

HOPE Scholarship Update

There are major changes in the HOPE Scholarship beginning with the Class of 2007.

1. The Georgia Student Finance Commission, not St. Pius, will determine your student's eligibility for HOPE, based on grades in core subjects—English, math, science, social studies, and foreign language. If a student fails a class in a core subject, then retakes the class, both grades will be included in the student's HOPE GPA.
2. The only scale that HOPE will use is a 4.0 scale. A student must have a 3.0 core GPA to qualify for HOPE. In the past an 80 average or a 3.0 would qualify but starting this year the Georgia Student Finance Commission will no longer use the 100 point scale as a qualifying measure.
3. Honors courses will not carry additional weight in calculating the HOPE GPA.
4. For HOPE purposes only, the unweighted numerical average of an AP class—without the 8 extra points awarded by St. Pius—will be converted to a 4.0 scale and .5 points will be added, up to 4.0 (St. Pius students will continue to get a weight of 8 points added to their earned numerical grades in AP courses for determining GPA for college applications). For example, an unweighted 82 in an AP class becomes a 90 on a student's transcript for college. For HOPE, that 82 would be converted to a 3.0 and .5 would be added, for a 3.5.
5. The best way to get and keep a HOPE scholarship is to make good choices! Your student may be tempted to avoid more challenging classes—like AP or honors classes—in hopes of getting a higher grade and enhancing his or her HOPE eligibility. But, the fact is, students are better prepared for college and more likely to keep HOPE if they take the most challenging classes that they can. (And, students who are successful on AP tests have fewer class hours to pay for in college!) Studies also show that a student who takes tough high school classes is more likely to do well in college and graduate in a timely fashion. Please see a counselor in the Guidance office if you would like help deciding what type of schedule and combination of classes is best for your student.