

**VINE AND BRANCHES
HOME EDUCATORS**

VBHE

High School
Handbook

VBHE

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Home Educators
Handbook
P.O. Box 3533
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Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. John 15:4-5

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VBHE

Contact information

VBHE is a growing association with two paid positions to better serve our homeschool community. These ladies are here to assist you, answer your questions and send out necessary letters to institutions needing them and to verify your compliancy to whomever you request.

Accountability Director: Kim Mitchell email:

kim.mitchell@vine-branches.org

High School Guidance Counselor: Tina Branton email:

westina@sccoast.net

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SC Law for Home Schooling

Complying with South Carolina's Homeschool Law

To homeschool in South Carolina, you must have at least a high school diploma or GED and teach at least 180 days per year. In addition, you must teach the following required subjects: reading, writing, math, science, social studies, and, in grades 7-12, composition and literature.

In addition to complying with the above requirements, you must choose one of these three options for homeschooling legally and follow the requirements listed below the one you choose:

Option 1: Homeschooling under the homeschool statute: See HSLDA website for more details.

1. Obtain approval from the district board of trustees.
2. Teach the required subjects for the required time.
3. Maintain records.
4. Submit a semiannual progress report.
5. Ensure your student has access to library facilities.
6. Test your child annually.

Option 2: Homeschooling with the South Carolina Association of Independent Home Schools (SCAIHS):

Option 3: Homeschooling with a homeschool association like VBHE (also known as a “third option group”):

1. Enroll in a homeschool association that has at least 50 members.
2. Comply with your homeschool association’s requirements.

State law requires homeschool associations to maintain the following minimum requirements for homeschooling parents:

1. You must have at least a high school diploma or GED.
2. You must teach your child for at least 180 days per school year.
3. Your curriculum must include the required subjects listed above.

The educational records you keep must include: a plan book or other record of subjects taught and activities; a portfolio of samples of your child’s academic work; and a

semiannual progress report including attendance records and individualized documentation of your child's academic progress in the required subjects.

Enrolling with VBHE

New registration begins in August. You can register online at www.homeschool-life.com. Choose one of the following options:

Accountability and Support

Accountability only

Support only

Accountability membership keeps you legal in Horry and Georgetown counties. Support membership allows access to activities throughout the year. Each support member will plan a field trip for VBHE members and have it posted on the calendar for families to sign up for and attend. See the website for more information.

Discounted registration is available to returning members during the month of July.

High School

You can home school through high-school with confidence! Included in this handbook is information that will help you navigate the high school years. Once you have registered you are ready to plan out your high school years. Once your plan is made you will be ready to purchase the curriculum to help you complete that plan. Know that you are not alone. We at VBHE are here to assist you.

Every journey should begin with a plan. Whether you are a veteran homeschooler or just beginning, know what is required of your student and empower him or her to meet those requirements. Through VBHE you, the parent/educator, have the responsibility and privilege of choosing a curriculum, co-op or online course of study that best suits your child's needs but still satisfies state requirements. **Please check with**

the colleges that your student is interested in attending to see what their entrance requirements are for students.

**SC Requirements for
High School Graduation:**

4 English (each credit includes, Literature, grammar and composition)	4 Math	3 Lab Sciences
1 U.S. History	1 Other Social Science	½ Economics
½ Government	1 PE	1 Computer Science
*1 Foreign Language	*1 Fine Arts	7 Electives

- Tech Diploma needs only 1 Unit of Occupational Education instead of Foreign Language
- *Denotes College Prep requirements

High School Credits

High school credits are awarded in Carnegie Units. There are several ways to earn these credits.

- Complete a high school text book by a reputable publisher: 75% - 80% of the book.
- Calculate hours of study when no standard level text book is available. "For courses that do not use a standard high school-level textbook (perhaps you are putting together your own unit study, or you are using an integrated curriculum), log the hours that your child spends completing the course work. One credit is approximately 120-180 hours of work. The upper end of this range (180 hours) is usually appropriate for lab science courses, while 150 hours is the

average for a year long academic course such as English or History. Don't become legalistic in keeping track of each minute, but generally, when evaluating credit for an academic course, a good rule of thumb is 50 minutes a day, 5 days a week for 36 weeks, for a one-credit course.” (HSLDA)

High School Credit for Middle School

- Please check with colleges to determine which high school courses will be accepted if taken prior to entering high school.
- 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.
- NOTE: Please be aware that some colleges may be expecting students graduating in 2013 and beyond to take math during all 4 years of high school even if Algebra 1 is taken early.

Home School Reporting

Setting up an account with homeschoolreporting.com gets you on the right road for record keeping. Simply use the discount code VBHE29587 and choose vine and branches as your umbrella school. VBHE high school families are required to use homeschoolreporting.com to record course title and description, credits earned and grades (letter and numeric) each year. In order to do this with accuracy it is important to note whether the course is CP, Honors or AP/ (Dual Enrollment).

CP (college placement): Most home-school curricula are designed to prepare high school students

for college. If that is the plan for your student you must notate that in homeschoolreporting.com. Listed below are some choices that are CP work:

- | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| • Abeka | • IEW |
| • BJU | • Sonlight |
| • Apologia | • Veritas Press |
| • Teaching Text Books | • Classical Conversations |
| • Saxon | • Alpha Omega |
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Honors

Honors courses must go beyond the CP level requirement. To award Honors credit you must have a syllabus (outline) of the course that demonstrates a depth of study beyond the textbook. You must show how the course has been improved to deserve the honors status. This could include: requiring extra work, written papers, projects and/or experiments beyond the text. You can input these details in homeschoolreporting.com.

AP (Advanced Placement)

The course must be designated as an AP course. This will require the teacher of the course to get approval from The College Board to classify the course as AP. AP is a registered trademark of The College Board Corporation. Even if the student takes the AP tests for the course, the course cannot carry the AP designation unless the course has been approved by collegeboard.org.

Dual Enrollment

Dual Enrollment classes are considered AP credit. HGTC offers the PACE program to home school students in high school. Once their placement test is taken, home school students can begin taking college level courses while earning high school credit. One course (3 college credits) at HGTC or another college

transfers as 1 high school credit. **Dual enrollment grades are issued as follows: A = 96, B = 88, C = 80, D = 73, F = 61.**

Grades

Grades should be an accurate reflection of the work accomplished by the student. Be sure the final grade combines daily work, quizzes and tests when applicable. VBHE families should use the 10 point grading scale.

10 Point Grading Scale

Numerical Average	Letter Grade	College Prep Weighting	Honors Weighting	AP/IB/Dual Credit Weighting
100	A	5.000	5.500	6.000
99	A	4.900	5.400	5.900
98	A	4.800	5.300	5.800
97	A	4.700	5.200	5.700
96	A	4.600	5.100	5.600
95	A	4.500	5.000	5.500
94	A	4.400	4.900	5.400
93	A	4.300	4.800	5.300
92	A	4.200	4.700	5.200
91	A	4.100	4.600	5.100
90	A	4.000	4.500	5.000
89	B	3.900	4.400	4.900
88	B	3.800	4.300	4.800
87	B	3.700	4.200	4.700
86	B	3.600	4.100	4.600
85	B	3.500	4.000	4.500
84	B	3.400	3.900	4.400
83	B	3.300	3.800	4.300
82	B	3.200	3.700	4.200
81	B	3.100	3.600	4.100
80	B	3.000	3.500	4.000
79	C	2.900	3.400	3.900
78	C	2.800	3.300	3.800
77	C	2.700	3.200	3.700
76	C	2.600	3.100	3.600
75	C	2.500	3.000	3.500
74	C	2.400	2.900	3.400
73	C	2.300	2.800	3.300
72	C	2.200	2.700	3.200
71	C	2.100	2.600	3.100
70	C	2.000	2.500	3.000
69	D	1.900	2.400	2.900
68	D	1.800	2.300	2.800
67	D	1.700	2.200	2.700
66	D	1.600	2.100	2.600
65	D	1.500	2.000	2.500
64	D	1.400	1.900	2.400
63	D	1.300	1.800	2.300
62	D	1.200	1.700	2.200
61	D	1.100	1.600	2.100
60	D	1.000	1.500	2.000
59	F	0.900	1.400	1.900
58	F	0.800	1.300	1.800
57	F	0.700	1.200	1.700
56	F	0.600	1.100	1.600
55	F	0.500	1.000	1.500
54	F	0.400	0.900	1.400
53	F	0.300	0.800	1.300
52	F	0.200	0.700	1.200
51	F	0.100	0.600	1.100

This scale is used for school years 2016-2017 and higher while the 7 point scale is used for years prior to 2016-2017.

Transcripts

While **diplomas are not offered** through VBHE (diplomas can be ordered through HSLDA store), transcripts are offered. A **Transcript** reflects the individualized progress of a student's academic work and is not designed to display all of the student's activities. At the end of each academic year, a transcript will be generated from **homeschoolreporting.com** that will reflect the courses, grades, credits and cumulative GPA for that school year for each student. All transcripts will be filed at the close of each school year. As transcripts are needed for transferring or entering college, simply contact Tina Branton at westina@scccoast.net with the name of the institution including address, and a signed and sealed copy will be mailed for you.

If your child does not intend to go to college immediately after high school, we still ask that you strive to help them meet the minimum requirements. It has been our experience that most VBHE students change their minds after several years of working.

It is important that you maintain a copy of your child's final transcript in a safe place for future use. Consider this as important as a birth certificate and social security card.

Ranking

High School students with VBHE are ranked based on cum GPA. These rankings allow students to qualify for scholarships not just as seniors but as sophomores and juniors. Using homeschoolreporting.com VBHE is able to create a rank report for each high school grade level. Once grades are posted transcripts are generated for each student reflecting cum GPA's.

Those GPA's are based on the SC Uniform Grading Policy (UGP). The seven point scale is for school years prior to 2016-2017 and the ten point scale is for school years 2016-2017 and higher. It is important that grades (letter and numeric) are posted by the deadlines: **January 31st for 1st semester, May 31st for 2nd semester seniors, and June 14th for 2nd semester all others.** If those deadlines are not met your membership with VBHE will be put on hold and you will not reap the full benefit of homeschooling high school through our organization.

Testing

VBHE does not require testing of its members. However, it is recommended that you periodically test your student. Some tests that are offered to VBHE families are: Stanford, Iowa Basic Skills, Woodcock Johnson, SAT, PSAT and ACT. Testing dates can be found on the VBHE calendar.

Scholarships

VBHE assists students with scholarship applications and processes.

- The Palmetto Fellows Scholarship Program recognizes the most academically talented high school seniors in South Carolina and encourages them to attend college in the State. Students must meet both general and academic requirements to be eligible for the Scholarship. Seniors apply but sophomores and juniors qualify based on their rank prior to their senior year.
- The Life and Hope scholarships are also available to VBHE students. Class rank and transcripts must come from the student's accountability association. Keep in mind that requirements and scholarships are always changing. Please check the Commission on

Higher Education website for updated information. Their website is www.che.sc.gov.

Graduation

Each year in May VBHE holds its Commencement Exercise. This is a special ceremony where our graduates are honored. It is usually the Saturday prior to the last Friday in May. Information will be sent through email to each registered senior.

Honor Society

Epsilon Iota Chapter of Eta Sigma Alpha National Home School Honor Society

Qualifying students with VBHE may apply for the honor society. Application information can be found on our Vine and Branches website. Listed below are initial qualifications.

Students must have:

- A Minimum of 3.5 GPA (Grade Point Average)
- A current transcript showing numeric grades
- Qualifying test scores
 - IOWA or Stanford test 90% on Composite or Complete Battery
 - SAT minimum score 1200 (new SAT), 1800 (old SAT)
 - ACT minimum score 26

DMV

Getting a Permit

Please take with you the following documents:

- The student's birth certificate (must be 15)
- The student's Social Security Card
- Proof of residency (any recent utility bill or tax documentation).

- Proof of schooling Vine and Branches membership letter or accountability enrollment letter (received at the beginning of every year).
- If they have already graduated, they must bring in their High School Diploma or G.E.D.

Insurance discounts

Discounts are available through most insurance companies.

- Driver's Ed: This varies with insurance companies, but the majority of them require that you have a certified driving instructor teach your child or you may not receive the insurance credit. However, the tuition for a private driving school is approximately the same amount as the Driver's Ed discount.
- Good Student Discount: (10-15%) If your insurance company offers a good student discount, you can use your semi-annual progress report or unofficial transcript as proof for this discount.

Interscholastic Activities

The new "Tim Tebow Law" or the Equal Access to Interscholastic Activities Act (SC Code of Law 59-63-100), passed and was signed into law in June of 2012. This means a few things for homeschool students. South Carolina has granted equal access to home school students to public school interscholastic activities. It is a student's responsibility to attend the initial try-outs/practices and provide the coach/school with any additional information or documentation necessary to verify that the student is eligible to compete (transcripts, physical exam, birth certificate, etc.).

Read the Entire Law at the following link:
http://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess119_2011-2012/bills/149.htm

Please take a moment to look at the law in its entirety, but I would also like to identify some of the important things from it.

1. "Home School Student" is a child taught in accordance with Section 59-65-40, or 59-65-47 (VBHE falls under this statute) and has been taught in accordance with one of these sections for A FULL ACADEMIC YEAR PRIOR TO PARTICIPATION in an interscholastic activity pursuant to this section.
2. "Interscholastic activities" include, but is not limited to, athletics, music, speech, and other extracurricular activities.
3. Students Participating in interscholastic activities must:
 - reside within the attendance boundaries of the school for which the student participates
 - student notifies the superintendent of the school district in writing of his intent to participate in the interscholastic activity as a representative of the school before the beginning date of the season for the activity in which he/she wishes to participate.
 - maintain academic eligibility. If a student is unable to maintain academic eligibility then he/she is ineligible to participate in interscholastic activities for the following semester. To establish eligibility for subsequent school years, the student's teacher shall certify by submitting an affidavit to the school district that the student meets the relevant policies of the school at which the student wishes to participate.

Be aware that some interscholastic activities have practices and camps during the summer. If a student wants to participate in the fall, it is important that homeschool students begin the process early.

Lastly, not only are we educators who are to follow the laws and regulations of the state of South Carolina, but we are mothers and Christians who are to lead and teach our children about the Grace and Redemption of Jesus Christ. While math, chemistry, Latin and art are so important for the futures of our children, imparting grace daily to those we encounter - our children, our husbands and other moms, should rank higher in our list of priorities than worrying about whether we did enough math problems, or if we did all of our chore chart. For to be anxious about the day's tasks means we do not know our Father well enough. May our goal this year be to impart grace unmeasured and love untold. To die daily by picking up our crosses, and bearing the burdens of those around us, for there is no greater law than to love others.

VALUE
VBHE