

HERITAGE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

Tracy Ladd, Administrator



What is Heritage Christian School? Why do we do what we do? The pages that follow will hopefully answer these and other questions you may have about HCS. Please take the time to read carefully through this material. If you are new to our school family, this will help give you a good feel for who and what we are. If you are already a part of our "family," this is a good reminder of the principles that have made us and kept us an effective Christian school.

The material that follows includes general school information, enrollment information, and a student handbook. Pay careful attention to the sections that apply specifically to our middle school. On the registration form there are two places for parents to sign indicating support of our policies and practices and photo release. We want you to know that we take these signatures seriously, so please do read all of this information carefully. As we enter our 41st year, we look forward to serving you and your children!

Mission Statement

The mission of HCS is to glorify God by training students in a Biblical worldview to live humbly and boldly under the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

Heritage Christian School is a ministry of
Heritage Baptist Church of Owensboro, Kentucky, pastored by
Keith Maddy, Mark Redfern, Keith Withrow, and Thad Gunderson.

HCS Board Members are the above elders and Tracy Ladd, Administrator.

**HERITAGE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL
GENERAL INFORMATION
2024-2025**

Programs Offered

Preschool

Kindergarten

Elementary grades one through five

Middle school grades six, seven and eight

Enrollment Procedures

The following information outlines the procedure for enrolling your children in HCS. It is important for the timely enrollment of your children that you understand this process. Please call us with any questions.

Students registering for school will not be considered for enrollment until their specific registration period opens. If we have more registrations than available openings, final enrollment decisions will be made at the discretion of the administration. Anyone inquiring about enrollment needs to be aware of the following enrollment priorities.

First priority will be given to the members of Heritage Baptist Church and to present students.

Second priority will be given to siblings of present students.

Reenrollment for current students will need to be completed by March 8. After this date, we will begin to consider applications from new students.

Third priority will be given to new students. Registration for new students will open March 11. All new students and parents must have an interview with the administration prior to enrollment.

VERY IMPORTANT!!! While we give priority to Heritage Baptist Church members, those who choose not to enroll their child in the 2-Day preschool class cannot be

guaranteed a place in 3-Day preschool, kindergarten, or above if the class is already full.

- New student applications will be accepted through the FACTS website with an accompanying \$22 fee.
- Reenrollment for current students will be processed through facts with an accompanying \$11 fee per student.
- Class size is limited to 20 students in preschool, kindergarten, and elementary. Middle school class size is limited to 22.
- Enrollment of new students is subject to approval by the administration after parent/student interviews.

Admissions Policy

To enter the 2-Day (Tues/Thurs) preschool program, a child must be at least three years old by August 1, 2024.

To enter the 3-Day (Mon/Wed/Fri) preschool program, a child must be at least four years old by August 1, 2024.

To enter kindergarten, a child must be at least five years old by August 1, 2024. To enter first grade, a child must have completed a recognized kindergarten program.

Heritage Christian School admits students of any race, color, nationality, or ethnic origin. We reserve the right to select students and families on the basis of their agreement with and submission to our educational, disciplinary, and moral policies. Our foundation for every policy is the unchanging, inspired, and inerrant Word of God, which is always a "lamp to our feet and a light to our path." (Psalm 119:105) We also reserve the right to discontinue the enrollment of any student whose lifestyle, conduct, influence, attendance, or progress is not in keeping with the moral and academic standards of Heritage Christian School. If you would like further information on any of these policies, we have documents available in the school office.

Calendar

Heritage Christian School generally follows the Daviess County Public Schools' calendar.

Weather Related School Closings

Although we typically follow Daviess County on weather related school closings, please listen to the local TV stations (14 WFIE, 25 WEHT). If the county starts late due to weather, we will start on time. If the public schools dismiss early due to weather, we will dismiss at our regular times. If parents are concerned about road conditions, they are welcome to pick up their children early on those days.

We will send an email and text to the school family and will post our current status on the school Facebook page (www.facebook.com/hcsowensboro).

Communication

We all understand that communication between school and home is critical. We have used and will continue to use email as our primary means of communication. However, in the event of weather related school closings or other emergency situations, we have found a group texting service that is very reliable and efficient. It is provided through the Messenger-Inquirer. Go to www.messenger-inquirer.com. Click on the icon that says News/Text Alerts. Complete the form and be sure to choose Heritage Christian School from the list of organizations (it is pretty far down the list so keep scrolling). Only select the option to receive text alerts. If you have questions, please call the school office. We ask that every school family to be enrolled in our group texting service.

Snacks, Lunch, and Recess Breaks

All students will have a snack time at midmorning each day. They may bring their lunch to school each day or they may purchase a lunch.

Recess is outside, weather permitting. Students should be appropriately dressed during colder temperatures.

Classroom Parties

Any classroom parties for holidays, birthdays, etc. must have their theme, decorations, favors, etc. approved by the classroom teacher in advance.

To avoid unnecessary offense, we ask that invitations given out at school for parties held after school hours include either the whole class or all of the same sex from that class. If you wish to issue more selective invitations, please do so apart from the school building.

Day Care

Child care will be provided on a limited basis for students enrolled in preschool or kindergarten and their siblings. The hours and services will depend upon the demand. For further information (fees, etc.), please contact the school.

Health Information

Upon Enrollment, ALL students will need to have the following documents on file in the school office.

- Birth Certificate
- Social Security Card
- Current Kentucky Certificate of Immunization* (must include an expiration date) signed by physician or health department
- Current School Physical (the form is called Preventative Health Care Examination) signed by physician
- Eye Exam for School Entry – form may be obtained from your optometrist/ophthalmologist

Upon entering kindergarten, a Dental Exam/Screening must be on file in the school office.

Upon entering 6th grade, a 6th grade physical (the form is called Preventative Examination – 6th grade) and a valid, up-to-date immunization certificate must be on file in the school office. *If you choose not to immunize, we are required to have a certificate on file showing your declination of immunizations. You may find that form at the Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services' website. This is required by the State Department of Health and is not optional.

Heritage Christian School requests that any student with a contagious condition such as chicken pox, pink-eye, pneumonia, etc. remain at home until all possibility of contagion is past. Children should be fever free without medicine for 24 hours before returning to school.

Any cases of head lice must be reported **immediately** to the school office even if you have already treated your child at home. Children should not return to school until they have been treated and are nit free.

Medications Policy

All prescription medication, including Epipens, must come in the original container with the child's name, pharmacy, physician, medication, and directions for use on the label. All medication will be kept in the school office (or refrigerator, if necessary) and will be administered by the child's teacher or office personnel. The one exception to this rule pertains to asthma medications. If your child needs to have unobstructed access to their asthma medications, please contact the school office for the procedures that must be followed.

All over-the-counter medications (cough syrup, antacids, allergy relief, sinus medicine, headache remedies, etc.) will be kept in the school office and must be accompanied by a written note from the parent giving permission for the child to take the medication and indicating the proper dosage. All of these medications must come in the original container and must be provided by the parents. Cough drops may be kept in the child's classroom under teacher supervision.

A record will be kept of every medication dispensed from the office.

Parent permissions for ibuprofen and acetaminophen are given on FACTs when completing the enrollment form. An additional note is not necessary for those. If your child takes acetaminophen/ibuprofen frequently, please send a bottle with his/her name on it.

Allergies

Please be sure that the allergy section on your child's online form is completely filled out **and** that your child's teacher(s) and the school office

are aware of any allergies. If your child has an EpiPen, please leave it in the school office.

Fund Raising

All proposed fund raising activities for a particular class, project, or the school generally must be approved in advance by the school administration. This includes all flyers, brochures, and letters used in fundraising activities.

Collections

In the interest of easing the burden on our school families, we are asking that no collections (e.g. birthday gifts) be made apart from approved fund raisers and gifts. You are certainly welcome to give on your own if you so desire. There may be special circumstances in someone's life that would warrant a special collection. If so, please check with the school office.

Discipline (School-Wide)

Heritage Christian School has always been known for two things: excellent academic instruction and character development. Of those two things we have always regarded the second as the most important aspect of all that we do. For that reason, we have unashamedly called ourselves a Christian school, not simply a private school. The Bible is our basis for developing character marked by virtues like respect for authority, honesty, kindness, responsibility, truthfulness, friendship, self-control, diligence, initiative and patience. These qualities have been and will continue to be a central part of every student's education at HCS.

Almost all of us have observed the movement of our society farther and farther away from the standards of godly character. Through social media, TV, movies, music, videos, advertising, T-shirt slogans and more, the attitudes of our children and teenagers are being shaped by disrespect, rebellion, selfishness, carelessness, violence and self-indulgence. It is also true that attitudes are extremely contagious. We cannot tolerate such attitudes and still maintain our commitment to the development of godly character.

In view of the direction our society is moving, the consistent application of the disciplinary philosophy that we have held since our beginning becomes a greater challenge each year. Therefore, we want to explain our policies in more detail to you, our school parents. We want you to know exactly what to expect. Our rules are not complicated, and they are all designed to facilitate the learning process and aid in the development of godly character. In the interest of keeping Heritage Christian School true to what it was created to be, we will not be able to retain any students whose parents cannot, in good conscience, sign the statement on the registration form indicating your support of our disciplinary policies.

We don't expect that every parent will always agree with every decision we make, and we welcome your questions and communication about any problem that may arise. But we do expect that you will support us in our disciplinary practice. We are seeing more and more the need for the clearest communication and the best cooperation between parents and the school.

General Guidelines

It would be impossible to detail every offense for which we might discipline a student. Let us outline some general categories and what might take place. Respect for authority and simple obedience are critical. There is to be no running throughout the building, no talking without permission and no getting out of your seat without permission. Lying, cheating, stealing, and fighting will not be tolerated. Any behavior that endangers the safety of another child is not allowed. Any type of disruptive behavior that hinders the learning process of the class cannot be permitted.

As a general rule, students are warned for the first offense. From that point on some type of punishment is usually prescribed. It may be as simple as a "time out," a mark on the board, or a privilege forfeited. Persistent offenses may require a phone call or a note home to the parents, being sent out of the classroom, or the loss of a greater privilege for an extended period of time. We may also call the parents in for a conference with the teacher and student. At the middle school level, a detention system is in place for various categories of offenses.

(See the middle school student handbook for a description of the detention system.)

If a discipline problem should arise with your child, we hope that you will listen carefully to the teacher's explanation of what took place. We make every effort to gather all the information so that our evaluation is as objective as possible. We want to maintain the clearest lines of communication with our school parents at all times. If there is ever a question, please contact your child's teacher.

Corporal Punishment

If a student has been through the above procedures and continues to have a problem, on rare occasions, we may resort to spanking. Some offenses are serious enough that spanking may be administered earlier in the process.

Spankings are always done in private with one other teacher present as a witness. We explain the offense very carefully to ensure that the child understands the reason for the punishment. We always assure the child of our love, remind them of the good news of the Gospel, and have prayer with him or her. We always try to leave the room on friendly terms. Parents will always be notified if their child has been spanked.

In cases where problems persist, suspension or probation is possible. A student who continues to be a problem after suspension or probation may be expelled.

Middle School Discipline Guidelines

Please refer to the student handbook section of this information packet.

Security, Entrance & Parking Policies

The back double doors (under the carport) will only be open from 7:30 am – 8:30 am and from 2:40 pm – 3:05 pm. At these times doors will be monitored by a staff member. At all other times, all doors will be locked. **Between 8:30 am and 2:40 pm, parents should park in the front gym lot and enter through the glass double doors by the school office.** Students may not open any entry door for anyone before, during, or after school.

During drop-off and pick-up times, parents may not park in or leave from the front parking lot. For safety reasons, we do not want students and/or parents moving in the front parking lot area or using the office doors during drop-off and pick-up times.

If you are picking up after 3:05, please park near the front office doors. If no one is in the office, please call the school phone at (270) 685-4002.

Your child's safety is the driving force behind our policies. We appreciate your cooperation!

Traffic Pattern and Pick-Up

Please follow the directions of the teachers on duty who are directing traffic, both in the parking lot and on the road. **Drivers, please refrain from using cell phones while entering and exiting the parking lot.**

Volunteers

Volunteers are welcome and encouraged to play an active role in the ministry of Heritage Christian School. There are many opportunities for service which are detailed in the packet given at orientation. Our volunteers play a vital role in helping us to offer a quality program at a more reasonable cost. In the interest of the safety and protection of our students, all volunteers will be required to have a background check.

The staff of Heritage Christian School is dedicated to making the school year a good experience for your child and, as a result, for your entire family. To this end, we welcome questions and/or comments concerning any matter relating to our school. We invite you to call your child's teacher or the school office at any time.