



High School Initiative FAQ's

Why would we want to add a high school?

Hope Christian Academy is primarily a mission to children of Christian families. The mission statement is "Students attending Hope Christian Academy are educated based upon the foundation of God's unchanging Word, equipping them for a Christian life of service and leadership." We are doing this very well through the 8th grade. The question that the Hope board wrestled with is, "Is 8th grade enough?"

Three things in particular indicate a need for expanding the ministry of Hope Christian Academy through grade 12:

1. Nehemiah Institute has studied the Biblical worldview of graduating seniors for more than 20 years with their PEERS testing. Their research shows a decrease in the average Biblical worldview by more than 60% over that time. We believe that a distinctly Biblical curriculum through grade 12 is an option worth providing for families.
2. We are currently graduating students from Hope Christian Academy at the age when most children are just developing the ability to understand abstract and deep concepts. The students are mentally mature enough to understand truth that we would like to impart to them through the high school years.
3. The Hope board spent many months in prayerful consideration of God's direction for Hope and determined that this is His will for the school.

What oversight is provided for this plan?

Oversight will be the same for this plan as it has been for all of Hope's operations. The administrator is responsible to the Hope board, and a monthly report will continue to be made to the EBC Board throughout the continued planning and operation of the ministry of Hope Christian Academy.

How many students are we talking about?

Hope currently averages 5 to 6 students per grade. In the long-run, we project that average to continue. Plans will be made to allow for the possibility of humble beginnings, should that be the will of God.

What will the curriculum look like?

The curriculum will have a distinct Biblical worldview. Mathematics maintains the order of God. Science proclaims His glory through His handiwork of creation. History is truly “His story”, and that story is one of the sovereignty of God. Eternal truths are made evident in language and literature.

This will not be an elective-rich curriculum. There is the possibility of utilizing other resources such as Dickinson High for certain electives, but our focus will be on offering a distinct Biblical curriculum that will prepare students for a lifetime of Christian service and leadership.

We are not completely opposed to video instruction. ABeka video has earned a great reputation for preparing students to pursue highly technical careers. However, it is our intention to offer as much live instruction as possible.

How many teachers will need to be hired?

We project the need of an additional 2.5 to 3 teaching positions. The salaries of these teachers will be completely met by tuition with an average of 5 to 6 students per grade in the high school.

Where will the classes be taught?

Certain options have been investigated briefly. These are plans that will have to be established more completely in the coming months and approved by the EBC board. Currently, Hope is open to all options including, but not limited to,

sharing rooms such as the fireside room and fellowship hall,

bringing in, or building portable classroom units, and

working in conjunction with the church’s building needs analysis committee.

The school is committed to raising their own funds related to expanding building options for a high school.

What about our relationship with the public school?

We are not in competition with the public school. The public schools offer a sound academic education. We are simply wanting to offer something that they may not, a distinctly Biblical education. We intend to maintain our relationship with the public school with regards to band and athletics.

What about approval from the Department of Public Instruction?

Hope Christian Academy has, and will continue, to meet the requirements for approval from the DPI. This includes staffing with licensed teachers and approved curriculum. A diploma from Hope Christian Academy will be equally valid with any other school in the state of ND.

When could Hope begin offering high school classes?

The earliest possible start date is the fall of 2010. We are working on our implementation plan with that date in mind.

What would the transition look like?

We currently plan to begin with grades 9 and 10 for the first year. We would then expand to grades 11 and 12 for the following year.

How can I help?

We value your prayer support and your input. This is a great undertaking that we believe God is calling us to do, and we encourage you to ask Him to bless His work at Hope Christian Academy.

Consider filling out the parent survey. The link is found our website. This will give us more information as we continue to plan.