



# MAPPING HIGH SCHOOL

By Dana Caywood

**E**NTERING THE YEARS of homeschooling during high school can sometimes seem to be a daunting, insurmountable, unknown mountain of a task. When the parents have mapped out a course of study, it makes choosing curricula and planning much easier. Over the years, I found a very simple method that worked well for my family. Here are some steps that may help you as you enter the Rhetoric years.

**1** Pray that God will give you, the teacher, guidance and direction. It is only through the Holy Spirit that our plans for our children will truly glorify God and lead our teens on the godly path toward adulthood. Don't rush through this step, as it is very much the crux of success.

**2** Meet with your husband to pray and get his opinion. He may have talents or skills that will enable him to be involved with various aspects of your high school student's career. Additionally, he has insight that you may or may not have about each child. This is a valuable step that I found provided needed balance to my own perspectives.

**3** Learn the graduation requirements for your state and/or your umbrella school. Determine what is allowed for each credit, and what is not. For instance, my umbrella school does not allow honors courses. Additionally, the student must take his English credits over the course of four separate years, and there cannot be a separate Literature credit. There may be other guidelines that you need to follow, and it is much easier to know these on the front end of high school, rather than in the middle of the senior year.

**4** Make a chart that reflects these requirements. Here is the one that I made for my boys. . . . .

Course/Required Credits	9 <sup>th</sup> grade	10 <sup>th</sup> grade	11 <sup>th</sup> grade	12 <sup>th</sup> grade
English (4)				
Math (3)				
Science (3)				
World History (1)				
US History (1)				
Foreign Language (2)				
Fine Arts (1)				
PE (1)				
Health (½)				
Economics (½)				
Electives (4)				



Then, determine which Tapestry Year-Plan you will be using for each grade, as well as other curricula needed to fulfill requirements. Filling out the chart then provides direction for each school year. However, don't fill in the electives quite yet.

Course/Required Credits	9 <sup>th</sup> grade	10 <sup>th</sup> grade	11 <sup>th</sup> grade	12 <sup>th</sup> grade
English (4)	Year 2 Tapestry Writing Component, ½ of Tapestry literature selections, SAT vocabulary prep, logic 3 times each week	Year 3 Tapestry Writing Component, ½ of Tapestry literature selections, SAT vocabulary prep, logic 3 times each week	Year 4 Tapestry Writing Component, ¾ of Tapestry literature selections, grammar review	Year 1 Tapestry Writing Component, all Tapestry literature selections
Math (3)	Geometry: MUS	Algebra II: MUS	Pre-Calculus: MUS	
Science (3)	Chemistry: Spectrum	Biology: Apologia	Physics: Outside class	
World History (1)		Tapestry Year 3		
US History (1)			Tapestry Year 4	
Foreign Language (2)	Latin I: Henle	Latin II: Henle		
Fine Arts (1)				Accumulation of Fine Arts from all Tapestry Year-Plans
PE (1)				Take at the junior college
Health (½)		Total Health		
Economics (½)			Economics: BJU	
Electives (4)				

## 6

Next, with input from the student, add in the electives. . . . .

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English (4)	Year 2 Tapestry Writing Component, ½ of Tapestry literature selections, SAT vocabulary prep, logic 3 times each week	Year 3 Tapestry Writing Component, ½ of Tapestry literature selections, SAT vocabulary prep, logic 3 times each week	Year 4 Tapestry Writing Component, ¾ of Tapestry literature selections, grammar review	Year 1 Tapestry Writing Component, all Tapestry literature selections
Math (3)	Geometry: MUS	Algebra II: MUS	Pre-Calculus: MUS	Calculus: junior college
Science (3)	Chemistry: Spectrum	Biology: Apologia	Physics: Outside class	Advanced science: junior college
World History (1)		Tapestry Year 3		
US History (1)			Tapestry Year 4	
Foreign Language (2)	Latin I: Henle	Latin II: Henle		
Fine Arts (1)				Accumulation of Fine Arts from all Tapestry Year-Plans
PE (1)				Take at the junior college
Health (½)		Total Health		
Economics (½)			Economics: BJU	
Electives (4)	Western Civilization: Tapestry Year 2	Church History: Accumulation of Tapestry Year 2 and Year 3	Bible	Elective of the student's choice from the junior college

### A few notes about my course choices:

- ☞ This particular course map is for my student who has a math/science bent. Courses and sequencing of them is largely determined by the student's abilities and interests.
- ☞ Our students participate in dual-enrollment their senior year of high school. This enables us to still provide an umbrella of protection and guidance before totally leaving our home and moving away to college. We consider it a transition year.
- ☞ The chart is subject to change as we learn more about the gifts and interests that God bestowed on each child.
- ☞ We do Bible every year, but I only give one credit for it. This is part of our Christian life, and not just an academic endeavor.
- ☞ SAT prep is done four days each week in 9<sup>th</sup> grade through the first semester of 11<sup>th</sup> grade. I do not choose to give a credit for this work, although some umbrella schools allow this.

