



Hernando Christian Academy

2009 - 2010

Student Handbook

If you want to enjoy life and see many happy days, keep your tongue from speaking evil and your lips from telling lies. Turn away from evil and do good. Search for peace, and work to maintain it.

1 Peter 3: 10-11

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This handbook exists to acquaint you with student-related policies that are necessary to provide an environment that reflects our core values and create an atmosphere in which a quality Christian education can take place. There are many areas that have been updated this year. Students and parents should take time to review this handbook and be prepared to comply with the policies herein stated.

As we begin our 29th school year, let's pray that God will make this one of our best years yet!

TABLE OF CONTENTS

GENERAL INFORMATION

Statement of Faith	.4
Mission Statement	.4
Core Values	.4
Parental Responsibilities	.5
Non-Discrimination Policy	.5
Accreditation	.5
Admissions	.6
Hours of Operation	.6
Attendance Policies	.6
Maximum Allowed Absences	.6
Family Vacations/Trips	.7
Class Minute Requirements	.7
College Visits	.7
Absence Verification	.7
Make-Up Work	.7
Requests for Homework	.7
Tardiness	.8
Health Requirements	.8
School Clinic	.8
Medication Policy	.9
Parking Lot	.9
Fund Raisers	.9
Visitors	.9

FINANCIAL POLICIES

Tuition/	10
Additional Fees	10
Lunch Account	10
Tuition Payment Policy	10
Student Withdrawal Process	10
Financial Aid	11
Textbooks	12

ACADEMICS

Part-Time Students	12
Full-Time Students	12
Activities	12
Outside Courses	12
Homework	12
Kindergarten-Elementary	12
Middle School	13
High School	13
Graduation Requirements	13
Class Rank	14
High School Community Service	14
Grading Scale	15
Bonus Points	15
Semester Exam Weighting	15
Exam Exemptions	15
Grade Replacement	15
Report Card/Progress Report	15
Honor Rolls	15
Parent/Teacher Conferences	16
Academic Probation	16

Promotion	16
College Counseling	16
Field and Class Trips	16
SERVICES OFFERED	
Tutoring	17
Before & After-School Care	17
Summer Camp	17
Camp College Workshop	17
Chapel	17
Lunch Program	17
School Bookstore	18
Parent Communication	18
Student Insurance	18
Lockers	18
ACTIVITIES OFFERED	
Student Government	18
Honor Societies	19
Athletics	19
Puppetry/Drama	19
ACSI Competitions	20
DREAM Team	20
Safety Patrol	20
DRESS CODE	
Dress Code Introduction	20
Guidelines Specific to Boys	20
Guidelines Specific to Girls	21
Dress Down Days	22
BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS & AREAS OF CONCERN	
Student Code of Conduct	23
Discipline Policies	23
Areas of Concern	23
Communication	24
Electronic Devices	24
Dishonesty	24
Weapons	24
Fighting	24
Drugs, Alcohol & Tobacco Use	24
Public Displays of Affection	24
Immorality	24
Skipping Class/Leaving Campus	24
Driving	24
Profanity	24
Bullying	24
After School Detention	25
In-School Suspension	25
Out-of-School Suspension	25
Expulsion	25

GENERAL INFORMATION

Statement of Faith

1. We believe the Bible to be the inspired, the only infallible, authoritative, inerrant Word of God. (II Timothy 3:15, II Peter 1:21)
2. We believe there is only one God, eternally existent in three persons – Father, Son and Holy Spirit. (Genesis 1:1, Matthew 28:19)
3. We believe in the deity of Christ (John 10:33), His virgin birth (Isaiah 7:14, Luke 1:35), His sinless life (Hebrews 4:15, 7:26), His miracles (John 2:11), His vicarious and atoning death (I Corinthians 15:3, Ephesians 1:7), His resurrection (I Corinthians 15:4, John 11:25), His ascension to the right hand of the Father (Mark 16:19), His personal return in power and glory. (Revelation 19:11).
4. We believe in the absolute necessity of regeneration by the Holy Spirit for salvation because of the exceeding sinfulness of human nature, and that men are justified on the single ground of faith in the shed blood of Christ, and that only by God's grace through faith alone we are saved. (John 3:16-19, 5:24, Romans 3:23, 5:8-9, Ephesians 2:9-10, Titus 3:5)
5. We believe in the resurrection of both the saved and the lost, they that are saved unto the resurrection of life, and they that are lost unto the resurrection of damnation. (John 5:28-29)
6. We believe in the spiritual unity of believers in our Lord Jesus Christ. (I Corinthians 12:12-13, Galatians 3:26-28)
7. We believe in the present ministry of the Holy Spirit whose indwelling enables the Christian to live a Godly life.

MISSION STATEMENT

This Christian school ministry exists for the purpose of "building leaders with Christian character."

CORE VALUES

Core Values express what we believe and hold dear as an organization. When accompanied by the Mission Statement they become the filter through which we evaluate everything that we do.

WE VALUE:

1. **The Word of God**
Therefore . . . it is central to all that happens at HCA and is the "screen" for all decision-making.
2. **Right Relationships**
Therefore . . . we work to resolve all disputes or differences quickly and Biblically and provide an atmosphere structured for right relationships.
3. **Prayer**
Therefore . . . each day, each class period begins with this vital aspect and we continually seek God's direction.
4. **Changed Lives**
Therefore . . . we look for "teachable moments" and purpose to use them to continually seek God's direction.
5. **Families**
Therefore . . . we remember that parents are our students' ultimate authority here on earth and we strive to work with them, complement their teachings, respect their opinions, and communicate directly with them on a regular basis.
6. **Churches**
Therefore . . . we recognize that the local church is ordained by God as His instrument to accomplish His work in the world. We encourage regular attendance and participation in Bible-believing local churches and will model this in our lives.
7. **Children**
Therefore . . . we recognize their inherent God-given worth and purpose to love each child unconditionally.
8. **Discipline**
Therefore . . . we conduct our classrooms in an organized, controlled and loving environment where right is upheld and students are disciplined in an equitable and loving manner.

9. **Education**

Therefore . . . we strive to provide the best learning that we are capable of providing through consistent preparation, relevant and dynamic presentations; and purposed evaluation.

10. **Excellence**

Therefore . . . everything that we do will reflect this quality. Our mindset will be that we do all for the glory of God.

Parental Responsibilities

**Please note: the word “parents,” as used in this Handbook, represents either or both parents and/or legal guardians of our students.

As a parent of a child at HCA, I realize that:

1. I am responsible for the education of my child. I will commit my child and his or her education to the Lord. I will pray faithfully for my child’s teachers that they may be effective in their teaching.
2. I am expected to express my support for the school: its staff, faculty and administration; and I will withdraw from the school family rather than spread criticism or be divisive. (Psalm 133:1)
3. If I have problems with the school, I must go directly to the staff member involved and try to solve them, following the principles set forth in Matthew 18:15 and in the spirit of Galatians 6:1. This will promote effective communication and help to avoid misunderstandings.
4. My child will be disciplined in accordance with school policies and Biblical methods, and should his or her attitude remain uncooperative, the privilege of attending HCA may be withdrawn.
5. Completion of homework and class assignments is vital to the academic success of my child. I will strive to provide adequate study time, to teach good study habits, to review assignments with my child to ensure he/she understands what needs to be accomplished, to encourage him or her to do neat, quality work which is completed in a timely fashion, and teach him or her to do all unto the glory of God.
6. The students at the school are dressed uniformly. When visiting the school I will use discretion and dress appropriately.
7. I am invited to be a partner with the school in prayer, service, and gifts to Hernando Christian Academy.
8. HCA is a smoke-free environment for all students, parents, and guests.
9. HCA has the right at any time in its sole discretion to void enrollment of my child.
10. I agree to remain familiar with and obey all policies and procedures put in place by Hernando Christian Academy.

Non-Discrimination Policy

It is the policy of HCA to admit students and hire faculty and staff of any race, color, national or ethnic origin, and to provide to them all rights, privileges, programs and activities generally accorded or made available at the school. HCA does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national and/or ethnic origin in the administration of its educational policies, admission policies, scholarship and tuition discount programs, personnel policies or other school-administered programs.

Accreditation

Hernando Christian Academy is accredited through the Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI) and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS). The State of Florida does not accredit any schools, public or private; hence all accreditation in Florida is accomplished by accrediting agencies.

Admissions

Hernando Christian Academy offers educational and athletic programs for students and families who desire an outstanding education and challenging athletics within a Christian environment. The educational programs are stimulating and demanding; therefore, students and families should be aware of the academic challenges that will occur during the year. HCA's athletic programs are competitive and challenging.

Academic excellence is embodied among the instructional staff at all grade levels, and that level of excellence is expected of students. This practice is to prepare students for a rigorous academic career eventually leading to university and career success. To this end, it is desirable that students who attend HCA come from homes that reinforce the values and beliefs taught during the school day. HCA sees its academic practices as a means to achieve its mission in building leaders with Christian character.

Requirements for K3, K4 and K5: (all must be completely potty-trained):

- ❖ Children entering K3 must be three years old on or before September 1st.
- ❖ Children entering K4 must be four years old on or before September 1st.
- ❖ Children entering K5 must be five years old on or before September 1st.

All new incoming students up to and including 5th grade will be required to be tested for placement evaluation. Testing for secondary students may be required at the discretion of administration.

Students and parents alike must understand that it is a privilege to attend HCA, not a right. HCA reserves the right of setting and maintaining its own standards of student conduct, dress, attendance, and academic requirements. The school maintains the right to refuse admission to anyone it so chooses, and to suspend or expel anyone who violates its standards. Parents understand that HCA has the right at any time in its sole discretion to revoke a child's enrollment.

School Office Hours: 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Grade	Before School Care	School Day	After School Care
K-3 & K-4	7:00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m.	8:00 a.m. to Noon	12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
K-5 to 5th	7:00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m.	8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.	3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
6th to 8th	May wait in designated areas	8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.	3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
9th to 12th	May wait in designated areas	8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.	3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Students will be allowed to enter their classrooms at 7:50 a.m., providing the teacher has arrived. All students arriving at school before 7:50 a.m. will be asked to wait in the gymnasium or another designated area. As of 3:15 p.m., all students from kindergarten through 12th grade are required to go to after school care for supervision.

Attendance Policies

In order for a student to progress satisfactorily, he or she must be regular in attendance. Research indicates that there is a strong relationship between school attendance and academic achievement. It also indicates a strong relationship between poor attendance and suspension, expulsion, and dropout rates.

1. **Maximum Allowed Absences** – Any student from kindergarten through 5th grades who has 18 or more absences in a given school year will receive no credit for the school year. The child will not be promoted to the next grade. An exception may be considered by Administration if extenuating circumstances exist.

Any student, 6th through 8th grade, having 18 or more absences in a given year may result in grade reductions for each class in which excessive absences have occurred, or a student may be required to repeat the entire course in order to be promoted to the next grade level. An exception may be considered by Administration if extenuating circumstances exist. Parents may fill out the required

form to request consideration for extenuating circumstances. This attendance policy applies to each and every class of which a student is expected to be in attendance.

Any student, 9th through 12th grades, having 9 or more absences in a given school semester will receive no credit for the semester. An exception may be considered by Administration if extenuating circumstances exist. This attendance policy applies to each and every class of which a student is expected to be in attendance.

Because HCA does not want to encourage ill students to attend classes, the school will not recognize students for “perfect attendance.”

2. **Class Minute Requirements** – Elementary attendance is taken by the half day. If a student misses more than one hour due to tardiness or a sign-out before the end of the school day, they will be considered absent for a ½ day. If elementary students are not present for at least 4 hours in one school day, they will be considered absent for the full day.

Upper school students who miss twenty minutes or more of class due to tardiness or a sign-out before the end of the class will be considered absent.

3. **Family Vacations/Trips** – It must be recognized that absenteeism for any reason may be detrimental to a student’s progress. Parents are strongly encouraged to plan vacations/trips during times that school is closed. Families should not plan trips to take place during semester or standardized exam days. If a student is absent due to a family vacation or trip, those absences will apply toward the student’s overall allotted absences per semester/year.

To obtain work prior to the absence, parents should submit a written request to the appropriate principal’s office three days prior to the absence.

4. **College Visits**- Juniors and seniors are allowed two additional absences for college visits per year. These absences will be recorded as “school business” absences. Students must pre-arrange college visits and get approval for the absence from the upper school principal at least one week in advance of the planned absence(s).
5. **Absence Verification** – Parents are asked to call the elementary (for students in grades K3 – 5) or upper school office (for students in grades 6-12) to notify the school of the absence. If no notification has been received, a representative from the school may initiate a phone call to the parent when the morning attendance has been reported.
6. **Make-Up Work** – All students will have the opportunity to turn in “makeup work” regardless of the reason for the absence. This includes class work, homework, assignments, tests, and quizzes given to the class while a student is absent. Students have 24 hours from the time of their return to school to obtain their make-up work. **It is the responsibility of the student to check with his or her classroom teacher(s) to get all assignments missed.**

Students will be given two days for every excused absence to make up work. For example, if a student is absent one day, he or she will be given two days to complete the makeup assignments. If absent two days, the student will have four days to complete the work, etc. up to a maximum of five days. Make-up work must be done to the satisfaction of the teacher and within the time period allotted. Work not received on time will be recorded as a “zero.”

If a student is absent and returns to school on the day of a test or the due date of a project or essay, it is at the teacher’s discretion whether or not the student will be required to take the test or submit the work. Typically, if a test, project or other assignment was announced at least one week prior to the deadline, the student must honor that deadline regardless of absences unless there are extenuating circumstances which would necessitate an extension.

7. **Requests for Homework** – Requests for homework for absentees must be received by 10:00 a.m. to allow time to gather assignments and books by the close of the school day. If you request homework be gathered, please pick it up from the school office by 3:45 p.m. Students and parents are reminded to check EdLine first as assignments are typically posted there.

Tardiness

School begins at 8:00 a.m. Students should arrive and be seated by the 8:00 a.m. bell. Elementary students arriving late (after 8:00 a.m.) must report to their principal's office for a tardy pass. Middle and high school students should sign in at the upper school principal's office.

Tardiness causes disruption in the educational process for the student who is late as well as the other children in the class. However, HCA does recognize that events do occur (a medical appointment that runs late, excessive traffic, an accident, etc.) that prohibit a timely arrival. Because of these extenuating circumstances that occur from time to time, students will be permitted five penalty-free tardies per semester.

The following fine system will be imposed for tardiness in excess of the five penalty-free tardies per semester:

0 – 5 Tardies per Semester	No Penalty
5 or more Tardies per Semester	\$10.00 fine per tardy per child

For upper school students, the following consequences will result for tardiness in periods 2-7 per quarter:

3 rd tardy in one class:	one hour after-school detention
6 th tardy in one class:	in-school suspension
9 th tardy in one class:	out-of-school suspension

Health Requirements

All students in Pre-K through 12th grade who enroll in Hernando County schools, public or private, MUST have a complete up-to-date certificate of immunizations on file PRIOR to attending. The following immunizations are required:

DPT – Five doses, unless the 4th primary dose was administered on or after the 4th birthday, then only four doses are required.

POLIO (TOPV) – Four doses, unless the 3rd primary dose was administered on or after the 4th birthday, then only three doses are required.

MEASLES, MUMPS, RUBELLA (MMR) – One dose at 12 months of age or older. A second dose is required before entering K5.

HIB – Two or more doses for K3 & K4.

CHICKEN POX VACCINE – All students in K3 through 6th grade in Florida schools are required to have two doses of the varicella (chicken pox) vaccine or documentation from the student's pediatrician that he/she has had chicken pox.

HEPATITIS B – All students entering K3, K4 or Kindergarten (K5) as well as 7th grade students must provide documentation of having completed the Hepatitis B vaccination series of shots.

ALSO REQUIRED FOR 7th GRADERS: one tetanus-diphtheria-pertussis (Tdap) or tetanus-diphtheria booster (Td)

Not required, but strongly recommended:

- 2 doses of Hepatitis A before entering 6th grade
- 1 dose of Meningococcal

If the student is a transfer from within the state, no physical examination is required. However, if it is the student's initial entrance into a Florida school, a physical examination that has been completed within the past 12 months is required **prior to attending school at any grade level.**

School Clinic

All students, when not feeling well or when injured, must report to the clinic for observation, at which time office personnel will contact parents. If a student is hurt or ill and needs to speak with his or her parent, the clinic staff

will allow the student to use the clinic phone. In the event of illness, clinic staff will call parents to pick up their child from school.

If school personnel determine that a child is too ill to return to class or may pose a health risk to other students, the parent must remove the child from school. For any condition requiring a doctor's release, parents must furnish a doctor's note stating that the child has been seen, is under treatment, and the date that he or she may return to school.

Medication Policy

Medications should be taken before or after school hours. In the event that this is not possible, clinic staff may dispense and/or administer medication to students who comply with the following procedures or conditions:

1. A long-term illness or disability that requires maintenance-type medication, where failure to take prescribed medication could jeopardize the student's health, and when the medication schedule cannot be adjusted for administration of medication at home.
2. An authorization for administration of prescribed medication/treatment form (complete with physician signed authorization as well as parent/guardian notarized signature) must be filed for medication given during school hours. This form gets filed only once during the school year unless there is a change in the medication, or the procedures under which it is to be given.
3. All medication will be properly labeled in its original container with the name of the child, the prescribing physician, the name of pharmacy, and directions for administration. The medication will not exceed the dosage required for two weeks. All dates must be current.
4. Medications must be brought to the school by the parent/guardian. Students are not allowed to bring their own medication to school.
5. Students will not be allowed to take their medications out of the clinic. The parent or guardian must pick up any extra medicine.
6. Due to the possible side effects of "non-prescription" medications such as aspirin, Tylenol, or any other over-the-counter products, those medications will not be dispensed without a completed authorization form.
7. Failure of a parent/guardian to adhere to these rules will result in the school's refusal to administer or dispense medications to the student.
8. No student may at any time give or sell medication to another student.

Parking Lot

The speed limit on campus is 7 mph. Please, no parking in front of the main building from 7:30 to 8:00 a.m. and 2:30 to 3:15 p.m. Students should walk the white lines to the crosswalks when exiting vehicles. This enables traffic to flow more smoothly and is easier for drivers to see students. Writing notes, signing papers, finishing breakfast and dressing before students exit vehicles slows traffic. Should you need to do any of these things, please park in the parking lot.

Students must park in the north parking lot. No students will be allowed to go to their vehicles for anything at anytime throughout the school day unless they have permission from an administrator. Students may only go to their vehicles upon appropriately signing out to leave campus. Any student driver who violates the rules of the HCA parking lot will face consequences including, but not limited to, warnings, fines, and the suspension or revocation of driving privileges.

Fund Raisers

ALL fundraising ideas, plans, or projects should be submitted in writing for approval by the superintendent using the standard form. Forms can be obtained from the Front office or on HCA's web site. The person in charge of the fundraiser will be expected to discuss in detail all aspects of the fundraiser with the superintendent.

Visitors

Parents and other guests visiting the school for any reason must first come to the Front office. Please do not go directly to the classroom as this disrupts the learning process. All visitors, parents included, are required to wear an identifying badge obtainable from the front office. Lunches, homework, books, etc. must be left at the office to be delivered. Parents must be out of the classrooms and hallways between 7:55a.m. and 3:00p.m. If a parent would like to speak with a teacher, he/she must schedule an appointment and not attempt to have an impromptu conference with the teacher.

FINANCIAL POLICIES

Tuition

Upon enrollment, the full year's tuition (prorated) is due. HCA offers convenient payment plan options. Please see below (Tuition Payment Policy) or consult the Business Office for more information concerning the available payment options.

Additional Fees

Field trips, special class projects, private instruction, music lessons, tutoring, before or after school care, are **examples** of additional costs that can occur at any time throughout the school year.

Lunch Account

HCA's lunch program is cashless. Charges will be posted monthly to each family's account. Students in grades 6 – 12 have ID cards that they must use for purchasing lunch and snacks (not including vending machines). Should a student lose his/her ID card, there is a \$5.00 fee to replace the card. Should a student not have his/her ID card and want to make a purchase, there is a \$2.00 additional fee for that purchase.

HCA strongly encourages parents to take an active role in monitoring their child's ordering activity. A parent may get a detailed record of his/her students' lunch purchases online. Please contact the Business Office for more information on how to monitor student accounts.

Tuition Payment Policy

Tuition amounts are based on the number of school days. Students enrolling after the first day will be charged for the days left in the year. HCA offers Financial Aid to qualified families. HCA also participates in the Florida Corporate Tax Credit and the McKay Scholarship programs. Visit our web site for more details.

Automatic Child-Care Program

1. \$ 4.00 per hour charged to the nearest ½ hour
2. Arrival prior to 7:30 a.m. and departure after 3:00 p.m. (12:00 p.m. departure for preschool students)
3. \$ 1.00 per minute per child after 6:00 p.m.

Miscellaneous Fees

1. Required
 - a. Agenda book with HCA handbook – K3-12th grade - \$ 10.00 per child
 - b. Commencement/Graduation fee – K5 & 12th grade - \$ 45.00 per child
 - c. Student Lock \$7 (middle and high school students only)
2. Optional (per participation)
 - a. Tutoring – \$ 30.00 per hour (\$ 15.00 per ½ hour)
 - b. Athletic Fee
 - i. Football - \$ 150.00 per season
 - ii. All other sports - \$ 75.00 per season per sport (2 seasons for cheerleading)
 - c. Yearbook - Cost is set annually, and ordering information will be provided to families.
 - d. AP Testing- \$100 per test
3. Penalty
 - a. NSF check – \$ 35.00 per item
 - b. Replacement lock for locker - \$ 7.00
 - c. Tardy fee – See “Tardiness” policy
 - d. Tuition late fee – \$ 20.00 HCA
 - e. Withdrawal fee – 20 additional days of tuition

Student Withdrawal Process

In order to meet current school and state requirements, the following procedure will be used in the process of withdrawing a child. A withdrawal request form must be completed to **start** the withdrawal process, and a request for an exit interview may be made by administration.

Three main areas will be addressed prior to completing the withdrawal process:

Financial

When you enrolled your child(ren) at HCA, tuition for the entire year (pro-rated) was due. You may have chosen a convenient monthly payment plan; however, the entire tuition amount was due at enrollment. In your enrollment package you agreed to a **withdrawal fee** in the amount equal to 20 instructional days *per child*. The twenty days begins the day a withdrawal request form is submitted to the Admissions Office. This fee will be added to your account balance.

HCA-issued textbooks and athletic uniforms must be returned at the time of withdrawal. The replacement value of any materials that are not returned will be added to your account balance.

Academics/Athletics

Final grade compilation, report card/transcript updates and teacher notification all must be completed. These tasks must be completed to ensure proper recordkeeping for your child's schooling history and to prevent truancy issues with the state of Florida. Furthermore, if your child is a high school athlete, there are FHSAA regulations that apply to students transferring to another school.

Records

Several databases concerning: grades, attendance, contact information, enrollment status and finances must be updated and/or closed. Paper records in the student's cumulative folder and each teacher's records must be properly handled for accuracy. Several forms must be signed and distributed to document the withdrawal and the agreement to terms.

Financial Aid

Introduction

Families enrolling into Hernando Christian Academy (HCA) have 3 options for Financial Aid available to them: (1) Florida Pride; (2) McKay Scholarship; and (3) HCA Tuition Assistance. The state regulates Florida Pride and McKay Scholarship and HCA's policies and procedures provided below govern its own HCA Tuition Assistance.

Florida Pride

Florida Pride is available for those families showing financial need and having attended a public school the prior year. If your student is going into Kindergarten or First Grade, he/she does not need to have attended a public school the prior year. Please go to the website www.floridapride.org for more information and an application. This scholarship is subject to availability of funds.

McKay Scholarship

McKay Scholarship is for students with documented academic or behavioral difficulties. This documentation is in the form of an Individual Education Plan (IEP). We only accept McKay scholarship students after a thorough evaluation that determines that HCA has the ability to meet or exceed your child's academic or behavioral need.

HCA Tuition Assistance

If a family has pursued every other option to pay tuition – personal income, family members, church membership, credit card or bank loan – HCA Tuition Assistance is available for families showing a financial need based upon an evaluation of a families' financials by Family Financial Needs Assessment (FFNA). The Tuition Assistance Committee will consider factors including, but not limited to:

- ✓ Families who positively support HCA's mission and vision;
- ✓ Students who succeed academically (C average or above);
- ✓ Students who succeed behaviorally

HCA reserves the right to deny, modify or rescind tuition assistance at its discretion.

Families interested in pursuing financial aid opportunities should go to www.ffna1.com to start the application process. The school registration number is **2335**. You will need this number AND previous tax and bank forms to complete the application. Also, FFNA charges a fee to the family for this service that will need to be paid at the time of making application. Applications must be completed early to best assure the availability of funds.

HCA has a limited budgeted amount of money available which is based on enrollment. To distribute the budgeted amount to as many families as possible, the maximum Tuition Assistance awarded is 50% to any one family. And rarely does a family receive 100% of what FFNA recommends. Before a family can receive the HCA financial

aid, they must be admitted and enrolled in the school. Beginning in April, the Tuition Assistance Committee will meet monthly to determine awards.

Textbooks

Elementary

Elementary students will be provided with all required textbooks and workbooks. Elementary students will be assessed a consumable book fee at the beginning of each school year. All other books will be provided at no additional charge. Students are expected to keep books clean and prevent any damage to them. Hardback textbooks should be covered with paper covers (no tape should be applied directly to the book!). Fabric “stretchy” covers are prohibited as they weaken the book binding. Charges will be assessed for damage to inventory barcodes and for damage to the books themselves.

Upper School

All students in grades 6-12 will be required to provide and maintain their own textbooks. HCA has partnered with Follett Books for a convenient, one-stop-shopping venue for textbook purchasing needs. Parents may buy and sell new and used textbooks via Follett Books at www.hernandochristian.bkstr.com. While families are not required to use Follett Books to purchase books, they should be aware that the correct editions must be obtained. A current listing of all required textbooks with the ISBN’s and edition information will be available on the HCA website.

ACADEMICS

Part-Time Student

A student who is enrolled in fewer than four credit courses on the HCA campus will be classified as a part-time student. Students will be charged by the number of classes taken. Tuition cost is 25% of the annual tuition per class, \$75 registration fee and other miscellaneous fees that apply.

Full-Time Student

A student who is enrolled in four or more credit courses on the HCA will be classified as a full-time student. Students will be charged the full tuition.

Activities

Only full-time students are eligible for graduation, honor rolls, Honor Societies, Student Government and class office, DREAM Team, Homecoming Court, Prom King or Queen. Part-time students are eligible to participate in athletics as long as other eligibility requirements are met.

Outside Courses

Outside courses (PHCC dual-enrollment, Florida Virtual School, etc.) do not count toward full-time HCA status. Part-time students may take dual enrollment courses, online courses or other courses. HCA may have to approve these courses per agreements with other organizations. If a student is eligible for graduation at HCA, these courses will count toward meeting graduation requirements.

Homework

We believe that homework is an important part of the school program. Each teacher is at liberty to give homework to aid students in his or her studies. Each student is expected to complete homework assignments. Homework should be neat, complete and done to the best of one’s ability. Students must have an assignment book in which to list assignments and due dates. Students in all grades, K3 – 12, are required to use the agenda book that is charged on your school account on September 1st by the Business Office.

Kindergarten – Elementary (K-5 thru 5th Grade)

In the elementary grades, students are expected to master the core concepts and skills for each grade level. Our goal is to have every student reach his or her potential by providing diversified materials that meet the needs of all types of learners. Instruction is provided in reading, English, mathematics, social studies/history, science, handwriting and Bible. To complement and supplement the core subjects, classes are scheduled on a rotating basis to provide students with exposure to and instruction in a variety of electives. Physical education is also included as a daily part of each elementary child’s schedule.

Middle School (6th – 8th Grade)

REQUIRED COURSES	COURSES
Bible	Bible 6 Bible 7 Bible 8
English	Language Arts I Language Arts II Language Arts III or Language Arts III Honors
Math	Math I Math II Pre-Algebra or Algebra I Honors
Science	Science 6 Earth/Space Science Life Science
History	Global Cultures World History U.S. History
Additional Courses	Keyboarding (required for 6 th graders) Physical Education (required for 6 th – 8 th grade) Art (available to 7 th and 8 th graders) Computer Programming (available to 7 th and 8 th graders)

High School (9th – 12th Grades) Graduation Requirements

REQUIRED CREDITS	COURSES
4 credits of Bible	Old/New Testament Apologetics Spiritual Leadership Marriage and the Family / Career Planning
4 credits of English	English I or English I Honors English II or English II Honors English III English IV AP English Language & Composition AP English Literature & Composition
3 credits of math	Algebra I or Algebra I Honors Algebra II or Algebra II Honors Geometry or Geometry Honors Consumer Math Pre-Calculus Honors Calculus Honors
3 credits of science	Physical Science or Physical Science Honors Biology or Biology Honors Marine Biology Anatomy and Physiology Chemistry Honors Physics Honors
4 credits of social science	Geography or Geography Honors US History or US History Honors World History or World History Honors US Government or US Government Honors (1 semester) Economics or Economics Honors (1 semester)
2 credits of one foreign language	Spanish I or Spanish I Honors Spanish II or Spanish II Honors Spanish III Honors

1 credit of practical or performing arts	Annual Offerings May Include: Yearbook Art Music Computer Programming
½ credit Physical Education	Team Sports
½ credit Life Management Skills	Life Management Skills
2 elective credits	Annual Offerings May Include: Yearbook Art Music Computer Programming Weight Training Student Aide
Community Service	100 Hours of Community Service are Required of Each Student
SCHOLARS DIPLOMA REQUIREMENTS	<i>HCA offers an honors diploma option for students who wish to challenge themselves and exceed the basic graduation requirements and demonstrate a level of excellence indicative of advanced study. This diploma option requires four additional criteria as specified below:</i>
Honors/AP Courses	Students are required to take the most challenging courses offered by HCA, including at least two science courses with lab components.
Additional Credits	1 additional math course 3 additional elective credits – students are strongly encouraged to take academic electives
Additional Community Service Hours	Students are required to perform 200 hours of community service in order to be eligible for the Scholars Diploma.
Grade-Point-Average	Students must have a minimum weighted GPA of 3.5.

A student must be a full-time student in the year of graduation to be eligible for a diploma and participation in graduation ceremonies at HCA.

Honors distinctions are awarded at the graduation ceremony. Cum Laude distinction is awarded to students with a 3.5 or higher cumulative GPA. Magna Cum Laude distinction is awarded to students with a 4.0 or higher cumulative GPA.

Class Rank (9th-12th grade)

For a student to be eligible to be the class valedictorian or salutatorian, that student must have full-time status in the year of graduation and have completed a minimum of twelve credits on campus at HCA. Class rank is determined by the cumulative grade point average (CGPA). Bonus points for outside courses will only be given to match bonus points given for comparable courses at HCA. Class rank is not disclosed or discussed until the end of the first semester of the senior year at which point the class valedictorian and salutatorian are determined and announced.

High School Community Service

In order for a senior to graduate from HCA, he or she must have served a minimum of 100 service hours (minimum 75 hours outside of HCA) for a standard diploma or a minimum of 200 hours (minimum of 150 hours outside of HCA) for a Scholars diploma.

The hours must be verified by submitting the completed and signed official forms. The upper school assistant keeps the records for the students; it is the student's responsibility to submit the completed forms to the upper school assistant. Blank forms can be found on the school's web site or from the upper school office. HCA reserves the right to accept, modify, or deny hours submitted.

Grading Scale

<u>Percentage</u>	<u>Letter Grade</u>	<u>Point Value</u>
96+	A+	4.00
93-95	A	4.00
90-92	A-	4.00
87-89	B+	3.00
83-86	B	3.00
80-82	B-	3.00
77-79	C+	2.00
73-76	C	2.00
70-72	C-	2.00
67-69	D+	1.00
63-66	D	1.00
60-62	D-	1.00
59 & below	F	0.00

Bonus Points

Honors and Advanced Placement classes are given bonus points as follows:

- 0.5 bonus point for honors and dual-enrollment courses
- 1 bonus point for Advanced Placement course

Semester Exam Weighting

Students in grades 6-12 will take mid-term and final exams. For students in grades 6-8, these exams will count as test grades to be included as part of their term averages and are intended to train students to prepare for cumulative examinations.

For students in grades 9-12, mid-term and final exams are averaged as 20% of the semester grade for each course with term grades counting 40% each.

Exam Exemptions

Students in grades 9-12 may exempt two exams each semester. They must have an A in both terms of a semester in order to exempt the exam for that course and must be in good standing with no suspensions and no more than nine absences in that semester. Students may only exempt a course exam once per year.

Grade Replacement

Students may retake one course and replace a previous grade between grades 9-12. The original grade will remain on the transcript but will not be calculated as part of the student's cumulative grade point average.

Report Card/Progress Report

Report cards will be issued following the close of each grading period. Progress reports are posted for all students each Monday by 5:00p.m. on EdLine.

Honor Rolls

An Honor Roll is compiled after each 9-week grading period for first through 12th grades according to the following:

<u>Elementary</u>	
Honor Roll	3.5 grade point average
Principal's List	all A's
<u>Secondary</u>	
High Honors	3.5 cumulative grade point average
Principal's List	4.0 cumulative grade point average

Parent/Teacher Conferences

Parent/Teacher conferences are scheduled at the end of the first quarter of the school year. During the conference, the teacher will give the parent an overview of his/her child's accomplishments, and give a brief preview of the next period's goals. Parents may also arrange conferences with teachers throughout the year by scheduling appointments as the teachers are able to accommodate the requests.

Academic Probation

A student may be placed on academic probation as a condition of enrollment, or he/she may be placed on academic probation if he/she is failing an academic course or has a GPA that has dropped below a 2.0. In the event that a student is placed on academic probation, the following conditions must be met:

- The student must earn passing grades each semester that he/she is on probation
- The student must earn a semester GPA of 2.0 while on probation
- The student must raise his/her GPA to a 2.0 or higher within the terms of his/her probation contract

If the terms of the probation contract are not met, the student may be required to withdraw or prohibited from enrolling for the subsequent school year.

Promotion

Elementary

Students will be promoted to the next grade **unless** they have a yearly average of 69% or below in language arts and/or math. In the event that a student's yearly average falls below this standard, he/she may be required to take a mastery test at the end of the year to determine if minimum core essentials in that subject area have been mastered. If a student fails the mastery test, he/she may be required to receive remedial tutoring and demonstrate mastery of the core essential skills and concepts as a condition for promotion. Students who do not demonstrate mastery after tutoring may then be required to repeat the grade level in order to re-enroll.

Middle School

A student must pass all core courses for the year. In the event that a student earns a failing yearly average in a core course, he/she may be required to make up the course in order to be promoted to the next grade level.

High School

Students who fail a course and do not earn a required credit must make up the course in order to meet their graduation requirements. Additionally, students must earn a required number of credits each year in order to be classified as a member of a particular class as follows:

- 6 credits – sophomore
- 12 credits – junior
- 18 credits – senior
- 24 credits – graduate

College Counseling at HCA

Since HCA is a college preparatory school, it is assumed that all of our graduates will have the opportunity to attend college. College admissions are increasingly competitive, so it is very important that students and parents are proactive in obtaining information and pursuing opportunities. Hernando Christian Academy seeks to partner with families in order to help students and parents negotiate the college admissions process and make sense of the sometimes overwhelming information with which students and parents are inundated. The process of finding schools of interest, identifying scholarship or other funding opportunities and ultimately selecting a college or university is a highly personal one. Therefore, students and families must assume the responsibility of engaging in this process and using HCA's college counseling program as a resource.

Field and Class Trips

Students go on field trips several times throughout the year. Trips are planned to correlate with class instruction. Students pay the cost of the trip (cost of admission, food, and transportation). A letter will be sent home explaining the trip. Permission forms must be signed and returned to the teacher by the deadline in order for the student to attend. Students not returning their forms by the deadline will not be allowed to attend the field trip. Parents may be asked to assist in providing transportation. All students must comply with teacher specified dress code on field trip days. Students not attending their class field trip may be required to complete an alternative assignment to be designated by the teacher. Siblings may NOT attend field trips unless administratively approved.

Students in K-3 thru 5th grade must not attend school if they are not going on the field trip. A note is required prior to the field trip if the student is staying home. Their school record will indicate an absence for the day. Students in grades 6 - 12 will be required to attend school and will report to class or study hall as designated.

Part-time students may not participate in field trips and class trips (including senior trip) unless administratively approved.

SERVICES OFFERED

Tutoring

The Hernando Christian Academy Academic Office maintains a listing of teachers who are willing to offer their services to students in need of tutoring. It is the parents' responsibility to select and schedule tutoring services for their students. Elementary students may not receive paid tutoring services from their primary teacher.

Before & After-School Care

Child care is provided for families who need additional supervision for their children, either prior to the start of school or after school ends.

Before school hours	7:00 – 8:00 a.m.
After school hours	12:00 – 6:00 p.m. for K-3 & K-4 3:00 – 6:00 p.m. for K-5 thru 12 th grade

Any child who is not picked up by 3:15 p.m. will automatically be sent to After School Care. Students staying for tutoring or scheduled class meetings, participating in athletic practices/games, etc. will not be charged during the time they are involved in that specific activity. Students will be sent to After School Care before or after tutoring, meetings, games and/or practice, etc. when not in the care of their parent or assigned caretaker.

All children must be picked up from After School Care by 6:00 p.m. If children are not picked up by 6:00 p.m., a \$1.00 per minute charge will be assessed. If a parent is late three times during the school year, they will be asked to remove their children from the After School Program, and will be required to pick up their children at 3:00 p.m. **After-school care is available only on days when school is in session.**

Summer Camp

Hernando Christian Academy extends its ministry through the summer months for students enrolled for the upcoming school year in grades K4 – 5. Summer camp hours are from 7:30a.m. - 6p.m. Mondays through Fridays throughout the summer vacation. Registration begins in February each year, and parents may obtain information packets from the front office.

Camp College Summer Workshop

Rising seniors may enroll in a 5-day workshop each summer to get a head-start on their college application process. For more information, contact the upper school principal.

Chapel

We invite area pastors, youth pastors, music ministers and other qualified individuals to be our guest speakers at weekly chapel. Attendance at chapel is mandatory for students, and parents are always invited to attend as their schedules allow. Students must wear their HCA logo polo shirts on chapel days.

Lunch Program

Students may bring their lunches or buy food and beverages from the cafeteria menu. The HCA lunch program is **CASHLESS**. Each family will have a lunch account through . Menus can be picked up in the cafeteria or school office. Microwaves are available to warm students' lunches. For safety, **no glass bottles** are permitted in student's lunches. All students are required to eat only in designated areas.

Students in K-3 thru 5th grades are not permitted to bring soda from home for lunch. **No food or drink is permitted in the hallways or classrooms except during designated snack time or special class events.**

Juniors and seniors may leave campus for lunch, provided that all required authorization forms are submitted to the upper school office. Off-campus lunch privileges may be suspended and/or revoked in the event that a student does not follow the regulations outlined in the authorization forms.

Preschool and elementary students will pre-order, and the family account will be charged. Sixth-12th graders will have a picture ID with a bar code. The card will be read, and the items will be charged to the account. For more information, please contact the HCA Business Office.

School Bookstore

The school bookstore is operated for the benefit of the students. It is open Monday through Friday, 7:30 – 7:55 a.m. and 3:05 – 3:30 p.m. A variety of items are available for purchase including school supplies.

Parent Communication

As we partner with families, it is critical to maintain strong communication. Toward this end, HCA strives to provide various methods of disseminating information to parents. Each teacher has an email account that parents may utilize to communicate with him/her. In most cases, the email address is the first initial of the teacher's first name and their last name followed by "hernandochristian.org." For example, Jane Smith's email address would be jsmith@hernandochristian.org. Parents may also contact teachers by calling the school and leaving a voicemail. Teachers will not be able to accept calls during class time but will return calls as quickly as possible. When leaving a voice or email for a teacher, it is always helpful to include your name, the student's name and a brief description of the question or concern so that the teacher may prepare appropriately for a return phone call or email. We also have several other specific methods of communication for our HCA families:

Website

HCA maintains a school web site. School publications, including the *Lion's Ledger* newsletter, cafeteria charges, athletic schedules and maps to away games, prayer requests, summer reading assignments, required textbook lists and other pertinent information can all be found by visiting www.hernandochristian.org.

Edline

Parents may access their student's grades and class assignments as well as billing information via Edline. Teachers are asked to update Edline on a weekly basis, no later than 5p.m. each Monday. Families new to HCA will receive an access code during the first weeks of school. Returning families should use their existing codes.

Email Notifications

Parents are **strongly** encouraged to notify HCA of their email address and update the information as needed as we send out various notifications via email. In addition to various notifications to the entire school community regarding school news, email notifications are made to parents when a student has an infraction entered into the discipline database by a classroom teacher, including tardies. Absence notifications will also be sent via email so that parents will be aware of absences as they accrue.

Student Insurance

HCA provides a limited student "excess" insurance coverage for your child at school. "Twenty-four hour" coverage is available for an additional fee and must be ordered directly through the insurance company. Please contact the Business Office for further details.

Lockers

All students in grades 6 - 12 will be issued a locker and will be required to purchase a school lock (the fee will be automatically charged to families' accounts). Students are expected to keep their lockers locked at all times. The administrative team reserves the right to search lockers at any time at its discretion.

ACTIVITIES OFFERED

Student Government

HCA has separate student governments: one for Middle School students and the other for High School students. A faculty member serves as sponsor. The purposes of the councils are to serve as the students' voice to Administration, promote school spirit and Christian attitudes in the student body, and to assist in planning of the school's homecoming activities.

Honor Societies

The NHS, NJHS and NEHS (all detailed below) are programs of the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP) designed to honor outstanding students at various grade levels.

National Honor Society

The National Honor Society (NHS) is the nation's premier organization established to recognize outstanding high school students. More than just an honor roll, NHS serves to honor those students who have demonstrated excellence in the areas of Scholarship, Leadership, Service, and Character. These characteristics have been associated with membership in the organization since inception in 1921. Chapter membership not only recognizes students for their accomplishments, but also challenges them to develop further through active involvement in school activities and community service.

Four main purposes have guided chapters of NHS from its inception:

“To create enthusiasm for scholarship, to stimulate a desire to render service, to promote leadership, and to develop character in the students of secondary schools” (NHS Constitution). These purposes also translate into the criteria used for membership selection in each local chapter.

National Junior Honor Society

The NJHS is an honor society for students in grades 7 – 9. Modeled after the NHS program, the NJHS serves to honor students who have demonstrated excellence in the areas of Scholarship, Leadership, Service, Character and Citizenship. Members of NJHS are challenged to serve as leaders within the HCA community and work alongside the NHS and NEHS on various school and community service projects.

National Elementary Honor Society

This program for students in grades 4 - 6 is designed for all elementary schools and includes two primary functions: 1) recognizing the accomplishments of students, specifically the full range of a student's academic achievements and the ability to be a responsible student at school, at home, and in the community, and 2) involving students as members participating in the activities of the chapter.

Athletics

HCA offers extracurricular sports for grades 2 thru 12. The Little Lion's program includes co-ed intramural basketball and soccer and is designed to develop the skills of students in grades 2 through 8. The junior varsity and varsity programs are for students in grades 6 – 12 and include a broad range of sports.

Athletic fees are applicable to most sports. Students must also meet all eligibility requirements as outlined by the FHSAA (Florida High School Activities Association) and must meet minimum grade eligibility requirements as set forth by HCA.

The education of our students is something that is taken very seriously at HCA. Participation in sports and cheerleading, while encouraged, should not be allowed to take priority over the appropriate learning of the curriculum and the completion of class work. HCA upholds the FHSAA eligibility policy as follows:

A student must have a cumulative grade point average of 2.0 or above on a 4.0 scale, in all courses taken at the conclusion of each semester to be eligible during the following semester. A student whose cumulative grade point average is below a 2.0 on a 4.0 scale in all courses taken at the conclusion of a semester shall not be eligible during the following semester.

In addition to the FHSAA policies, HCA will enforce the following policies:

1. An athlete may not participate in a sport if he/she has failed a class during the term prior to the start of the season.
2. All athletes must maintain passing grades in all classes during the season in order to remain eligible.
3. If a student athlete misses ½ or more of his or her scheduled classes on a game or performance day, he/she will not be permitted to participate in that day's scheduled event.

Puppetry

The HCA puppetry club is also a ministry to our community. The students perform at various times throughout the school year, including evenings and weekends, at area churches, nursing homes, etc.

ACSI Competitions

Students have the opportunity to be selected to participate in a wide variety of educational competitions sponsored by the Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI – our accrediting organization).

DREAM Team

The HCA DREAM Team is founded on the principle that Christian leaders must Dare to Reach, Encourage, Assist and Mentor other members of the HCA community. Students are selected for inclusion based on their leadership potential and spiritual maturity. Members of the team are partnered with students in grades K5 – 8 to mentor them throughout the year.

Safety Patrol

The Safety Patrol is comprised of fifth grade students who serve in the morning, assisting with the safety of our students as they arrive at school and also raise our flags. Patrols must maintain both academic and citizenship standards in order to serve as effective leaders within the HCA community.

DRESS CODE

Christians are expected to be modest in appearance. The dress code of HCA is based on both Biblical standards and the need for children to learn to dress modestly and tastefully (1 Timothy 2:9-10, 4:12). HCA reserves the right to inform parents that certain attire or hairstyles are not appropriate for our school.

HCA (teachers, staff & Administration), reserves the right to approach any student about his or her attire or appearance if any part of the dress code has been violated, or if any portion of their dress or appearance is questionable. The decision of the Administrator or designee is final. All attire should be properly fitting, neat in appearance, and meet school criteria.

Dress code violations may result in, but are not limited to the following disciplinary measures which will be progressive in nature (measures are examples only and not intended to be exhaustive or sequential):

- **Detentions of varying length**
- **In-school suspension**
- **Parent being called to bring in appropriate attire**

Repetitive violations may result in additional disciplinary action.

GUIDELINES SPECIFIC TO BOYS

PANTS/SLACKS/SHORTS:

1. Loose-fitting pants or walking shorts in *grey, navy blue, black or khaki/brow*.
2. All pants must have belt loops, and all students in grades 3 – 12 must wear belts.
3. Pants and shorts may not be ripped or frayed.
4. Grey or navy blue sweat pants are permitted in K3-K4.

SHIRTS:

1. Standard cut (not newer style of short-length shirt), 2 or 3 button *golf or polo style* shirts in any normal solid color are acceptable. Boys in high school may wear patterned golf or polo style shirt. ***This is the only style shirt that may be worn. Boys' shirts must be tucked in at all times*** and must be buttoned appropriately.
2. Outerwear must not have inappropriate graphics, text or logos. Students must be in dress code beneath their outerwear.

SHOES:

1. Elementary students should wear shoes appropriate for physical education and recess, tennis shoes are recommended.
2. Close-toed only
3. Socks must be worn

HAIR:

1. Must be clean cut and styled in a modest, **non-radical, non-faddish** cut or color (no unnaturally colored or multi-colored hair; no pigtails). Hair must not fall below the eyebrows or touch the collar when combed down.
2. All facial hair must be neatly groomed.
3. Sideburns must be no longer than the bottom of the ears.
4. No emblems, words, lines or designs may be shaved into the hair.
5. Head should not be shaved to the scalp.

MISCELLANEOUS:

1. Cowboy boots are allowed in middle and high school only.
2. No earrings
3. No visible body piercing
4. No visible tattoos – temporary or permanent
5. No bandanas, scarves or sunglasses
6. No hats in any building on campus unless the hat is part of an athletic uniform and is being worn during a practice or game
7. No objects (keys, wallets, chains, etc.) hanging from belt loops
8. No clothing tied or wrapped around waist
9. Fingernails should be neat and manicured
10. No symbols that could be divisive in nature
11. No wheeled shoes (Heelys) may be worn to school or school functions
12. No slippers or other “house” or “bedroom” shoes
13. No “Croc” or clog style shoes

GUIDELINES SPECIFIC TO GIRLS:**PANTS/WALKING SHORTS/SKORTS/SKIRTS/JUMPERS:**

1. All pants, shorts, skorts, skirts and jumpers must be solid gray, navy blue, black or khaki/brown.
2. Pants must not be low-riding and should be loose enough so that lines and patterns of undergarments are not obviously apparent.
3. Shorts may be no higher than 4 inches from the crease in back of the knee.
4. No sweat pants, pajama bottoms or other leisure type pants are permissible.
5. Elementary girls must wear shorts underneath skirts or jumpers
6. Skirt and jumper hemlines must not be higher than 2” above the crease of the back of the knee.
7. All pants must have belt loops, and all students in grades 3 – 12 must wear belts.
8. Pants and shorts may not be ripped or frayed.
9. Grey or navy blue sweat pants are permitted in K3-K4.

SHIRTS/BLOUSES:

1. Must be 2 – 3 button golf or polo style shirts with a full-banded sleeve in a solid color. Girls in high school may wear patterned golf or polo style shirt. No snap or “mini” button shirts are permitted.
2. Shirts should be loose-fitting; no tight or form-fitting shirts are permitted.
3. Shirts must completely cover the midriff area and overlap the top of the pants when arms are raised.
4. If the polo shirt is worn untucked, an undershirt must be worn tucked-in underneath; the undershirt must not be visible at the neckline.
5. Outerwear must not have inappropriate graphics, text or logos. Students must be in dress code beneath their outerwear.

SHOES:

1. Elementary students should wear shoes appropriate for physical education and recess, tennis shoes are recommended.
2. Close-toed only
3. Socks or appropriate hosiery should be worn.

HAIR:

1. Must be clean-cut and styled in a modest, non-radical, non-faddish style.
2. Must not be dyed an unnatural or distracting color.

MISCELLANEOUS:

1. No visible body piercing except earrings of reasonable size may be worn.
2. Female students in grades 6 – 12 may wear modest cosmetics. Students in grades 3 – 5 may wear sheer lip gloss only.
3. No visible tattoos – temporary or permanent
4. No bandanas, scarves or sunglasses
5. No hats in any building on campus unless the hat is part of an athletic uniform and is being worn during a practice or game
6. No objects (keys, wallets, chains, etc.) hanging from belt loops
7. No clothing tied or wrapped around waist
8. Fingernails should be neat and manicured and should not be excessive in length.
9. No symbols that could be divisive in nature
10. No wheeled shoes (Heelys) may be worn to school or school functions
11. No slippers or other “house” or “bedroom” shoes
12. No “Croc” or clog style shoes

DRESS CODE at HCA FUNCTIONS

Certain HCA functions will have specific dress code requirements (field trips, Homecoming and Prom dances, etc.) Students must comply with any and all specified dress codes for HCA functions. At HCA events where no particular dress code is specified, students are expected to be in appropriate and modest attire. HCA faculty and administrators reserve the right to approach any HCA student at an HCA function who is not dressed appropriately and request that they either change their clothing or leave the event.

DRESS DOWN DAYS

Dress down days will be held on Friday, contingent upon administrative approval. Students will earn their dress down days each week by keeping the grounds free of litter, adhering to the dress code and following other school rules.

On dress down days, students may wear blue denim jeans or shorts (see specifics on short length). Jeans and shorts must not be ripped, torn or frayed in any way. Shorts must be fingertip length. Elementary students may wear HCA or other specifically Christian t-shirts. Middle and high school students may wear HCA t-shirts only. All shirts may be untucked.

BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS & AREAS OF CONCERN

*Train a child in the way he should go,
and when he is old he will not turn from it.*

Proverbs 22:6

Student Code of Conduct

Hernando Christian Academy expects its students to live above reproach, showing respect to God, family, country, faculty, and fellow students. As a student of HCA, you are a representative of our school. Therefore, your conduct and behavior should honor Jesus Christ at all times. During training, discipline is quite often necessary to develop self-discipline. The discipline system at HCA is distinctively Christian and is designed to promote student responsibility. Its purpose is to “disciple students in the Lord’s way” (Classroom Discipline, Haddock & Gibbs, 1984, p. 2). Haddock and Gibbs go on to say, “Discipline is instruction that molds, shapes, corrects, and inspires appropriate behavior.”

Quality education goes hand-in-hand with consistent and fair discipline helping our students learn respect and obedience in an environment of love. The atmosphere in which most students learn, and learn the most, is one that is ordered, structured and disciplined. Students should understand that discipline is an act of love, and at HCA, the teachers and administration love students enough to discipline them.

Each student is expected to familiarize him/herself with the rules of the school and the classroom, and adhere to them. Correction will result if the rules are not followed. Students are under the jurisdiction of the school’s rules when they are on campus, when they are participating in or attending any school-sponsored activity, and when they are en route to and from events on school-owned or school-approved vehicles.

Discipline

Discipline is training in righteousness. At HCA, students are disciplined using affirmative discipline; that is, they are encouraged in a positive manner to give of their best in every area and to abide by school regulations (Proverbs 22:6). It is the intent of the school that students become self-governing over time, requiring less and less external training and correction.

Teachers are encouraged to manage student behavior in the classroom by publishing and reinforcing classroom rules and responsibilities along with corresponding rewards and consequences. Teachers are encouraged to maintain close communication with parents. It is expected that mutual cooperation between home and school will satisfactorily resolve most disciplinary challenges. The methods of discipline normally used by the teacher include: guidance, prayer with the child, isolation, loss of privileges, detention and written or verbal communication with the parent.

If and when a student persists in consistent negative behavior, the student will be referred to the appropriate level principal for further discipline. Principals will determine the extent and severity of discipline necessary to produce the change of behavior needed. The discipline administered at this level may include but is not limited to such things as: additional counseling, longer-term detention, parental conference, in-school suspension (ISS), out-of-school suspension (OSS) or referral to the Superintendent for consideration of other discipline.

A student who commits serious infractions such as fighting, swearing, flagrant disrespect or defiance, or defacing school property will be sent immediately to the appropriate principal for discipline. Students who continue to exhibit negative behavior will be asked to leave HCA.

The HCA administration reserves the right to search students’ belongings, lockers and cars at its discretion.

AREAS OF CONCERN

Dress Code: Students are expected to comply with the standards of dress that have been outlined in this student handbook. Parents are strongly encouraged to check compliance with dress code before a student leaves home. Failure to comply with dress code will result in disciplinary action. If, in the opinion of Administration, modesty is compromised, parents will be required to bring other clothing before the student is allowed to return to the classroom. Repeated violations of dress code may require parental conference, suspension, or other discipline up to and including the possibility of expulsion from school.

Communication: Student emergencies requiring a call home may be requested through the appropriate principal's office. The respective office representative will determine, in its opinion, if the call is warranted.

Messages to staff and teachers may be left on their voice mail. School office staff will deliver emergency messages for students.

Cell phones: Students may not possess a cell phone in any classroom. Student cell phones must be completely turned off between the hours of 8:00a.m. and 3:00p.m. Students are **strongly** encouraged to leave cell phones at home.

Electronic devices of any kind are prohibited in the classroom. These off-limit devices include but are not limited to the following: cameras, sound recorders, laser pointers, GPS devices, I-pods or other MP3 players, GameBoys and other gaming platforms, etc. Students are strongly encouraged to leave such devices at home.

Dishonesty: Cheating on tests, quizzes, or homework is a very serious offense. First offenses will result in a "zero" and a disciplinary referral. Additional offenses will result in further discipline up to and including the possibility of expulsion. This policy also applies to plagiarism.

Weapons on Campus: HCA is strongly committed to providing a safe campus for its students. Any student bringing a weapon to school will be subject to immediate suspension and may be expelled.

Fighting: Students who engage in fights at school will be subject to immediate suspension and may be expelled.

Drugs, Alcohol, Use of Tobacco: Students who engage in the use of drugs, alcohol or tobacco **on or off campus** will be subject to immediate suspension and may be expelled. Students may be asked to submit to drug and/or alcohol testing at the discretion of the administrative team. Refusal to comply with a request for drug and/or alcohol testing may result in immediate expulsion. In the event that a student is found to be in possession of any illegal substance, HCA administration will call the appropriate law enforcement agents.

Public Displays of Affection: Students must refrain from public displays of affection. Boyfriends/girlfriends must observe a 6" rule and must not engage in hugging and/or kissing.

Immorality: Students must avoid all immorality and be committed to lives of purity. Students must not bring anything inappropriate to school by way of pictures, books, or magazines. Any inappropriate Internet usage by students may result in the loss of privilege to access the Internet and may result in further disciplinary measures. All immorality will be considered serious and will result in disciplinary measures up to and including the possibility of expulsion.

Skipping Class/School/Leaving Campus Without Proper Authorization:

Skipping class/school or leaving without appropriate permission will result in disciplinary action. Recurring offenses in this area will result in a discipline up to and including the possibility of expulsion.

Driving/Car Problems: Students must obey the speed limit as posted (not to exceed 7mph) in the parking lot and should drive with the utmost caution and safety. Failure to do so may result in the loss of driving privilege. Students must not leave campus without authorization and must not go to their vehicles during the day.

Profanity: Use of profanity is never appropriate. Students will be disciplined accordingly.

Bullying: Every student at HCA has the right to feel comfortable and safe at school. Bullying will not be tolerated. Students who intimidate, harass or otherwise victimize fellow students verbally or physically, especially regularly or routinely, will be disciplined accordingly.

After-School Detention

If after-school detentions are assigned by teachers or Administration, students will be notified in writing 24 hours prior to the date the detention must be served. Parents must make arrangements to pick up their child after he or she has served the detention or they will be placed in the After School Care program and charged accordingly.

In-School Suspension (ISS)

When a student needs to be removed immediately from class due to disruptive, disrespectful behavior or other such violation of discipline, he or she will be placed in ISS. Students will earn a 2-point per day grade reduction from the quarter average of every class that is missed due to an ISS.

Out-of-School Suspension (OSS)

A student may be suspended from school if the usual procedures of in-class correction by the teacher and after-school detention proved ineffective or if the nature of the infraction is serious enough to require such action. Prior to suspension, the student, parents and Principal will discuss the conditions of suspension and criteria for readmission to school.

Very specific changes in attitudes and actions will be expected prior to readmission. A readmission parent-principal conference may be necessary for the student to return to school. All work (class work, tests, quizzes, and homework) missed during the suspension must be made up. Students will earn a 4-point per day grade reduction from the quarter average of every class that is missed during an OSS. During OSS, the student is not permitted on campus and is restricted from participating in or attending any school activities.

Expulsion

Expulsion will be recommended if it becomes apparent that the school will not be able to meet the needs of a student, or if the student repeatedly violates school policies. Expulsion may also be recommended for unresolved academic or disciplinary probation, or failure to correct the deficiencies specified in probationary admissions. When expulsion is recommended, the child will be placed on OSS until the expulsion recommendation is reviewed and approved by the school administration. Readmission the following school year is possible only after an administrative evaluation/interview is held and upon approval of the school administration.