

Project 5 - Graduation Requirements

To: KHCS 9-12 Parents & Students

From: D. Dawson

Parents,

This is less of a project and more of an information sheet to outline the actual requirements for high school graduation (more specifically than what was disclosed by the credit worksheet you received in Project 2). The Georgia Department of Education (DOE) website provides public access to view the actual laws and rulings that generate these requirements. I'd be glad to provide you with addresses and directions for accessing those web pages if you will let me know that you are interested in seeing them.

As always, I would encourage you to contact me if you have any questions regarding your student's academic progress towards graduation and matriculation to college.

Credits and Required Courses

Each student in Georgia is required to earn 23 credits for graduation. The chart on the next page provides the breakdown of courses needed to fulfill Georgia's graduation requirements. Note that the DOE sets the specific number of credits required and most but not all of the specific courses to fulfill the requirements.

The curriculum at Killian Hill Christian School is structured to meet the State's requirements for graduation as well as those established by its School Board. To meet the goal and objectives of our educational philosophy our Board has specified certain courses beyond those specified by the State DOE. KHCS graduates are required to have one credit in Speech, one credit in Computer Applications, and one credit in Humanities (Art History and Music Appreciation). Students are also required to earn one Bible credit each year they are enrolled at KHCS.

To optimize exposure to our educational philosophy, students are not allowed to substitute online courses for those offered on campus unless they are trying to seek a higher standard in curriculum. For example, a student might be permitted to take an online course in order to free their schedule so as to take an AP course or a 3rd year language course.

Finally, students are not allowed to take more than one study hall in a school year. The practice of taking more than one study hall does not seem to be a wise use of tuition dollars, does not promote academic rigor, mental acuity, and ill-prepares a student for a productive college experience.

Non-credit Requirements

KHCS students are required to take either the ACT or the SAT in order to graduate. I strongly recommend taking one of these during the Junior year if you are seeking enrollment in schools with competitive admissions environments (in Ga - UGA, Ga Tech, Ga State, Emory, etc).

KHCS students are also required to attend both the baccalaureate and graduation programs in order to graduate. The baccalaureate service is held at Killian Hill Baptist Church and is normally scheduled for the Sunday morning immediately preceding graduation.

Project 5 - Graduation Requirements

Underneath the required DOE courses, I have italicized those courses taken (and when taken) at KHCS to satisfy those requirements. You'll notice the DOE does not specify every course required for graduation. For example, while 4 credits are required for English, only two courses are specifically named. Here the DOE allows the student or the school to elect the two remaining English courses.

Courses marked ** are specifically required by Killian Hill for graduation. Killian Hill also requires one year of Bible class for each year of enrollment.

Core Area of Study	Credits Required	Required DOE Courses in this area
English/Language Arts	4	9th Grade Lit & Comp, American Lit <i>9th Grade Lit & Comp (9th)</i> <i>English 11 (11th)</i>
Mathematics	4	Math 1-4 or Algebra 1-3 & Geometry <i>Math 1 / Algebra 1 (8th)</i> <i>Math 2 / Geometry (9th)</i> <i>Math 3 / Algebra 2 (10th)</i> <i>Math 4 / Algebra 3 (11th)</i>
Science	4	1 Physical Sci, 1 Life Sci, 1 additional Sci & 1 Chemistry, Earth, Environmental or AP Sci <i>Physical Sci (8th), Biology (9th),</i> <i>Chemistry (10th), Elective Sci (10th - 12th)</i>
Social Studies	3	World History, US History, .5 credits in Government & Economics each <i>World History (9th), US History (10th)</i> <i>Gov't, and Econ (11th)</i>
CTAE and or Foreign Lang and/or Fine Arts	3	Not specified by DOE <i>Spanish 1 (10th), Spanish 2 (11th),</i> <i>Humanities (12th) **</i>
Health & Phys Ed	1	.5 credits in Health & Personal Fitness <i>Health (12th), Personal Fitness (12th)</i>
Electives	4	Not specified by DOE <i>Electives (KHCS & Georgia Virtual 9th-12th)</i> <i>Speech 1 (10th-12th) **</i> <i>Computer Apps (9th) **</i>

While the state of Georgia does not specifically require Chemistry or foreign language for high school graduation, Killian Hill's college prep curriculum includes chemistry and 2 credits of the same language because most colleges still hold those as a minimum expectation for admissions.