

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?

For students in grades Kindergarten – 12th, 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-5th 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-5th 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 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: \$1.25-\$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-5th 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 5th 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?

Yes, we do have a Parent Advisory Committee called The Pac. 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.

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-10th 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-12th 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-12th. 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.factsmgmt.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 1st 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-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 3-12th 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 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.
- 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.