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