

## **Thomas Hart Academy**

### **Curriculum Standards**

**February 2007**

#### **Overarching Goal and Standard**

- Graduates of Thomas Hart Academy shall successfully meet or exceed the entry requirements of a college-preparatory high school curriculum through establishment of the strong education foundation necessary to ensure success in a college or university undergraduate program. All students at Thomas Hart Academy shall receive instruction that is sufficiently challenging to meet or exceed that of all comparable public or private schools for all grade levels offered by the school.

#### **Skills Mastery**

- Students shall strive to achieve mastery in each core subject area to a minimum of 85% of course objectives as demonstrated on periodic course assessments and to score in the 70th percentile or higher as demonstrated by scores on the annual Stanford Assessment Tests (Series 10).

#### **Language Arts**

- Each graduate shall sufficiently master the English language such that he/she reads fluently, with comprehension, demonstrates and possesses the skills to communicate effectively, both orally and in writing, based on knowledge of English grammar and punctuation, development of pronunciation and spelling skills, cultivation of legible, cursive penmanship, development and retention of vocabulary, practice in creative writing of sentences, paragraphs, and essays, instruction in the Latin language as it relates to the roots of the English language, and exposure to prominent literary works of the English language. These studies shall enable the student to meet or exceed the requirements of every subject area in a college-preparatory high school curriculum. Each graduate shall be exposed to two modern, foreign languages to gain appreciation of other languages and cultures.

#### **Mathematics**

- Graduates shall sufficiently master computational skills, problem-solving skills, and concepts in manipulation of numbers, arithmetic operations, algebra, geometry, measurement, and data analysis to enable each student to meet or exceed the requirements of a college-preparatory high school mathematics curriculum.

#### **Science**

- Graduates shall sufficiently master an understanding of the methods of scientific inquiry, a knowledge of, and an ability to apply, scientific concepts, skills, and processes, and develop science-based habits of mind to enable each student to meet or exceed the requirements of a college-preparatory high school science curriculum.

## **Social Studies**

- Graduates shall sufficiently master the study of history, geography, and civics in order to enable each student to develop knowledge of the people, ideas, and events that have shaped our state, our nation, and our world, understand the basic values, principles, and operation of American constitutional democracy, develop skills in debate and discussion, develop an appreciation of the importance of civic engagement, recognize acceptable models of ethical behavior, and prepare to participate as informed and responsible citizens.

## **Technology Literacy**

- Graduates shall demonstrate the ability to use technology within the content areas of the core subjects and shall master a basic understanding of computer hardware and software, including keyboarding, word processing, operating systems, Internet and network, key software applications, with emphasis on development of information literacy.

## **Interdisciplinary Integration and Enrichment**

- Graduates shall be challenged to apply knowledge and concepts gained in core subject and technology instruction across multiple disciplines.

## **Fine Arts**

- Graduates shall develop an appreciation and understanding of art and music through knowledge of basic concepts, exposure to visual and performing arts, and opportunities to explore and develop personal talents and interests.

## **Physical Fitness and Well-being**

- Graduates shall demonstrate knowledge of elements of good physical health and activities that promote physical fitness and develop an awareness of a healthy lifestyle with a lifelong interest in physical health and well-being. Students in grades 3 – 8 shall participate in the President's Physical Fitness Challenge twice per school year.

## **Student Activities**

- Students shall develop citizenship and teamwork skills through participation in selected activities.

## **Assessment Methods**

- Students will be assessed by prevailing assessment techniques that are grade-level appropriate to include oral examination, written examination, computer-based assessment, application, and cooperative learning, i.e. group learning. Specific question styles for written examination shall include essay, short answer, multiple choice, true-false, fill-in-the-blank, and matching.
- Eighth grade students shall take the annual Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test (PSAT).
- Students in grades one through eight shall take annually all sections of the Stanford Assessment Tests (Stanford Series 10). 5K students shall take only two sections: Mathematics and Language Arts.
- Students in grades seven and eight shall take examinations in core subjects at the end of each semester; students in grade six shall take semester examinations at the end of the spring semester.