



2016-2017

Annual Summary

EQUIPPING CHILDREN TO SERVE CHRIST



See You at the Pole Prayer & Worship Gathering 2016

Heritage
Christian
School

-
Spiritually
Grounded
-

Academically
Excellent

-
Faithfully
Serving

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*See You at the
Pole, 2016*

Heritage
Christian
School

-
**Spiritually
Grounded**

-
**Academically
Excellent**

-
**Faithfully
Serving**

**"I have no greater
joy than to hear
that my children
are walking in the
truth."**

3 John 1:4

Heritage Christian School

From the Administrator

Dear Friends of Heritage Christian School,

We thank God for His goodness to our school family at Heritage this year. We have seen God bless our school families as we continue to partner with them to provide a well-rounded and challenging educational experience for our students. God has provided the resources for Heritage to improve and grow academically through technology in our classrooms. We have also been able to add another computer lab for students to utilize in their educational pursuits as well as increase the technological programs in the lower elementary grades. Through God's blessings, we have been able to get maintenance done on our building with volunteers and help from businesses in the community. God has also provided us the funds, supplies, and man power through generous donations from our stakeholders in the community to make continuing improvements to the baseball field and the soccer field in order to prepare for future needs of Heritage students.

HCS students performed above the national average on the Iowa Basics for grades K-11 and our seniors averaged 24.3 on the ACT test for college-bound high school students. Heritage completed a third year with the National Honor Society and inducted 3 more students. Heritage students are taking college-preparatory academic instruction seriously as our junior and senior students have taken many college classes and most of them completed 12 hours each semester of 11th and 12th grade in order to advance their college careers. We also were able to offer Washburn Technology classes for several students to provide for the differing needs of our student body.

The fine arts programs, the competitive academic events, and athletic teams all had another successful year. Many of our students achieved excellent or superior ratings at the fine arts competition, ACSI Math Olympics and writing competitions, and our sports programs continued to be competitive. HCS continues to strive toward having all students press to reach their true potential in Jesus Christ in every aspect of their lives.

We were blessed to have over 200 grandparents and family members join us on campus for Grandparents' Day, and well over 300 were in attendance at the all-school Christmas program held at Northland Christian Church. This outpouring of support continues to help our school as we endeavor to provide each child with the best in character training and spiritual leadership.

Ultimately, we desire to see each student grow as the Lord Jesus Christ grew -- intellectually, physically, spiritually, and socially. It was such an encouraging sight to see many of our students go on mission trips with their churches and families and our seniors raised money to go to Washington, D.C. to work with the Little Lights ministry for a week last spring. Our students are also learning to work in our community assisting our neighbors with yard work, participating in work for the mission, Harvesters, Salvation Army, and preparing gift boxes for children through Operation Christmas Child. All of our students were happy to be involved in mission activities throughout the year at area retirement homes, the police station, The Topeka Rescue Mission, churches, and needy family homes in the Topeka area. A Biblically integrated academic program is the primary focus of our school, but an important component of that program is community involvement which is an integral part of a well-rounded education for our students.

We can see God blessing Heritage Christian School through the lives of our students and the influence of our staff. His guidance for both the heart and the mind in the classrooms of HCS enables our students to excel and achieve with the very best. Teaching students to love God and love people is key to their educational journey. It is our prayer to instill in students' hearts Christ-like character qualities and Christian principles as they honor God through their character, leadership, gifts, and service.

Blessings,

Mrs. Janeal Lischke, Principal

**Mrs. Janeal Lischke
Administrator**

Mrs. Lischke attended college in the Chicago area and received her degree in education in 1988 as well as ACSI Educator Certification in 2000 and again in 2006. She received her Principal Certification in 2011. She has been involved in Christian Education for 26 years and has taught in a variety of grade levels from kindergarten through high school as well as served as teacher advisor, admissions coordinator, curriculum development coordinator, and administrative assistant to the principal of a large Christian school in California. She has been married to her husband Marc since 1987 and has three grown daughters: Anna, Catherine, and Stefanie.



Heritage Christian School

School Profile

Heritage Christian School (HCS) is an independent, private Christian school dedicated to serving the community of Topeka, Kansas, as well as the surrounding communities in Shawnee, Osage, and Jackson counties. The student body is comprised of students in preschool through twelfth grade. HCS's non-denominational status allows the entire Christian community to benefit from the Christian education it offers, hence 46 different churches were represented by the student body during the 2016-2017 school year. HCS is truly a community-based Christian institution with the expressed goal of educating and training the entire body of Christ in the community.

HCS Enrollment by Grade, 2016-2017 School Year

Grade	Student Count		Grade	Student Count
K4/Preschool	23		6 th	12
K5	9		7 th	9
1 st	13		8 th	6
2 nd	13		9 th	18
3 rd	14		10 th	15
4 th	9		11 th	14
5 th	10		12 th	9
			TOTAL	174 students

SHAWNEE COUNTY ETHNIC POPULATION DISTRIBUTION

White, 85.5%
Black or African American, 8.6%
Asian, 1.3%
American Indian, 1.2%
2 or more races, 2.5%
Not Reporting, 3.6%

Note: Hispanic or Latino origin represents 10.8% of the population which is included in each of the above racial distributions.

Source: 2010 Quick Facts, US Census Bureau.

HERITAGE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL ETHNIC POPULATION DISTRIBUTION

White, 91%
Black or African American, 2.1%
Hispanic, 3%
Asian, 2%
American Indian, .5%
2 or more races, 1%

Source: 2016-2017 Self-Reported Enrollment Information



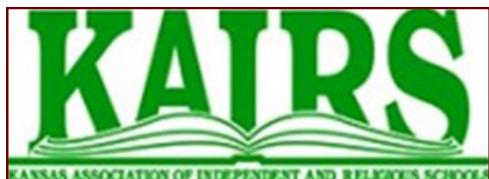
School Profile

Accreditation Re-Approved

An AdvancED External Review Team visited the HCS campus in March. They spent time in classrooms, met with some of our students, parents, staff, and board members, and looked over our documentation. They gave us many great comments and recommendations and approved continuing our status as an AdvancED accredited school for the next five years.



Memberships and Affiliations



Kansas Association of Independent and Religious Schools



Association of Christian Schools International



**MCAA
Metro
Christian
Athletic
Association**

**KCAA
Kansas
Christian
Athletic
Association**

**Heritage
Christian
School**

2016-2017 Chapel

The most important aspect of education at Heritage Christian School is the solid biblical grounding provided in each and every class and subject. Additionally, we have a weekly chapel service where our students and teachers can come together to worship.

CHAPEL HIGHLIGHTS:

- ~Matias and Samantha (an HCS alumnus) Arredondo came to speak about their work with Youth With a Mission (YWAM) in Kailua-Kona, Hawaii.
- ~HCS hosted Christian Apologist Dr. Frank Turek. He spoke to our students and students from other area schools about defending their faith.
- ~Miss Gia Moser spoke about her childhood experience as the recipient of a Christmas shoebox from the Samaritan's Purse mission project, "Operation Christmas Child."



Leadership

Board of Directors

Heritage Christian School is governed by a Board of Directors primarily made up of parents of HCS students. Members of the Topeka business community may also serve on the Board. Staggered three-year terms are served by Board members who are recommended by a nominating committee and voted on by the general parent body at a Parent Teacher Fellowship meeting. The Board meets monthly in open meetings and provides spiritual and financial guidance for the school.

Administration

The Principal, Mrs. Janeal Lischke, is the primary administrator of HCS. She is assisted by the Office Manager, Admissions Coordinator, and Technology Coordinator. Mrs. Lischke answers directly to the Board of Directors and is responsible for the hiring and firing of faculty and staff as well as the successful and efficient operation of the school. She also provides spiritual leadership and guidance to staff and students alike.

Parent Teacher Fellowship

Parents and teachers at HCS are required to participate in Parent Teacher Fellowship. This organization was established with a two-fold purpose: 1) to promote unity and fellowship within the body of HCS, and 2) to raise funds through various efforts for the school. General PTF meetings were held in September, February, and May.

This year the PTF sponsored a Mother-Son Laser Tag event in November and a Daddy-Daughter Dance in February. PTF also worked to bless HCS staff and faculty through occasional meals and gifts as well as small year-end bonuses.

Major fundraising events included the first annual BBQ and Worship Bash in September and the 5K/1 Mile Fun Run and Pancake Feed in April. The PTF also raised funds throughout the school year through a monthly "PTF Night Out" at various local restaurants. Additional funds were raised through AmazonSmile, Goodsearch and Goodshop, etc. Funds raised by the PTF during the 2016-2017 school year totaled \$25,346.01. Sixty percent (\$15,207.61) was given back to the school's operating budget.



2016-2017 School Board

President: Robert Hughes

Vice-President: Kenny Kessler

Treasurer: Mike Claassen

Secretary: Marty Flickinger

Long Range Planning and PTF Liason: Mic Pfeifer

Members At Large: John Schonfeldt, John Woodward

2016-2017 Administrative Staff

Principal: Janeal Lischke

Office Manager:
Valerie Ludolph

Admissions Coordinator:
Traci Flickinger

Technology Coordinator:
Michelle Falster

HCS had a day of Prayer and Fasting on Thursday, February 18th. The library was open from 7:00am-7:00pm for all stakeholders to come in and pray for the families in our school, illnesses, enrollment, and other needs.

Core Values

School Philosophy

We believe in the centrality and the authority of Jesus Christ, who is the Way, the Truth and the Life. We believe that the Bible is the authority for all issues of life, including education. We believe that the knowledge of Jesus Christ and the Bible is essential to the proper growth and development of each individual student. In accordance with our mission of preparing children to serve Christ, our educational approach is to teach children to think biblically in relation to all of life and to develop disciplined lives. We define success as the wise use of the talents and gifts God has given each student to serve Him and to further His kingdom..

Mission Statement

The mission of Heritage Christian School is to provide a Christ-centered, quality education in order to prepare our children to serve Christ. We believe that we are called as Christian parents to provide for our children's education (Proverbs 22:5, "Train a child in the way he should go, when he is old he will not turn from it.") and, therefore, view our school as an extension of the Christian home.

Vision

Students at Heritage Christian School will acquire wisdom, knowledge, and a biblical worldview as evidenced by a lifestyle of character, leadership, service, stewardship and worship.

Statement of Faith

1. We believe the Bible to be inspired, the only infallible authoritative Word of God.
2. We believe that there is only one God, eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
3. We believe in the deity of our Lord Jesus Christ, in His virgin birth, in His sinless life, in His miracles, in His bodily resurrection, in His ascension to the right hand of the Father, and in His personal return in power and glory.
4. We believe that for the salvation of lost and sinful man, regeneration by the Holy Spirit is absolutely essential.
5. We believe in the present ministry of the Holy Spirit by whose indwelling the Christian is enabled to lead a Godly life.
6. We believe in the resurrection of both the saved and the lost; they who are saved unto the resurrection of life, and they who are lost unto the resurrection of damnation.
7. We believe in the spiritual unity of believers in our Lord Jesus Christ.*

*This statement is the seven-point Statement of Faith of the National Association of Evangelicals.

Heritage
Christian
School

2016-2017

Theme:
SHINE

Each school year, the Heritage Christian School Administration chooses a new theme. The theme for the 2016-2017 school year was "Shine", based on Matthew 5:14-16, "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works, and give glory to your Father who is in heaven."

HCS faculty, staff, and student leaders were directed to challenge students to consider practical and relevant ways to shine for Jesus and to manifest and support a culture of service at all grade levels.

Heritage Christian School

Facilities

Unexpected Blessing

HCS was blessed during the 2016-2017 school year to have Mr. Roger Ozias volunteer on a daily basis to do regular maintenance and repair work. Mr. Ozias began working on campus early in the summer of 2016 and did a multitude of odd jobs including painting, cleaning fan coils, repairing desks and chairs...in short, anything and everything that was requested of him. Because of his generosity, many things were accomplished with very minimal expense.



Mr. Ozias teaches 6th graders about auto maintenance during their life skills class.

New Playground Benches

New benches for our playgrounds were donated by Clinton & Martha Kegel of Billings, Montana, and assembled and strategically placed by Roger Ozias and Don Medlin. Additional benches were given after school was out in May to provide more seating on our soccer field. Teachers and fans are very appreciative of these new additions.

New Gymnasium Lighting

An anonymous donor gifted HCS with brand new light fixtures for our gymnasium. Mr. Ken Price spent uncounted hours installing them during the summer and early fall of 2016. He also applied some fresh paint, making the HCS gym a much brighter place!



Secondary students enjoyed chapel in the brand new lighting of the gymnasium.



Growing the HCS Library

HCS joined with LifeWay Christian Books to hold our second annual book fair in 2016. The HCS Book Fair ran from November 30th through December 7th and was held in our library. LifeWay Christian Books stocked our library with great things for our stakeholders to choose from and gave a portion of the earnings back to HCS to benefit our library.



Faculty & Staff

Assignments

Heritage Christian School provides faculty and staff who are matched to teaching assignments with consideration given to their training, knowledge and expertise, as well as other areas of interest. Most staff members also have their children or grandchildren enrolled in HCS, giving them a personal vested interest in providing the absolute best education possible for all students at the school.

The 2016-2017 school year saw the addition of five new faculty members. The teaching staff was supported by the Principal, Office Manager, Admissions Coordinator, Librarian, Lunch Lady, Room Parents, and a multitude of other parent and grandparent volunteers.

Professional Development

During the 2016-2017 school year, teachers engaged in a variety of continuing education opportunities. During the summer of 2016 several teachers attended the KAIRS K-12 Teachers Conference on Science, Tech & Cosmic Curricula. In November the HCS faculty and staff attended the two-day Professional Development Conference at Trinity Academy in Wichita. In addition, the entire faculty met regularly throughout the school year for ongoing training and collaboration.



2016-2017 School Improvement Plan Goals

Goal #1: To assist students to identify and implement study skills (metacognitive skills) which will help them to achieve at a higher level.

Goal #2: To assist students in developing critical thinking skills, particularly in the areas of reading and math.

Goal #3: To ensure that students have the skills necessary to carry out our school's theme for the year, "Shine".

Heritage
Christian
School

2016-2017

Staff Demographics

Total Instructional Staff: 23

Total Full-Time Instructional Staff: 16

Total Part-Time Instructional Staff: 7

Percentage of Instructional Staff with State or ACSI Certification: 91%

Administrative Staff: 4

Auxiliary Staff: 4



Heritage Christian School

2016-2017 Expenses by the Percentage

74% - Payroll, Taxes

7% - Curriculum, Technology, Testing, Classroom Supplies

6% - Utilities, Trash

4% - Professional Fees, Graduation, Teacher In-services, Licenses, Miscellaneous, Other

4% - Cleaning, Maintenance, Grounds, Repairs

3% - Insurance

2% - Office, Postage, Copiers

2016-2017 Expenses

Curriculum/Technology/Testing/Classroom Supplies	\$60,040
Utilities/Trash/ Telephone	\$51,457
Insurance	\$22,792
Cleaning/Maintenance/ Grounds/Repairs	\$37,830
Office/Postage/ Copiers	\$14,882
Professional Fees/Graduation/Teacher In-services/Licenses/Miscellaneous/Other	\$37,403
Payroll/Taxes	\$642,619
TOTAL	\$867,023

2016-2017 Income

Tuition Income -	\$787,349
Fundraising Income-	\$17,222
Income from Gifts -	\$12,381
Other Income -	\$3,915

Total Income -	\$820,867
Total Expenses -	\$867,023
Shortfall* -	\$46,156

*Offset by withdrawing from savings.

2016-2017 Fundraisers

Ongoing—Scrip Cards, Box Tops, Soup Labels, etc.
 Monthly—PTF Night-Out events at local restaurants
 September—All-School BBQ & Worship Bash
 February—Daddy-Daughter Dance
 April—Annual 5K/One Mile Fun Run

HCS Teachers earned an average salary of \$25,000 per year (no benefits.)

Financial Overview

Financing Our Ministry

Heritage Christian School is a non-profit organization which strives to provide the best Christian education possible at the lowest possible price. The HCS Board makes every effort to accommodate families with multiple children (see below) as well as those in financial difficulties. Thus, only 42% of our students pay full tuition. Fundraising events are an important aspect of offsetting costs and keeping tuition down. The board and administration have made it a priority to be good stewards of all resources—physical and monetary. Even so, the year proved to be financially challenging with unexpected expenses in the areas of maintenance (plumbing) and staffing. New curriculum was also required in some areas. This overview offers a brief glimpse of the financial picture for the 2016-2017 school year.

Unexpected Gifts

In June, HCS was gifted with several hundred dollars worth of office supplies from the Hallmark headquarters in Kansas City. One of the benefits of this gifting was the acquisition of a three-hole punch for every classroom in the building. Other items acquired were paper shredders, staplers, three-ring binders, a binding machine, desk organizers, adding machines, envelopes, paper, and numerous small items.

2016-2017 Tuition Schedule

GRADE	G-12	I-5	K5	K4, Full Day	K4, 1/2 Day
1st Child	\$5,533	\$4,780	\$4,697	\$4,561	\$2,612
2nd Child	\$5,202	\$4,494	\$4,415	\$4,285	N/A
Any Additional Child	\$4,535	\$3,920	\$3,852	\$3,739	N/A

Academics

Notable Achievements

National Honor Society—The fall of 2016 saw the induction of three more students into the HCS chapter of the National Honor Society: Claire Folster and Joel Krantz, both sophomores, and Dakotah Vignery, a freshman.

ACSI Area Math Olympics—Qualifying HCS students went to the Area Math Olympics in the spring to compete with students from other area schools. Third grader Adelle Julian and fourth grader Hope Thornton both received “Excellent” ratings in computation. Fourth graders Eli Schroeder and Karley Strahm both received “Excellent” ratings in reasoning.

HCS Spelling Bee- Adeline Stirtz was the winner of this year's HCS Spelling Bee! She went on to represent HCS admirably at the Shawnee County Spelling Bee.

Academic Fair / Open House

Friday, April 21st, was a half-day of school for all HCS students. Teachers spent the afternoon preparing for the Academic Fair which ran from 6:00-8:00 p.m. The evening included science, literary, and fine arts exhibits as well as other academic achievements. All elementary students, Kindergarten through 5th grades, performed as well as upper school fine arts students. The evening was also an Open House for the community, providing an excellent opportunity for Topekans to take a closer look at Heritage Christian School.

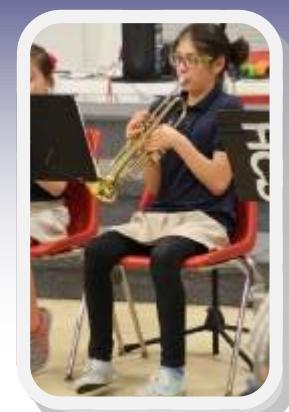
Measuring Academic Success



HCS measures academic achievement in a number of ways. Classroom assessments, including frequent informal formative assessments, provide measures of student success within curricular objectives throughout the year. Mid-term and final examinations provide data to teachers, students, and parents about overall course achievement. These data are used when making modifications to the curriculum and to teaching strategies.

Data gathered from standardized tests are used to compare student achievement at HCS with student achievement in other educational settings, including Topeka schools and other schools across the nation. Heritage students in grades 8 through 11 take the PSAT tests, and high school students take the ACT test. Students in grades K5 through 11 take the Iowa Test of Basic Skills (ITBS). This is the sixth year students have taken this test. The graphs on the next page show specific results of the ITBS taken in 2017.

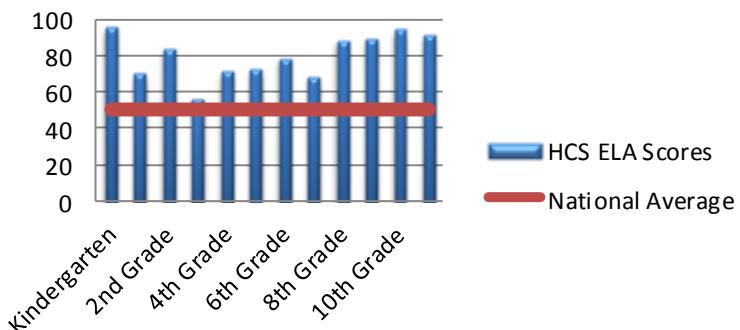
2016-2017 Academic Fair & Open House



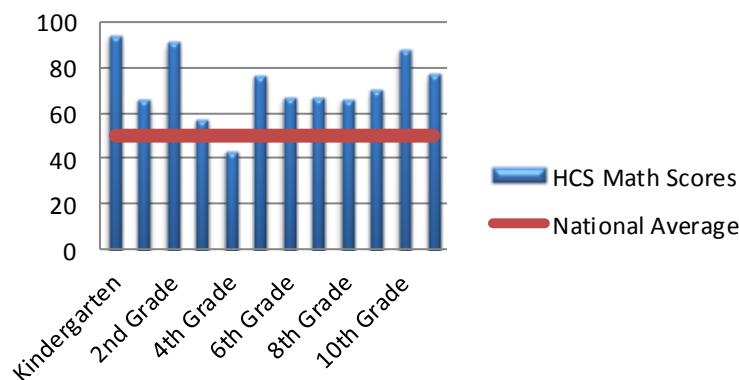
Academics

Standardized Testing Results

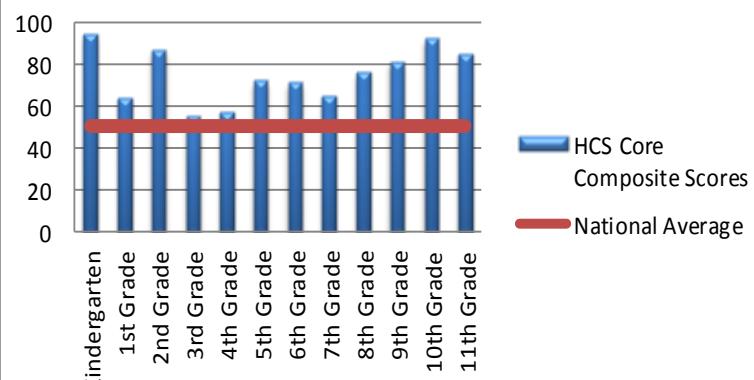
2017 HCS ELA (English Language Arts) Scores



2017 HCS Math Scores



HCS Core Composite Scores, 2016-2017



**Heritage
Christian
School**

**Measuring By the
Numbers
2016-2017**

HCS Students' Average Core
Composition Scores, Iowa
Basics Standardized Test:

K-5	-	71.5
6-//	-	78.3
K-//	-	74.9

HCS Students' Average ACT
Score - 24.3

HCS Seniors' Avg. GPA - 3.72

Percentage of HCS Seniors
entering post-secondary
education - 100 %

**HCS Students'
Average
ACT Score -
24.3**

Athletics

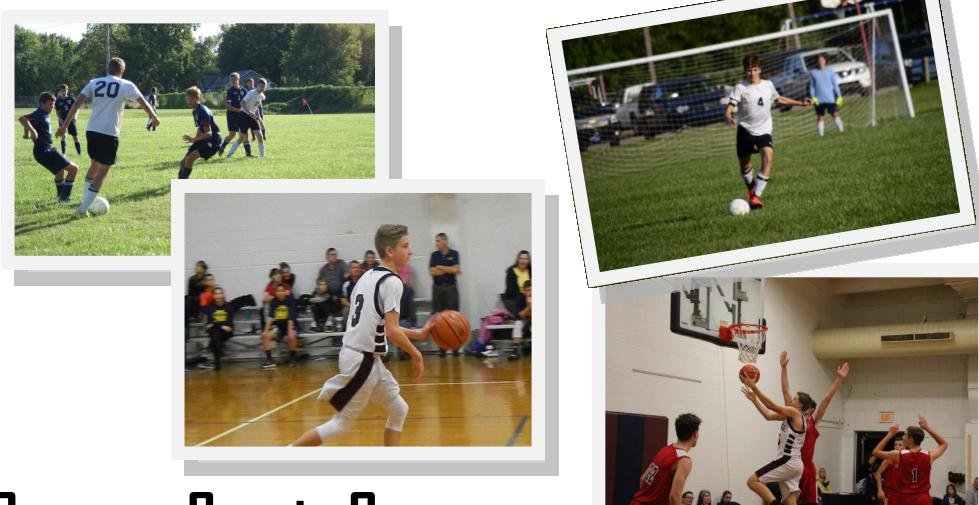
The Year in Brief

Heritage Christian School was able to field teams in boys soccer and basketball and girls volleyball, basketball, and soccer during the 2016-2017 school year. We also had a cheerleading squad once again during the basketball season. HCS teams competed in the Metro Christian Athletic Association (MCAA) based in Kansas City and had a successful season of team-building and camaraderie.



Little Flyers Clinic

The HCS Cheerleading Squad held a clinic for all interested preschool through 5th grade girls in January. Each participant received a t-shirt, snack, and gift bag of cheerleading items. They also had the opportunity to perform during half-time at a home basketball game in February.



Summer Sports Camps

HCS once again hosted summer camps in basketball, soccer, volleyball, and baseball for both elementary and secondary students. These camps have proven to be very popular as they are a great way for students to try out a particular sport before they commit to it for the season.

Heritage Christian School

2016-2017 Sports Programs

Fall: Boys Soccer
Girls Volleyball

Winter: Boys and Girls Basketball
Girls Cheerleading

Spring: Girls Soccer

HCS was unable to field a team for Boys Baseball in 2017

HCS
**competed in
the Metro
Christian
Athletic
Association.
(MCAA)**

Fine Arts

Music

The fall of 2016 saw the commencement of an Elementary Band program! All interested fourth, fifth, and sixth graders met at 7:15 a.m. every Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday morning to practice. Secondary students were able to come alongside their younger peers and help them grow as musicians. Additionally, elementary music classes were part of the curriculum four days each week. Secondary students had the opportunity to participate in Heritage Singers or audition for the Worship Team. These groups joined with the entire elementary school, preschool through fifth grade, to present the all-school Christmas program which included the mini-musical, "Christmas in Kid City."



Delivering Singing Valentines was once again a highlight of the year for Heritage Singers

Drama

Each month during the school year one of our elementary classes performed a skit in Elementary Chapel. In addition, some classes performed in-class plays for their parents. Pastor Kevin Stone once again took the reins for HCS Drama. Junior High Drama students met after school four days a week during the fall semester to produce his original production of "Wee Little Man: A Short Tale" in November. The play was a dramatization based on the life of Zacchaeus from Luke 19:1-10. High School Drama students presented Pastor Stone's adaptations of "Little Daylight" by George MacDonald and "Just So Stories" by Rudyard Kipling in the spring.



A scene from the high school production of "Little Daylight"



Visual Arts

Drawing and painting were part of the weekly curriculum in the elementary grades. Art classes are always mandatory for eighth graders. High school students may take Advanced Art as an elective and also have the opportunity to use their artistic skills in the Graphic Arts/Yearbook elective. Advanced Art students each created an artistic display of their work for the Academic Fair and added a decorated ceiling tile to the Art room as their final project.

Middle School production of "Wee Little Man: A Short Tale"



Heritage Christian School

2017 CPLS Fine Arts Festival

Music

Seniors Lauren Wineinger and Kelly Brinckman both received "Excellent" ratings. Lauren performed a piano solo and Kelly performed a vocal solo.

Speech

Senior Kelly Brinckman received a "Superior" rating for her declamation.

Visual Arts

Junior Leah Jamison received a "Superior" rating for her photographic entry, an "Excellent" rating for her painting, and an "Excellent" rating for her entry in Mixed Media.

Sophomore Joeli Krantz received a "Superior" rating for her photographic entry. Freshman Aubrey Flickinger received an "Excellent" rating for her photographic entries.

Science & Technology

Technological Improvements

Several purchases were necessary during 2016-2017 in order to meet the needs of our growing staff and student body, including six new laptop computers and eight new chairs for the computer labs. HCS also purchased a new WatchGuard security system to keep students safe online and purchased or renewed software licenses. Additionally, new projectors were installed in the fifth grade and preschool classrooms and the band room; now every classroom but one is equipped with a projector and Interactive Whiteboard.

Computer Mayhem 2016

The tenth grade Computer Applications class went to the Allen Community College Burlingame campus in November for "Computer Mayhem 2016." HCS students gained experience in how to program a home router in addition to learning and refining other computer skills. Students were able to put their skills into practice in the two computer labs back on the HCS campus.

Students in all grades made frequent use of the computer labs. Elementary students also had the benefit of having a computer in each classroom for independent work.



Science Lab

The 2016-2017 school year saw the inauguration of our brand new science lab. Secondary Science classes included Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Earth Science, and Life Science. The pictures below show HCS ninth graders performing dissections during Biology class.



**Heritage
Christian
School**

Vision Screenings 2016-2017

HCS conducted vision screenings for all students in kindergarten through 12th grade in February. A few students were found to have some vision impairment through this process. Parents were informed and then able to set up appointments with professionals in order to get their students' vision corrected.

Student Life

Student Council

The 2016-2017 Student Council sponsored two events during the school year. The first was the annual StuCo Bonfire in October. Students gathered at an HCS family's home where they enjoyed hot dogs and s'mores. The second event was the annual High School Formal in April. The formal's "Starry Night" theme was enhanced by the fact that it took place in Reynold's Lodge at Lake Shawnee where students could enjoy the evening both indoors and out.



Field Trips

Students in preschool through the twelfth grades enjoyed numerous field trips throughout the year. Among the highlights was the trip to Meier's Pumpkin Paradise in October when eighth and ninth graders partnered with their preschool "buddies" to enjoy a morning of fun and bonding at the pumpkin patch. Also, the entire school once again went to the VA Hospital to perform a patriotic program for our local veterans on Veterans Day. Elementary classes took educational trips to a variety of places in Topeka and the surrounding areas, including traveling to Science City in Kansas City. Middle school students once again traveled to Weston, Missouri, in January for the annual ski trip to Snow Creek. They also culminated their mandatory Etiquette Class with a limousine ride to a local restaurant to practice their etiquette skills. Other highlights included the high school trip to the Topeka Civic Theater in May to see a production of "To Kill a Mockingbird" and the ninth grade Biology class's trip to the Trash Mountain Aquaponics Lab, also in May.



Buddy Mentoring Program

The 2016-2017 school year was the third year of matching secondary students with elementary students for our buddy mentoring program. Students met their buddies for the first time in September and exchanged information about themselves. Throughout the year students met with buddies for the occasional lunch together and even a field trip or two (see above.) Additionally, "buddies" were encouraged to write notes and were often seen giving high-fives and encouraging words to one another in the hallways. The Buddy Mentoring Program has been an overwhelming success and will continue to be a part of the educational program at HCS.



Mission Work

Mission Day 2016

The entire student body, teaching staff, and many parents went to the VA Hospital in Topeka in order to honor and bless our hospitalized veterans with a patriotic program. Following the program, students were able to visit with the veterans one-on-one, blessing the vets with their time and attention and gaining some valuable experience and insight. After lunch, each class had a particular work to do in the community. Some went to help with other community ministries, and some worked at individual residences. The day gave HCS students a chance to give back to their community and was a true blessing for all involved.



Other Local Mission Work

Each class chose a specific mission project to focus on throughout the school year. Some worked at the Rescue Mission, Harvesters, or the Salvation Army. Others made it their mission to show appreciation to our public servants or help neighbors with various odd jobs.

Operation Christmas Child

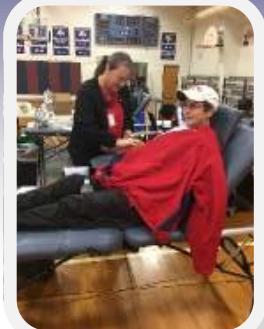
Each year HCS students and families work together to put together as many shoebox gifts as they can for the Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child project. This year we kicked off the project with a special guest speaker during secondary Chapel. Miss Gia Moser came to speak about her childhood experience as the recipient of a Christmas shoebox from Operation Christmas Child. Once all the boxes were collected, we were able to contribute over 80 shoeboxes!

Heritage Christian School

2017

Blood Drive

HCS joined hands with the Community Blood Center for a blood drive in January. We collected 28 units of blood, which was enough to help 56 area patients. The drive was held in honor of Mr. Chris Folster and his family. Chris served on the HCS School Board for many years before cancer took him from us in December.



Regular Mission Giving

Heritage Christian School continued its partnership with Compassion International to support a little girl from the Philippines named Janelle. The school raised money to support Janelle and other mission projects through biweekly "Duds Days," when HCS students and staff were able to wear non-uniform clothing for a \$2.00 fee. The second grade class communicated with Janelle on a regular basis, and the entire school came together to bless Janelle with an extra financial gift and lots of greeting cards at Christmas. Additionally, HCS began supporting a 2009 HCS graduate who works with Youth With a Mission (YWAM). Samantha Arredondo and her husband Matias are stationed in Hawaii where they administer the School of Writing for the University of the Nations at Kailua-Kona. The couple came to Topeka in August and spoke to HCS students about their work at a secondary chapel service.

Class of 2017

Heritage
Christian
School

An Exemplary Group of Young People

The Heritage Christian School class of 2017 chose a quote from Thomas A. Smith as their class motto before their freshman year: "Let us keep climbing even higher; never fearing the step that is next, for our goal is in our grasp, just beyond our hopes and dreams." The entire class worked diligently throughout their high school careers to achieve their goals. Every senior achieved honors their senior year and together completed 371 college hours in addition to completing their high school studies.

McKenna Ward and Lauren Wineinger said in their co-valedictorian speech, "Many people, including ourselves, made choices to get where we are now. As we look to the future, we want to challenge our classmates to make a choice. Following Christ isn't something that can be done halfheartedly. It must be central to everything we do and are. We challenge the Class of 2017 to choose Christ because there is no one else to fulfill our deepest needs and to shape us into the glorious children of God we were meant to be." This class's standard of working hard academically and their Christ-like servant hearts have blessed the teachers, staff, and students of Heritage Christian School.

Mission Trip to Washington, D.C.

The class of 2017 worked to earn their way to Washington, D.C. for their senior mission trip in April. While there, they slept on the floor of a children's community center in an underserved area. They worked hand-in-hand with the local ministry "Little Lights" to clean and make repairs on the children's center during the day and, after school, helped and encouraged underprivileged children with their academics. They also took a little time out to tour the capital.



Touring our nation's capital



Class of 2017 at Harvesters

Mission Projects

HCS seniors once again worked with Harvesters, finishing up a three-year commitment. Their work involved packaging food for underprivileged Topeka-area children. Harvesters delivers food parcels each weekend to those in need.

Meet the Class of 2017

Kelly Nicole Brinckman

Raegan Breanna Cowert

David Alan Hughes

Josef Thomas Milazzo

Desirae Dawn Mills

Jordan Faith Peele

Natasha Juleen Price

McKenna Mariah Ward

Lauren Grace Wineinger

Six of the nine members of the 2017 Graduating Class began attending HCS as elementary students, two of them as preschoolers.

All of them chose to continue their education beyond graduation.