**Homeschooling thru High School Transcript/GPA Q&A**

**by Kathleen Rumford**

1.         When should we start keeping of things for transcripts?  As soon as my child started taking high school level classes (Spanish 1, Algebra 1, etc…) I made sure to record those grades as well as a description of the class and then included those on the transcript and Program of Studies. I show that during the Transcript Walkthru Module.

2. Did you ever give high school credit for a course taken in middle school? If so, how did you put that on a transcript?   Yes, for high school level coursework taken in middle school, I gave high school credit and included on the transcript. I will show you that during the Walkthru.

3.         If a student is taking a critical reading course (with writing prompts) and then also takes a separate grammar course and separate writing course, should they receive 2 LA credits? What grade should we start keeping transcripts? What should the transcript look like if they are in seventh and eighth grade coursework but 6th grade age? I homeschooled in VA for 15 years, and as detailed and thorough as I am, I did not create an elementary or middle school transcript. I did keep copies of our Notice of Intent and write up a summary every year of key things, but there wasn't a real reason to create a transcript for us.

However, if this is something that you’re doing, my guidance on this would be to determine how many hours each course is. For a standard high school year it would be 120-140 hours of instruction for a year’s course, but you could do ½ year course also with 60-70 hours.

4.         How do you create credits for things they do part time every year? For instance, they take choir once a week and have a hiking club once a week and do a fun art class once a week at a coop. Personally, I would probably list those as extra-curriculars unless you can justify that you’ve got a ½ credit worth of “work”.  I’m in Virginia, and our state/county shows a standard course consists of 140 hours of instruction (although a Carengie unit (credit) is 120 hours). I counted all instruction, homework, self-study, etc. in the hours.  If choir is 35 hours and art is 35 hours, you might be able to consolidate those into a ½ credit of Fine Arts.  Hiking Club and other hikes or physical activity done solo or with the family totaling 70 hours for the year would be ½ credit of PE.

5.         Any information for those that are looking for NCAA scholarships I don’t have any information on this other than your child cannot exceed 4 years of high school. I do have a friend who went through this though, and I could put you in contact with her.

6.         IEP info also I did have my daughter tested in high school at her request and the psychologist said that with a slight processing delay, we could ask the homeschool teachers for extra time and that she could use his documentation to get an IEP (or whatever it was called in college) for the community college and going forward. I looked into it and let her know what we’d need to do to get that in place, but she didn’t want to, so she just ended up taking 4 college courses at a time rather than 5+. I believe I just looked online at the college site.

7.         Weighted or unweighted GPA? Should I put both on the transcript? And how do I calculate? I put both on the transcript because we’re competing with public / private high schoolers who will have weighted GPAs, but some colleges wanted unweighted.  I looked it up online and then used an Excel spreadsheet to work out the GPAs. I have a GPA calculator tool that I provide during the “6 Steps” course.

8.         Local colleges, dual enrollment. Actual GPA Both my girls dual-enrolled. I show you how I handled that and the GPA on the transcript & Program of Studies during the Transcript Walkthru Module.

9.         How do you account for volunteer hours and extracurricular activities? I show you how we accounted for these during the Transcript Walkthru Module.

10.      Not sure what state you are in, but did you create the summaries for colleges or does your state require evaluator summaries?  I’m in Virginia with homeschooled kids who graduated in 2011 and 2015. For the colleges that we submitted to, we sent application and transcript packet (which included class list/description, extracurriculars, volunteer, book list, etc.)  along with test scores.  You just need to see what the schools your child is applying to require. But first you’ll want to make sure you’re keeping records of everything for high school so that you have what they want.

11.      Advice on five years of High School?  Well, I'm thinking about this... and since I believe you can take some 8th grade classes that are high school classes (like Algebra 1, Spanish 1, for example) and include them on a high school transcript, you can certainly take classes taken during 5 years of high school and include them on a transcript. But the transcript may not be formatted the way I formatted mine, although it is possible if you don't include the years with the freshman-senior year designations. You could also use a transcript that is a different format. Best to find out from the college/university that your student is applying to how they prefer to see the transcript.

12.      Did your girls do any post secondary work in high school through a local community college? If so, how did you implement these credits into the transcript? Yes, I show that during the Transcript Walkthru Module.

13.      Do colleges just accept what you put together and award as a grade for each subject? Your transcript is just one piece to what you’ll send in to the colleges. You’ll send SAT / ACT scores, SAT subject tests, application, essays, references. My experience has been that the colleges will accept your transcript, but honestly, do they believe it? I’m not sure. That’s why I validate it with what I mentioned above and by putting together the packet that I show you during the Transcript Walkthru Module.

14.      If your child used any online platforms, how specifically did you notate those experiences? My girls took online courses thru various communities/vendors. I just listed them on the transcript as any other course and then included a course description that gave a little more detail. If my child had taken courses primarily thru an online platform, it still wouldn’t look any different on the transcript necessarily (or I might put an asterisk next to those classes and add a footnote below), but in the course description area, I would explain how those courses were taken.

15.      How do you grade the kids? Percentage grades or letter grades?  I checked with the colleges that we were sending to and gave them exactly what they wanted. I also mirrored what our county was providing so that the colleges didn’t have to do any deciphering.  We used letter grades and weighted & unweighted GPAs. I will show you all of this. I will even show you the Program of Studies for our county in VA and in a county in NC so you can see how we got an idea of how to build our high school courseload.

16.      How do you set up an academic honors curriculum/diploma? Starting with the Program of Studies for your county / school district / state (depending on where you live), you can see what a standard diploma requires and what an advanced diploma requires I show that during the Transcript Walkthru Module.

17.      Did your girls do a traditional path? Same classes expected by colleges? Yes, my girls did a “traditional path” with classes taught by me, outside teachers live and online, and self-directed classes. That’s not to say that other methods or paths are legitimate, but I am going to show you what we did, during the Transcript Walkthru Module.

18.      Curious about how much detail to provide in course descriptions. What are NOVA colleges looking for. Because my girls have both graduated from college (and one with her Masters), it’s been a while since I explored what colleges require. I really have to leave it up to you to find that out. Of course, it’s always best to double check any information you get on the internet to validate it.

19.      As homeschoolers, do we need to provide a detailed course of study document to go with our transcript? Its not so much about do homeschoolers need to do this as it is about what each college requires. Different colleges may require different things of homeschoolers, so you’ll want to determine that before you send anything in.

20.      What if your child has no interest in higher education after graduation? I assume it’s still smart to record a transcript and file away in case they change their mind but is a homeschool degree (without college) enough for employment at a trade job per say?  Yes, I would absolutely still put together a transcript for future possibilities/opportunities.

21.      Do you have a site you would recommend to make a diploma? I have a diploma template available on my website, which I used for Middle school, but you could use it for high school. For High School, we purchased ours thru a company (who I don’t recall at the moment), so it was really good quality with a raised color seal. I believe, the high school diploma is something your student will want to have for the rest of their life.

22.      A friend got all of her child's classes accredited. I'm curious what that means, how to do it, and if it's really useful or not. – IF your child is going into public school for high school and has some high school courses already, then this would be something to explore for sure. A fellow homeschooler that I know used this company in Maine to accredit her child’s transcript prior to going back into public high school. <https://www.royalacademyeducation.com/home-education-services/>

However, if your student will be homeschooled thru high school, then you’d want to check with the colleges/universities that your child is interested in.  When I put together the transcripts for my daughters (2011, 2015), the in-state VA schools did not ask for anything to be accredited.  Others may have more to say on this. For us, I believe having community college classes already on the transcript gave a level of credibility to the ability of my daughters with respect to all of the courses on the transcript.

23.      Did you provide a description of each class on the transcript? Not on the transcript, but as an addendum, which I’ll show you, but you’ll want to check with schools that your child is considering to get specific requirements.