

HCA Academics FAQ

Q: What is the HCA Shield System?

A: HCA's Shield System is a house system. The Shield System was designed with several goals in mind. The Shield System encourages and simplifies the assimilation of new students into the culture of Harvest Christian Academy. Shields facilitate the passing on of our school culture to these students. Shields also make it easier for new students to develop friendships based on a common interest. Shields expand the boundaries of fellowship across all grade lines. Students in grades six through twelve are brought together in competition, service, academics and work, enabling them to develop their character, increase their competence and discover their calling while growing in fellowship with one another and holding one another accountable in their walk with God. As younger students often admire older students, the opportunities for leadership and discipleship are also greatly increased.

Q: What qualifications do HCA teachers have?

A: HCA teachers are state and ACSI certified. HCA uses a Kingdom Education philosophy. Our teachers have received training in Kingdom Education so they are prepared to teach their discipline from a Biblical worldview.

Q: What is the HCA Learning Enrichment Program?

A: Educating the whole child through Kingdom Education is the desire of HCA. In order to meet the needs of all students, HCA provides the Learning Enrichment Program. Believing that God created each child uniquely, HCA staff and support services collaborate to ensure that every child has a chance to succeed and reach their full potential for which they were created.

Q: What academic support is available to students who are experiencing learning challenges?

A: Every child is capable of success in the classroom, however some students need additional support. Classroom accommodations are offered for students with a diagnosed learning disability. Math and reading recovery as well as dyslexia services are available.

Q: What programs are available for students who need deeper academic challenges?

A: HCA offers a Gifted and Talented program for students who qualify. The Gifted and Talented Program provides an environment for students who exhibit traits and signs of giftedness a time and place to have their social, emotional, and academic needs better met. The gifts and talents that God has placed in each student are nurtured, shaped and molded to be used for future Kingdom work through small group, research based, and project-oriented classes. The Gifted and Talented teacher collaborates with classroom teachers to provide help and support for differentiating instruction and compacting curriculum for the students that are in the program to ensure that their needs are best being served in all areas of HCA.

ELEMENTARY

Q: What grade levels are considered elementary?

A: The elementary grade levels are Kindergarten through 5th grade.

Q: What enrichment classes are offered to elementary students?

A: Elementary students attend enrichment classes in Spanish, Art, Music, PE and Learning Lab.

Q: What curriculum is used in elementary?

A: We do not use one specific curriculum for all subjects. A thorough review is conducted based on each subject. Therefore, many different curriculum providers are used including Bob Jones, Abeka, Shurley, etc. Elementary students also participate in the Accelerated Reader program.

Q: Will weekly assignment sheets be sent home with homework, quiz, and test information?

A: Yes, elementary teachers send home weekly assignment sheets.

Q: Are elementary students a part of the HCA Shield System?

A: Yes, elementary students are partnered by grade level with a secondary Shield group. For example, Kindergarten students are partnered with the Shield of Wisdom. Elementary students have secondary mentors, and they also participate in Shield Serve Days.

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Q: What grade levels are considered middle school?

A: Middle school consists of grades six through eight.

Q: What kind of class schedule does middle school follow?

A: Middle school follows a modified block schedule.

Q: How much time is there between classes?

A: There are five minutes in each passing period. This allows ample time to switch classrooms or make use of the restroom facilities.

Q: What curriculum is used in middle school?

A: We do not use one specific curriculum for all subjects. A thorough review is conducted based on each subject. Therefore, many different curriculum providers are used.

Q: Are there semester finals in middle school classes?

A: No. Assessments will be the culmination of daily work, projects, quizzes and tests.

Q: How is attendance counted?

A: Attendance is recorded during each class period. Students are required to attend class at least ninety percent of the semester. Both excused and unexcused absences count toward the total number of days allowed. If you have many appointments scheduled throughout the year, it might be a good idea to schedule them at different parts of the day.

Q: Will weekly assignment sheets be sent home with homework, quiz, and test information?

A: No. It is our goal to have all lesson plans and assignments communicated electronically through FACTS SIS.

Q: What activities or sports are available for middle school to participate in?

A: Middle school students may participate in sports such as baseball, volleyball, cross country, track, basketball, cheer, and football (grades 7-8 only for football). Middle school students can audition for the HCA musical each year. There is also a middle school Student Council.

HIGH SCHOOL

Q: What kind of class schedule does high school follow?

A: High school follows a modified block schedule.

Q: How much time is there between classes?

A: There are five minutes in each passing period. This allows ample time to switch classrooms or make use of the restroom facilities.

Q: What curriculum is used in high school?

A: We do not use one specific curriculum for all subjects. A thorough review is conducted based on each subject. Therefore, many different curriculum providers are used.

Q: Are there semester finals in high school classes?

A: Yes, there are semester finals.

Q: How is attendance counted?

A: Attendance is recorded during each class period. Students are required to attend class at least ninety percent of the semester. Both excused and unexcused absences count toward the total number of days allowed. If you have many appointments scheduled throughout the year, it might be a good idea to schedule them at different parts of the day.

Q: Do high school students use a computer or mobile device during class?

A: Yes, high school students use individual iPads in the classroom. Most textbooks are e-books. A learning management system is used which allows student to submit assignments electronically as well as check assignments, due dates and grades.

Q: What academic activities/clubs does HCA offer high school students?

A: HCA offers the following activities/clubs: NHS, NJHS, Student Council, Shield leadership, Robotics club, Computer club, Honors Academic Team, Musical Theatre, Worship team, student-led Bible study.

Q: What diploma plans does HCA offer?

A: HCA offers a college preparatory program in high school. Students on the regular HCA diploma plan graduate with 4 credits in Bible, English, Social Studies, Mathematics and Science. HCA also offers an Honors diploma and a Distinguished Honors diploma.

Q: Does HCA offer any honors courses?

A: Yes, honors courses are available in English, Social Studies, Science, Spanish and Mathematics.

Q: Does HCA offer AP or dual credit classes?

A: HCA offers 18 hours of dual credit and one AP class during the senior year of high school.

Q: How do the HCA high school students score on the SAT and ACT exams?

*A: The average HCA SAT and ACT scores are consistently higher than US average SAT and ACT scores. In 2020 and 2021, HCA had **National Merit Scholars**.*