

Hickory Christian Academy

THE SHIELD

“Celebrating 13 years of excellence in Classical Christian Education”

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I urge you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect. – Romans 12:1-2

Dear HCA Family,

The school year is now in full swing, and all the prayers and preparation that took place during the summer are being played out in tangible form. Our new teachers are really doing an excellent job, and I am so thankful that God chose to supply such quality folks for each of our classrooms. A major reason that the new teachers are so successful is that the returning teachers have invested so much time in training, advising, and mentoring. When you add in the selfless actions of our teacher assistants, and the leadership and communication of the office staff, the result is a successful school, working together for a common vision.

Vision. Vision is an essential part of any organization, but particularly one which serves the Lord. God Himself has said that

without vision, we will perish. Unless we all understand why we are here, what we are trying to accomplish, and where we are going with this thing in the future, we end up a tangled mess, doing nothing. Key components of vision include setting and understanding goals, a belief that those goals are attainable and worthwhile, and a plan of action to achieve those goals. Being that we are at the beginning of a new school year, I felt it was great timing to renew the vision for Hickory Christian Academy today and for the future.

HCA’s official Statement of Purpose reads: *“Hickory Christian Academy exists to support Christian families in preparing their children to reach their maximum academic potential while equipping them to love the Lord, walk in His ways, and obey His commands according to scripture.”* The statement begins with an interesting emphasis. Why does HCA exist at all? It is to support Christian families. We do not claim to exist so that we can educate children, influence children, or mold children. For, if we become the primary educators, influencers, or molders of these kids, then we begin to act counter to God’s plan for their parents to assume these responsibilities.

Obviously, there has never been a child raised completely under the parent's care without other influences in the mix. HCA is designed to be one of those "other" influences. We desire to be academic *support*, spiritual *support*, and moral *support* to parents who are already working diligently on these things at home. We are not an orphanage, nor a daycare. It is crucial to the success of our school, according to our vision, that Christian parents be the primary influence on their children. This is why we do the initial interview process. We need to know that each child who enters the school has Christian parents who will love and train them in Biblical Godliness at home. If this foundation is in place, then we are equipped to become the support that family may need in accomplishing academic and spiritual goals. Of course, this means that communication is key. The school and parents should have a good working knowledge of each other during the course of the year if the child is to accomplish the goal of pleasing the Lord through his life. In other words, we welcome your questions, comments, and concerns!

The final three words of our Statement of Purpose read, "according to scripture". We believe that every human being is born with a sin nature, and that even after salvation, we continue to struggle against that nature for the rest of our lives. This definitely means that any organization based on people's opinions, expertise, or desires is inherently flawed. On the other hand, God does not struggle with temptation to sin. He has never made a mistake, and He never will. Therefore, scripture becomes paramount if we desire to live life the "right" way, or even to run a school the right way. If I say something, you should double-check my facts, but if God says it, then there is no question about it.

As we read the familiar passage of scripture from Romans chapter 12, we see that God has called us to live a life that is holy, set apart, and transformed from the world. Similarly, He would have HCA be a school that is holy, set apart, and transformed from the world's standard of education. The key to this is that we are transformed by the "renewing of your *mind*". Usually in modern Christianity, we talk about "heart" issues, and about rededication of our lives to God. There is nothing wrong with this, of course, but we often go about this process in the wrong way. We must understand that true transformation begins in the *mind*. This is why the process of Christian education is so important – because it is mental training, which (according to God) causes transformation from the world. Every action you perform is a direct result of the belief system you have in your mind. So, a heart change must begin with a mental change. We must train ourselves to study and to understand God's Word, so that we always believe it in every circumstance. Only then will it permeate our actions, and direct our paths.

We must also avoid the thought that we can have successful academic training *apart* from scripture. I am sure that every parent wishes to train their children in truth. If God's Word is truth, then everything that separates itself from the Bible is false. But, things that align themselves to God's truth are true themselves. Two plus two equals four because of God, not in spite of Him. Fish breathe under water because of God, not in spite of Him. America was founded because of God, not in spite of Him. We live dangerously when we become so prideful that we believe we can discern truth on our own, without reference to the only truth-giver. HCA is to be an institution that glorifies God by promoting His perfect and

true Word in every classroom, through every subject, during every hour of every day.

As we go through this school year, my prayer is that Christian families (beginning with mine) will take our child-rearing responsibilities seriously; that dads and moms will be diligent to train their children in the fear and admonition of the Lord. Remember that we only get one shot at this. There are no re-dos with children! In addition, I pray that HCA will become the tool that God intends it to be in supporting Christian parents in this task. May we always be a usable vessel through which God's truth may flow into these precious students, that their minds would be renewed at an early age, so that they are truly transformed from the world's standards of success into a reflection of Jesus Christ for all to see.

I love the fact that school has a series of annual beginnings and endings, so that we can have a fresh start each fall. It is exciting to welcome the new faces and to re-ignite the vision for Classical Christian education. Our faculty and staff are excited about serving you this year, and I look forward to personally working with each of you as we partner in educating your children to become the "fragrance of Christ" to the world around them. Please let me know of your questions, comments, needs, and concerns. May God richly bless your school year!

In Christ,

Tracy Robinson
Headmaster



Welcome back to school! Thank you for the way you've jumped right into a good routine of dropping students off and allowing them to gain independence. It is so amazing to watch as young children build confidence by being able to get themselves into their classrooms on their own. The Lord told us to "train up our children in the way they should go and when they are old they will not depart from it." This means so much more than teaching Bible verses. He expects all parents to teach their children how to be successful when dealing with the world. The Lord does not want any of His precious children to be of the world, but we all have to be taught how to honor Him as we survive in the world. A child will not gain confidence to share the gospel if they are afraid and can not take care of their own needs.

Hickory Christian Academy is a building, growing and training ground for students. We are helping students build confidence as the Lord allows each one to have small successes in a very controlled and safe environment. "Growing strong soldiers for the Lord" is our mantra. Training them in His ways and having opportunities to apply those lessons are crucial to raising-up healthy adults.

We take our partnership with parents as a humble privilege and a tremendous responsibility. We ask you frequently to pray for us as a school and each staff member. I want you to know that we are equally praying for you as parents and families. God has given us a most precious gift in every child. Each one is "fearfully and wonderfully made"! Together, we will work diligently to please our Heavenly Father as we partner in training them up in the way they should go. Thanks for the gift of another year at HCA.

With Christ's love,
Connie W. Peeler
Grammar School Principal

Uniform Woes...

We are aware that Land's End has backordered many uniform pieces. Please know that HCA is willing to show grace on these particular pieces until the orders are filled. If you have ordered jumpers, shirts, or anything else that will not be in for weeks (or months), you may wear the closest thing you have available that is within dress code. We have been in touch with the upper management of Land's End, who have apologized for the inconvenience, and have vowed to improve this process for the future. In the meantime, if you have specific uniform questions, please feel free to ask your teacher or to call the school administration. All students PS-12th grade are required to wear Lands End uniforms. If a student is in violation of the uniform, he/she will be sent to the office to wait until a parent can bring the appropriate uniform to school. The student will be counted as absent in his classes until he/she returns. Examples of such violations include skirts/skorts that are too short, belts with large buckles, shoes with patterns or incorrect heel height, etc.

High School Retreat

All 9th – 12th grade students will be dismissed from classes at 10:45 on Friday, September 19 to travel to this year's high school spiritual retreat. 1st – 3rd period will be normal schedule! This year's trip is to Lookup Lodge in Travelers' Rest, SC. We will have devotional and praise and worship music for the weekend. The students will return to HCA around 3:30 on Sunday afternoon, September 21. Each 9th-12th grade student should have received a letter this week with details of the trip. Please call the office and speak with Tina Keller if you have any questions.

Chapel Begins This Week!

Our formal chapel services will begin on Tuesday, September 9 for all students in Preschool – 5th grade. Chapel begins at 8:10 in the Hickory Community Chapel Sanctuary, and typically ends around 9:00. Parents are welcome to attend any chapel service. The 6th – 12th grade chapel services will begin on Thursday, September 11 at 8:05 until 9:00am.

HCA on the Web and the Family Directory

Please visit the Hickory Christian Academy website at: www.hickorychristianacademy.com for upcoming school events, breaking news, weather announcements, calendar updates, and contact information for teachers, administrators, and board members. We would like to send out more information by email this year to save paper costs. We are planning to print the new Family Directory by September 15th and send out one copy per family. These directories will contain phone numbers, sibling names and family email addresses. The Faculty list will be at the back of the Directory. Please check them carefully and let us know if there is a problem with any of your information.

Student Council News

Hickory Christian Academy elected new Student Council members last Spring. The nominations and votes are cast by rising 9th – 12th graders, and the students are selected by the following criteria: Each elected member should be a student with at least a 'C' average in academics who displays a positive attitude and reflects the character of

Jesus Christ daily. They should also be students who are well-respected, and who possess leadership ability, as determined by their peers. Student Council members are servant-leaders in the school. They are to make the school better by setting a positive example for other students to follow. They also hear comments, concerns, and questions from the student body, and plan accordingly so that HCA fulfills its mission of equipping children today to become God's leaders tomorrow. The student council examines the whole school from Preschool – 12th grade to ensure that all student needs are being met each day at HCA. The HCA Student Council has a voice with the school administration and with the HCA school board to express student needs. Please congratulate these students on achieving this office, and pray for each one as he/she fulfills this important role at HCA this year.

2008-2009 Student Council

Student Body President – Deanna Alrutz (12th)
Student Body Vice Pres. – Mason Lehman (11th)
Student Body Secretary – Avery Kordus (10th)
Student Body Treasurer – Joseph Lackey (10th)
Student Body Chaplain – Dillon Keller (11th)
Senior Representative – Seth Hall (12th)
Senior Class President – Erin Sturgess
Junior Class President – Brianne Sayers
Sophomore Class President – Chris McGrath
Freshman Class President – Sarah Lowry

HCA LUNCH

Lunch has begun. Piedmont Vending is offering several different choices on the menu this year. Please understand that students are not allowed to use microwaves until 4th grade, therefore items such as the baked ziti, bean burrito, bowtie pasta may not be ordered for 1st-3rd grade.

In order for our lunchtime to be successful we need volunteers. Do you have one day a week that you would be able to come and volunteer? Lunch will be distributed daily during two lunch periods. 1st Lunch begins at 11:30 (for volunteers) and 11:45-12:15 for students. 2nd Lunch begins at 12:20 (for volunteers) and 12:30-1:00 for students. Angie Burnham has agreed to head up our lunch program this year. She already has the schedule for September completed but can always use more volunteers. If you would like to volunteer please contact her at angieburnham@charter.net

- Name
- Phone Numbers
- Email address
- Days of the week you would be available
- How many times per month you would like to be on the schedule

Thank you for your willingness to serve. God bless!

Coupon Books

ALL COUPON BOOKS ARE DUE IN NOW. If you have not turned in your books or your money please bring them by the office immediately so that we can complete this fundraiser. Thank you for your cooperation.

Family Night

Our annual HCA Family Night will be held on Thursday, September 25 at 6:30 pm. We will begin in the gymnasium with a brief introduction and opening prayer from Mr. Robinson, followed by a short period of

announcements regarding upcoming school events. Students and parents will then be released to visit their child's classroom. During the classroom visit time, every parent will be asked to sign up for a mandatory Teacher conference time in late October / early November. We will also be having the Scholastic Book fair in the Library that evening if your student has found a favorite book that he/she would like to purchase.

Hoodie Order Turn-in

The HCA Hoodie orders were distributed this past week. We place the order for these only one time per year. The deadline is Monday, September the 8th. Please get your order in this week. We will hold the order open for a couple days.

PE Uniforms

PE Uniforms are in. You may come by the office and purchase a T-shirt or shorts if you need them. All are \$10.00 each. Your student may wear the PE T-shirt on dress down Fridays.

ATHLETICS

Complete HCA Sports Schedules for all teams can be found on the Website. Please come out and support the HCA Knights!!!

Go to website www.hickorychristianacademy.com

then click on *Athletics* to download sport schedules.

Mark the date-Calendar Reminders

9/11	Jostens 11-1:00 (Juniors/Seniors)
9/12	Faculty/Student Volleyball game 6:00 HCA Gym
9/15	Elon University Rep. (Juniors/Seniors)

9/19-21	High School Retreat
9/22	Teacher Workday (no school)
9/23-26	HCA Book Fair
9/25	Family Night 6:30 pm
9/26	3 rd -Science Center
10/3	Dress Down Friday (first Friday of each month see Uniform policy)
	TK-Glenn Hilton Park
10/8	K-Apple Orchard
10/15	PSAT (9 th -11 th grade)
10/16	1 st -Lazy 5 Ranch
10/27	HCA Annual Golf Tourney
	Teacher Workday (no school)
10/29	3 rd -Hiddenite Gem Mine
10/30	2 nd -Asheboro Zoo
10/31	Reformation Day-Early Dismissal 12:00 noon

Math Superstars News

- We need LOTS of donations to fill the store with items the children would like to “purchase” with their points they receive from working on Math Superstars. Please give any donations you have throughout the year to Julie Rhodes or leave them with the secretaries in the office and let Julie know they are there for her to pick up.
- There will be 3 “shopping” dates in the Math Superstars store again this year, early December, mid to late February, and the end of April. Specific dates will be announced well before the date arrives. We would love to have some parents volunteer to help set-up, or take-down, or serve for an hour or more in the store itself on the “shopping” days. Julie Rhodes has pretty much done this herself in the recent past. She is a terrific store manager but she would love a few “employees” for the day. Contact Julie

Rhodes or Karen Tysinger if you are interested.

- PLEASE ENCOURAGE your child(ren) to participate in Math Superstars at least some of the time if not all the time. It aims to help them problem solve and think "out-of-the-box". These skills will help them significantly as they get into the upper grades and begin to have jobs of their own. And, we all need encouragement! Positive parent attitudes help to grow positive student/child attitudes.

Karen Tysinger 256-6619

BOX TOPS, My School is Cool, TRASH INTO CASH, etc.

"The MY SCHOOL IS COOL contest at Valley Hills Mall has kicked off! HCA is now enrolled to earn points for each dollar you spend at the mall and bonus points for events at the mall. The school with the most points will win \$5,000. September's events are:

Double Point Carousel Rides Sept. 12th - 14th earns 200 points for each ride. Just drop your point-pass into the HCA bin for the rides to be counted!

Triple Point Weekend September 19th -21st!
Your shopping receipt earns 3 points per dollar this weekend!

You redeem your points by turning them in to the HCA locker at the mall MSC locker barricade beside Bath & Body Works, upstairs or by turning them in at the school office marked attn: Amy Swink. Copies of receipts will not be honored by the mall, so if you need a copy of your receipt, ask for a copy at the register, or stop by the mall or school office!

HCA is the coolest school, so I know we can win this contest!" Thanks,
Amy Swink

"Trash into Cash" Fundraising News:

We're off to a great start with our Box Top submissions for this school year! Our total for August was **2,802**, or **\$280.20** earned already for HCA. Woo Hoo! Our prize winners are Hannah Summerlin, Riley Kirby, and MacLindsay Mitchell. Also, Mrs. Jablonski's 1st grade class wins the traveling trophy for this month, having had the most Box Tops turned in for the month. Congratulations!

We've collected **21** Tyson Project A+ labels and **146** milk caps, and we thank everyone who has sent in their Food Lion MVP card information to help us get started in the Shop and Share program this year. Watch the weekly Food Lion ads for some great Bonus Box Tops offers, too!

We are excited to be involved in the Valley Hills Mall - My School's Cool program also, and we hope everyone has linked their Harris Teeter VIC cards to HCA (school # 3230), mentioned HCA at checkout at Office Depot for their 5% Back to Schools program, applied for a Target Card to help earn money for HCA, and maybe even done some shopping at the Box Tops Market Place at btfe.com. Feel free to contact Jill DeVries or Amy Swink with questions about any of these programs. We certainly appreciate everyone's efforts to help HCA get some FREE MONEY!

Knights 5K

Thank you again to all the sponsors and volunteers that made this year's 5K such a

great success!! We had over 300 runners participate in the race. We raised approximately \$4,000 toward the HCA building fund. Praise the Lord!!