

# HAPPY HILL FARM ACADEMY

SINCE 1975



DAY STUDENT

*From the Founder,*

C. Edward Shipman

**101 Reasons, from the Founder, that should motivate you to consider enrolling your children as day students or boarding students at Happy Hill Farm Academy.**



There are not really 101 reasons, but there are a sufficient number for you, as a parent, to give prayerful consideration to the possibility of having your child, or children, enroll at Happy Hill Farm Academy.

The “facts” concerning history, location, fees, and academic requirements are covered in other materials within this packet. I will not deal with those issues, choosing instead to prod your intellect and speak to your heart.

Since 1975, Happy Hill Farm Academy has opened its doors to students from every walk of life. There have been students from the projects in west Dallas. There have been students from Highland Park High School. Those who could not afford to pay were provided scholarships. Those who could pay full fees were expected to do so. In neither case did the students economic background influence our decision to accept them or deny them admittance to our program. The Academy’s entrance requirements are extremely thorough. The Academy’s position has always been to provide for every boarding student, regardless of their ability to pay, a far better than average private education which would prepare them for college entrance or a career of their choosing. Some of the Academy’s graduates from disadvantaged backgrounds have gone on to graduate from colleges and universities throughout the state, many with honors. Most are gainfully employed in careers of their choice. The Academy environment on our campus is a microcosm of the real world. It is not a sheltered, antiseptic Christian retreat. Although our students are safe and secure in a nurturing academic setting, they are not “hot-house” boys and girls with no idea as to how most of the world really lives . . . and though there are students from many countries and racial backgrounds, there is absolutely zero tolerance among the students for prejudice of any kind.

As the Founder, my two sons started their serious education in our little red schoolhouse many years ago. Even though back then, the physical surroundings were very Spartan, the standards were high. All of my children, and most recently, my grandchildren, have attended Happy Hill Farm Academy.

They have gone on to do Dean's List and honors work at some fine, and very discriminating institutions such as Southwestern University. In fact, over 90% of Happy Hill Farm Academy graduates move on to colleges and universities, while a few go into the military or the job market. Most students utilize Happy Hill Farm Academy's scholarship network for their advanced education.

Although I am still a long way from that 101 reasons for your children to enroll, let me point out a few more reasons to consider placing your student in Happy Hill Farm Academy. The Academy is the only private school in the area with accreditation from a national accrediting body -- the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. The Academy is able to offer programs that no other private school -- even many in the Metroplex -- can offer. The Academy's equine program is under the direction of certified equine professionals, with instruction in technique, to learn from experts the sheer pleasure that comes from working with horses. A short distance from the horses is the Farm's 4-H program. Children twelve and above are given the opportunity to work with a variety of show animals -- pigs, goats, sheep, cattle, llamas -- on a statewide 4-H level. Even the elementary students have access to the Farm's petting animals. For those who prefer working with plants rather than animals, the Academy offers a trained horticulturist and an extensive greenhouse and garden program.

Complimenting all of the above is a full slate of sports under the Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools . . . both girls and boys. This includes six-man football, basketball, soccer, volleyball, tennis, track, cheerleading, and golf. Physical education classes are provided for those students not participating in team sports throughout the school year. The Academy's Fine Arts Department includes music -- both choral and instrumental -- and art in all mediums, including a pottery class. The choir has a Christmas tour that takes it throughout the Metroplex to a variety of venues. There is also a professional recording studio on the campus. Scattered throughout the student body are the traditional extra-curricular opportunities such as a Youth and Government Chapter (with students who have been honored for several years to attend the national conference), a journalism class that produces the Academy Paper, a Spanish Club, and many other groups. The students, throughout the year, are given the opportunity to attend both college and professional sporting events, the circus, the rodeo, field trips to museums, zoos, theaters, and movies, just to name a few.

From a Christian perspective, Happy Hill Farm Academy is interdenominational. The faculty and staff are all Christians representing a variety of denominational backgrounds, but all would be considered evangelical. There is a chapel service each Wednesday which may feature an outside speaker or an Academy staff person conducting. There is a Bible class for every student. No denominational positions are taken or taught. The inerrant Scriptures are held-up as our basis for faith and practice. A positive Christian lifestyle is encouraged among all faculty and staff instructors. I am still a long way from 101, but I've stopped counting. I would assure you, as a prospective parent looking at Happy Hill Farm Academy, that your children will be in a caring, nurturing, Christian, academic environment where they will be challenged academically, spiritually, emotionally, and physically. They will be treated just like my children and grandchildren were treated. You understand, we are not suggesting that the Academy is perfect. Far from it, but it is the best possible school that we can make it, now, and it will get even better moving forward. If you have questions, call, or preferably, come by the campus for a personal tour. You are always welcome.

Sincerely,

**C. Edward Shipman**  
*Founder*



## **Overview**

Thank you for inquiring about Happy Hill Farm Academy. This summary of life at Happy Hill Farm Academy covers many areas about which you might have questions in your preliminary consideration of Happy Hill Farm Academy. Happy Hill Farm Academy, established in 1975, is an interdenominational Christian boarding, day, and international school.

## **The Campus and School**

Happy Hill Farm Academy is located just outside the Dallas/Fort Worth metroplex in North Central Texas. The campus - a 500-acre working farm/campus is located on Highway 144, eleven miles south of Granbury, Texas. Happy Hill Farm Academy consists currently of 15 residences with 8 boys or girls in each home for a total of 120 beds. Our student body also includes day students in grades K-12 from the surrounding community. The Academy is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools and offers a wide variety of courses and activities. Track, cross country, football, basketball, baseball, volleyball, soccer, golf, and tennis are school sports that are played in the TAPPS League. There is a choral music program, private music lessons, and drama. English as a second language is available to foreign students. AP classes are offered to students with the ability and desire to enroll in them.

## **Who Comes to Happy Hill Farm Academy?**

Most students are typical children. Happy Hill Farm Academy is geared to help students with normal physical and emotional health who are able to perform at, or above, their normal grade level in school. The Academy also works with children from low-socioeconomic backgrounds, but all students must demonstrate the potential for academic success and a desire to attend the program at Happy Hill Farm Academy. Some students are referred by families who simply desire a strong education for their children and realize a private, Christian boarding and day school, like Happy Hill Farm Academy, will bring out the best in their student. International families enroll their children because they desire a college-preparatory boarding atmosphere for their students. Other families choose residential education due to circumstances in the home or community and desire to help their child achieve his or her academic and social potential.

## **Recreation**

Recreation for students includes riding horses or bikes, fishing, swimming, playing tennis, and using the Athletic Center. The Athletic Center has table games and plenty of fellowship. Organized games include volleyball, softball, soccer, and sometimes movies. Students attend both college and professional sporting events, plus theater, rodeos, museums -- all in the Dallas/Fort Worth area.

## **School Work**

Academy teachers are accessible so that students have every opportunity for a good and growing relationship with them. Students have contact throughout each day with their teachers and resident parents, who stand ready to assist if a student needs help. Each student is offered tools for academic success with help sessions and extra attention. A young person cannot be forced to study, but with the proper structure and consistency, everything possible is done to teach good study habits. The school library is available to the students. Modern science labs, computer labs, and other academic enrichment programs are available. Throughout the curriculum is the desire to instruct the students within a Christian worldview.

## **Discipline**

Forms of discipline restrictions are administered to spur young people to work harder or to correct habitually bad conduct, such as tardiness, lying, smoking, stealing, or disrespect. If a student does not respond to discipline, he/she may be asked to leave Happy Hill Farm Academy. If a student begins doing more harm than the good that he/she is receiving, he/she must leave Happy Hill Farm Academy. Certain offenses, such as the use/distribution of drugs/alcohol, inappropriate sexual behavior, and purposely doing harm to one's self or to another person, may result in immediate dismissal.

## **Worship**

Happy Hill Farm Academy was founded on Christian principles. The Academy is an interdenominational, Christian boarding, day, and international school. Students attend church and weekly chapel services and show respect. There are personal discipleship opportunities for students. The Academy has a Director of Youth Ministries and Theology, and the sport's program has a chapter of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

## **Finances**

Student tuition is paid each month in advance. Day students will pay \$4,200 per semester for junior high and high school (grades 6-12) and \$3,300 for elementary school (grades K-5). There is an annual entrance fee of \$350 per child in addition to the first semester's tuition. This fee covers some school supplies and other standard expenses. This amount must be paid when the student is enrolled and is non-refundable. Additional expenses per month would be a student's personal spending money, uniform costs, private horse or music instruction, medical co-pays (if necessary), college testing and fees (SAT, college entrance exams, college housing deposits, etc.), and haircuts (if necessary). Individuals, groups, and special events contribute to Happy Hill Farm Academy to help cover significant additional costs for operating the Academy. Even students paying the full tuition amount must be subsidized through gifts from caring donors.

## **Scholarships**

Scholarships may be available on a limited basis to Day students. If you feel your student might qualify, please submit the completed Scholarship Application Form. Scholarships may cover all or a portion of the tuition. Scholarship amounts will be discussed during the enrollment process.

## Accrediting and Membership



The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools  
[www.sacs.org](http://www.sacs.org)

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The Texas Association of Private Schools  
[www.tapps.net](http://www.tapps.net)

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The Coalition for Residential Education  
[www.residentialeducation.org](http://www.residentialeducation.org)

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The Texas Association of Non-Public Schools  
[www.abouttans.org](http://www.abouttans.org)

## Admission Criteria

### Policy

Student admissions criteria will be utilized to assess an applicant's appropriateness prior to acceptance for admissions.

### Procedure

All available information is obtained on the applicant. Application information is screened initially by an Administrator, and those who may be appropriate for enrollment are forwarded to various members of the Admissions Committee for further review. This may include the Dean of Students, the Principal, counselors, and Academy instructors. A determination then will be made regarding admission. The Admissions Committee will make the final determination on enrollment. Candidates are considered for admission without regard to race, religion, or ethnic origin.

#### 1. Acceptable Applicant Criteria:

- A. Boys and girls: Grades K-12, functioning on the appropriate grade level with grades of at least A/B.

#### 2. Non-Acceptable Applicant Criteria

- A. If a child has been involved with youth court, depending upon the frequency of involvement/gravity of the offense(s).
- B. Substance abuse or chemical dependency requiring detoxification or drug treatment.
- C. Recent behavior which poses a serious threat to the safety of themselves or others.
- D. Physical handicap which limits participation in the school or athletic program.
- E. Severe learning disability, severe visual processing disability, severe auditory processing disability, or other learning issues which require significant modifications or precludes mastery of state educational standards
- F. Neurological impairment, including severe, irreversible brain damage or significant brain impairment.
- G. A child who requires highly-specialized education, such as extensive modifications or accommodations. We do not offer special education.
- H. Medical illness, severe diabetes, epilepsy, hemophilia, severe food allergies requiring specialized diets, severe obesity, or other illnesses limiting participation and functioning in the programs of the school.

## Fact Sheet

Type of Facility:	Residential School Fully-accredited (K-12)
Year Founded:	1975 (initially as an all-boys' facility; 1985 -- became co-educational)
Founders:	C. Edward Shipman and Gloria Shipman
President/Chief Financial Officer:	Todd L. Shipman
Chief Operating Officer:	Charles (Chuck) E. Shipman, Jr.
Dean of Students:	Julie D. Griffin, Ph.D.
Cost:	Day School Cost: \$660 per month (K-5 annual cost is \$6,600) and \$840 per month (6-12 annual cost is \$8,400), payable in advance each month (Aug. - May), as well as a \$350 annual entrance fee per student. Does not include clothing, health insurance or medical care, personal spending money, or college testing and fees.
Education:	Provided through an on-campus, self-contained, fully-accredited (K-12) school with transferrable high school credits, and several degree plans. Happy Hill Farm Academy is listed on the Texas Private School Accreditation Commission (TEPSAC), which helps ensure quality in private schools by monitoring and approving organizations that accredit the various non-public elementary and secondary educational institutions in the state of Texas.



## **Program Description**

Happy Hill Farm Academy is a Boarding and Day School that specializes in working with boys and girls between the ages of six and eighteen, who understand the tremendous benefits of a private, Christian college-preparatory education.

The Academy is a fully-accredited (K-12) program with accreditation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. K-5 grades are taught in self-contained classes, while grades 6-12 attend multiple periods daily.

There is a nurse (RN) on staff to handle illnesses or injuries of a minor nature. More serious needs are handled through local hospitals.

Happy Hill Farm Academy is committed to working with motivated students -- who thrive in a structured environment -- where professionals, who really care about them, strive to bring out the best in each one.

Undergirding the Academy's entire program is a strong moral, spiritual, and ethical base. Though interdenominational, Happy Hill Farm Academy is Christian and provides a chapel program designed to meet the spiritual needs of developing young people.





## **Academics**

The fully-accredited (K-12) program, and small class sizes at Happy Hill Farm Academy, are designed to meet each student's individual needs. Teachers strive to help each student develop the knowledge, skills, and abilities necessary to achieve a productive and successful future.

In addition to academic courses, vocational-type classes such as horticulture, 4-H, woodworking, and driver education are also offered. Art classes are taught using all mediums, including pottery in the Academy's fully-equipped pottery room. Music, both choral and instrumental, is offered through the Academy's music department. English as a second language is available to foreign students. Foreign language is also offered in the curriculum. AP classes are provided for those students with the ability and motivation to enroll.

The Academy's qualified teachers are hired for their outstanding teaching skills, as well as their ability to motivate, engage, and interact effectively with the students. Their priorities include helping students develop self-esteem, initiative, and self-control, as well as a solid academic education within a Christian worldview.

While each student attends Happy Hill Academy, his/her curriculum parallels that required by the Texas Education Agency, so that, should the student transfer back into a traditional public school, he/she will have taken the courses required that lead to graduation.

For the student who remains at Happy Hill Farm Academy until he/she has completed the 12th-grade curriculum, the student is awarded a fully-accredited Texas high school diploma.

Students who leave Happy Hill Farm Academy are equipped with the social and academic skills required for them to take advance studies and/or to assume, upon graduation, responsible roles in a working society.

## **Athletics & Physical Fitness**

Happy Hill Farm Academy's trained staff is concerned about the physical well-being of the boys and girls, as well as their social, academic, and spiritual fitness. The Academy's physical fitness program, in addition to classes in physical education, incorporates components which include a balanced diet, vigorous daily exercise, and ongoing education about health and fitness. Through the Academy program of organized competitive sports -- which includes football, basketball, soccer, volleyball, golf, tennis, and track -- all of the students maintain peak levels of fitness. Both boys and girls participate. Swimming facilities and horseback riding are also available on campus.

These sports -- through the Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools (TAPPS) throughout the North Central Texas area -- give the Academy students opportunities to compete on and off the campus. The trophy case is filled with ribbons, medals, and trophies, attesting to their individual and team achievements.

All of these factors combined enable students to succeed. They are able to achieve individual selfdiscipline and a sense of self-worth.

In addition to team sports, an Athletic Center on campus contains a gymnasium, extensive weight and exercise room, and an indoor running track.

Happy Hill Farm Academy/Home boys and girls feel good about themselves, physically as well as mentally.

## **Leisure Time**

The Academy bus and a fleet of vans enable the students to take part in a variety of off-campus activities -- including college and professional sports, movies, shopping, dramatic events, the circus, the rodeo, and cultural events. Due to the special relationship with the Dallas Cowboys and many other organizations throughout the metroplex, Happy Hill Farm Students sometimes have opportunities not available to the general public. The game room is equipped with pool tables, ping pong tables, and table games. Many special festivities are planned for holidays. The sprawling 500-acre campus contains a fishing lake, riding stables, and a great variety of leisure-time activities.

### **Dress Code**

After enrollment, each student will be measured and supplied with all required uniform clothing. The cost, ranging from \$400-\$700 per school year, will be added to your monthly tuition statement. Details will be discussed during the enrollment process.

## Q&A

### **1. Does the Academy have a Parent Organization or before and after school care?**

Like most private boarding schools with day students, Happy Hill Farm does not have an organized parent group. The Academy will schedule academic, extra-curricular, and athletic events throughout each semester, which parents are welcome to attend. Parents will be notified of these before they occur. Parents will also have periodic conferences scheduled in person, or on the telephone, to keep them up-to-date on their student's progress. Before school child care is available at additional costs (\$5 per day).

### **2. Do the students attend chapel or Bible classes?**

There is a weekly chapel service on Wednesdays for all students, as well as available Bible classes for all students (K-12).

### **3. What about music, art, drama, physical education, and languages?**

For grades 7-12, those students desiring to participate in the Academy choir or drama program, will be auditioned. Occasionally, as the schedule permits, private or group music lessons may be available. All mediums of art are taught as an elective for 7-12, and organized sports are available and encouraged. Music, art, and PE are conducted on specific days for K-6 students. Spanish is taught daily for grades 7-12 and offered weekly for grades K-6.

### **4. What kinds of children are the boarding students?**

A typical boarding student at Happy Hill Farm Academy does not only have the ability to work on grade level or above, they also understand and appreciate the opportunity the Academy affords them. Some students come from underprivileged economic backgrounds and may be on scholarships, but they must demonstrate that they are highly-motivated to succeed. Other boarding students, both domestic and international, come from families who desire their children to attend a Christian boarding school with a college-preparatory curriculum.