

AMERICAN HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA

INFO GUIDE



Prepared For :

Families interested in joining

Diversio Academy

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WWW.DIVERSIOACADEMY.COM

DIVERSIO ACADEMY

About Us

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Global & Local

Diversio Academy is an independently run alternative academy located in South Africa. We aim to equip parents to make the best decisions for their children's educational needs. We provide diverse homeschooling solutions with a globally accepted school-leaving outcome. Diversio Academy is affiliated with HomeLife Global, a division of HomeLife Academy, a registered private school in Jackson Tennessee, U.S.A. The high school diploma is officiated through HomeLife Academy.

Whether your child is a high academic achiever, a sports star, a self-made entrepreneur, or an artist wanting to follow their passions while completing school and aspiring to gain an international matric, you have found the answer.

OUR TEAM

GREAT TEAMWORK

STEPHANÉ BURGER

Founder of Diversio Academy and homeschooling mom of two will guide you and provide assistance on the diploma path.

Passionate about education from a different perspective, and finding solutions to allow learners with diverse needs to achieve success.

GLOBAL TEAM

A dedicated team of staff and counselors that desire to help you succeed. HLA offers flexibility, encouragement, and support when you need it.





VALUES & MISSION

OUR OBJECTIVE

Learning Diversity Pursued



VALUE 1

At our core beliefs, we value the importance of meeting every child where they are at. Thus meeting the diverse educational needs of each child to equip them for future success.

VALUE 2

We value life, family, and education and see these as vessels for children to prosper in their God-given gifts. We work alongside families to design a goal-based high school plan for teens to foster learning in all areas, not just education.

MISSION

Our mission is to support and equip our families to successfully complete an alternative matriculation route with the freedom to choose curriculum, the flexibility to create a learning environment to stimulate educational excellence, and the desire to inspire families to love learning for life!



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**THANK YOU, AND WE LOOK FORWARD TO
WORKING WITH YOU.**

Q U E S T I O N

01

WHAT IS THE AMERICAN HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA?

The American High School Diploma, or as we refer to it, AHSD, is the preferred and the official school leaving document issued by North American schools. The AHSD is the ticket for college admission, military acceptance, or students opting to enter the job market or a career path straight from high school.

A GLOBALLY ACCEPTED CERTIFICATION

It is no secret that The United States of America globally has one of the top educational systems.

Many students worldwide choose top US Ivy League Universities to complete their tertiary studies. There are distinct characteristics to American Education, albeit with some controversy regarding the previous Common Core Standards. The fact is that in the homeschooling world, American Education has played a massive part in developing various curriculum resources available to us even here at the tip of Africa.

What does the student receive when completing the AHSD?

The American High School Diploma in South Africa, like the NSC (CAPS/IEB), and its British counterpart, the Cambridge matric qualification, is regarded as an NQF level 4 qualification. The qualification can grant you access to higher education or access to enter the job market locally and abroad.

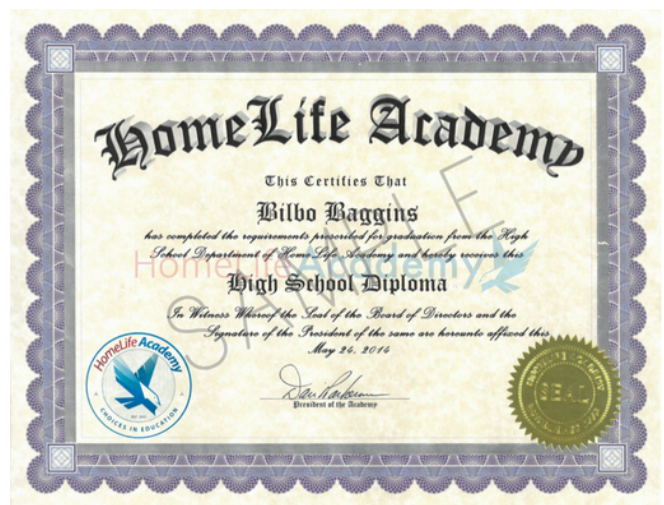
Upon completion of graduation requirements, a student receives:

- A Transcript of all high school subjects completed and grades obtained through the high school years, indicating the GPA and, at times, their Test scores (SAT/ACT)
- An official High School Diploma.

Graduation requirements vary by:

- US State, and
- There are also different requirements for the different pathways/levels of high school graduation

Below is a sample of the official HomeLife Academy Diploma a student receives upon graduation.



One diploma, various pathways.

Through HLA we can offer 4 main paths for your student to choose between when selecting a plan of study for high school. We also have a Certificate of Completion for students who may need this.

College4 Path

Choose this path if your student is planning on attending a 4-year college or university. More information about this path here <https://homelifeacademy.com/college4-path/>

College2TM Path

Choose this path if your student is planning on attending a 2-year college, technical school, or joining the military. Read about this path <https://homelifeacademy.com/college2tm-path/>

LifeChoice Path

Choose this path if your student is planning to make other life choices such as work/career, ministry, or being a homemaker. Read more about this path <https://homelifeacademy.com/lifechoice-path/>

NCAA Athletics Path

This path is designed for students wanting to play college sports and meet eligibility for NCAA Athletic Scholarships in the USA. Read more about this path <https://homelifeacademy.com/ncaa-path/>

Our international students (NON-US CITIZENS) must always follow the recommended INTERNATIONAL PATH in combination with one of the first three mentioned above.

More information about the requirements for this path can also be found here: <https://homelifeacademy.com/international-path-study/>

Recommended Courses for International Path

ENGLISH	4 CREDITS	ESL I, II, III, IV or English 9, 10, 11, 12 (ESL—English as a Second Language)
MATH	4 CREDITS	Integrated Math I, II, III, IV, Algebra 1, Algebra 2, Geometry, Calculus, Statistics, Accounting, Business Math, or other courses.
SCIENCE	3 CREDITS	Integrated Science courses, Biology, Physics, Chemistry or other science courses. Example: Integrated Chemistry and Physics; Advanced Integrated Chemistry-Physics; Integrated Biology.- Chemistry-Physics I II III
SOCIAL STUDIES	3 CREDITS	History of your country, World History and Geography, Macro/micro Economics or other social studies courses.
PERSONAL FINANCE	1/2 CREDIT	Not the same as Economics and is in addition to the math requirement.
HEALTH	1/2 CREDIT	Any health or wellness class. Not the same as Physical Education or sports.
PHYSICAL EDUCATION	1 CREDIT	150 hours of any physical activity or sport.
ELECTIVES	6 CREDITS	Choose courses based on student's goals or interests. Must have at least 6 credits. Literary study for your specific country will be counted as an elective.
TOTAL CREDITS	22 CREDITS	REQUIRED FOR GRADUATION

“

[Homeschooling]...recipe for genius: More of family and less of school, more of parents and less of peers, more creative freedom and less formal lessons.”

– Raymond S. Moore, School Can Wait



Students with foreign qualifications have to seek admission through the requirements as set out by SA MATRICULATION BOARD when applying to public universities.

Basic steps in this process include:

- Apply to the university of choice in Gr 11 with the 11th Grade transcript.
- If SAT/ACT was written include the score only when satisfactory.
- Complete the accredited Diploma and rewrite the SAT/ACT to improve the score.
- Apply for conditional foreign exemption at the Matriculation Board
- Use the exemption with the Diploma to do the final application at a local university.

Students with foreign qualifications applying at private higher education institutions have to seek admission through the requirements as set out by SAQA.

Basic steps in this process include:

- Apply to the university of choice in Gr 11 with the 11th Grade transcript.
- If SAT/ACT was written include the score only when satisfactory.
- Complete the accredited Diploma and rewrite the SAT/ACT to improve the score.
- Apply for evaluation of foreign qualification at NQF4 at SAQA.
- Use the evaluation with the Diploma to apply at a local private higher education institution of choice.

Q U E S T I O N

02

HOW TO PREPARE FOR THE AMERICAN HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA?

During the early years of homeschooling, everything counts. Life provides learning opportunities. Look for ways to teach your child as you go about your day. With this method, the child learns all day, every day. Gardening, field trips, nature hunts, bird watching, journaling, storytelling can all be part of learning opportunities. By 4th Grade, a student might be ready for longer and more formal lessons. Students in 6th grade are putting the final layer on their educational foundation and getting closer to beginning high school. These students should be working towards strong Reading, Writing, and Math skills prior to entering high school to be adequately prepared for high school level courses. 8th Grade will be a good time to review the requirements for high school and to talk about long-term goals.

WHAT TO FOCUS ON DURING K-8TH GRADE

Course Recommendations for Elementary & Middle School Students

A minimum of 4 courses is recommended.

- English Language Arts (Reading and Writing)
- Math
- Plus two additional courses* of your choice.
- Middle school students typically take more than four courses.

Read more about the HLA philosophy on early education here <https://homelifeacademy.com/academics/k-8th-grades/>

Homeschooling Your 1st-3rd Grade Students

HLA is very flexible. Homeschooling and learning should be an enjoyable experience for both parent and child. Think of ways to make learning fun. This will help your child develop a love for learning.

Remember all of life is an education so the student would still be learning during times of unstructured learning. Read more about the recommendations for 1st-3rd Grade

<https://homelifeacademy.com/academics/k-8th-grades/1st-3rd-grades/>



"Children learn from anything and everything they see. They learn wherever they are, not just in special learning places."

— **John Holt, Learning All The Time**

Homeschooling during 4th-6th Grade

During these intermediate years, you might find days where learning happens easily and some that are more difficult. Lessons will be getting longer and more subjects will be added. Some students may have the attention span and maturity for longer lessons while others may need shorter lessons with more breaks. Keep lessons short with breaks often.

6th Grade is also the first year of Middle School and many parents might feel an urgency to start working much more formally.

What things are most important for your child to learn during this stage? We know the obvious Reading, Writing, Spelling, Grammar, Math, and science.

NOTES:



Before we go into the depth of what is generally covered in 6th Grade we want you to think about a few other things that you might feel fit aptly into this age range.

But what about character-related things? Doing for others, learning to make his/her bed, learning to help with simple chores around the house? All of these things are part of training the whole child in the way he/she should go.

Take a look at some suggestions from HLA and remember to keep the stress levels low, there is enough time to work towards high school readiness.

<https://homelifeacademy.com/academics/k-8th-grades/4th-6th-graders/>

Jot down a few things you value and want to include in learning at this stage.

PREPARING A MIDDLE SCHOOLER FOR HIGH SCHOOL

- ✓ This is a good time to switch to the letter grading system if you have not already.
- ✓ Having a Schedule is Superb, being consistent is wonderful, and remember impromptu activities are well-remembered.
- ✓ Take advantage of field trips and other outings that provide socialization with all age groups.
- ✓ Students who need more time are free to take more time if needed. There is no rush and no need to panic.
- ✓ Discuss long term goals with your student so you can determine the best path to follow when planning for high school.
- ✓ These students should be working towards strong Reading, Writing, and Math skills prior to entering high school to be adequately prepared for high school level courses
- ✓ You do not have to test your child on everything he/she does. If you need assurance of the child's level of work, use placement tests as a measure or use untimed tests.
- ✓ 8th Grade is a good time to review the information in the high school section of our website. You will also want to review the 8th-grade checklist <https://homelifeacademy.com/8th-grade-checklist/>

REMEMBER THE FOLLOWING LIST OF TOPICS ARE GUIDELINES, AND DEPENDING ON YOUR FAMILY GOALS, HOMESCHOOL METHODOLOGY, RELIGION, AND WORLDVIEW, SOME OF THESE CONCEPTS MIGHT HAVE BEEN STUDIED EARLIER OR NOT AT ALL.

EARLY CREDITS FOR ADVANCED 8TH GRADE

Some advanced 8th graders may be taking one or two high school level courses while taking their remaining courses on the 8th-grade level.

Early credit should be limited to the following areas of study:

- Math (Algebra 1 or above),
- Science,
- World History,
- and/or Foreign Language.
- Max 3 credits.

Your student would be listed as an 8th grader in Applecore.

Middle school level courses will be reported as normal K-8th courses.

- To report a high school course taken during the 8th grade, check the “Credit Courses” box to access the list of high school courses.
- High school courses are issued credits. Courses for grades K-8 are not.
- Make sure you title the course according to the proper high school title such as Algebra 1 (not General Math).
- A one-year course = 1 credit. A half-year course = 0.5 credit.

These courses should NOT be counted for high school credit during middle school.

- High School English Courses*
- Pre-Algebra
- Consumer Math
- US History
- Economics/US Government
- Health
- PE
- Electives such as Bible, Music or Art

*Colleges may expect students to take English all 4 years of high school. Therefore, early credit is not recommended. You can still use whatever level curriculum makes sense for your student in 8th grade. Just do not assign credit or use the English 9 course title for material covered in 8th grade. HLA can be flexible, but we cannot guarantee that other schools, colleges, military, or post-secondary institutions will accept these early credits.

The course must be taught at the high school level.

Materials/textbooks must be high school level, and the course content must be the same as a high school course. If you are unsure if the resource is high school level you can contact Diversio Academy, check with the publisher, or check Cathy Duffy Reviews to verify.

Approved Courses for Early Credit in Middle School

- Algebra 1
- World History OR World Geography
- Spanish 1 or other Foreign Language course
- Biology

The curriculum must be high school level.

- Recommend a maximum of 3 credits early.
- We recommend early credit be limited to the 8th grade. Please call if you have special circumstances.
- Please contact your global counselor if you would like other courses considered.

NOTES:



- We cannot guarantee a college will accept early credit. Each college is different.
- Please be aware that some colleges have strict guidelines concerning which courses, if any, can be taken for credit during middle school.
- It is the parent's responsibility to research prospective colleges for admission requirements.
- The following recommendations are to help you get started if you are unsure what college your student will be attending.
- Colleges may expect students to take English all 4 years of high school. Therefore, early credit is not recommended. You can still use whatever level curriculum makes sense for your student in 8th grade. Just do not assign credit or use the English 9 course title for material covered in 8th grade.
- Find more info here <https://homelifeacademy.com/advanced-track/>

Q U E S T I O N

03

WHAT TO FOCUS ON DURING 9-12TH GRADE?

HLA started in TN but now serves a global homeschool community, offering ONE competitive high school diploma to graduates in all fifty states and many foreign countries. HLA grants its high school diploma. Therefore, the requirements are set by HomeLife Academy and not by an outside state education agency such as the TN Department of Education or any other state department.

The uniqueness of HLA is that we put the power in the hands of the parent, allowing YOU to customize a high school transcript that is just right according to your child's goals.

WHAT TO FOCUS ON DURING 9-12TH GRADE

With HLA's Goal-Based Planning and multiple paths of study, each student can select the approach that best fits their unique goals, talents, and passions.

The recommended 22 minimum credits required for an International Student to graduate:

- English - 4 Credits
- Math - 4 Credits
- Science - 3 Credits
- Social Studies - 3 Credits
- Personal Finance - 1/2 Credit
- Health - 1/2 Credit
- Physical Education - 1 Credit
- Electives - 6 Credits

As each family differs, so do the children in a family. That is why we prefer a "Goal-based High School Plan" that allows for each child to develop a path with their end goals in mind. Some children are highly academic individuals and will end their high school years with advanced courses in most if not all core courses. Some teens start their own business in middle or high school, and their end goal is to continue with their company. Others love sports or art, dance, and music and want to proceed with a career path in the field which may or may not need further study.

These are just a few learning guidelines to help you establish which areas your child might need to focus on during their high school years. Depending on their future life choices, career & learning paths, they might want to study overseas or remain in SA.

There are a few guidelines to consider for all options.

The first and most basic is fulfilling graduation requirements. As Diversio Academy serves the SA community and families from abroad by providing administrative service on behalf of our US Umbrella School – HomeLife Academy, you need to consult with us to ensure correct HLA International graduation requirements are met when you are in doubt.

For International students, HLA will accept ESL (English as a second language) courses to fulfill requirements. HLA also allows for the History of your country to meet one of the Social Studies credits. For more information, please visit: <http://homelifeacademy.com/international-path-study/>

Before we look at topics to cover in the core subject areas, let us look closer at what "credit" refers to.

WHAT IS A CREDIT, AND HOW IS IT AWARDED?

Credits are a method to determine whether a student has met the academic requirements.

Completion and passing of a high school course afford one or half-credit towards that course.

- High school courses are generally worth 1.0 credit (full-year course) or 0.5 credit (semester course).
- A 1 credit course using a standardized curriculum is worth one credit upon completion of the material. Even if the student can do the work in less time or takes longer.
- If a student takes longer to complete the course, issue partial credit (0.5) for the first half of the course. The remaining 0.5 credit is given when the course is completed.
- 0.25 credit/semester can be given if more time is needed until a course is completed.
- The credit assigned to a course generally considers course content, instruction time, and the time to complete all course work, including labs, research, reading, and more.
- Another formula to determine credit or award 1 Credit for core courses (English, Science, History, Math) is to allow at least 150 hours (roughly five hours a week for 30 weeks). Semester or 0.5 credit courses involve 75 hours of learning time.
- It is possible to award increments of a credit, where the student needs 1.0 credit, and when it is not possible to complete 150 hrs of content or activity. A student can for example complete 75 hours of physical activity a year and spread it over two years. Or only complete 37.5 hours of physical activity per year, 0.25 credits per year over 4-years.
- Note: Since one credit is approx. 150 hours of study, or about 50 min. per day, we do not recommend giving more than 8 credits per year. That's approx. 7 – 8 hrs. of study time per day.
- Note: It is not necessary, however, to do the course in 50-minute increments, nor do you have to keep a log of the hours. A log of hours works well with self-designed courses.

$$1.0 = 1hr^*$$

A ONE-YEAR COURSE = 1 CREDIT

A HALF-YEAR COURSE = 0.5 CREDIT

*1hr~50 minutes
of class time

PARTIAL CREDIT AND HOW IS IT AWARDED?

- The same principle applies to families following the CM approach with regards to Science and History. Generally, the CM-way of doing Science receives the course name Integrated Science I, II, III when completing 150 hrs of Biology, Chemistry, and Physics over three to four years. Other sciences like Earth Science, Astronomy, Geology, or Meteorology receive credit per course per amount of hours completed.
- The same applies to any homeschooling method through high school; the only pre-requisite will be to make sure all content is at the high school level where a student is not following a modified path.

You can source some of the above content at 3 Ways to Determine My Teen's High School Course Credit "3 Ways to Determine My Teen's High School Course Credit." 15 Jan. 2020, <https://hslida.org/post/3-ways-to-determine-my-teens-high-school-course-credit>.

Also, take some time and read about Credits here <https://homelifeacademy.com/academics/high-school/high-school-credits/>

WHAT
HAVE YOU
LEARNED



Can a student receive credit for high school courses already completed?

YES! That is the short answer. Let us explain the options available through HLA.

1. A student from a previous SA/other school with a formal school record
2. A student who completed Cambridge Exams
3. A student who completed the GED
4. A homeschool student with no report of courses completed
5. A student who used an online academy or curriculum provider without formal report cards.

1-3 can provide the official records and transfer credits to their HLA Transcript through the Credit review fee of \$50/family/year.

4-5 can provide a Homeschool report card/portfolio to evaluate credit at a fee of \$85/student/year, referred to as the Gap year fee.

During the high school phase, learners are mastering the excellent use of grammar through writing and critical analysis of literary works. Using higher thinking to solve much more intricate mathematical and scientific problems. The high school years shouldn't be a time to fear, instead, it should be embraced. With Diversio Academy and HLA by your side, we want you and your high school child to experience the last 4-years of homeschooling as a blessing.

- The reasons why every family chooses to home-educate widely differ. While we want each child to succeed, we also don't want families to use methods or curricula that do not support their journey.
- HLA does not prescribe the curriculum or approaches, and neither does Diversio Academy. We encourage you to develop your Learning Journey to fit your family.
- When designing an Individualized Educational Plan, you specify the textbooks and resources for each course and capture them into Applecore after enrollment. Applecore is the easy-to-use online record-keeping system utilized by HLA and all families.
- HLA will evaluate your enrollment application after payment. The Educational Plan(EP) for each of your children must be completed either at the time of registration or within the next two days after enrollment for the final HLA councilor's approval and completion of registration.

If assistance is needed, consult with Diversio Academy directly. Request Educational Planning assistance in advance before registration.

Consultation slots are limited- planning a student's individual education plan takes time, it involves a thorough investigation into learning preferences, personal interests, and goals, as well as specific curricula to fit all these requirements. You know your child best, and though you may not know how to design an IEP, you and your student will need to provide us with some information to propose an IEP.

Please note that it is not Diversio Academy's responsibility to register your child with the DBE as a Home Educated learner.

- Compulsory school-going age starts when the child turns seven and ends when they turn 15 or in Gr 9, whichever occurs first.
- Home Education is legal in South Africa, but parents find them in a difficult position when they read the policy on home education.
- We recommend that you contact the Pestalozzi Trust to discuss your questions and objections, and get legal advice from the right people.
<https://pestalozzi.org/en/what-does-the-law-say-on-homeschooling/>

If you need guidance on designing an individual educational plan for your child, please contact us to arrange a consultation.

Is testing needed for a high school student?

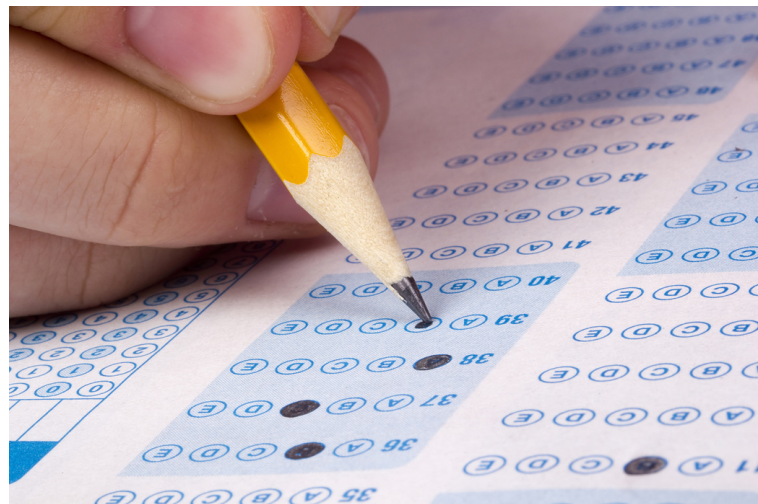
You might wonder what relevance there is in testing your high school student at all. The answer to that lies in the individual student's goal-based planning. A student on the College4Path certainly needs to uphold high academic achievement and grades to perform in university or college. You want them to be successful and to apply successfully to their choice of tertiary institutions, grading and testing are needed. These include not only testing a specific subject but also SAT or ACT standardized testing.

The SAT/ACT is optional at some US universities but for SA public universities is one of the major requirements when graduating with the American High School Diploma as referred to in Chapters 1 and 3. We have to stress the importance of making yourself familiar with each university's admission policies and requirements regarding USAf and the Matriculation Board or SAQA requirements.

How do I grade my home-educated student's work?

Most of the recommended homeschool curricula come with course descriptions, course objectives, grading requirements or guidelines, answer keys, and grading rubrics to assist parents in the grading process.

There is no guessing how to grade or facilitate a course for your student.



However, HLA provides parents the freedom to choose their resources and even design courses for their students.

Parents might find the grading of a self-designed course difficult. One of the best ways to grade such a course is the formulation and use of a grading system and rubric suited to the course.

- If a student is attending outside classes, they might receive a certificate of attendance or completion, these can also form part of the parameters used to grade a self-designed course.

Consider how you will evaluate your teen's understanding and retention of the subject matter and then establish a grading system. The way you grade each course - especially in different disciplines (English, Maths, Science, History, Foreign Language, etc.) will likely differ. Each field teaches other skills, requires various assignments, and develops different capabilities. But with a few minor tweaks, you will probably use the same grading system in each discipline for all years of high school.

Formulating a grading system or framework

Begin by deciding the types of assignments and assessments that you will give your student and the percentage of the final course grade that each type will constitute. Consider grouping assignments into three general categories:

- High-pressure assignments: tests, essays, projects, research papers, position papers.
- Medium-pressure assignments: discussions, quizzes, paragraphs, demonstrations, reports, lab reports, summaries.
- Low-pressure assignments: problem sets, outlines, lecture notes, reading assignments, comprehension questions.

As a recommendation, base the final course grade on assignment types from at least three general categories to reflect your student's learning mastery.

Determine the percentage of the final grade that each assignment type will constitute. The total of all the assignment type percentages must equal 100%.

For example, the assignment types and percentages for a math course:

- Two-semester exams = 50%
- Weekly quizzes or unit tests = 30%
- Daily problem sets, notes, or quizzes = 20%

Throughout the course, record the grade for each of the student's assignments. This recording can be as simple as tracking the grades on a piece of paper in a three-ring binder, using a digital grading toolkit, or tracking grades in a spreadsheet. Refer to the [Welcome Pack](#) for various tools to assist in your record-keeping process.

- At the end of the course, you will calculate the average for all the assignments of each type before weighting that average by the percentage you assigned to it.
- Here's an example based on that hypothetical math course:
 - Exams (average exam grade times weight): $83.5\% \times 50\% = 41.75\%$
 - Quizzes: $89.6\% \times 20\% = 17.92\%$
 - Daily problem sets: $79.3\% \times 30\% = 23.79\%$
 - Final course grade: $41.75\% + 17.92\% + 23.79\% = 83.46\%$
- Use the grading scale below to revert all percentages to a letter grade as required by HLA.

Official grading scale to be used for all HLA/Diversio Academy students.

High school student grades are presented as letter grades. Elementary and Middle School student grades can either be indicated as a letter scale or a pass/fail.

Letter Grade Scale		
A+	98.00	100.00
A	93.00	97.99
A-	90.00	92.99
B+	88.00	89.99
B	83.00	87.99
B-	80.00	82.99
C+	78.00	79.99
C	73.00	77.99
C-	70.00	72.99
D+	68.00	69.99
D	63.00	67.99
D-	60.00	62.99
F	0.00	59.99

Online curricula vs. textbook curricula

Families often choose online curricula providers or curriculum products because they offer grading assistance.

- Some online curricula can provide the full suite of testing, assignment grading, and exams.
- Expect to pay more for these products as all these extras are built-in.
- However, in most courses such as English and Social Studies where written response questions must be handed-in, a dedicated tutor, teacher, or coach will be marking and grading those as an optional extra, at additional cost. Very often you will find 80% of assignments in online curricula products are automatically graded and 20% are parent-graded and either rubrics or answer keys with model answers are provided.
- Online curricula have become a huge asset in many homes, just be careful when making a choice that you were able to experience the user interface through a trial period, and not purchase a product that will not suit your child's need.
- Also, make sure that you are purchasing a recorded course. Virtual, live courses generally require high-speed internet, electricity, and being able to attend the class as part of the grading.

If the course is presented in the US, your student might very well end up attending a class at midnight if you are in SA.



- The benefits of online curricula often outshine the rest of the options for high school students.
 - They can get immediate feedback with solutions to problems
 - They can progress quickly through material or slow down the pace and repeat where needed.
 - The use of technology that integrates many modes of learning- audio, visual, and typing as opposed to writing for some might make learning easier.
 - Some online curricula have the option to contact the tutor via e-mail, or to arrange help sessions through Zoom or Skype, eliminating the need for a parent to "know" and understand all the content their high schooler is interested in or needs to study.
 - They can study anywhere, literally anywhere in the world without packing a huge amount of textbooks or other resources.
 - Lastly, the additional benefit of grading, is that it relieves a parent often from a huge burden.



With all the benefits of online curricula, why would you choose a text-based curriculum?

- Text-based curricula allow a family to reuse them for other kids still having to complete the same course. Online curricula mostly work on a yearly license without the possibility to reassign it to another student.
- Text-based curricula keep young learners and teens away from the distractions that often come with an online resource, or the ability to get off-topic while searching for something online.
- Many families specifically want school to not involve technology, and we can debate about this for hours but the choice remains with the parents. We realize the harmful effect technology and the internet have on people, and we definitely agree that families must lay down the rules with regards to technology use for school-related activities.

We have however also experienced, first-hand, the benefits of using

online curricula and apps for some learning activities, and have a few recommended resources that are online-based curricula.



We realize we have many new homeschooling families who decided after the events of the previous two years that school-at-home is their solution to many problems. Family needs differ and for many new homeschooling families, the only way they can make homeschooling work is by using online options.

We understand and invite every parent to enjoy the freedom to choose how you homeschool- this is only one of HomeLife Academy's missions we at Diversio Academy value.



“ I no longer believe that the current education system is able to equip our children for a fast-moving future. Technology has evolved so rapidly in the last five years that to put a child in an education system that was designed for a future that will most likely no longer exist for the majority, seems almost absurd.”

— Leha Eldridge, JUMP, FALL, FLY From Schooling to Homeschooling to Unschooling

Text-based curricula hold their own ground among book-lovers who still find their best learning takes place somewhere between the pages.

- Pen and paper trump the stylus and screen when it comes to the learning experience for many students. Although the very same students might be very comfortable with technology in hand.
- Decisions regarding text or online curricula truly lie with the family and specifically the student who will use whichever method to acquire, assimilate, research, study and narrate the body of knowledge they wish to master.
- In the end, most parents' wish is not only to provide the best education possible but the best suited education for each child.

How the education takes place and with what mediums of instruction, provide the flexibility one can only truly find by home educating your child. Allowing any learner to grow through the experience of using different educational methods and tools will enable them to find a technique or two that the student then molds into their self-directed learning approach.

Your child then becomes both teacher and student, facilitating their learning and creating passionate, dedicated, lifelong learners.



Q U E S T I O N

05

WHAT SERVICES, AND FEES ARE APPLICABLE?

Through HLA families have a full-service records department at their disposal, just as any other private school.

Homeschooling with the support of an established private school providing homeschool counseling, webinars, and local group administrators allows parents to focus on educating their students.

SERVICES

With HLA Global we are able to provide all homeschooling families a full range of services you will find at a private school.

OUR GLOBAL SERVICES INCLUDE:

- Teacher/Student IDs
- Report Cards
- Official Transcripts
- Diplomas
- Apostille/Legalization
- Freedom & Flexibility

Your Responsibilities:

Registration with HomeLife Academy's Global division puts the responsibility of the teaching and grading of the student on the parent. You are the teacher of your student. You may enroll your student in tutorials or co-ops, or use any curriculum that will best fit the needs of your student.

Families must also agree to HLA's Code of Ethics for Parents & Students and our Family Agreement to Terms & Conditions. These are part of the Enrollment Form (EN001) families complete and request from Diversio Academy, your Global Group Administrator.

What can you expect from Diversio Academy?

Diversio Academy allows you to connect with other students and families within your group.

Diversio Academy oversees the group and helps with communication and other needs. Additionally, Diversio Academy offers Educational consultations, Educational planning, and record-keeping services which will be explained in the next section.

What can you expect from HLA Global?

We offer our Global families, whether foreign nationals, US military families, or missionaries, the same level of service as families living in the states. This comes with peace of mind knowing your family's records are safe and always there for you backed by the full support of our Global staff.

DIVERSIO ACADEMY SERVICES INCLUDE:

- Educational Consultations
- Planning Assistance
- Record-keeping Assistance
- Youth Groups
- Virtual courses in affiliation with other tutors/educators
- In the future, we plan to incorporate Virtual Co-ops
- Course guides to direct learning can be written upon request, and a few are available for purchase.
- Diversio Merchandise
- Facilitation of graduation ceremonies

The Enrollment Form (EN0001) clearly indicates the fees for each of the services you can additionally request from Diversio Academy.

Is there a cut-off date for enrollment?

HLA has open enrollment all year long.

Our cut-off dates for enrollment are May 1 (for the split school year or US Calendar year) and October 1 (for the calendar school year).

Can HLA accommodate my school year calendar?

- Countries throughout the world use different school calendars, meaning the months in their country when public schools are in session.
- When enrolling with HomeLife Academy we distinguish between 2 different school calendars.
- One calendar we refer to is the “**US School Calendar**”, which is the most common in the USA.
 - The official dates for this school year are August 1 – July 31.
- The other calendar is the “**Alpha Calendar**”. The preferred calendar for South African families.
 - The official dates for this school year are January 1 – December 31.

What is the function of the Diversio Youth groups?

The current active group is focused on 14-19-year-olds.

Jung Diversio is a youth group for our 14-19 year-olds that offers to connect students and provide a structured program where they can grow in character and leadership.

The central leg of the program is internationally recognized and ends in an Award to include in a student’s Portfolio and resume. The Award is achieved through providing a service to his/her community, developing a skill and physical recreation in an area of choice, and participating in an annual adventurous journey. Please contact us for more details about the award and on how to proceed with registration.

What other youth groups are planned to be established in the future?

We hope to offer two further groups.

Mittel Diversio is a middle school group for our 10-13 year-olds that offers to connect students and provide a structured program where they can grow in character and financial stewardship, and develop practical life skills to prepare them for the high school years and beyond.

Ki(d)Diversio, is an elementary school group for our 6-9/10 year-olds that offers to connect students and provide a structured program where they can grow in character and financial stewardship.

ENROLLMENT FEES

FEE	SERVICE DESCRIPTION
	ANNUAL REGISTRATION HLA provide discounted rates to Diversio Academy.
New families \$200/year/family Existing families: \$180/year/family	<p>As a global group family, you will be directly invoiced by Diversio Academy before registration takes place. Registration Fees must be paid promptly on receipt of the invoice to ensure no additional costs are accrued due to the foreign exchange rate changes. Please arrange for bank clearance on transfers from banks other than First National Bank, as payments can take up to 5 business days to reflect, and this can also delay registrations.</p>
Senior Fee: \$60/\$110	<p>The Senior fee is \$110 per senior per family for new students and \$60 for existing students. Only for high school seniors (Gr 12) and paid only once during high school years. This covers transcripts (up to one year after graduation), diplomas (cover not included), reviews, and counseling during the senior year.</p>
	POSSIBLE OTHER FEES AFTER ENROLLMENT
Credit Transfer: \$115/student	<p>The Credit Review Fee is \$115/student and covers previous public & private school records recorded on HLA's transcript.</p>
Gap Credit Transfer: \$95/year	<p>\$95 per school year/student for the first year, and \$70 for each year thereafter. HLA requires all high school students previous records to build the transcript. Homeschool/parent-generated records require an additional GAP fee to add the grades to our transcript. Students must be enrolled with HLA for at least one semester before transcripts can be issued.</p>
Transfer Additional student: \$55	<p>The Transfer fee is \$55 for students added to an existing family account during the school year or after annual family enrollment. This fee does not apply to new Kindergarten students (PreK and K5).</p>
US Apostille: \$75* Postage, Shipping: Quotes available	<p>Apostille/Legalization of Documents is \$75* plus additional shipping fees. An Apostille is a specialized certificate, issued by the Secretary of State. The Apostille is attached to the original HLA document (transcript, diploma, etc.) to verify it is legitimate and authentic, so it will be accepted in one of the other countries that are members of the Hague Apostille Convention. Some countries also require legalization through their U.S. Consulate. *\$75 per request per family (up to 4 documents); \$15 per additional document. Students must be enrolled with HLA for at least one semester before apostilles can be issued. International shipping is provided through DHL Express to ensure the most reliable deliveries with the lowest shipping rates.</p>

DIVERSIO ACADEMY FEES

FEE	EXTRA SERVICE DESCRIPTION
	EDUCATIONAL CONSULTATION
Individual: R 350/hr	Individual Consultations: completed virtually, per Zoom, or in person. These consultations provide counseling regarding general homeschooling, designing an Individual Educational Plan for a student on an American High School Diploma Path, or recommendations for students with special needs.
Group: TBC	Arrange a virtual training hub or a seminar with a few other parents in your area. Additionally, small group training can be accommodated in Darling, WC. The cost is dependent on traveling distance and the number of attendees.
	ACADEMIC PLANNING ASSISTANCE
R 250/subject	A) Guidance and support for parents planning a 3-5 year educational plan in an SA context per student per subject
R 150/subject	B) Design & writing a course description and outline per subject.
R150/subject	C) Subject-specific assessment spreadsheet for progress & grade tracking per subject
R300/subject	D) Combination of A & B per subject
R 2000	E) Complete Package: comprehensive educational plan according to the student's subject choices: A & B for six subjects per student
R 2800	F) Premium Package: comprehensive educational plan according to the student's subject choices: A, B & C for six subjects per student
R 100	G) Reviews or revisions of finalized A or B, or C (where alterations or substantial changes take place on content that was completed)

DIVERSIO ACADEMY FEES

FEE	SERVICE DESCRIPTION
	RECORD KEEPING ASSISTANCE
R 150	H) Recording of annual Educational Plan into Applecore per student (Complete form IEP004)
R 125	I) Recording of grades into Applecore per semester per student.
R 120	J) Recording of Portfolio into Applecore per semester per student
R 20	K) Recording of Attendance into Applecore per semester per student
R 100/request	L) Remote assistance with Applecore through Teamviewer/Zoom to review, revise or change a student's EP, including course names, course creation, curriculum or resource description, portfolio descriptors, attendance
	GROUP RECORD-KEEPING ASSISTANCE
Group: TBC	Small groups, co-ops, church-related schools, and micro-schools can be accommodated if there is one administrative contact person in the group that will compile all administration of students in a single file, See Group Academic Package below.
Group: TBC	Training for small groups, co-ops, church-related schools, and micro-schools on record-keeping requirements can be arranged in-person or virtually and will be determined by the size of the training group and traveling distance, contact us to discuss your options.
	GROUP CURRICULUM FEES
	The curriculum choices will be determined upon consultation with the groups' administrator/head once initial parent counseling was completed.

DIVERSIO ACADEMY FEES

FEE	GROUPS SERVICE DESCRIPTION
	GROUPS EDUCATIONAL CONSULTATION
Group: TBC	<p>Small groups, co-ops, church-related schools, and micro-schools can be accommodated where all families are part of the same group. We provide a lower rate for groups to assist in keeping costs affordable. These consultations provide counseling regarding homeschooling in a co-op format, and how to accommodate Individual Educational Plans for each student on the American High School Diploma Path. Recommendations on keeping a simplified approach towards core courses facilitated in groups while allowing freedom to explore electives as per student goals. Discuss your options with us.</p>
	GROUPS ACADEMIC PLANNING ASSISTANCE
R 1800/student/year premium package for 4 Core Courses	<p>To allow groups the best functional set-up we provide core course suggestions for Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies per subject area of students and not graded bands of students because students in different grade bands can take the same subject/course depending on their academic strengths and goals.</p> <p>English is set according to grade level with additional English credit options for students taking English Elective credits over and above the required 4 English credits. Core course areas are packaged and students choose from the options provided. 3-4 credits are required in the Core Course Band.</p>
R 400/student per required course	<p>Required credits have limited curriculum choices to simplify the facilitation by the group facilitators. These credits are Health/Wellness and Personal Finance. Physical Education (PE) should be determined by the head of the group as either a specific physical activity provided to all students in the group or individual physical activities as per student attendance of extra-mural activities.</p>
R 450/elective	<p>Electives are managed by parent-facilitators but must be checked by an appointed facilitator in the group once per month to ensure a student keeps on track with the individual educational plan. Electives are chosen after an individual consultation with each student per year. A minimum of 2 Elective credits per year are recommended to adhere to graduation requirements.</p>

DIVERSIO ACADEMY FEES

FEE	SAMPLE GROUP SERVICE COSTING
	GROUPS EDUCATIONAL CONSULTATION
<p>Group with min 10 families: R 4000/group</p>	<p>Small groups, co-ops, church-related schools, and micro-schools can be accommodated where all families are part of the same group. We provide a lower rate for groups to assist in keeping costs affordable. These consultations provide counseling regarding homeschooling in a co-op format, and how to accommodate Individual Educational Plans for each student on the American High School Diploma Path. Recommendations on keeping a simplified approach towards core courses facilitated in groups while allowing freedom to explore electives as per student goals. Discuss your options with us.</p>
	GROUPS ACADEMIC PACKAGE
<p>R 2750/family per year</p>	<p>Registration per family is dependent on the exchange rate and fees determined by HLA and can change due to fluctuations or price increases as set by HLA. Current registration in 2022 is estimated at R2750/family/year.</p>
<p>R 3 100/student/year premium package for 7 courses</p>	<p>ACADEMIC PLANNING ASSISTANCE NO CURRICULUM PROVIDED 1 Course credit each for Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies per subject area per year 1 English credit according to grade level per year 1 PE credit (once-off during the course of 4-years) 0.5 Health/Wellness credit (once-off during the course of 4-years) 0.5 Personal Finance credit(once-off during the course of 4-years) 2 Elective credits per year Can include 1 additional English credit option for students taking English Elective credits at R450/elective English credit</p>
<p>R 800/student/year</p>	<p>RECORD-KEEPING per student per year includes: Entering of IEP into Applecore annually at the time of registration/re-enrollment, recording of grades, portfolio, and attendance per semester (twice a year: first week of June and last week of November)</p>
<p>TOTAL/student/year R 3 900</p>	<p>Total Academic planning & administrative package only include administrative duties required to fulfill HLA compliance as described above, internal group administration must be facilitated by the group and costs are to be determined by the group</p>

MORE

To streamline your registration or enrollment this section cuts out the fluff and gives you the steps and various form names to complete.

There are 3 options, choose the one that fits your family:

1) NEVER HOMESCHOOLED

If your children were enrolled in a private or public school and they received official report cards.

2) ALWAYS HOMESCHOOLED

If your children are already homeschooling and you don't have official report cards.

3) ALREADY A DIVERSIO ACADEMY/HLA FAMILY

If you are re-enrolling for the new school year.

Forms names:

EN001: Enrollment/Re-Enrollment Form for all new and currently enrolled families

EN-T002: Transfer Records Form for new families who were only

homeschooled and have no records

HPR003: Homeschool Planning Records for personal family use

IEP004: Individual Educational Plan for each student

BPP005: Big Picture Planning to provide an overview of high school credits, courses, and which year or grade they will be taken

Forms to complete for each option:

Option 1:

- Enrollment form (EN001) all sections

plus

- Individual Education Plan for each student for the year of enrollment (IEP004)

plus

- Previous Official school records must be included for all years of high school each student completed

Option 2:

- Enrollment form (EN001) all sections

plus

- Individual Educational Plan for each student for the year of enrollment (IEP004)

plus

- Records for all students to show all courses, curricula, content studied on the Transfer Form EN-T002 a form per year per student

Option 3:

- Re-Enrollment form (EN001) all sections

plus

- Individual Educational Plan for each student for the year of enrollment (IEP004)

Important dates and calendar explanations:

We use 2 of the 3 available calendars to choose the best suited to your family, take note of important dates, and indicate the correct option on EN001.

1) ALPHA (South African) academic calendar families:

For families who want to follow the South African Academic calendar (Jan-Dec). The following HLA deadlines apply: Refer to our typical school calendar and plan your family schedule to allow for a minimum of 180 school days.

DATE	ALPHA CALENDAR ACTIVITY
01 Dec 21	SA Academic Calendar Enrollment / Re-enrollment Deadline with HLA through Diversio Academy Enter your Educational Plan for the new year to expedite the registration
16 Dec 2021-16 Jan 2022	Diversio Academy Offices Closed for annual holiday
25 Dec 2021-2 Jan 2022	HLA Offices Closed
1 Jan 2022	Spring semester begins (as per Applecore)
15 Jun 2022	Spring Term Reporting Deadline (Grades & Attendance)
16 Jun 2022	Summer Term begins (as per Applecore)
1 Jul-Aug 2022	Fall semester begins (schedule as per family routines)
15 Sep 2022	Summer Term Reporting Deadline (Grades & Attendance)
2 Dec 2022	Fall Term Reporting Deadline (Grades & Attendance)
5-9 Dec 2022	Early enrollment & re-enrollment week for upcoming 2023 school year
15 Jan 2023	Special request Late date grade reporting Deadline

2) US academic calendar families:

Families who want to follow the US academic calendar (Aug-June) should take note of the following HLA deadlines:

DATE	US CALENDAR ACTIVITY
1 May 2022	Last day for US calendar enrollment for the current 2021/2022 school year
Jun-Jul 2022	Start school year early or enjoy summer holiday
1 Aug 2022	US Calendar Fall term new school year start
24-27 Nov 2022	HLA Offices Closed for Thanks Giving
15 Dec 2022-15 Jan 2023	Diversio Academy Offices Closed for annual holiday
25 Dec 2022-2 Jan 2023	HLA Offices Closed
1 Jan 2023	Spring semester begins (as per Applecore)
15 Jan 2023	Report mid-term (Fall) grades by 15 January
13-17 Feb 2023 (TBC)	Spring Break
15 Jun 2023	Spring Term/Final Reporting Deadline for semester schedules(Grades & Attendance)
16 Jun 2023	Summer Term begins (as per Applecore)
1 Aug 2023	Last day for re-enrollment for upcoming school year 2022/2023
15 Sep 2023	Final grade Spring/Summer Term Reporting Deadline (Grades & Attendance)

10 STEPS TO REGISTRATION

STEP	1		Do your research and request help If you researched the goal-based paths and completed IEP planning jump to step 8 otherwise continue to step 2
STEP	2		Arrange a consult or webinar If you need extra info about the diploma paths or IEP planning, request a consult or assemble a group of interested parents to attend a webinar
STEP	3		Attend a Consultation or webinar Purchase a recorded webinar to view at your own leisure or attend a virtual consult/webinar to gain more insight into designing an IEP
STEP	4		Request design of an IEP After the consult or webinar, request further service if you need your child's IEP designed by Diversio Academy, or skip to Step 5 if you will DIY
STEP	5		Finalize your child/children's IEP Finalize each child's individual educational plan yourself or if you requested the service from Diversio Academy go to Step 6
STEP	6		Work through proposed IEP On receipt of the proposed IEP and invoice, make payment for the service provided, study the proposal and give feedback on the IEP via e-mail.
STEP	7		Make changes where needed to IEP If any changes need to be made to your self-designed IEP or proposed IEP from Diversio Academy confirm these via e-mail
STEP	8		Request enrollment only with IEP Request enrollment forms if IEP is complete and you are fairly sure about the goal-based planning completed for the current year of enrollment.
STEP	9		Complete EN001 and return Complete the EN001 form, make sure to indicate if you need us to fill in the IEP into Applecore at the time of enrolment or not, and return via e-mail
STEP	10		Make payment upon receipt of invoice Make payment upon receipt of invoice, take note that fees are charged in Rand, and due to exchange rates payments need to reflect within 24 hours in our account.



Prepared For :

Families joining Diversio Academy

Diversio Academy

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