

High School Touring Choir - April - May

Touring choir gives performances throughout the spring to our local supporting churches, other area churches and sometimes local schools.

Senior Class Trip - March 17-21

This is what the fundraisers are for! Seniors go to Washington, DC and spend approximately four days there, touring and furthering their education in the nation's capitol. Class Trip is during spring break.

Spring Break - March 17-21

No school or activities will occur during this week with the exception of senior class trip. Sports practices may be held but are not mandatory.

SALT- Service and Learning Term - March 24-28

SALT is an every-other-year occurrence and will not be held during this school year. High School SALT options will be presented toward the end of the first semester and will include opportunities both on and off campus. SALT is counted as school days and is typically a five-day experience, providing cultural, educational and spiritual opportunities. Each group is organized and led by a faculty member. There may or may not be an extra expense. The cost to participate is dependent on the specific option chosen by the student.

ISASP - April 3 & 4 (HS), April 7 & 8 (MS)

The Iowa State Assessments for Student Progress are administered to 6th - 11th graders on two separate mornings (alternate activities are arranged for seniors). Afternoon classes are held as normal.

MSC Choir Festival - April 11 & 12

Each year our High School Touring Choir participates in the Mennonite Schools Council (MSC) Choir Festival, held on a rotating basis at the Mennonite schools across the United States, Canada, and Puerto Rico. In addition to participating in the festival itself, the Hillcrest choir may present programs in one or more churches/schools en route to and from the festival.

Junior-Senior Banquet - May 3

Hillcrest juniors and seniors are invited to Banquet which is hosted by the juniors in honor of the seniors. Banquet is typically held at Hillcrest but more recently has been offsite. Juniors and seniors are allowed to bring dates from Hillcrest or other schools, but underclassmen are not allowed to attend. There is an after-banquet party from ten until early morning. Junior parents are responsible for setting up and tearing down Banquet and senior parents organize the after-banquet party.

High School Academic and Fine Arts Awards Night - May 5

This is an evening in which awards are given to honor high school students for academic achievements, along with recognizing students that have received scholarships. Refreshments will be served following the evening's activities. National Honor Society induction also occurs on this evening, with sophomores, juniors and seniors eligible to be inducted.

Baccalaureate & Commencement - May 24 & 25

Graduation exercises in 2024 will include elements from both Baccalaureate and Commencement. Baccalaureate is considered a worship service and includes two senior addresses, as well as an address delivered by a local pastor (preference given to a parent of a graduating senior). Speakers for both services are chosen by the class.

Student & Parent Activities and Information 2024-25



**ACADEMICS that INSPIRE.
FAITH that LEADS.**

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MISSION STATEMENT

Hillcrest Academy, in partnership with the family and the church, offers students an academically excellent, Christ-centered education rooted in an Anabaptist perspective. Within a caring community, Hillcrest prepares students for lives of Christian discipleship, peacemaking and service.

All School Party - August 23

This beginning-of-the-year, school sponsored party for all students will provide an opportunity for games and other get-acquainted activities. It is designed to help build community across school classes.

All School Parent Meeting - August 23

All parents are asked to attend this event. You will meet the faculty and staff and learn more about school policies, class fundraising events and organizations that you can be a part of to support Hillcrest Academy. Representatives from the PTO and other groups will share about their groups along with members of the administrative team giving out helpful information for the school year.

School Retreat - August 28

All high school students and faculty/staff will spend the day at Crooked Creek Christian Camp in Washington to learn more about each other, our school, extracurricular activities and school policies. All middle school students and faculty/staff will spend the day at Hillcrest learning more about each other and our school.

9th Grade Lock-In - September 13

This is an evening for freshmen to get together and bond as a class at Hillcrest Academy. This will be supervised by faculty class sponsors.

School Pictures - September

All grades except for seniors will have their pictures taken at the school to be used in the yearbook. Pictures may be purchased, but payment must be made at the time of the sitting. You will be given an envelope with prices prior to that date.

In-Service/Late Starts - (See school calendar)

At Hillcrest, in-service dates mean late starts for the students. Such dates typically occur twice monthly, and mean a 10:10 am start time. There is no chapel on those dates, and all periods are shortened.

College Night - September 16

College Night is when representatives from the Mennonite colleges are here to share about their respective schools. Seniors in particular are invited to attend, and some juniors also find it helpful as they prepare to choose a college. Parents are also encouraged to attend. Appointments are made through the guidance office. Representatives from Bethel College (Newton, KS); Bluffton University (Bluffton, OH); Eastern Mennonite University (Harrisonburg, VA); Goshen College (Goshen, IN); and Hesston College (Hesston, KS) are included.

Kalona Fall Festival - September 27 & 28

While not a school event, it does involve parents and different student Hillcrest musical groups perform there. The Hillcrest PTO runs the Apple Fritter booth, relying on parent/teacher help to staff it. Parents will be asked to work at least one shift (2-3 hours). Consider supplying ingredients (sugar, milk, eggs, apples) and using this opportunity to become acquainted with other parents. Sign-up sheets will be available at the All School Parent Meeting, as well as through the school office.

Student Fundraising Opportunities - September - April (Indoor Concessions); October 5 (Pork Supper); November (Kalona Chocolate Sales); February 15 (Chili Supper)

The student fundraiser account is used to pay for senior class trip, graduation expenses and class gift.

- **Kalona Chocolate Sales** | Sophomores sell Kalona Chocolates in the first semester. All proceeds go towards the student's fundraiser account.
- **The Pork Supper** | Juniors and their parents host the annual Pork Supper in Hillcrest Union (gym) in October of every school year. All proceeds are divided among the class and added to the student fundraiser account.
- **The Chili Supper** | Seniors and their parents host the annual Chili Supper in Hillcrest Union (gym) in February of every school year. All proceeds are divided among the class and added to the student fundraiser account.
- **Indoor concession stand** | All students and parents are able to work in the concession stand during the school year (cross country, volleyball, basketball, soccer) and they earn money for their fundraiser account. The money earned usually amounts to approx. \$10-15 per hour worked.

Homecoming Weekend - October 4 & 5

Homecoming weekend provides a time for alumni to get together for class reunions. There are also fun activities for current students and alumni including a soccer game. The Joetown Classic is held during this weekend. Everyone is invited to join in the 5k fundraiser that takes runners through the school's timber, as well as Joetown. The pork supper is part of the weekend festivities.

Music Concerts - October 20 (Fall); December 15 (Christmas); May 18 (Spring)

Concerts are open to all, with involvement including the entire music department (vocal/instrumental) and are held in *Celebration Hall*. Typically the fall concert is just high school participants. The Christmas and Spring Concerts will have high school and middle school participants.

Parent-Teacher Conferences - October 22 & 24; March 11 & 13

Conferences are held twice per year, once in the fall and once in the spring (following the first and third quarters) from 2:30-7:00 pm. Parents are strongly encouraged to take advantage of the opportunity to speak with instructors during conferences.

Grades are issued several days prior to the conferences. However, progress reports are encouraged midway through each quarter, alerting parents to academic concerns or in many cases, reporting positive progress as well. Parents may also monitor their students' class work and academic progress at any time via PowerSchool. Login information is emailed in August or is available from the office.

Drama/Musical - November 8 & 9; April 25 & 26

Hillcrest Academy offers two opportunities to participate in a drama or musical: High School productions are in the fall and spring.

College Financial Aid Planning Night - January 8

This evening is designed for seniors and parents trying to plan for college. Experts are available to answer questions about the FAFSA process.

Hillcrest Sports

- 7th - 12th fall sports include volleyball and cross country; winter sports include basketball; spring sports include golf (HS only), soccer and track; summer sports include softball and baseball. In addition, Hillcrest has shared programs for high school students like football (Williamsburg) and wrestling (Mid-Prairie). There is the potential to share in other sports as requested by students or interest dictates. Please talk to Chris Nachtigall for specifics.
- All 7th-12th students who participate in athletics are required to pay a \$100 athletic fee, which is payable at the beginning of the school year. The fee is a one-time fee per year, and is the same regardless of whether a student participates in one sport or four sports.
- There are athletic fundraisers that all athletes are expected to participate in.
- All Hillcrest parents are expected to volunteer to take gate and work in the concession stand throughout the year.
- High School Sports Awards Nights honor student-athletes involved in sports during each season. The evening typically includes awards given out to various participants, handed out by coaches. All awards nights are set up individually, and may or may not be on the calendar as scheduled events.