

Frequently Asked Questions - Heartland Christian School

1. How many grade levels does Heartland Christian School offer?

Heartland Christian School provides classes for K5 - 12th grade.

2. Does Heartland Christian School offer before and/or after-care services?

At the current time, we do not offer before or after-care. However, we do not want that to be the reason why your child cannot attend Heartland Christian School. Contact the school and we will do our best to help work through a solution. Typically, you can drop students off at 8:00 am and they need to be picked up by 4:00 pm. We try to partner with parents to help solve issues to reach as many kids as we can.

3. Do you have a cafeteria that serves hot lunches?

Presently, we have a space for students to eat lunch, but we currently do not provide food for lunch. Parents will need to provide lunch every day.

As a matter of recent fundraisers, our PTO has been organizing one hot lunch per month but, generally, there are no meals provided for students at the school. We do offer Papa John's pizza on a rotation to the different classes. Students have the opportunity every other Tuesday/Thursday to purchase slices of pizza for \$1 per slice.

4. What is the average number of students per class?

Our teacher-to-student ratio target is 1 to 15. Most of our classes are much better than our target, but we try not to exceed this ratio. Our younger grades have a 1 to 10 or better ratio.

We understand why this question is frequently asked, however, it's not as applicable to Heartland Christian School as it might be to other schools. At Heartland Christian School, we focus on individualized learning through our mastery-based system. Each student has to master the concept before they can progress within their PACE. Through this individualized learning, the teachers can tailor the amount of time that needs to be spent with each student.

5. What is a PACE and how do the students learn?

Students are provided with an educational session directed by a certified teacher. Once the teacher feels that the students have grasped the concept and can begin working independently, they are provided with a PACE. The PACE consists of exercises that allow the student to display his or her understanding of the concepts that were taught. Students are allowed time throughout the day to work on these exercises at their own pace. We also supply the students with a weekly goal-card that aids them to stay on track and complete the necessary work for the week. The most unique attribute of this curriculum is that it provides the students with an individualized learning style. At the end of each packet, students are required to complete a test to ensure that they mastered the concept. Depending on each student's performance in a particular area of

study, the teacher can choose to assign more or less work, creating an individualized learning plan tailor-made for every student.

6. Does Heartland Christian School perform standardized testing?

Heartland Christian School uses the Iowa test for our standardized testing. They are fully accredited by the American Association of Christian Schools (AACCS) and they are the nationally recommended choice for achievement tests amongst Christian schools.

7. What opportunities are there for advanced learning such as a second language, advanced Math and English classes, and classes that qualify for college credit?

Heartland Christian School currently provides the opportunity to learn Spanish as a second language. Our current curriculum allows for math excellence through Algebra I and II, Geometry, and Trigonometry. There are also opportunities for many different English classes including British Literature, American Literature, and college-level English composition.

In addition, most of our Juniors and Seniors are earning dual credits through a variety of colleges. While most take on-line classes, Heartland Christian School has the flexibility in our schedule to allow them to leave our campus and take classes elsewhere.

Most importantly, we meet with each student to devise an individualized plan and we work diligently to create a schedule that allows the student to accomplish everything they desire while at Heartland Christian School.

8. Will my child learn life skills such as Home Economics (Cooking/Sewing) and Wood Shop?

Most public schools have eliminated these courses. At Heartland Christian School, we have the opportunity for a unique, tailored approach to these life skills.

Through Accelerated Christian Education, Heartland Christian School students can participate in annual conventions. The convention is an opportunity for students to compete in disciplined skills in various areas of proficiency. There are 147 categories to choose from in the areas of music, drama, art, athletics and academics. Within the art section, they can choose projects like woodworking or sewing.

At Heartland Christian School, we prepare for the convention all year. Once we understand the disciplines that our students have chosen, we, along with the parents, will try to help each student get the support that he or she needs to be successful at the convention.

The convention is an opportunity for our students to find out what they like to do outside of attending school and begin to build confidence in an area that could, very well, become their vocation. Throughout the year, we support the students in what we would call "on the job" training. We are preparing them to figure out what they love about working and how to convert that to financial support in their future.

In addition to the abundant opportunities that convention provides, we require all Seniors to go through our Economic and Personal Finance class. We utilize the Dave Ramsey

Foundations in Personal Finance for High School students as the curriculum for this class. Through this resource, we provide our students with sound Biblical knowledge of the best ways to manage money, present them with real-world problems to solve, and set them up to be successful.

9. Does Heartland Christian School offer the opportunity to play sports?

We currently offer boys basketball for 5th - 12th grade and we offer girls volleyball and basketball for 5th - 12th grade. We are hoping to expand what we are currently able to offer. If your child would like to participate in a sport that we do not offer, we have the flexibility in our schedule to allow your child to be picked up earlier in the day to make it to practice and games elsewhere. As long as your student is achieving their academic goals, we will make every effort to create flexibility in his or her schedule.

We enjoy providing athletic competitions for our students at Heartland Christian School and many of our staff members are heavily involved in coaching and supporting our students. While many of us also have a competitive spirit, we also are reminded that academics and character-building are the priorities of Heartland Christian School. If a student is talented in athletics, he or she will be able to display that at our sporting events and have many other opportunities outside of school. Heartland Christian School is very competitive in all sports that we participate in. The greatest benefit of having organized sports at our school is that our kids learn about teamwork, how practicing a skill will yield results, improve their self-esteem, self-discipline, and improve their social skills.

10. What opportunities are available for the arts at Heartland Christian School?

Heartland Christian School provides opportunities for students in Art, Band, Choir and Theater. Our band students (beginning at 5th grade) participate in recitals and band competitions to give them the desire to hone their craft. Heartland Christian School also offers opportunities in Theater with an annual play production for students in middle school through high school. Our theater productions always have a message about Jesus which allows us to minister to the community through these events.

Through our annual convention, students can display their desire for many different modes of Music, Art, and Theater.

11. What is the purpose of the dress code?

At Heartland Christian School, we want the children to focus on learning and getting to know one another through genuine kindness, Godly character, and hard work. We have restricted opportunities for kids to express themselves through their outward appearance so that we can focus on building their inward character. In reverence to 1 Peter 3:3-4, your beauty should come from a gentle and quiet spirit and not from any outward adornments. Kids have plenty of opportunities to express themselves outwardly outside of school. Inside the school, we want to restrict these things so that we can truly focus on developing their character. In addition, we want to teach the kids to practice modesty. In today's world, sex is praised and confuses many kids at a very young age. It, especially, has a very negative impact on our females. Our intention is to teach

them a very conservative appearance so they can be regarded for their intelligence, caring heart, and kind spirit instead of their outward appearance.

We have more than 35 churches represented at Heartland Christian School from many different denominations. Some denominations think that our dress code is too strict. Others think it is not strict enough. We have chosen a dress code that is an average of all the denominations represented.

More importantly, we are instilling in our students that there is a requirement for dress codes in the real-world. Once they graduate and begin working, they will encounter a dress code of some form. We are teaching our students to submit to that authority at an early age. We also teach them that their salvation is not attached to our dress code or their appearance.

12. Are students so shielded from the real-world that it will be a shock to them upon graduation?

Socializing kids and teaching them about the reality of this world is largely a responsibility of the parent. It is at your discretion how much real-world exposure you decide to give them. Every student is sheltered from something, whether they attend a private Christian school or public school. The difference is evident in what they are sheltered from. We pray that, at Heartland Christian School, our students will be sheltered from drugs, alcohol, vaping, swearing, etc. On the other hand, all public-school students are sheltered from a biblical worldview, teacher-led prayer, study of God's Word, and a prayer team that prays for each of them.

Being a Christ-like leader in the workforce will set you apart. At Heartland Christian School, we are focused on building strong character by teaching them to be loyal, honest, trustworthy, kind, gentle, caring, joyful, patient, and faithful to the Lord. These character traits will serve them well no matter what situation they are presented with as an adult.

13. How can I afford to pay for private school education?

This may seem like an odd question to include in our FAQ's but we wanted to share this insight. Tuition costs will vary depending on how many children you have attending Heartland Christian School. Many parents choose to make weekly contributions to a 529 plan, so the annual tuition fee is spread over 52 weeks, making the total amount much easier to achieve.

We understand that it costs a lot of money to raise kids without the expense of private school but when you consider what you are getting from sending your kids to Heartland Christian School, we hope it will make your decision much easier. When it comes to answering the most basic worldview questions such as where humans came from, the foundations of gender, the purpose of life, who determines our purpose in life, who judges right and wrong, what happens after we die, etc. all public educational institutions provide the wrong answers. At Heartland Christian School, we are very honored to have the flexibility and knowledge to provide solid, Biblical answers. The answers to these very important questions are what helps to shape our kids' lives. When they graduate from

Heartland Christian School and move on, they will have this Biblical worldview to carry with them throughout the rest of their lives. It may stretch your budget now, but your children are worth the investment.

“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.” - Nelson Mandela

“The philosophy of the schoolroom in one generation will be the philosophy of government in the next.” - Abraham Lincoln

“Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old, he will not depart from it.” - Proverbs 22:6

“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction.” Proverbs 1:7

“Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be still wiser; teach a righteous man, and he will increase in learning.” Proverbs 9:9