

HAYWOOD CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

ELEMENTARY EDUCATION (K-5TH GRADE) – FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Where is your Elementary Campus located?

Our Elementary classrooms are housed on the first floor of the Main Campus facility located at 77 Sutton Loop in Waynesville.

How long is the school day?

The school day operates between the hours of 8:00 AM and 3:00 PM, Monday through Friday. Students may arrive as early as 7:30 AM; classes begin promptly at 8:00 AM.

Do you have a bus service?

HCA offers bus services after school on a daily basis. The bus is a very cost/time effective way for your student to get to your home, business or other location after school and our pricing plans are very simple and convenient. By law, we can transport students from Kindergarten through High School.

We offer stops at the following locations:

- Dollar General, Jonathan Creek Exit
- Stomping Ground, Maggie Valley
- Waynesville Library
- Best Buy, Waynesville
- Rest Area, Balsam
- Other drop off locations may be available with approval from the Head of School

Do you have after school care?

Depending on need, HCA offers an extended care program called Pack Time from 3:15 PM to 5:30 PM for students in Kindergarten through 5th grade. PLEASE NOTE that extended care operates ONLY on regular school days. Care is NOT provided on scheduled half days or when school is closed. There is a charge of \$8.00 per student, per day to those families that participate in the program.

When does the school year start and end? Does your school calendar follow the Haywood County Public School calendar?

Typically, we start at the beginning of August and finish the year in late May. HCA sets its own calendar – independent of other school systems in the area – with the exception of Christmas break and Spring break, which we intentionally try to keep the same as the public school system for the convenience of our families.

How can I be sure that my child will be able to attend Kindergarten at HCA?

Although we cannot make absolute guarantees, we are usually able to enroll most of the children in Kindergarten for whom we have applications. If your child is not currently enrolled in our 4-year old preschool program, we

recommend that the Kindergarten application be submitted by March prior to the child starting Kindergarten the following August. HCA's current preschool students will receive the first spots available in HCA's kindergarten class.

What is the dress code? Do students wear uniforms?

At present, HCA has a modesty policy. Students may wear their own clothes to school as long as they are modest and not distracting. Our modesty policy provides specific guidelines on the cut of tops and lengths of shorts and skirts. See the dress code policy in the *Student and Family Handbook* for details.

Are your teachers certified and/or licensed to teach?

Yes, all of our full-time teachers are college graduates and are certified through the Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI). Several of our teachers have obtained their master's degree or are in the process of completing their master's. All part-time teachers are certifiable by ACSI.

What is your student to teacher ratio?

Our average class size is 8-12 with one teacher and a floating assistant.

What curriculum do you use?

Students in grades K-5th use the Purposeful Design Math Curriculum as well as other useful resources. The language arts curriculum is comprised of Abeka, All About Spelling, and Purposeful Design English, as well as novel studies and other resources. NC Common Core is used as a guideline for science and history as well as HCA's Biblically based objectives.

What about "Specials"?

Students in grades K-5th have art, music, physical education, guidance, Spanish, and library time. Students also have the opportunity to work on laptops (Google Chromebooks).

What is your discipline plan?

The elementary discipline and conduct guidelines are found in the *Student and Family Handbook*. The same expectations are to be followed by all elementary grade levels, however each teacher is responsible for his/her own classroom discipline policy. Teachers may use reward systems, such as stickers or other visuals, for positive behavior. Classroom expectations and consequences will be clearly communicated to students and parents.

Do you have a cafeteria?

Yes, we do have lunch space in the Red Wolf Gym, however, it does not have a commercial kitchen and we are therefore, by law, unable to cook meals on a daily basis for student consumption. In place of cafeteria lunches, we receive daily meals delivered hot and fresh from local vendors. Students may choose to order or they may pack lunch from home. The current lunch cost ranges from: \$1.50-\$11.50.

What about after school sports and activities?

HCA's middle school athletic program begins in 6th grade and offers soccer, basketball, volleyball and golf. The Athletic Director, who will collaborate with the physical education teacher, determines readiness. An athletic fee of \$125 per student is due per sport played at HCA. Parents are required to sign up for two volunteer shifts (gate or concessions) per sport that their child plays.

Do you have a regular chapel program?

Yes, all HCA students attend a weekly chapel service. Elementary chapel services include a time of praise and worship as well as a weekly lesson. Each lesson is meant to lead the students to Jesus Christ in a new and meaningful way with the goal of each child developing a personal relationship with Him and to equip them for Middle and High School discipleship training. Parents are always welcome to join us for Elementary chapel services.

Do you have a PTA or other parent organization?

Yes, we do have a Parent Advisory Council called The PAC. This group of parents serve the school and its staff by supporting the school's mission, assisting with and planning social engagements, organizing fundraising efforts, and finding unique ways to boost and enhance the overall community of HCA supporters.

How do your test scores compare with the public school End of Grade Tests?

HCA does not administer End of Grade (EOG) tests like the public school system. EOG tests are curriculum-based tests that measure the acquisition of learning benchmarks. HCA offers the IOWA Assessments, which is an achievement/ability nationally normed test that helps us compare the progress of our students by age and grade in the US and with other ACSI schools. We are able to view potential, as well as achievement, so adjustments can be made to close gaps in skills and abilities. The testing program of HCA is designed to measure the students' abilities and progress, and the results of these tests are a vital input in the curriculum improvements made by the Faculty and Administration.

Do you have a learning center for students that struggle?

Yes, HCA's Bridge Learning Center provides additional support to the student with average to above average cognitive ability who may be having difficulty in language-based areas of study. Our center also provides support in math. The tutoring support is an additional cost to our families but we do offer a reduced rate to the students of HCA.

Is Haywood Christian Academy accredited?

Yes, Haywood Christian Academy is dually accredited through Cognia, as well as through the Association of Christian Schools International and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. We are the only accredited K-12th Christian School in WNC located west of Asheville.

Do you have scholarships or financial assistance?

Yes, the school has 2 scholarship opportunities available.

The first scholarship is the North Carolina Opportunity Scholarship. The application for this scholarship can be found at www.ncseaa.edu. The Opportunity Scholarship program expands school choice in North Carolina through scholarship grants for eligible children in kindergarten through 12th grade. This program provides funding of up to \$4,200 per year for eligible children who choose to attend a participating nonpublic school. The NC Opportunity Scholarship application opens on February 1st for the following school year and closes for priority enrollment on March 1st. Interested applicants can still apply after March 1st, but they will not be entered into priority enrollment.

The second scholarship is an in-house scholarship. HCA has a limited amount of need-based financial assistance available for students in grades K-12. It is set up in a scholarship fund called Kingdom Partners. There is a formal application process (with a processing fee) through FACTS Tuition Management that must be completed online.

Additionally, families must also have submitted an application for student admission to the school to be considered as a candidate for Kingdom Partners. Families may apply for student enrollment at <https://hca-nc.client.renweb.com/oa/register.cfm?memberid=1684> and to Kingdom Partners at <https://online.factsmgt.com/signin/4GYNQ>.

The ideal time to submit the financial aid application is early March for the following school year. Tuition assistance will be awarded in June prior to the start of the new school year.

Eligible families must also have applied for the NC Opportunity Scholarship PRIOR to applying for Kingdom Partners. Families may not receive funds from both programs.

What is the standard for admission and how do I enroll my child?

New students entering K-2nd grade are expected to take an entrance assessment in order to determine appropriate placement. The student should be pleasant and compliant within the classroom and capable of navigating the course content with reasonable support.

New students entering 3rd-12th grade are expected to take an entrance assessment and must score a minimum of 60%. Grades should be C level or above. The student should have a clean history and have a desire to be a student at HCA. Students who qualify must understand the commitment level of an HCA student as well as the school's Core Values and Statement of Faith found within the Foundational Statements.

STEPS TO ADMISSION:

- Contact the Admissions Office of HCA at 828-627-0229, extension 2 or email hcaadmin@haywoodchristianacademy.org to schedule a tour or fill out the online inquiry at www.haywoodchristianacademy.org.
- Following the tour, the family must complete the online application and submit it with a non-refundable application fee.
- The appropriate director will contact you and an entrance assessment will be scheduled.
- The Admissions Committee makes final decisions about enrollment.
- A director will contact you to let you know your status.
- If accepted, an acceptance package will be issued welcoming you to the HCA family and giving instructions for the next steps.