

HAYWOOD CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

MIDDLE SCHOOL (GRADES 6-8) – FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Where is your Middle School Campus located?

Our Middle and High School classrooms are housed on the second floor of the Main Campus facility located at 77 Sutton Loop in Waynesville.

How long is your 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?

At this time, we do not offer after school care for students above 5th grade.

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.

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 for Middle School?

Our average class size is 8-12 with one teacher per class. We do not exceed 16 students in a particular class.

What curriculum do you use?

HCA acknowledges and references the NC Common Core standards and McRel when creating course standards and objectives. Teachers have the flexibility to utilize secular and Christian curriculum and resources, including Abeka, BJU Press and Purposeful Design when teaching objectives. A Biblical worldview is interwoven into all academic disciplines.

What about electives?

At the MS/HS level, HCA offers Spanish, keyboarding, action analysis, study skills, physical education, praise band, guidance, drama, yearbook, personal finance, personal fitness, art, practical life skills, college & career, PSAT Prep and other course offerings. Electives vary each school year.

What is your discipline policy?

The student code of conduct is outlined in our *Student and Family Handbook*.

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.

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.

What about after school sports and activities?

HCA is a member of the Western Piedmont Athletic Conference (WPAC). HCA's middle school athletic program offers soccer, basketball, volleyball and co-ed golf. An athletic fee of \$125 per student is due per sport played at HCA. Parents are required to sign up for 2 volunteer shifts (gate or concessions) per sport that their child plays.

Do you have a regular chapel program?

HCA's Director of Student Discipleship oversees the weekly chapel. Faculty and guest speakers have the opportunity to share the insights of scripture and challenge students to seek Christ first in all walks of life. These messages provide students the opportunity to grow deeper in their walk with God as they learn how to live their lives as followers of Christ. Parents are welcome to join whole group worship settings.

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.

Standardized achievement tests are given to students in Grades 6-11 in the spring to measure academic achievement. Standardized testing is a half day for grades 6-11.

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.

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 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.