



Hillcrest Academy School Comparison Guide

TOPIC	HILLCREST	SCHOOL X	PLEASE CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING
21ST CENTURY LEARNING	✓	?	<p>Top performing schools offer an inquiry-based curriculum featuring depth, complexity, international awareness, and a greater emphasis on independent critical thinking. Best practices across all disciplines are implemented.</p> <p><i>Hillcrest Academy is the only private school in Riverside County that has been approved as an International Baccalaureate (IB) candidate school for the Middle Years Program. The IB program exposes children to a broader range of subjects through field studies, collaboration, community service, and leadership. Hillcrest continues to invest in new curriculum, including an enhanced Mathematics course designed to stimulate active problem-solving instead of rote memorization.</i></p>
ACCREDITATION	✓	?	<p>Accreditation is a parent's guarantee that a school provides the highest quality education for their children. Accreditation agencies provide an independent assessment of a school's curriculum, faculty, and programs. In private education there is no better criterion for success than accreditation by an accrediting agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education.</p> <p><i>Hillcrest Academy is the only school in the Temecula Valley that is dually accredited by both the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC), www.acswasc.org, and the California Association of Independent Schools (CAIS), www.caisca.org. This places Hillcrest in the company of schools such as Harvard-Westlake in Los Angeles and the La Jolla Country Day School in San Diego.</i></p>
DISTINGUISHED FACULTY	✓	?	<p>A competent and dedicated faculty is essential for a quality educational experience. While private schools are not required to hire credentialed teachers, top performing private schools that emphasize academic excellence require that a high percentage of their teaching staff be credentialed.</p> <p><i>At Hillcrest Academy, 95% of the faculty is credentialed and a full 100% of the faculty is either credentialed, in the process of obtaining their credential or holds an advanced degree in the subject matter they teach. Additionally, the faculty includes a published author, an Olympic athlete, a concert level musician, and 30% are fully bilingual.</i></p>
STUDENT TO TEACHER RATIO	✓	?	<p>A low student/teacher ratio is an important measure of quality in any school. A low student/teacher ratio results in a higher level of individual attention and direction given to each child.</p> <p><i>Hillcrest Academy has one of the best student/teacher ratios in the Temecula Valley. The average student/teacher ratio is 16:1 and in some specialized classes the ratio is even lower.</i></p>
FOREIGN LANGUAGE	✓	?	<p>Studies show that learning a foreign language increases a child's cognitive and creative abilities as well as their cultural awareness. These studies also show that children that learn a second language score higher in math and logic tests, and are more proficient in problem solving.</p> <p><i>Hillcrest Academy is the only school in the Temecula Valley that provides daily foreign language instruction starting in Kindergarten and continuing through all higher grade levels.</i></p>
EDUCATIONAL FIELD TRIPS	✓	?	<p>Education experts have noted the benefit of hands-on learning opportunities that are not available in the classroom. Instructional field trips offer students the ability to connect with their community and the world around them in ways that enrich and deepen the classroom experience.</p> <p><i>At Hillcrest Academy, instructional field trips are part of the curriculum starting in Kindergarten. The upper grades travel to Pali Mountain, San Diego, Catalina Island, New York, and Boston for learning adventures. The field trip program culminates in eighth grade with a Tour of Europe where students spend ten days in Paris, the Loire Valley, Madrid, and Toledo.</i></p>
TECHNOLOGY	✓	?	<p>In today's technology-based world, education experts advise schools to integrate computing technology into their curriculum as part of regular learning. Access to this technology is a valuable educational tool that engages students and enhances their learning.</p> <p><i>At Hillcrest Academy, the Middle School participates in a 1:1 laptop program that requires every student to use a dedicated laptop computer for their daily learning in the classroom and at home. Students in the lower grades have regular access to iPads as part of their curriculum.</i></p>
CHARACTER & LEADERSHIP	✓	?	<p>In order to prepare students for success in college and later life, top performing schools promote character and leadership through a curriculum that emphasizes project based learning, team building, and peer-leadership.</p> <p><i>Hillcrest Academy has a fully developed leadership program. This program has been in place for more than ten years and plays a central role in preparing the students for success.</i></p>
PARENT INVOLVEMENT	✓	?	<p>Top performing schools encourage parental involvement because studies show that students whose parents are actively involved in their school's classroom activities and field trips perform at a higher level.</p> <p><i>Hillcrest Academy encourages parents to play an active role in their child's education through participation on the campus and in the classroom. The Parent, Teacher, Student League (PTSL) plays an indispensable role in coordinating the supporting role of parents in the daily life of the school.</i></p>
SECULAR	✓	?	<p>A secular school is an institution which emphasizes academics and character development in a neutral religious environment that welcomes people of different faiths and beliefs. This leaves parents the freedom to instruct their children in their particular religious and spiritual beliefs.</p> <p><i>Hillcrest Academy welcomes all religions and faiths and is committed to providing and modeling a tradition of tolerance and acceptance.</i></p>
NOT-FOR-PROFIT	✓	?	<p>The best private schools are not-for-profit institutions where every dollar generated by tuition and charitable giving is spent on teachers, curriculum, and the physical plant of the school.</p> <p><i>Hillcrest Academy is and has been a 501(c)3 not-for-profit institution since its founding in 1977.</i></p>

To schedule a tour of the Hillcrest campus, please call 951-676-4754

or visit www.HillcrestAcademy.org