

Introduction to Heritage Christian Academy

Philosophy of Education

Heritage Christian Academy is an independent, non-denominational Christian school, dedicated to providing an excellent education from infants through fourth grade. HCA is operated by a board of directors. The school's philosophy is based upon the love of God and Country, and is inspired by the Judeo-Christian values upon which our nation was founded. Our focus is on training future leaders to serve God, their family, their community and their country.

The mission of Heritage Christian Academy is to assist parents in the task of raising good Christian citizens by providing a superior education, firmly grounded in our dual heritage as Christians and Americans.

In order to accomplish that mission, Heritage Christian Academy operates under three specific principles:

1. Heritage Christian Academy will, without apology or compromise, strive to conform to biblical principles.

In order to meet this principle, the foundation and base for all curricula will be the Bible. It will be studied seriously. Bible truths will be applied in our personal lives as teachers and students, our administration, and our policies. Our school's policies and practices will always be honest, honorable, and impartial to the individual student, teacher, and family.

Though the Bible is the foundation of our curriculum and is absolutely true in all subjects, we have nothing to fear from any discipline of education and do not limit our educational tools to the Bible itself. We will constantly and fearlessly develop and use all of our cognitive, affective, and psychomotor skills to diligently search for, respect, and teach the truth.

2. We will not forget that Heritage Christian Academy is unique

We will remember the unique character of our school and our commitment to a special work of the highest quality. Heritage Christian Academy is unapologetically Christian, and we will manifest that fact through our commitment as students, parents, teachers, and administrators to goals of the highest academic excellence.

In striving for excellence, we will recognize our limitations in that we cannot and will not compete with public schools in every area of school life. We will, however, maintain a balanced program, including challenging academics and a variety of athletic and non-athletic student activities.

When a small school tries to adapt itself to everyone and every interest, it will suffer academic mediocrity, which handicaps minds and restricts lives. While our Christian compassion opens

our hearts to the needs of everyone who desires an education within a Christian environment, we are realistic in recognizing that we will not be able to provide for the educational needs of everyone. Our curriculum is structured toward academically able students with average or above average ability. We are also able to assist those who have certain learning disabilities, but who have strong academic potential. Our Christian compassion simply will not allow us to place the burden of keeping up with the rest of the class on a student who may have inordinate difficulty with a challenging academic program. We are unique in the curriculum we teach and the students we serve.

3. Heritage Christian Academy will have great Christian staff

We believe that a school rises or falls on the ability of its staff. We will make every effort to ensure that all of our staff is not only academically and emotionally, but also spiritually, prepared to actively participate in our school.

We seek staff members who belong to Christ, who believe the Bible to be the truth and the way, and who are exemplary role models within their personal lives. They should be encouraging and cooperative with students and families, both biblically firm and biblically forgiving.

We believe that a Christian teacher is a guide to “wisdom” – the awareness of God and His laws and divine principles at work. We seek teachers who not only know their subject matter, but are also capable of inspiring students to have a passion for the truth.

We have become God’s children through faith in Jesus Christ; thus, we have the sacred privilege and the high responsibility of developing our own walk with God and helping those whom God has committed to our care to have this same opportunity and privilege. Our staff must represent the very best that Christian culture has to offer.

Vision Statement

The vision of Heritage Christian Academy is to establish an excellent independent, nondenominational, evangelical Christian School in the Northwest Brazoria County Area.

Mission Statement

The mission of Heritage Christian Academy is to assist parents in the task of raising good Christian citizens by providing a superior education, firmly grounded in our dual heritage as Christians and Americans.

Statement of Faith

We believe in:

1. the **Holy Scriptures** as originally given by God, divinely inspired, infallible, entirely trustworthy; and the supreme authority in all matters of faith and conduct
2. One **God**, eternally existent in three persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit

3. Our **Lord Jesus Christ**, God manifest in the flesh, His virgin birth, His sinless human life, His divine miracles, His vicarious and atoning death, His bodily resurrection, His ascension, and His Personal return in power and glory.
4. The **Salvation** of lost and sinful man through the shed blood of the Lord Jesus Christ by faith apart from works, and regeneration by the Holy Spirit.
5. The **Holy Spirit**, by whose indwelling the believer is enabled to live a holy life, to witness and work for the Lord Jesus Christ.
6. The **Unity** of the Spirit of all true believers, the Church, the Body of Christ.
7. The **Resurrection** of both the saved and the lost; they that are saved unto the resurrection of life, they that are lost unto the resurrection of damnation.

Purpose

In reaching the mission and in harmony with the philosophy, the purpose of Heritage Christian Academy is to provide and maintain an environment that will most effectively train and mold our students' physical, spiritual, emotional, academic and social growth with the mind of Christ. It is the desire of Heritage Christian Academy that all students will find Christ Jesus as their Lord and Savior. We hope that through their Christian training they will develop the mind of Christ, godly character, and a daily dependence upon His Word. It is part of the purpose of the school to produce strong Christian leaders for our community, nation and world. We, as a school, will put forth our best effort to partner with families in training and educating their children. All things should be done to glorify Christ. Thus the school's philosophy, mission, purposes, goals, objectives, policies and curriculum are aimed in that direction.

Goals

Just as Jesus grew and developed in every aspect of His being (Luke 2:52), it is the goal of Heritage Christian Academy to encourage the growth of each student in every area of their lives. Our goal is to use classroom and non-classroom opportunities to help each student develop into a mature Christian. The goals that emanate from the philosophy, mission, and purpose of Heritage Christian Academy are:

- (Spiritual) To develop convictions in the child and help him experience God's work in his daily lifestyle by developing the ability to see life from God's point of view, and thereby be like-minded with Christ. (Philippians 2:1-9, Psalms 111:10, Isaiah 54:13)
- (Academic) To develop and maintain curriculum and staff that is of the highest quality available, thus challenging each student to academic excellence - realizing that the ability to learn is a gift from God and should be properly invested in the lives of others. (2 Timothy 2:15, 2 Timothy 3:16-17, Colossians 2:6-7)
- (Emotional) To develop virtuous attitudes, desires, and power to do the will of God. This results in a Godly self-image and self-control. (Romans 12:2-3, Psalms 139, Isaiah 54:13)
- (Social) To train students how to develop proper and lasting relationships with family, self, those in authority over him, those for whom he is responsible, and friends. (John 15:13, Romans 13, Matthew 18:15-35, Colossians 3:17)

- (Physical) To develop the mind and body by encouraging proper exercise and nutritional habits, which will inspire a lifelong commitment to the care of God's temple - the body? (Romans 12:1-2)
- (Civic) To train students to be good Christian citizens, who understand our history, and political and economic systems from a Christian worldview.
- (Environment) To provide professionally competent Christian teachers and staff who live and practice Christian principles, work in partnership with the families, and integrate Christ into the curriculum. (Proverbs 3, 1 Corinthians 3:11)
- (Model) To assist families and students in establishing goals and priorities that will be useful and reinforced in the home, church, and school. (Ephesians 6:1)
- (Train) To foster an understanding of each individual student so that families and teachers are better equipped to recognize the individual and spiritual creation of each child. (Proverbs 22:5)

Objectives

The following objectives were conceived from the Word and are derived from the philosophy, mission, purpose and goals. "For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ." (1 Corinthians 3:11). It is the hope that each student will fully experience:

1. Spiritual growth by developing:
 - A personal relationship with Jesus Christ
 - A greater understanding of God's written Word, the Bible
 - Open communication with God through prayer
 - Self-control and self-discipline through the power of the Holy Spirit
 - Convictions about God's Word and life
 - A desire to proclaim the Word
2. Cognitive growth by developing:
 - The skills and abilities necessary for independent learning beyond the walls of the classroom
 - Fundamental skills in communication, math and science
 - The ability to apply fundamental skills to practical situations
 - Knowledge and skills required for future educational, vocational and economic competence
 - A love of learning and a joy in discovering the truth
3. Emotional growth by developing:
 - An image of self as God views him - made in the image of God, yet sinful
 - The ability to deal with difficult situations
 - Sensitivity to emotions, which can be channeled to build character
 - Appreciation for the fine arts
 - Virtuous attitudes

4. Social growth by developing:
 - A desire to build a loving relationship with each family member
 - A growing ability to “love one’s neighbor as oneself”
 - Knowledge and appreciation for the American heritage and citizenship, with the rights, duties and responsibilities they imply
 - Understanding of other people, cultures, and societies
 - Understanding how to relate to people in authority
 - Understanding how to relate to people as a leader
5. Physical growth by developing:
 - An understanding of the body as the temple of God
 - The application of good health and nutrition practices
 - Physical skills, which enable the student to enjoy wholesome recreational activities and daily living
 - Habits that will maintain a strong and healthy body