



## 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's learning environment is characterized by academic excellence because . . .

- the core components of all content instruction begin 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.

### Expected Student 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 schoolwide (Pre-K-12<sup>th</sup> grade) Expected Student Outcomes reflect the belief that 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 and worship God according to His purposes.

Schoolwide Expected Student Outcomes  
A graduate from Heritage Christian Academy will:

**Act in Love**

- Commit to Christian character and personal self-government
- Respect all people
- Lead as a servant
- Steward God's creation and the resources He has given

**Believe Biblically**

- Love Jesus and His Word
- Grow in relationship with Christ
- Articulate and defend Biblical worldview
- Glorify God

**Cultivate Intellect**

- Reason Biblically
- Demonstrate academic excellence
- Communicate effectively in written and verbal forms
- Work well with others

The outcomes recorded below provide direction for general classroom instruction as appropriate for each grade level:

**Bible**

In Bible HCA elementary students:

- develop a Biblical worldview as students reason Biblically in all content areas, experience chapel, Missions Week, and Bible study.
- recognize God's forgiveness of our sins and understand that the loving Creator-Redeemer God acted on behalf of sinful man providing redemption and sanctification.
- understand the Bible is the source of all truth.
- memorize and recite Bible verses and passages.
- learn how to develop a personal prayer life and the power of collective prayer that will nourish the student spiritually throughout life.
- analyze life's situations and choices and make personal decisions that enhance Biblical Christian living and practice disciplines that help them grow in their faith.
- learn to use the Bible to communicate the joy of the Gospel and share beliefs with others.
- build relationships with teachers who teach and model authentic faith through a nurturing environment.
- work through the Christ-centered, coherent *Purposeful Design* ACSI (Association of Christian Schools International) curriculum.

**Language Arts**

In Language Arts HCA elementary students:

- learn to reason biblically through the practice of thinking, reading, writing, listening, speaking, viewing, and visually representing.
- learn phonological awareness, phonics, comprehension, vocabulary, and fluency as they read, write, and spell.
- are immersed in a literature-rich environment, with a variety of literary genres including decodable and leveled readers as well as literature read aloud to them which relates to multiple areas of learning and interest.

- receive in-depth but grade-appropriate grammar lessons, and robust writing activities to engage them in practicing correct language usage and structure.
- work through the research-based, systematic *Purposeful Design* ACSI curriculum and *Learning Without Tears* curriculum.

### **Math**

In Math HCA elementary students:

- mathematically interpret God's book of order (our world) and make biblical worldview connection.
- practice thinking logically as they solve numeric problems and prepare to be informed consumers.
- master conceptual understanding and fluency of skills.
- learn from an instructional pathway that advances from concrete experiences to pictorial representation, leading to abstract understanding of mathematical concepts.
- grow in confidence as they master mathematical concepts and problem-solving skills in a wide range of situations, including non-routine, open-ended, multi-step, and real-life application through manipulative use and modeling.
- work through the logical, coherent *Purposeful Design* ACSI curriculum.

### **Science**

In science HCA elementary students:

- are drawn into the awe and amazement of creation through God's eyes 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 our world for the higher purpose of God's story.
- grow through experiential, hands-on learning based on scientific-inquiry investigations and engineering-design-process activities to explore God's world.
- learn to recognize God's handiwork all around them and marvel at His intelligent design.
- work through the biblically grounded, sound *Purposeful Design* ACSI curriculum.

### **History and Geography**

In History and Geography HCA elementary students:

- study history as truly "God's Story," from creation to present day.
- are 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.
- list and explain key people and events of America's providential history
- understand the importance of a nation's and individual's commitment, or lack thereof, to God and His principles.
- recognize the hand of God in His creation and the purposes behind each nation's placement and geographical elements
- use geographical tools (example, map and globes) to better understand.
- work through the *Abeka* curriculum.

## Music

In Music HCA elementary students:

- fulfill the mandate from God to praise the Lord, worship and serve Him, and discover the musical arts He has created for us (Ps. 100).
- learn to listen, appreciate, read, write, and perform vocal and instrumental music.
- sing a wide variety of songs, in class, chapel, and performance settings for worship and aesthetic pleasure.
- explore music written within historic eras, and biographies of key composers.
- move to music through improvisation and organized folk dance.
- use the *Kodály* method; an interactive, collaborative, and highly kinesthetic method of instruction.

## 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.
- foster the God-given creativity in every child.

Each developmental age group has an instructional focus:

- ~ Emerging Artist: *EXPERIENCE* creativity through building, playing, and experimenting with tools and a variety of art materials. (PreK | Kinder | First Grade)
- ~ Beginning Artists: *EQUIPPED* with basic knowledge and skills through teacher-guided projects featuring the Elements of Art. (Second | Third Grade)
- ~ Growing Artists: *EXPLORE* the world of art by finding inspiration in the environments/artwork/artists from all seven continents. (Fourth | Fifth Grade)
- ~ Advancing Artists: *ENGAGE* the creative process to make original works of art. Teacher-set materials and guided techniques will provide the foundation for students to find their own unique artistic style. (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.
- acknowledge that God created their physical body in a fearful and wonderful way.
- participate in a variety of physical activities that are enjoyable and challenging.
- gain a general knowledge of the rules and principles governing a recreational activity so that they can participate safely and beneficially.
- demonstrate Christian character throughout social interactions of various physical activities.