

Hillsdale Academy

One Academy Lane
Hillsdale, MI 49242

517.439.8644
academy.hillsdale.edu



- Dr. David Diener, Headmaster
- Mr. Michael Roberts, Assistant Headmaster/AD
- Miss Deanna Ducher, College Counselor
dducher@hillsdale.edu

Hillsdale Academy History

Founded in 1990, Hillsdale Academy is a classical non-sectarian Christian K-12 day school. Under the auspices of Hillsdale College, the Academy bases its curriculum on fundamental academic skills, an exploration of the arts and sciences, and an understanding of the foundational tenets of America's Judeo-Christian and Greco-Roman heritage. Originally K-8, the Upper School was incorporated in 1998, and the first class graduated in 2001. Total school enrollment for 2021-2022 is 230, with 82 students in grades 9-12.

Hillsdale Academy Admissions

Students are admitted based on the combined strength of their application and interview. No intelligence or other achievement tests are required for admission.

Upper School Faculty

- JohnMark Beazley, PhD The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary; ThM Western Seminary; MA Western Seminary; BA Briercrest College
- Ross Bonjerno, MA Spring Arbor University; BA Central Michigan University
- Ellen Condict, PhD Baylor University; BA Belhaven College
- David Diener, PhD Indiana University; BA Wheaton College
- Deanna Ducher, Master of American Studies, University of Dallas; BA Hillsdale College
- Andrew Holm, BA Cornell College
- Katherine Huffman, BS Hillsdale College
- Michael Nikkila, BA Hillsdale College
- Lisa Roberts, BS Hillsdale College
- Michael Roberts, MA, University of Colorado; BA Hillsdale College
- Heather Scharer, MA Marygrove College; BA Spring Arbor University

The highly qualified faculty represents a wide range of educational and personal experiences. Students reap the benefits of individualized attention in the classroom as the student-teacher ratio in the upper school is 10:1 and the average class size is twenty.

Academic Program and Graduation Requirements

Upper school students at Hillsdale Academy follow a single track, college preparatory course of study including four years of literature, history, Latin, science, and mathematics (in addition to Algebra I, which is taught in eighth grade.) Latin study begins in third grade and continues through the senior year; French is offered in grades 7-10 as an elective. Upper school students also complete two or more years of electives in art, music, and physical education. Guided by Academy faculty, in the senior year all students complete capstone projects in both science and the humanities. Each capstone comprises one trimester and requires research—experiment-based for the sciences and an engagement with the history of ideas for the humanities—the components of which include a 10- to 15-page paper and a public presentation of each student's work.

Grading Scale	
93-100%: A	73-76%: C
90-92%: A-	70-72%: C-
87-89%: B+	67-69%: D+
83-86%: B	63-66%: D
80-82%: B-	60-62%: D-
77-79%: C+	below 60%: F

To receive a diploma, a student must maintain a minimum overall grade point average of C- (1.67); he/she must also receive a passing grade in Latin II and Algebra II. Hillsdale Academy awards credits based on the number of hours each class meets weekly, divided by three trimesters. For example, history, English, civics, mathematics, and Latin meet five times weekly; therefore, they are 1.67 credits per trimester. French, music theory, and other classes meet twice a week; therefore, they are 0.66 credits/trimester. One-credit courses earn 0.33 credits/trimester. Grades in Academy courses are not weighted, and students are not ranked.

Academic Honors

Students who achieve a grade point average of 3.0 or higher in a trimester earn Honor Roll distinction. Students who achieve a grade point average of 3.67 or higher in a trimester earn Headmaster’s List distinction. Qualified upper school students also may apply for membership in the school chapter of the National Honor Society.

Dual Enrollment and Advanced Placement

Juniors and seniors in good standing may apply for dual enrollment classes at Hillsdale College. College freshman and sophomore level academic courses are open to Academy students, and higher levels are available to those with special talents or interest. Hillsdale College courses do not appear on Hillsdale Academy transcripts and are not factored into the Academy cumulative GPA; students receive credit from Hillsdale College and a separate transcript upon successful completion of a course. AP exams are offered on an elective basis, but Academy courses do not strictly follow AP syllabi and thus are not named “AP” on transcripts. Most upper school courses use college-level textbooks supplemented with primary sources, and all demand academic rigor. From 2017 to 2021, 67% of Academy students scored a 3 or better on AP exams.

Student Life

- **ATHLETICS:** Varsity teams compete in soccer, volleyball, basketball, track and field, cross country, and golf. A clay target shooting club team is open to students in grades 6-12. The school has been a member in good standing of the MHSAA since 1999 and is also a member of both the SCAA and the Independent Soccer League. Varsity teams collectively have won 84 conference titles, 27 district titles, and 18 regional titles, and 5 state titles. Eighty-six individual athletes have earned All-State honors, while 60 have earned Academic All-State awards. Forty-five alumni have competed in NAIA or NCAA Division I, II, and III programs.
- **SCHOOL CLUBS:** Upper school students elect a Student Council each year that coordinates campus social activities. Quiz Bowl teams, National Honor Society, and an upper school service club meet throughout the school year. Since 2004, the Quiz Bowl team has finished in the top three among small schools at the state championship four times, including first place finishes in 2012 and 2013.
- **FINE ARTS:** The Academy Chamber Choir, Orchestra, and Drama Club each highlight musical instruction and theatrical performance. Advanced musicians may participate in the Hillsdale College Orchestra. Music theory, drama, and advanced art are offered as electives. Alternating yearly between Shakespeare and a musical, past productions include *The Sound of Music*, *My Fair Lady*, *Anything Goes*, *How To Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*, *Guys and Dolls*, *The Music Man*, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *The Tempest* and *Twelfth Night*. *Oklahoma!* will be presented in spring 2022.

Standardized Test Results and College Placement

SAT 2017-2021	
Section	Mean
ERW	637
Math	611
Composite	1248

ACT 2017-2021	
Section	Mean
English	28
Math	26
Reading	27
Science	25
Composite	27

All students in grades K–8 take the Iowa Test of Basic Skills. For the past 20 years, Hillsdale Academy has placed consistently in the 97th–99th percentile in national school norms. Since 2001, of 326 total graduates, 24 Academy students have been designated as Commended or Semifinalists, and 28 have been named Finalists in the National Merit Scholarship competition. In 2006, Hillsdale Academy was named the second Michigan school eligible to nominate students for the UNC Chapel Hill Morehead-Cain Foundation scholarship.

Since 2001, Hillsdale Academy graduates have been accepted to over 300 colleges, universities, and trade schools. Recent graduates currently attend the following: Albion College, Aquinas College, Ashland University (Ashbrook Scholars Program), Auburn University (3), Bellarmine University, Benedictine College, Bethel University, Capital University (2), Cedarville University, Centre College, University of Chicago, Cornell University (2), Drexel University, Grace College, Grand Valley State University (2), Harmel Academy of the Trades (2), Hillsdale College (28), Huntington University (2), Jackson College, Kellogg Community College (2), University of Michigan (2), Michigan State University (5), Northern Michigan University, University of Oklahoma

(Honors College), Taylor University, Trine University (4), Union University, United States Air Force Academy, United States Coast Guard Academy, Washington University St. Louis, and Webb Institute. One Academy graduate currently serves in the Marines, and three serve in the Army.

Academy graduates have pursued graduate work in law at the University of Notre Dame and John Marshall Law School, classical archaeology at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, industrial engineering at The Ohio State University, theology and counseling at Gordon-Conwell Seminary and the Harvard Divinity School, English, theology, and classics at the University of Dallas, politics at the Claremont Graduate School, medicine at The Ohio State University, Emory University, and Quinnipiac University, photography at the Maine Media College, dentistry at the University of Detroit-Mercy, business at the University of Tampa, nursing at Marymount University, classics at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and at the Catholic University of America, logic at Carnegie Mellon University, clinical mental health counseling at Franciscan University, creative writing at Vanderbilt and at The New School (NYC), architecture at the University of Notre Dame, library science at Indiana University, and mathematics at Auburn University.