

Dear parent,

Below is the amended version of the High School Diploma Requirements for Honors which replaces the sections on pages 6-7 of the current [2011-12 High School Course Directory](#). The requirements will be phased in gradually beginning with next year's graduating class of 2012. At SCA we constantly strive to strengthen and improve our curriculum. With the recent addition of many honors and AP classes offered in the middle and high school our goal is to continue to stretch and challenge our academically gifted students to excel beyond the norm. This in turn led to an overhaul of the honors requirements for graduation. Please familiarize yourself with these requirements so that appropriate courses and prerequisites are chosen in the future. Please contact Mrs. Williams or Mr. Wells if you have any questions or concerns.

SPARTANBURG CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA REQUIREMENTS - HONORS

PURPOSE

- To encourage and motivate above-average students to enroll in a challenging sequence of courses during their high school years.
- To better equip above-average students for the challenging programs which they may encounter during their college years.
- To set forth a worthy goal for above-average students so that more of the school's excellent students can earn their deserved academic honors.

STRUCTURE

- Honors diploma students must earn a minimum of 30 units from the list of courses offered.
- Enrollment in an Honors course must have approval from subject teacher.
- *Effective for the graduating class of 2012:* At least five honors units are required. Four of the honors units must be in core subject areas (English, Math, Science, Social Studies). One unit may be in Fine Arts. These units may be earned in 8th-12th grades. An honors diploma can only be earned according to the above course specifications along with a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.50 for high school courses taken in 8th-12th grades.

The following three levels of graduation honors are bestowed upon qualified seniors:

- **Honors** – The students must have a minimum GPA of 3.5, cumulative for eight semesters, including high school courses taken in 8th grade.
 - **High Honors** – The students must have a minimum GPA of 3.75, cumulative for eight semesters, including high school courses taken in 8th grade.
 - **Highest Honors** – The students must have a minimum GPA of 4.0, cumulative for eight semesters, including high school courses taken in 8th grade.
- *Effective for the graduating class of 2013:* At least six honors units are required. Five of the honors units must be in core subject areas (English, Math, Science, Social Studies). One unit may be in Fine Arts. These units may be earned in 8th – 12th grades. An honors diploma can only be earned according to the above course specifications along with a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.65 for high school courses taken in 8th-12th grades.
- The following three levels of graduation honors are bestowed to qualified seniors.

- **Honors** - The students must have a minimum GPA of 3.65, cumulative for eight semesters, including high school courses taken in 8th grade.
 - **High Honors** – The students must have a minimum GPA of 4.0, cumulative for eight semesters, including high school courses taken in 8th grade.
 - **Highest Honors** – The students must have a minimum GPA of 4.5, cumulative for eight semesters, including high school courses taken in 8th grade.
- *Effective for the graduating class of 2014:* At least seven honors units are required. Six of the honors units must be in core subject areas (English, Math, Science, Social Studies). One unit may be in Fine Arts. These units may be earned in 8th-12th grades. An honors diploma can only be earned according to the above course specifications along with a cumulative grade point average of at least a 3.75 for high school courses taken in 8th -12th grades. The following three levels of graduation honors are bestowed to qualified seniors:
 - **Honors-** The students must have a minimum GPA of 3.75, cumulative for eight semesters, including high school courses taken in the 8th grade.
 - **High Honors-** The students must have a minimum GPA of 4.0, cumulative for eight semesters, including high school courses taken in the 8th grade.
 - **Highest Honors-** The students must have a minimum GPA of 4.5, cumulative for eight semesters, including high school courses taken in the 8th grade.
 - Students in the Honors Program may be offered the opportunity to take selected courses not offered at SCA, off campus at a local college. If this arrangement is made, those courses will receive AP weighting.
 - Valedictorian and salutatorian awards will be given only to students in the honors program.