

# HAYWOOD CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

## EARLY LEARNING CENTER – FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### **Where is your pre-school located?**

The Early Learning Center is located on the South East corner of the Main Campus at 77 Sutton Loop in Waynesville. The physical address is 106 Hampshire Drive in Waynesville.

### **How long is the school day?**

Three and four year old children have the option of three mornings (M/W/F) or five mornings (M-F) from 7:30 AM - 11:30 AM and three full days (M/W/F) or five full days (M-F) 7:30 AM - 5:30 PM.

### **When does the school year start and end?**

In general, ELC students begin in mid-August and end their school year in late May. We have 10-month, 11-month, and 12-month program options available.

### **Does HCA's ELC adhere to the NC Child Care Licensing laws?**

Because our operating hours exceed 6 ½ hours per day of care, we are required to follow the NC State guidelines that apply to Religious Exempt schools (GS-110).

### **What meals are included in your rates?**

The ELC will provide breakfast and afternoon snack to full-day students. Lunch is an additional cost to our families. Parents may order from the school's menu or provide their own meal so long as it meets the licensing requirements (NC Meal Guidelines) for pre-school aged children. The school orders lunch from area vendors since we do not yet have a facility in which to cook our own meals. Breakfast is provided for half-day students.

### **Do you have nap time?**

Full-day preschool students are encouraged to rest quietly. A cot is provided for comfort.

### **Is there a dress-code?**

Students may wear clothing of their choice as long as it is appropriate for play and is easy to slip up and down when using the restrooms. We do not allow pre-school children to wear flip flops to school. Shoes should be fully enclosed or have a heel strap to ensure safe play. Girls must wear shorts under dresses and skirts.

### **What kind of curriculum do you use?**

The ELC uses the Abeka pre-school curriculum, along with teacher created units and materials. Our ELC is a kindergarten-readiness program that offers a well-balanced program that includes structured activities, creative play, and free choice activities.

**Do pre-school students get to play outside daily?**

We recognize that preschool students learn best through play. Students need large motor activities offered to them each day, as well as fresh air. Weather permitting, outside playtime is provided daily. Students are also provided movement once a week during a music class.

**What is your child/staff ratio?**

The state of N.C. provides child/staff ratio requirements for licensed preschools, however, HCA's ratio is lower than the required ratio due to our emphasis on an optimal learning environment and quality care of our students.

**Is the pre-k teacher licensed?**

Yes, our pre-k teachers are licensed and our Preschool Director has a BA in Special Education. Regular staff training and safety workshops are attended each year.

**How do I secure a spot in the ELC?**

Qualified students may enroll at any time during the school year (provided that space is available). Please call our office to schedule a tour. Once we have received your completed online application and application fee, a spot is secure.

In general, a student that qualifies should be able to:

- Meet the appropriate birth date guidelines; appropriate age by July 1<sup>st</sup>
- Meet normal growth and development guidelines
- Successfully separate from their parent
- Verbally communicate their needs to the teacher
- Be fully potty trained and self-sufficient in the restroom

**Does your preschool program attend chapel?**

Yes, currently the preschool class attends the weekly chapel service with the elementary students.

**Is there financial assistance for preschool families?**

No, pre-school age students are not eligible for financial aid.

## ELEMENTARY EDUCATION (K-5<sup>TH</sup> 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?**

For students in grades Kindergarten – 12<sup>th</sup>, school starts at 8:00 AM and ends at 3:00 PM with carline beginning at 3:05 PM.

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

Usually, we start in mid-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 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 pre-school 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 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?**

All of our full-time teachers are college graduates and are certified through the Association of Christian Schools International. 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?**

Generally speaking, our average class size is 8-12 with one teacher and a floating assistant. We will not exceed 15 students in a particular class.

### **What curriculum do you use?**

Students in grades K-5<sup>th</sup> use the Abeka Math Curriculum as well as other useful resources. The language arts curriculum is comprised of Abeka, All About Spelling, and Shurley English, as well as novel studies and other resources. The 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-5<sup>th</sup> have art, music, physical education, and library time. Students also have the opportunity to work on laptops (Google Chromebooks). At the MS/HS level, HCA also offers physical education, praise band, metalworking, drama, yearbook, personal finance, personal fitness, art, self-defense, PSAT Prep and other course offerings.

**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?**

No, currently HCA does not have a cafeteria. We receive daily meals from area vendors such as Da Asian, Haywood 209 Cafe, Subway, Chick-fil-a, Bojangles, and Pizza Hut. Students may choose to order or they may pack lunch from home. The current lunch cost ranges from: \$1.25-\$7.00.

**Do you have before and after school care?**

HCA offers an extended care program from 7:30 AM to the start of school and from the end of school in the afternoon until 5:30 PM. PLEASE NOTE that extended care operates ONLY on regular school days. Care is NOT provided when school is closed. Afternoon care is available for students in grades K-5<sup>th</sup> at charge of \$4.00 an hour per student, \$3.00 an hour per additional sibling.

**What about after school sports and activities?**

HCA’s middle school athletics program may accept some 5<sup>th</sup> grade athletes into its program depending on skills readiness. HCA’s middle school athletic program offers soccer, basketball, spirit team, and volleyball. Readiness is determined by the Athletic Director who will collaborate with the physical education teacher. An athletic fee of \$110 per student is due per sport played at HCA.

**Do you have a regular chapel program?**

HCA students attend a weekly chapel program. HCA’s chapel coordinator invites area pastors and youth pastors to be guest speakers. Parents are welcome to join us for chapel services.

**Do you have a PTA or other parent organization?**

Early in the school’s existence, a PAC group, Parent Advisory Committee, was established. This group of parents serve the school and its staff by supporting the school’s mission, supporting and planning social engagements, assisting in fundraising efforts, and finding unique ways to boost and enhance the overall community of HCA supporters. Currently, the group is inactive due to lack of parent leadership but we do feel that this is a vital part of our school and are currently looking for ways to re-activate this vital organization.

**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 which measure the acquisition of learning benchmarks. HCA offers the Terra

Nova 3 (TN3) which is an achievement/ability nationally normed test which helps us compare the progress of our students by age and grade in the US and with other ACSI schools. Questions are not specific to the curriculum we use, but identify generally what is taught in each grade level and subject. We are able to view potential, as well as achievement, so adjustments can be made to close gaps in skills and abilities. Students in grades K-10<sup>th</sup> take the TN3 in the spring of the year.

### **Do you have a learning center for students that struggle?**

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?**

Haywood Christian Academy is dually accredited through AdvancEd. HCA is accredited through the Association of Christian Schools International as well as the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. We are the only accredited K-12<sup>th</sup> Christian School in WNC located west of Asheville.

### **Do you have scholarships or financial assistance?**

The school has a limited amount of need-based financial assistance available for grades K-12<sup>th</sup>. There is a formal application process (with a processing fee) through FACTS Tuition Management which must be completed online. Families may apply 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.

Qualifying families may also apply for the NC Opportunity Scholarship. This is a state-funded scholarship offering funds of up to \$4,200.00 per school year to qualifying families.

**Eligible families** must apply for the NC Opportunity Scholarship PRIOR to applying for a scholarship through the school. Families may not receive funds from both programs.

To be a qualifying family you must meet ALL of the eligibility standards in part 1.

#### Eligibility Part 1

- Student is 5 years old on or before August 31
- Lives in an eligible household
- Has not graduated from high school
- Is a resident of NC

#### Eligibility Part 2: Must meet at least 1 standard of part 2

- Received an Opportunity Scholarship last year
- Was a full-time student attending a NC public school last spring semester
- Is entering kindergarten or 1<sup>st</sup> grade
- Is in foster care
- Was adopted within the last year

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

New students entering K-2<sup>nd</sup> 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 3-12<sup>th</sup> 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 doctrinal beliefs.

### STEPS TO ADMISSION:

- Contact the Admissions Office of HCA at **828-627-0229** to schedule a tour or fill out the online inquiry at [www.haywoodchristianacademy.org](http://www.haywoodchristianacademy.org).
- Following the tour, the family must complete the online application and submit it with a non-refundable application fee.
- The office will contact you and an entrance assessment will be scheduled.
- The Admissions Committee makes final decisions about enrollment.

## 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 – Friday with carline beginning at 3:05 PM. Students may arrive as early as 7:30 AM; classes begin promptly at 8:00 AM.

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

Usually, we start in mid-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 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 tops and lengths of shorts and skirts. See separate policy in our *Student and Family Handbook* for details.

### **What is your discipline policy?**

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

### **Are your teachers certified and/or licensed to teach?**

All of our full-time teachers are college graduates and are certified through the Association of Christian Schools International. 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 the ACSI.

### **What is your student to teacher ratio?**

Generally speaking, our average class size is 8-12 with one teacher per class. Rarely do we exceed 15 students in a particular class.

### **What curriculum do you use?**

HCA acknowledges and references the N.C. common core standards and McRel when creating course standards and objectives. Teachers have the flexibility to utilize Christian and secular curriculum and resources when teaching objectives. A Biblical worldview is interwoven into all academic disciplines.

### **Do you have a cafeteria?**

No, currently HCA does not have a cafeteria. We receive daily meals from area vendors such as Da Asian, Haywood 209 Cafe, Subway, Chick-fil-a, Bojangles, and Pizza Hut. Students may choose to order or they may pack lunch from home. The current lunch cost ranges from: \$1.25-\$7.00.

**Is Haywood Christian Academy accredited?**

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

**What about after school sports and activities?**

HCA is a member of the Western Carolina Christian Middle School Conference (WCCMSC). HCA's middle school athletics program offers soccer, basketball, cheerleading, and volleyball. An athletic fee of \$110 per student is due per sport played at HCA.

**Do you have a regular chapel program?**

HCA students attend a weekly chapel program. HCA's chapel coordinator invites area pastors and youth pastors to be guest speakers. HCA's student praise band leads in worship. Parents are welcome to join us for chapel services.

**Do you have a PTA or other parent organization?**

Early in the school's existence, a PAC group, Parent Advisory Committee, was established. This group of parents serve the school and its staff by supporting the school's mission, supporting and planning social engagements, assisting in fundraising efforts, and finding unique ways to boost and enhance the overall community of HCA supporters. Currently, the group is inactive due to lack of parent leadership but we do feel that this is a vital part of our school and are currently looking for ways re-activate this vital organization.

**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 which measure the acquisition of learning benchmarks. HCA offers the Terra Nova 3 (TN3) which is an achievement/ability nationally normed test which helps us compare the progress of our students by age and grade in the US and with other ACSI schools. Questions are not specific to the curriculum we use, but identify generally what is taught in each grade level and subject. We are able to view potential as well as achievement so adjustments can be made to close gaps in skills and abilities.

Students in grades K-10 take the full battery TN3 in the spring while students in grades 11-12 take the PSAT and SAT. High school juniors are given the PSAT and/or ACT, high school seniors take the ACT and/or SAT. We also use the HCC Accuplacer for reading and math.

**Do you have an honor society?**

HCA has a National Honor Society and a National Junior Honor Society. Requirements for acceptance are detailed in our *Student and Family Handbook*.

**Do you have a learning center for students that struggle?**

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?

The school has a limited amount of need-based financial assistance available for grades K-12. There is a formal application process (with a processing fee) through FACTS Tuition Management which must be completed online. Families may apply at:

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.

Qualifying families may also apply for the NC Opportunity Scholarship. This is a state-funded scholarship offering funds of up to \$4,200.00 per school year to qualifying families.

**Eligible families** must apply for the NC Opportunity Scholarship PRIOR to applying for a scholarship through the school. Families may not receive funds from both programs.

To be a qualifying family you must meet ALL of the eligibility standards in part 1.

### Eligibility Part 1

- Student is 5 years old on or before August 31
- Lives in an eligible household
- Has not graduated from high school
- Is a resident of NC

### Eligibility Part 2: Must meet at least 1 standard of part 2

- Received an Opportunity Scholarship last year
- Was a full-time student attending a NC public school last spring semester
- Is entering kindergarten or 1<sup>st</sup> grade
- Is in foster care
- Was adopted within the last year

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

New students entering 3-12<sup>th</sup> grade are expected to take an entrance assessment and must score a minimum of 60%. Grades should be mostly 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 doctrinal beliefs.

### STEPS TO ADMISSION:

- Contact the Admissions Office of HCA at **828-627-0229** to schedule a tour or fill out the online inquiry at [www.haywoodchristianacademy.org](http://www.haywoodchristianacademy.org).
- Following the tour, the family must complete the online application and submit it with a non-refundable application fee.
- The office will contact you and an entrance assessment will be scheduled.
- The Admissions Committee makes final decisions about enrollment.

## HIGH SCHOOL (9-12<sup>TH</sup>) – FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### Where is your High 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 the school day?

For students in grades Kindergarten – 12<sup>th</sup>, school starts at 8:00 AM and ends at 3:00 PM with carline beginning at 3:05 PM.

### How long is your school day?

The school day operates between the hours of 8:00 AM - 3:00 PM, Monday – Friday with carline beginning at 3:05 PM. Students may arrive as early as 7:30 AM; classes begin promptly at 8:00 AM. Students in grades 11<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> may dually enroll at HCC and, therefore, may leave campus in the afternoon to attend Haywood Community College or partake in online course work. All students must check out through the office prior to leaving.

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

Usually, we start in mid-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 system for the convenience of our families.

### What is the dress code? Do students wear uniforms?

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### What is your discipline policy?

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### Are your teachers certified and/or licensed to teach?

All of our full-time teachers are college graduates and are certified through the Association of Christian Schools International. 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 the ACSI.

### Do your students graduate with a diploma and do they attend college after graduation?

HCA students fulfill, and usually exceed, the NC state requirements for high school graduation. All HCA students graduate with a diploma and many graduate with honors. 100% of HCA graduates have attended a two-year or four-year college following graduation.

### Do you have an honor society?

HCA has a National Honor Society and a National Junior Honor Society. Requirements for acceptance are detailed in our *Student and Family Handbook*.

**Do you offer dual enrollment, honors classes, or AP coursework?**

HCA offers dual enrollment at Haywood Community College and honors and AP class offerings are determined each school year. Please refer to the 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade 'course outline' page included on our website and in our packets. The 'course outline' is a concise description of our 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade program.

**What is your student to teacher ratio?**

Generally speaking, our average class size is 8-12 with one teacher per class. Rarely do we exceed 15 students in a particular class.

**What curriculum do you use?**

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PSAT and SAT scores are competitive with that of other students in NC.

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