

# Thomas Hart Academy

*“Superior Education in a Nurturing Environment”*

## Welcome to Thomas Hart Academy!

Established in 1970, Thomas Hart Academy is an independent, co-educational, non-discriminatory day school enrolling approximately 125 students in grades K4 through 8<sup>th</sup> grade.

## Our School Philosophy

It is the philosophy of Thomas Hart Academy that each child is a unique and valuable individual who has the potential to be a contributing member of society with the capacity to develop the talents and skills to function successfully in life.

At Thomas Hart Academy, our work is driven by our school philosophy. Each and every decision that affects our teaching programs is made with the philosophy in mind to be certain that we are what we say we are and that we do what we say we do. We believe that each child can realize his or her own potential in four areas:

- **Intellectual Growth** - We believe that our students can develop the creative and intellectual skills to master the material necessary for them to be successful at the high school level and throughout life.
- **Physical Development** - We believe that our students can learn to be healthy individuals. They can develop coordination and physical skills, and can learn to have the confidence necessary to enable them to participate in and enjoy physical activities now and in the future.
- **Social Interaction** - We believe that our students can learn to interact with others in a positive and rewarding way, with well-developed social skills for building relationships with peers and adults of diverse ethnic/cultural and racial backgrounds.
- **Emotional Health** - We believe that our students can develop into emotionally healthy individuals who believe success is possible and who know themselves to be likeable and capable of challenge.

Thomas Hart Academy is a family-oriented school that encourages communication with parents. We value parents' insight and the goals they have for their children.

We believe it is necessary to provide a school environment, which is nurturing and success-oriented, an environment that has established standards allowing for variability in developmental level through flexibility, latitude and accommodation within the program.

## School Mission Statement

If the philosophy is considered the foundation of a school, the mission statement can be considered the framework of the school. The philosophy says what we believe; the mission statement says how we work to accomplish these goals.

*The mission of Thomas Hart Academy is to provide an academically challenging education in a warm, supportive environment to average and above average students with a wide range of talents and skills. It is the mission of the school that students should develop self worth, and an appreciation of others of diverse cultural, racial and ethnic backgrounds. It is the mission of Thomas Hart Academy to help each student become an independent and lifelong learner with the self-confidence to take intellectual risks involving exploration along the educational journey.*

## **Academic Standards and Curriculum**

Our academic standards are high. We expect our students to be willing participants in the educational process. We will teach them to read, and to comprehend what they read. We will teach them to manipulate numbers and to understand the concepts of number operations. We will teach them the English language and how to express themselves effectively in writing. Finally, through all of the above, we will prepare our students to fully succeed in high school.

Our curriculum is designed to be comprehensive and challenging. Periodic, formal reviews are conducted to ensure that it remains so. Curriculum objectives are described in writing and updated annually.

## **Accreditation and Memberships**

The South Carolina Independent School Association (SCISA) accredits Thomas Hart Academy. Thomas Hart Academy holds membership in the Palmetto Association of Independent Schools (PAIS).

## **Academic Performance**

Thomas Hart Academy consistently scores above the National average on the Stanford Achievement test. Thomas Hart students continue to prove their excellence in education by excelling in academic competition at the state level. Our students compete in the following SCISA events: Art Show, Math Meet, Spelling Bee, Science Fair, Quiz Bowl, and Literary Meet.

## **Courses of Study**

In addition to the regular academic curriculum consisting of the core subjects of Mathematics, Science, Language Arts, and Social Studies, Thomas Hart Academy offers Music, Art, Physical Education, Drama, Computer Science, Latin, Spanish, French, and Library Science.

## **Extracurricular Activities**

Athletic opportunities for Thomas Hart Academy students include soccer, basketball, cheerleading, tennis, and track. Student activities include Student Government Association, Junior Beta Club, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Junior Quiz Bowl, Math Meet Team, Drama Club, and Yearbook Staff.

## **Faculty**

Thomas Hart Academy employs a staff that consists of seventeen full time and four part time employees. Collectively, our faculty hold eighteen Bachelor degrees, and three Master degrees.

## **Admissions**

Thomas Hart Academy accepts average to above average students who have the potential to succeed in a challenging academic environment and who will function successfully within our school community. Testing and a review of past grades are required before final acceptance is offered.