



Portrait of a Graduate

The purpose of this document is to concisely encapsulate the key characteristics that we seek to cultivate in our students throughout their education at Hillsdale Academy. While these characteristics are not all objectively measurable, they serve as the end goals that guide the academically excellent classical Christian education we provide. It is our goal that by the end of a Hillsdale Academy education our students will embody the following characteristics which are essential for a life of faith, freedom, character, and learning.

Faith

- Appreciate and understand their Judeo-Christian heritage
- Possess a deep understanding of their faith
- Be able to articulate and discuss their faith
- Love the Lord their God with all their heart, soul, mind, and strength
- Love their neighbor as themselves
- Live an active life of faith in the context of family, church, and local community

Freedom

- Recognize that freedom requires discipline and use their freedom responsibly
- Be well-informed and engaged citizens equipped for self-governance
- Be able and willing to engage in constructive and respectful civil discourse
- Understand the relationship between rights and duties
- Understand the difference between liberty, freedom, and license
- Understand the difference between authority and power

Character

- Embody the four cardinal virtues: prudence, justice, courage, and temperance
- Embody the three theological virtues: faith, hope, and love
- Exhibit the fruit of the Spirit
- Pursue the Good, the True, and the Beautiful
- Develop and cherish deep friendships
- Lead and serve those around them in word and deed

Learning

- Be lifelong lovers of learning
- Approach the world with a sense of wonder and curiosity
- Demonstrate intellectual humility and teachability
- Be equipped to discern truth from error
- Have a storehouse of memorized Scripture, poetry, speeches, and drama
- Have mature reading, thinking, writing, and speaking skills