



HERITAGE
CHRISTIAN
ACADEMY

ANNUAL REPORT

2025



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Fort Collins, CO 80524



(970) 494-1022
www.heritagechristian.info

HCA is an inter-denominational Pre-K through 12th grade Christian school. At Heritage, we believe the best foundation we can offer is one deeply rooted in Christ. A worldview that is grounded in the teachings of the Bible will enable your child to face the challenges of society with integrity. All of our teachers are committed to ensuring that every subject is taught firmly on the truth of Christianity, which provides your student with rich opportunities to explore how their faith can have an impact on every area of their life.

Annual Report 2025

WHO WE ARE

The **VISION** of Heritage is to equip and nurture students to be servant leaders with a biblical Christian worldview who will have an impact on their world for Christ.

The **MISSION** of Heritage is to offer authentic faith, academic excellence, and a nurturing environment.

3 PILLARS OF EDUCATION

AUTHENTIC FAITH

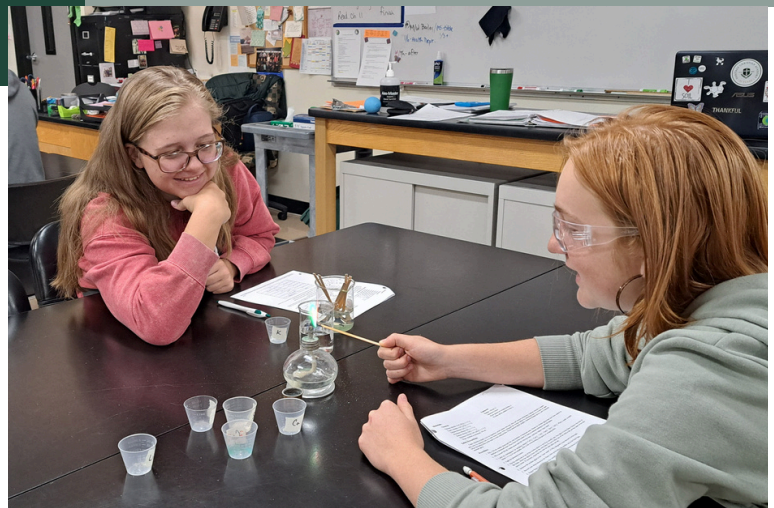
Heritage Christian Academy serves to partner with parents in order to equip students with Christ-like character, love for God's word, expertise with apologetics, and servant leadership through various academic, educational, and extra-curricular opportunities in which students learn genuine love and respect for one another and demonstrate compassion and concern for others and the world at large.

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

Heritage Christian Academy strives to provide students with highly effective educational experiences, where students are equipped to reason critically and Biblically and take responsibility for their own growth as servant leaders with a Biblical Christian worldview impacting their world for Christ.

NURTURING ENVIRONMENT

Heritage Christian Academy works to create a dynamic Christian community in which all parent, student, and staff members—past, present, and future—feel welcomed, respected, and valued for their individual Christian testimonies and collective engagement in the ongoing growth and stability of the school and the people it serves.



MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD ADMINISTRATOR

MIKE CUCKLER
Head Administrator



Ephesians 4:1-6 – “I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call— one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.”

I am in a unique position to be able to see all the thousands of ways that our staff, families, and community work together in unity. There are people you have never met praying, serving, and supporting all that we do here at Heritage. Teachers put in countless hours beyond the classroom and beyond the school year. Students come to the school over their summer break and offer to do whatever needs to be done. You are an amazing Heritage family, and I want to take this opportunity to say thank you. None of this would be in any way possible without you. Your humility, gentleness, patience and love have created a unity of the Spirit that can only be found in people who have surrendered their life to Christ and His work.

It has been an incredible time in our journey. We are seeing the fruits of a new generosity department that has extended our outreach across our community. We have witnessed God’s provision for some exciting building improvements with many more in the works. We have watched answers to prayer with the numerous phases of our land development. We have consistent visits and communications from our alumni expressing how grateful they are for the various ways that Heritage prepared them for a life dedicated to Christ. We have new teachers and new students that the Lord has graciously brought to our family. I am, once again, thankful for and amazed by all that God had done through the Heritage Family.

My prayer is that as we begin a new year and a new chapter in our story, you would know His hope and peace. In the tiresome moments, I pray He would remind you of what we are fighting for. When you feel unable or alone, I pray He would bring someone along to encourage and support you, and, even more, that He would remind you that it is His strength that is enough. I am so blessed to be in this journey with each and every one of you, and I cannot wait to see all that God has in store for us this year.

AUTHENTIC FAITH



At the heart of Heritage Christian Academy is a commitment to cultivating authentic faith—faith that not only grows in knowledge but is lived out through action, fellowship, and worship. Every aspect of our community is designed to nurture spiritual formation, helping students become grounded disciples who carry Christ's love into the world.

Chapel services are a cornerstone of our spiritual journey, offering moments for the entire school to pause, reflect, and worship together. Through biblical teaching, worship, student-led messages, and guest speakers, chapel cultivates a space for students to encounter God personally and corporately. More than a routine, chapel becomes a weekly rhythm where truth is proclaimed, hearts are stirred, and the gospel takes root in the lives of young believers.



Our small group program offered for middle and high schoolers provide intentional spaces for spiritual growth through authentic relationships. Led by student leaders, these groups meet regularly to study Scripture, pray, and engage in meaningful dialogue. Through the bonds built in small groups, students learn to walk with one another in accountability and grace, fostering a Christian community marked by compassion and truth.

Authentic faith is not confined to the classroom—it compels us to serve. Our outreach efforts reflect Jesus' call to love and serve our neighbors. Students are encouraged to step beyond themselves and see the image of God in others. These acts of service ignite a passion for humanity and help them recognize that faith is not just proclaimed—it's lived.

Together, chapel, small groups, and outreach help students cultivate an enduring faith. It's a journey marked by worship, discipleship, and servant leadership. In this community, we encourage students not only to believe in Christ but to become His hands and feet in a broken world. By practicing authentic faith daily, we aspire to raise a generation that not only knows the Bible—but embodies its truth.

Baptisms

Teachers reaching beyond the classroom to enrich and bolden the students' spiritual journey



**KELSEY BLACK &
MR. BRUXVOORT**



**YILIN LIU &
MR. CUCKLER**



**SOPHIA CASE &
JOE PACKARD**

STUDENT LIFE



37

NATIONAL
HONOR SOCIETY
MEMBERS

48

STUDENT
COUNCIL
MEMBERS

5

INTERNATIONAL
STUDENTS

INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM

The school year of 2024 /2025 saw several of our potential International students have their Visas denied, including students from Ukraine that we were hoping to have. We had five students from China, who not only shared their faith but also there their talent for Chinese letters and calligraphy as well as their ability to create an amazing menu of food at the Asian new year. Each end of the year well academically and more socially involved. One of them went on to a top college. Thank you for allowing this program that seems very similar to how heaven is described with many people from different tribes and tongues.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Hundreds of thousands of dollars given in academic and sports scholarships, including 4 full-ride scholarships

POST GRADUATION PLANS

PUBLIC UNIVERSITY/COLLEGE

8 STUDENTS

CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY/COLLEGE

9 STUDENTS

COMMUNITY COLLEGE

3 STUDENTS

WORKFORCE ENTRY

3 STUDENTS

ELECTIVES

Applied Science

Art

Coding / Robotics

Drama

Handbell Choir

Physical Education

Biblical Womanhood

Intro to Christian

Psychology

SAT Prep

Student Council

Wasson - STEM

Worship Team

Yearbook

ENROLLMENT

238 STUDENTS:

Elementary: 114

Junior High: 37

High School: 87

HERITAGE STAFF & FACULTY

Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. 1 Peter 4:10 NIV



TEACHERS & STAFF - THE HEART AND CORE OF OUR SCHOOL

0-4 YEARS

Acacia Halte (Kindergarten)
Sherry Walker (3rd Grade)
Devon Smith (4th Grade)
Amanda Silvestri (Music)
Amanda Benson (Art)
Eric Compton (Mathematics,
Physics, Robotics)
Nicholas Denenberg (English,
Yearbook, Digital Literacy)
Elias Lambers (German, History)
Lucas Ness (Elementary Principal)
Linley Petersen (Life Fitness)
Nichole Pool (Biblical Womanhood)
Jamie Simmons (Office Support)
Rachel Sanchez (Spanish)
Rob Strouse (Bible)
Paige Taylor (Athletic Assistant)
Kyla Braun (School Counselor,
Student Council)
Amelia Bruck (Paraprofessional)
Maddy Givens (Assistant
Generosity Director)
Jason Swiers (Communications
Director)

5-9 YEARS

Heidi Anderson (2nd Grade)
Alison Garison (Pre-K)
Valerie Brown (3rd Grade,
Elementary Director of
Academic Instruction)
Isaac Bowen (History, Drama)
Kelly Curnutt (1st Grade)
Josh Nichols (Psychology)
Michal Packard (5th Grade)
Cindy Ridge (Receptionist)
Heather Smith-Bowman
(Finance Director)
Candace Whitner (Drama)

10-19 YEARS

Christine Humphrey (Biology,
Chemistry, Environmental
Science, Secondary Director of
Academic Instruction)
Amber Ortner (Mathematics,
Academic Support)
Jamie Simmons (Office Support)
Valorie Towne (Literature)

20+ YEARS

Russ Bruxvoort (6th Grade)
Stephanie Belmarez (Registrar)
Dawn Cuckler (Admin. Support)
Michael Cuckler (Bible)
Lori Merkley (Science, Speech)
Brian Ness (Generosity Director)
Joe Packard (Bible, Athletic Director)
Monica Sheppard (Library, Kitchen
Manager, Before & After Care)
Robert Weant (Maintenance &
Custodial Manager, Tech Lab)

Patricia Hahn (AP History &
Literature, Rhetoric) **47 YEARS!!!**

STRATEGIC PLANNING

Heritage Christian Academy is uniquely positioned to offer hope and purpose to this generation. Rooted in unwavering devotion to Biblical Truth, we are committed to cultivating a discipleship-focused learning environment that equips young people to become dynamic Christ followers. Located at our Zurich campus, Heritage Christian Academy is growing to be a preferred destination for families seeking rigorous academics, spiritual formation, and a community grounded in integrity.

Our vision is to transform and prepare students to develop a biblical worldview, pursue excellence in higher education, and live out their God-given individuality as they impact the world for Christ across diverse professions and callings. Through a culture that honors character, celebrates an individual's calling, and values every member of our team—faculty, staff, and coaches—we are building a thriving Christian-learning community where students are challenged and supported to flourish.

To expand our reach and deepen our impact, Heritage Christian Academy will provide:



ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

Continue to grow and elevate our academic, elective, and extracurricular offerings.



COMPETITIVE COMPENSATION

Incrementally elevate faculty compensation and benefits to be competitive with other private and charter schools in the region.



AFFORDABLE OPTIONS FOR FAMILIES

Sustain competitive tuition rates while preserving our tuition assistance program to serve all families who desire Christian education.

“They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the Lord for the display of His splendor.”
—Isaiah 61:3



BUILT TO THRIVE

Over the past 50+ years, HCA has been a partner in discipleship for students and families. The theme, Built to Thrive, encompasses all that we hope for our students, past, present, and future. In the midst of our fundraising, we will be sharing stories and resources that cultivate thriving within the HCA families.

Our annual fund fills in the gaps where tuition falls short. When we don't want to increase our tuition by an exorbitant amount or we see a shortfall in enrollment, our annual fund helps supplement the following:

1. Setting HCA apart with Biblically-based academic excellence
2. Teacher and coach salaries / benefits
3. HCA Scholarship Fund - allowing students to attend who could not otherwise afford it
4. Extra opportunities (i.e. athletics, drama, robotics, STEM, music, art, etc.)



The 2024-25 school year was HCA's first year with a Generosity Department, putting designated efforts toward fundraising for the school. We tried new appeals, brought in new donors, and saw a roughly \$353K increase in giving! God was so generous to HCA last year. We had the pleasure of watching donors trust God with their finances and entrust HCA to steward their gifts well. We look forward to seeing how God continues to use this department to further His kingdom.

OVERALL GENEROSITY DEPARTMENT EFFORTS

Initiated an annual 4th QTR fundraising campaign (Built to Thrive)

- Raised \$449,003
- Sent two appeal letters and weekly appeal emails
- Weekly emails included video content by Story Path
 - Shared testimonials of current students, parents, alumni, and faculty/staff

Planned and executed HCA's first Grandparents & Special Guests Day in over 20 years

- 134 attendees

Planned and hosted a screening of the movie "Green & Gold"

- Over 100 attendees

Total Annual Giving:
\$523,360.80

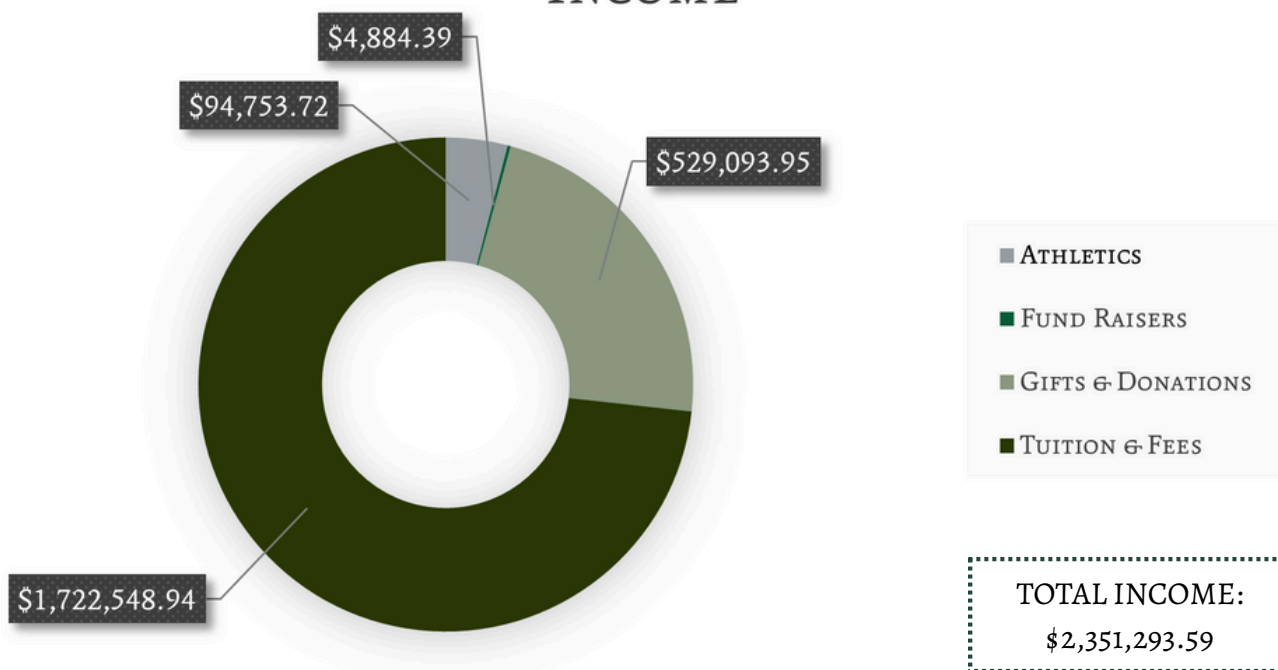
Total Annual Giving

- \$512,610.86 in Bloomerang, \$10,750 in GiveButter for staff bonuses
- This number excludes in-kind donations and what was brought in for the Capital Campaign
- YOY - +\$352,832.44 in Bloomerang
- 34 new donors
- 13 monthly donors

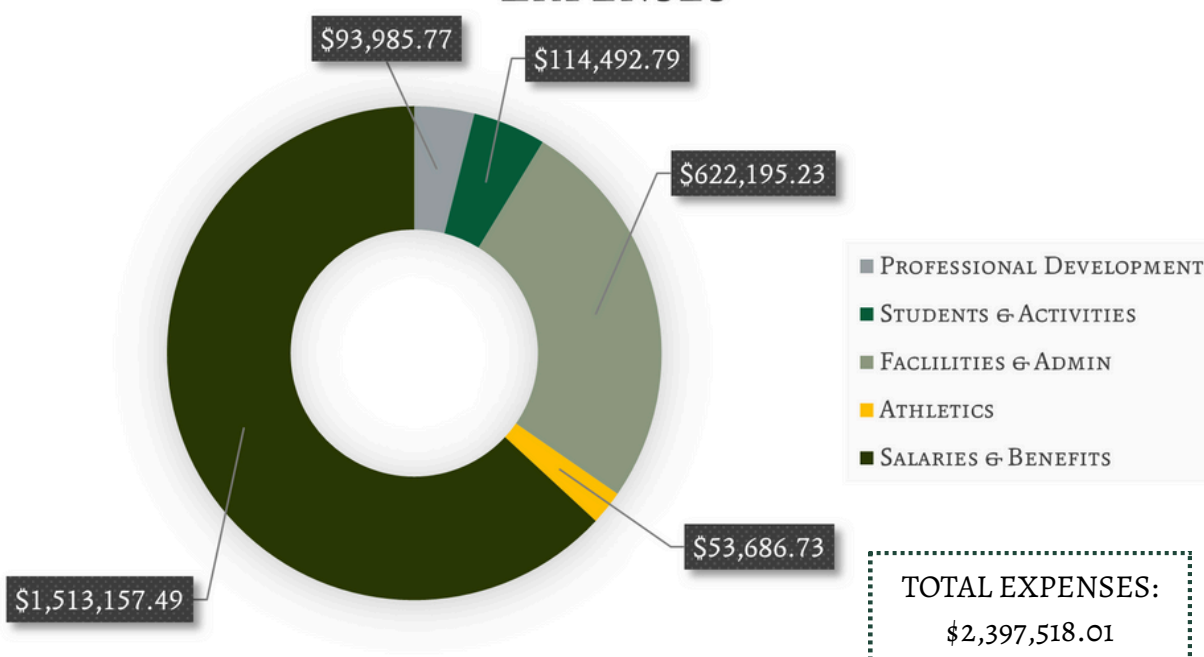
*In every season, through every season, God remains a faithful provider.
We believe God is at the center of a thriving community.*

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

INCOME

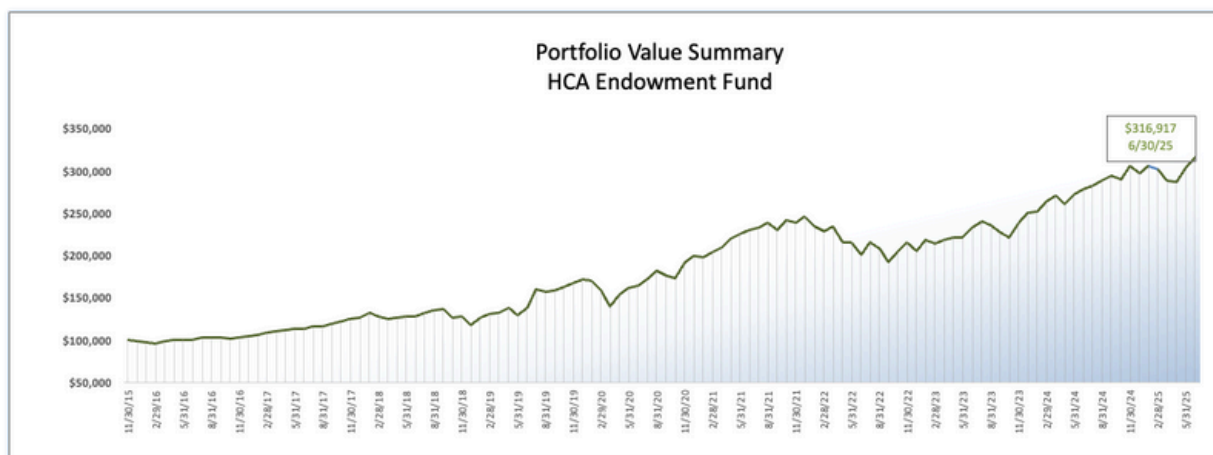


EXPENSES



ENDOWMENT UPDATE

The primary purpose of this Endowment Fund is to provide a means for members and friends of The School to make gifts and bequests to provide a permanent endowment of financial support and living memorials. Gifts to the Endowment Fund will be held in perpetuity if not otherwise designated by the donor. Income from the Endowment Fund shall be used to assist The School in fulfilling its purpose and mission by providing income for tuition assistance, capital improvement or program expansion projects, or any project deemed appropriate by the Endowment Committee.



PORTFOLIO HIGHLIGHTS JULY 1, 2024 - JUNE 30, 2025

As of June 30, 2025, HCA's endowment fund reached \$316,918—exceeding our original goal of \$250,000. Following a brief decline earlier in the year, the fund rebounded with strong momentum. In January, the endowment advanced into Stage 2: Income Generation, marking a significant milestone in our long-term financial strategy. We remain deeply grateful for God's provision and the faithful generosity of our supporters.

As part of our long-term financial stewardship, HCA maintains a moderate-aggressive investment strategy with a 70/30 asset allocation: 70% equities and 30% fixed income. Fixed income assets include cash, bonds, and certificates of deposit, while equities encompass stocks, real estate, and alternative investments. This balanced approach is designed to support sustainable growth and ensure the endowment continues to serve future generations of students and faculty.

HCA Endowment Information 6/30/25

Current Positions	Value
Stocks & ETFs	\$ 30,392.60
Mutual Funds	\$ 253,808.14
Cash	\$ 32,716.72
Total Current Value	\$ 316,917.46

ENDOWMENT FUND

And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. ~Corinthians 9:8

ATHLETIC ACHIEVEMENTS



SPORTS OFFERED AT HCA

Basketball ~ boys & girls
Cross-Country ~ boys & girls
Track ~ boys & girls

Volleyball ~ girls
Soccer ~ boys

JOE PACKARD, ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

Joe has been with Heritage in some capacity for 20 years, teaching, coaching and mentoring students. Currently, in addition to the Athletic Director, he is teaching Christian Doctrine 1 & 2, and is the high school head coach for Cross Country, Girls Basketball, and the Track & Field Program.

Mission: Leading, Mentoring, and establishing a legacy for future generations that by prioritizing relationships, building teams and following Jesus Christ, regularly accomplishes and overcomes impossible challenges with excellence, humility, and honor.

Vision: Living full and free while gratefully and worshipfully giving myself away to see others achieve the same.



My heart is to see our young men and women at HCA push out the ordinary in everything they do and into the extraordinary that is everything that Jesus Christ epitomized in His life and death. So, I am committed to instruction and learning that is normal, required, expected and necessary for furthering careers and spurring academic growth; but I teach and I coach because I hope that in the midst of that growth and development that an even greater, unexpected, and frankly miraculous work of God might take place in our students. I pray that as an outcome of their time in my classes and our school that they might become a fragrance and bring unlike anything the world has known or seen, for the glory and purposes of Our Father God. ~ Joe Packard

HIGHLIGHTS

FROM THE ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

The 2024-2025 school year at HCA had no shortage of incredible moments within our wide array of athletic endeavors.

The fall season is our busiest time of the year, with six of our twelve middle and high school teams competing.

The stories are endless: 4th grade boys and girls joined the middle school cross country team for the first time in school history, and our harriers soared to new heights. The high school boys cross country team continued to represent and build upon a decade of elite performance within the state, while the lady runners won their second consecutive 2A State Championship title (on top of a string of Mile High League and Region 1 titles). Our middle school soccer team had its best season in a long time with a Final Four NCIL appearance, and our high school team continued to build upon pillars of excellence and teamwork fielding a young team filled with new faces. Our middle school volleyball program had perhaps its biggest turnout ever, showcasing three levels full of enthusiastic and talented young women. The high school volleyball team earned the opportunity to host a 2A Regional Final for the first time in school history, while remaining a top-10-ranked powerhouse throughout the season.

Basketball season is a huge deal at HCA, and our male and female athletes continue to show us why. Our boys and girls middle school teams had great seasons within the NCIL, posting winning records and making some noise in the playoffs. Our boys and girls high school teams maintained 2A top-10 rankings all season long and both bowed out in the Sweet 16 round of 2A State Playoffs in tightly contested finals.

The spring means Track & Field for students at Heritage Christian, and our athletes sure mean business and fun! Our middle school girls were NCIL Champions, while a young and growing middle school boys team showed huge growth all season long. Our high school girls and boys continued to build upon a mountain of tradition, qualifying well over a couple-dozen students into the State Championships, where the boys finished 10th and the girls 2nd overall. The high school girls won the Mile High League Championship for the 4th consecutive year, while boys finished 2nd after winning 4 straight titles of their own!

2025-2026 looks as exciting as ever, and our student athletes are pushing as hard as ever not only to perform at the highest of levels but also to represent Jesus Christ, their families, and Heritage Christian as remarkably as ever!

Nothing would be greater evidence of that than the dual awarding of Kayla Cuckler and Levi Hermsen as the Mick McLaughlin Senior Student-Athletes of the Year within the Mile High League. This incredibly prestigious award is only given to one male and one female annually, and no Heritage Christian students had ever won this award until this year! Kayla and Levi weren't just chose for being outstanding athletes (both were multiple-time 1st Team All-League winners in multiple sports), but they also had to have documented outstanding GPA and academic performance and proved leadership, sportsmanship, and service excellence. They were voted upon because of the outstanding reputation that they, along with their Heritage Christian teammates and community, have built over years—truly showing that there is something different and extraordinary going on at HCA—and as we know, that would be the Power and Truth of Jesus Christ! Let's keep shining bright that HE may be known and honored!

See you soon!

HERITAGE *At a Glance*

THE SCHOOL



Independent, inter-denominational school serving pre-K through twelfth-grade students

Accredited by the Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI)



Oversight provided by an elected school board that provides governance leadership.

Administrative team is comprised of the Head Administrator, Elementary Principal, Secondary Head of Instruction, and Elementary Head of Instruction

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1970

Larimer County's
oldest private school

Curriculum centered
on a Biblical Christian
worldview



ACADEMICS

- Engaging and challenging college-preparatory curriculum
- Five core content areas covered at all grade levels: Bible, English language arts (ELA), history/social studies, science, and mathematics
- AP courses, online courses, and dual enrollment courses offered to high school students
- 87% of 2025 graduates pursued college
- Standardized test scores exceed local, state, and national averages



CONNECT WITH US

ADMINISTRATION :

Mike Cuckler, Head Administrator
 Lucas Ness, Elementary Principal
 Christine Humphrey, Secondary Director of Academic Instruction
 Valerie Brown, Elementary Director of Academic Instruction

SCHOOL BOARD :

David Lacey, President
 Robert Weant, Vice President
 Jill Black, Treasurer
 Ted Simmons, Secretary
 Zach Pool
 Kenda Bruck
 Ryan Carey
 Tanya Henderson

FOUNDATION :

Brent Heolcombe
 Jerie Schwab
 Jessica Daley
 Ed Hermesen
 Chris Hill

email: board@heritagechristian.info



Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; His love endures forever." — Psalm 107:1
 Thank you to all who faithfully support HCA with your time, talents and treasures.
 Your generosity helps us build a Christ-centered school where students grow and
 flourish in faith and learning.

THANK YOU!