List

<http://www.hamiltondist.k12.wi.us>

Click under schools - Hamilton High School. The scholarship list is the last option in the list of options on the Hamilton High School page.

(Also available on the shared "T" file in computer labs at school.)

On-line Resources Revised 9-08

NHS Pledge

I pledge to maintain high scholastic
standing,

To hold as fundamental and worthy

An untarnished character,

To endeavor intelligently and
courageously

To be a leader,

And to give of myself freely in
service to others.

In so doing, I shall prove myself
worthy

Of a place in the National Honor
Society.



~Scholarship~

~Leadership~

~Service~

~Character~

NHS at Hamilton

- ≈ Fall Induction of New Members
- ≈ Community Service Projects
- ≈ 8th Grade Orientation Tours
- ≈ Academic Awards Ceremony
- ≈ Senior Awards Ceremony
- ≈ Graduation Honor Stoles
- ≈ Social Outings
- ≈ Additional Service Projects

Hamilton High School

W220 N6151 Townline Road.



Sussex, WI 53089

What is NHS?

The Hamilton High School Chapter of the National Honor Society is an elite organization for Juniors and Seniors. NHS was founded to recognize and further develop the ideals



of scholarship, character, service and leadership. NHS is a prestigious organization whose reputa-

tion for excellence is the result of years of commitment on the part of everyone involved. Through NHS chapter service activities, members maintain and extend the qualities that won them selection. Membership is thus both an honor and a commitment.

What does it take to be a member? Do you have the right stuff?

Students are selected for membership on the basis of outstanding Scholarship, Service, Leadership, and Character. The HHS minimum cumulative GPA is 3.5 for all candidates and members. Juniors who have participated in at least five extra-curricular activities (one activity for two years counts as two, etc) and have held at least two leadership positions may be considered for membership. Seniors must have at least six extra-curricular activities and have held at least three leadership positions. Candidates are also required to have been involved in community/service activities (Juniors 4, Seniors 5) and must have received awards and recognitions (Juniors 4, Seniors 5). Additionally, students must also have demonstrated outstanding character based on their overall high school experience.

How Does the Selection Process Work?

Just before the beginning of school, in the fall, all Juniors and Seniors who have a minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.5 are notified of their eligibility to be considered for membership in the Hamilton Chapter of NHS. Students must complete and submit a Student Activities Information Form, as well as write an essay as to their personal qualifications which they feel make them an outstanding candidate for membership in the National Honor Society.

The Faculty Council, made up of five Hamilton teachers, then reviews the qualifications of each student who submits his/her materials by the deadline. Qualifying students are then required to submit four letters of recommendation attesting to their leadership, service, and outstanding character. All candidates who are selected are inducted as members of the Hamilton High School Chapter of the National Honor Society in a formal Induction Ceremony in mid-October.