



Heritage Christian Academy Elementary Curriculum

Christian education begins with the study of God’s Word. It is His Word that consecrates and inspires the mind, refines character and illuminates the pathways of thinking and reasoning. Therefore, God’s Word is the heart of curriculum at Heritage Christian Academy (II Thess. 2:15).

HCA learning environment is characterized by academic excellence because . . .

- the core components of all content instruction begins with Truth (2 Cor. 10:5, John 14:6, John 17:17)
- the learning process includes searching God’s Word for His standards and instruction in Biblical reasoning, Christian character, and conscience (2 Tim. 3:16, 17; Deut. 6:3-7, 2 Tim.2:15; James 1:22; Phil. 4:8)
- the primary learning objective is gaining the mind of Christ through education (Phil. 2:5; Rom. 12:1-2)

Academic Expectations

Academic excellence at HCA is characterized by curriculum, expectations, and relationships that *hold students accountable to the I Corinthians 10:31 standard*: “So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God” (NIV). Academic excellence requires students to practice scholarly habits and provides students with opportunities to glorify God with their spiritual, academic, and social activities. Whether it is preparing for a math quiz, engaging in a class discussion, or reading a novel, “doing school to the glory of God” requires students to practice Christian self-government and fully commit to completing each learning task for His purpose.

Intended Learning Outcomes

The main intent of HCA elementary school is to equip and nurture students to be servant leaders with a biblical Christian worldview who will impact their world for Christ.

The Intended Learning Outcomes described below reflect the belief that elementary education should address the spiritual, intellectual, emotional, social, physical, and artistic development of children. By nurturing development in these interrelated human domains, students will have the opportunity to prepare to serve God according to His purposes.

The outcomes recorded below provide direction for general classroom instruction:

1. Understand the Bible is the source of all truth.
-Develop a Biblical worldview as students reason Biblically in all content areas,
2. Demonstrate Christian self-governance and respectful social skills
 - a. Follow school and classroom rules and policies.
 - b. Respect the individuality of others.
 - c. Lovingly include others in learning and play activities.
 - d. Participate with others when making decisions and solving problems.
 - e. Express personal individuality in positive ways.
3. Demonstrate a positive learning attitude.
 - a. Reinforce good character formation through practice of neatness, carefulness, order, and intellectual honesty.
 - b. Practice personal responsibility for learning.
 - c. Demonstrate persistence in completing tasks.
 - d. Display a sense of curiosity, enthusiasm, and appreciation.
 - e. Recognize how content ideas interconnect.
 - f. Make connections from content areas to application in real life.

Bible

In Bible at HCA elementary students:

- recognize God's forgiveness of our sins and understand that Jesus came to earth to bring eternal life.
- understand the Bible is the source of all truth.
- memorize and recite Bible verses and passages.
- develop a Biblical worldview as students reason Biblically in all content areas, experience Chapel, Christian literature, Missions Week, and Bible study.
- use tools for Bible study—concordances, maps, graphic organizers, etc....
- learn how to develop a personal prayer life and the power of collective prayer.

- develop habits of personal devotion that will nourish the student spiritually throughout life.
- analyze life's situations and choices and make personal decisions that enhance Biblical Christian living.
- learn to use the Bible to communicate the joy of the Gospel and share beliefs with others.
- are invited to understand that the loving Creator-Redeemer God acted in behalf of sinful man providing redemption and sanctification.
- practice disciplines that help them grow in their faith.
- memorize Bible verses and passages.
- build relationships with teachers who teach and model authentic faith.

Language Arts

In language arts at HCA elementary students:

- learn to think biblically through the practice of thinking, reading, writing, listening, speaking, viewing, and visually representing.
- learn the phonetic alphabetic principles as they read, write, and spell.
- are immersed in a literature-rich environment, filled with classical and quality contemporary fiction and information selections which relate to multiple areas of learning and interest.
- master language for communicating the Gospel—effective, fluent expression in speaking, writing, and visually representing—and for successful enterprise in the individual life.

The outcomes recorded below provide direction for language arts instruction:

1. Communicate clearly in oral, written, artistic, and nonverbal ways (pre-K through sixth grade).
 - a. Share knowledge and respond to others skillfully using conventional communication arts.
 - b. Listen with attentive perception and respond appropriately.
 - c. Use visual art, drama, and music to communicate effectively.
2. Develop an appreciation of God's gift of language (pre-K through sixth grade).
3. Formulate and use scriptural criteria for selecting what they will listen to, view, and read (pre-K through sixth grade).
4. Recognize God's love of order as they develop an understanding of how oral and printed language works (pre-K through first grade).
5. Develop phonological and phonemic awareness (pre-k and kindergarten).
6. Use phonics and other strategies to decode and encode unfamiliar words while reading and writing (kindergarten through second grade).

7. Master spelling words through the utilization of phonogram practice, application, and daily practice (kindergarten through sixth grade).
8. Develop reading fluency to read aloud grade-level text effortlessly without hesitation and with appropriate prosody (kindergarten through sixth grade).
9. Learn and use grade-level vocabulary to increase understanding as tools for thinking, reading, and writing fluently (kindergarten through sixth grade).
10. Research and draw principles from formal word studies using the 1828 Noah Webster Dictionary (first through sixth grade).
11. Understand, interpret, and analyze narrative and informational grade-level texts (kindergarten through sixth grade).
12. Identify, summarize, and analyze (in oral, written, and visual form) different literary elements and genre conventions (first through sixth grade).
13. Write daily to communicate effectively for a variety of purposes and audiences (kindergarten through sixth grade).
14. Correctly identify and use written stylistics and grammatical elements in all written work (third through sixth grade).
15. Use key word outlining and formal outlining in preparation for expository writing (third through sixth grade).
16. Develop oral recitation skills through memorized and original speeches and presentations (kindergarten through sixth grade).

Math

In math HCA elementary students:

- practice thinking logically as they solve numeric problems and prepare to be informed consumers, and mathematically interpret God’s book of nature.
- master conceptual understanding and fluency with skills.
- learn from an instructional pathway that advances from concrete experiences to pictorial representation, leading to abstract understanding of mathematical concepts.
- use model drawings to visualize and solve problems through mathematical reasoning and critical thinking.
- apply mathematical concepts and skills in a wide range of situations, including non-routine, open-ended, multi-step, and real-world problems.
- work through the focused, coherent *Math in Focus* curriculum.

The outcomes recorded below provide direction for math instruction:

1. Know God as the author of mathematics (pre-K through sixth grade).
2. Demonstrate a positive learning attitude toward mathematics (pre-K through sixth grade).
3. Become mathematical problem solvers (pre-K through sixth grade).
4. Communicate mathematically (pre-K through sixth grade).
5. Make mathematical connections (pre-K through sixth grade).
6. Represent mathematical situations (pre-K through sixth grade).

Science

In science HCA elementary students:

- study God's creation as a way to better understand the Creator.
- study to comprehend God's orderly laws by which the universe is governed.
- apply biblical scientific knowledge in ways that benefit mankind and honor biblical principles of accountability and stewardship.
- apply God's principles to thinking and communicating scientifically to wisely handle the sciences and technology of the twenty-first century for the higher purpose of God's story.

The outcomes recorded below provide direction for history instruction:

1. Know God as the author of science and learn more about His character by exploring the created world (pre-K through sixth grade).
2. Develop a heart of praise to God for his creation and His display of Himself through it (pre-K through sixth grade).
3. Use the scientific method to explore God's World (kindergarten through sixth grade).
4. Comprehend the consequences of disregarding both God's natural and spiritual laws (kindergarten through sixth grade).
5. Draw conclusions on how to be a fit temple for God after studying earth units (third through sixth grade).
6. Use the basic principles of science to function in our technical society (kindergarten through sixth grade).

History and Geography

In history and geography HCA elementary students:

- study history as truly "God's Story." From creation to the dispersion of people throughout earth and time.
- be educated on how to reflect the characteristics of God as they seek to gain knowledge and shine for Christ within a social system.
- focus on Christian history, as they explore God's providence in people, movements, and nations.
- learn from social, cultural, philosophical, and political studies woven throughout the curricular program with emphasis upon the principles found in God's Word.
- understand the importance of a nation's and individual's commitment, or lack thereof, to God and His principles.

The outcomes recorded below provide direction for history instruction:

1. Know God as the author of history and Jesus Christ as the focal point of history (second through sixth grade).
2. List and explain key people and events of America's providential history (second through sixth grade).
3. Relate historical events to God's timeline and His basic principles (second through sixth grade).
4. Study the inexorable law of cause and effect (second through sixth grade).
5. Explain the relationship between the character of a country's leader and the moral standards of its citizens (second through sixth grade).
6. Explain the Principle of Christian form of Government (third through sixth grade).
7. Memorize and recite historic pieces (kindergarten through sixth grade).
8. Use geographical tools (example, map and globes) to better understand history and science (kindergarten through sixth grade).
9. Understand our responsibility related to Christ's Great Commission (kindergarten through sixth grade).
10. Recognize the hand of God in His creation and the purposes behind each nation's placement and geographical elements (kindergarten through sixth grade).

Music

In music HCA elementary students:

- fulfill the mandate from God to worship and praise Him with music (Ps. 100).
- learn to listen, appreciate, read, write, and perform vocal and instrumental music.

These are the intended outcomes for each student culminating with a solid working knowledge of music, how it works, how it is produced and how it has developed through the ages.

1. Sing a wide variety of songs, in class, chapel, and performance settings for worship and aesthetic pleasure (pre-K through sixth grade).
2. Learn basic elements of written music (kindergarten through third grade).
3. Read music using knowledge learned about music theory and form (fourth through sixth grade).
4. Understand and name families of instruments (pre-k through sixth grade).
5. Compare the types of music written within historic eras and biographies of key composers (kindergarten through sixth grade).
6. Relate musical goals of composers to instruments used and musical form used (fifth and sixth grade).
7. Write original songs and lyrics (fifth and sixth grade).

Art

In art HCA elementary students:

- marvel in the aesthetic nature of God
- explore, appreciate, experience, and develop excellence as they cultivate their talent and love for the visual arts.
- Study and create in a way that reflects His excellence through their artistic expression.
- Are invited to explore God's creation and glorify Him by making and appreciating the arts with technical skill, imagination, and Biblical truth.
- Work in ways that reflect His excellence with their unique artistic vision as His image bearer.

The outcomes recorded below provide direction for art instruction:

1. Acknowledge that God is the supreme artist and we are his handiwork (pre-k through sixth grade).
2. Become aware of personal natural endowments in various artistic areas and seek to develop them to the glory of God and the uplifting of mankind (pre-k through sixth grade).
3. Enjoy new art experiences (pre-k through sixth grade).
4. Recognize and use the visual arts as a form of communication (pre-k through sixth grade).
5. Know and apply elements of art, principles of design and sensory and expressive features of visual arts (pre-k through sixth grade).
6. Relate the visual arts to various historical and cultural traditions (pre-k through sixth grade).
7. Analyze and evaluate the characteristics, merits, and interpretations of works of art (first through sixth grade).
8. Develop Biblical criteria for selection and enjoyment of the arts, whether as a consumer or producer (pre-k through sixth grade).

Physical Education

In physical education HCA elementary students:

- Practice a Christian perspective of physical activity and stewardship of the body that enables lifelong service to the Kingdom of God.

The outcomes recorded below provide direction for P.E. instruction:

1. Acknowledge that God created their physical body in a fearful and wonderful way (pre-k through sixth grade).
2. Comprehend the Biblical basis for healthful living (pre-k through sixth grade).

3. Participate in physical activities that are enjoyable and challenging (pre-k through sixth grade).
4. Gain a general knowledge of the rules and principles governing their particular recreational interests so that they can participate safely and beneficially (pre-k through sixth grade).
5. Demonstrate Christian character throughout social interactions of various physical activities (pre-K through sixth grade).
6. Demonstrate the motor skills and movement patterns needed to perform a variety of physical activities (pre-k through sixth grade).

Chess Club

Elementary students grades kindergarten through fifth grade are invited to join the HCA Chess Club as they work together and practice logical thinking as they learn the rules and strategies of this higher-level thinking game.