

ACADEMICS
that **INSPIRE.**



FAITH
that **LEADS.**

INFO PACKET



a place
where
your child
can thrive

Welcome

As your family is considering different school options, what are the biggest priorities? Whatever you're looking for today, I believe the core commitments and values of Hillcrest Academy have something to offer that you won't find elsewhere.

Today we will tell you about our school — a connected, intimate, thriving community. It is made up of engaged parents like you; dedicated and remarkable teaching faculty and staff; and all of our incredible students.

An education here just sticks with our students, along with the friendships, spiritual formation, and desire to go and serve others in the world. We are delighted about your interest in Hillcrest Academy and can't wait to meet you and your child one day soon.

Sincerely,



DWIGHT GINGERICH

Principal

INTRODUCTION

Academic Foundations at Hillcrest Academy

Later in this packet you'll see how Hillcrest Academy student success compares to national averages. Those achievements are due to our strong academic rigor. Private education opens up many advantages for academic challenges and expectations that public schools can't match. Along with our 9 AP classes in various disciplines, Hillcrest students have opportunities such as Anatomy and Physiology which will challenge any budding scientist or medical student. Hillcrest Academy offers College Board-certified Advanced Placement (AP) courses. Current AP courses offered at Hillcrest include Microeconomics, Macroeconomics, Statistics, US Government and Politics and US History.

Hillcrest partners with Kirkwood Community College to offer concurrent courses that allow

students to earn college credit while still in high school, explore exciting career paths in Agriculture and Industrial Arts, and gain valuable hands-on skills in Animal Science, Small Engines Repair, and Welding Fundamentals

Our academic standards are high, and our faculty are passionate, engaged, mentors who know and love their students. The teachers and staff here live out another aspect of our academic foundation — we offer a distinctive Christian education at Hillcrest Academy. Our graduates are active, informed citizens who lead through discipleship, peacemaking, and service. Capstone courses like Christianity in the World Arena build on other Bible classes and help students deeply understand the Christian faith in light of other major world religions.



CORE VALUES
AT HILLCREST ACADEMY,
We are passionate about:

FOLLOWING JESUS

**PROVIDING
OPPORTUNITIES
TO THRIVE.**

ACADEMIC RIGOR

HOLISTIC LEARNING

**CULTIVATING
COMPASSIONATE
LEADERS**

**NURTURING
COMMUNITY**



Parents and students are often surprised to learn just how broad and exciting the list of elective classes and extracurricular opportunities are at Hillcrest Academy. Ceramics, computer graphics, photography, sculpture, entrepreneurship, culinary arts, creative projects, advanced creative writing, marketing, and so much more are just the beginning. Students can also choose from courses in Agriculture and the Industrial Arts including Animal Science, Small Engines, and Welding. When you combine all these electives with core academic classes and even more possibilities through athletics and fine arts, it's truly an impressive array.

The last thing we'll mention in this overview about our academic points of distinction is that everything we have been summarizing so far is taught through what we call engaged learning. It's not enough to only learn something in a classroom. Students need help applying what they've learned in the real world. We use a hands-on approach so our students make those applications for themselves in exactly the ways that will help them succeed at college, in their career, and in every area of their lives.



(GRADES 6-8)

Middle School

A strong middle school experience can lay the groundwork for students to thrive when they move on to the critical high school years. Our goal is to set that firm foundation through a faith-based education that is rooted in Christ, exceptional academics, and extracurricular opportunities within a culture of compassion.

At our middle school, your child will discover a collaborative, joyful learning environment and experience the love of Jesus and a deep sense of belonging. They will also develop self-confidence through challenging academics while being supported mentally, socially and emotionally.

The Middle School Experience at Hillcrest Academy

6th Grade

We lay the groundwork for students to thrive when they move on to the critical high school years. Our goal is to set that firm foundation through a faith-based education that is rooted in Christ, exceptional academics, and extracurricular opportunities within a culture of compassion.

7th Grade

Your child will build on their academic and spiritual foundation as they enjoy the opportunity to participate in more extracurriculars and athletics. Students continue to engage in hands-on learning and practically apply what they learn in the classroom.

8th Grade

Your child will further develop their curiosity, critical thinking, and leadership skills. They will be confident and well-prepared for the academic rigor and personal growth they'll encounter in high school, equipping them to excel in the years ahead.

“

“I’m overjoyed that my young children will get to experience Hillcrest Academy at the middle school level. Especially at that crucial age, I want them to be part of a school where they feel safe and loved. Being not only a future parent but also an operating board member, we’ve felt huge waves of energy and support from community members wanting to volunteer, donate or send their kids. It feels clear that now is the right time for this new beginning!”

ALLISON
(BRENNEMAN '02)
GOERTZ



(GRADES 9-12)

High School

A Strong Foundation for Future Success

Hillcrest Academy boasts a rigorous academic program that challenges young minds and cultivates a love for learning. Our dedicated faculty guide students through a comprehensive curriculum, nurturing critical thinking, problem-solving skills, and a thirst for knowledge.

But education at Hillcrest goes beyond textbooks. We believe in nurturing the whole person, fostering spiritual growth and a strong moral compass. Our Christian environment provides a supportive community where students can explore their faith, develop integrity, and learn to lead with compassion and purpose.

At Hillcrest Academy our High School Students:

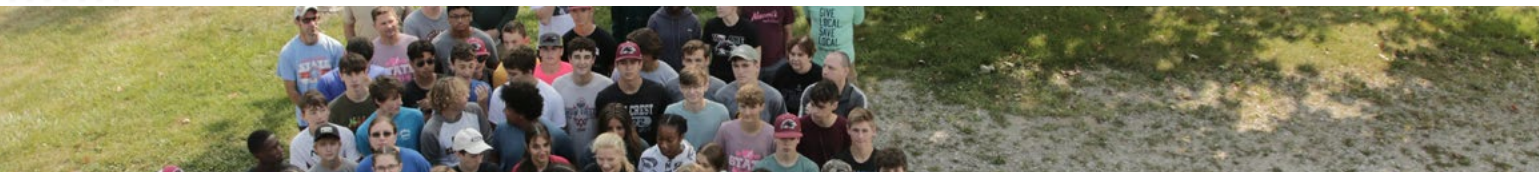
- Explore their strengths and passions with guidance from dedicated counselors and a variety of assessments and experiences which allows them to examine options for their future in college, career or ministry.
- Graduate fully equipped for life beyond high school, boasting a 100% college acceptance rate and strong skills in academics, faith, and leadership.
- Learn in a nurturing environment with a 5:1 student-teacher ratio, where teachers are called by their first names and relationships are built on trust and respect.
- Compete in championship-winning athletics in a variety of sports, including baseball, basketball, cross-country, football, golf, soccer, softball, swimming, tennis, track & field, volleyball, and wrestling.
- Discover their faith and develop a strong moral compass in a supportive Christian environment that fosters integrity, compassion, and leadership with purpose.
- Become well-rounded individuals through a vibrant tapestry of extracurricular activities, including athletics, the arts, robotics, and community service.

“

“We have found Hillcrest Academy to be much more than just a place to get a diploma. The halls are filled with teachers and staff who genuinely care and want to see their students succeed.

Our kids have been challenged academically while pursuing multiple interests in clubs, theater, music, and sports. The school size encourages students to make friends in all grades, try new activities and classes, and explore their interests.”

-RANDY & KRISTEN
REMPEL, HILLCREST
PARENTS



College Guidance and Scholarship

Since we have such a low teacher-to-school counselor ratio we provide significantly more support and personalized counseling than public high schools can afford to give. Each year, the counselor will meet with your student to review their college and career plans and check in to see what they are learning about God's plan for their life and gifts. They review grades, college placement tests, and college options that fit their needs and interests.

Scholarship opportunities are tremendously important to most students and families. Our counselors provide excellent assistance in this area. We have more than 100 targeted scholarships to review with rising juniors and seniors as well as critical resources for securing other funds.

We know our students and who God is shaping them to be. Helping them find the right schools or career paths to pursue with the financial assistance to support those goals is a big part of how we help prepare our graduates for whatever comes next.

5:1

student-to-faculty ratio for
our classrooms

1945

95%

of our graduates will continue
directly to college or career programs
after graduation

27

The average ACT composite
score for Hillcrest students.

61%

of faculty have
post-graduate degrees

76%

of students are involved in
extracurricular activities

2024

**National
Merit Finalist**



Service and Learning Term (SALT)

Some of the most vital, life-long lessons Hillcrest Academy students learn happen outside of the classroom. Every other year, a group of students and faculty participate in our Service and Learning Term. It is a week where we live out our beliefs in challenging ways. We serve others, and it inevitably nurtures new growth in our students and community.

The SALT program encompasses diverse service initiatives. In recent years this included an international mission trip in Heredia, Costa Rica, where a group of 10 students experienced a condensed mission training program with Vida Net. A different group of students worked to aid in the reconstruction efforts in Dawson Springs, Kentucky, following the devastating tornadoes of 2021.

The SALT Music Team focused on developing a music program for retirement communities in the local area, while the Prairie Management/Natural Resource Conservation Work group engaged in trail maintenance and ecological restoration in various outdoor locations. The Urban Plunge in Omaha, Nebraska, partnered with Christ for the City International, participating in service ministries throughout the city, and exploring the Omaha Zoo.

Lastly, the HACAP and Crowded Closet group contributed to community service through volunteering at Crowded Closet in Iowa City and HACAP Food Reservoir in Hiawatha, undertaking tasks such as packing food for students in need and creating superhero capes for children in foster care. Each group is led by dedicated sponsors, fostering a meaningful blend of service, learning, and community engagement.



ATHLETICS:

HILLCREST RAVENS

18 *State Championships*

54 *State Tournament Appearances*

6 *Positive Sportsmanship Awards*

1 GOAL: *Develop the Whole Student*

Athletic training and competition offers our students so many opportunities for growth. We keep three things firmly in focus.

First, we want to help each athlete grow emotionally, socially, spiritually, and physically as they develop their God-given talents.

Second, we want to perform on and off the field in ways that represent Christ and advance God's kingdom.

Third, we compete to win.

Hillcrest Ravens may choose to compete in 15 varsity sports both on campus and through sharing programs with neighboring schools. Whatever athletic opportunities they pursue will offer them some of the same lessons and character-shaping experiences that are unique to competition on the track, court, or field.



Programs and Clubs

There are extracurricular opportunities for every student at Hillcrest Academy. Here are some highlights from our most popular student interests.

- **Choirs, Bands, and Ensembles**

With Choir, Touring choir and Ensembles, Band,, Praise Band and Pep Band for modern and pop music, whatever your musical interests are there's a place for you here

- **Drama**

Students perform classic musicals and dramas, contemporary performances, period pieces, and more in our state-of-the-art Fine Art Center.

- **Student Government**

These students work to promote harmony and healthy communication in our school while learning valuable fundamentals in civics and governance.

- **FFA**

This classic organization has a thriving membership with our students as they promote agricultural education.

- **Compassion Club**

Hillcrest Academy's Compassion Club puts peacemaking into action. They keep us aware of needs locally and globally and facilitate giving to a wide variety of organizations.

- **Reflector Newspaper**

Dating all the way back to 1946, our student newspaper gives budding journalists an excellent opportunity to grow their skills and keep our community informed.

Other clubs and organizations include

- Art Club
- Math Club
- National Honor Society
- Reverie Yearbook



ACADEMICS that INSPIRE.
FAITH that LEADS.





We will be thrilled to meet you ...

**Schedule your school tour today and
experience Hillcrest Academy for yourself.**

→ **CONTACT ADMISSIONS:**

REBECCA BEACHY MILLER

Director of Enrollment

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