



HCS News

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Heritage Christian
School

Volume 29, Issue 8
December 1, 2025

Office Emails Reminder

Please be sure that you are using the HCS office email (hcs.office96@gmail.com) for any questions that you have for any of the office personnel. There are several regular office staff who have a schedule for covering the front desk duties. Any office or FACTS related questions or attendance updates will be forwarded to the appropriate person from this email address. Thank you!

TRM Food Drive

For the next two weeks (December 3-15), HCS will be collecting food items for the Topeka Rescue Mission. There will be a box in the front lobby for your donations. The following list will help you with what items are needed. Food items that are always needed include canned proteins (tuna, chicken, sloppy joe, beans, chili, etc.), peanut butter, grape jelly, loaves of bread, dry pastas (all types), pasta sauce, rice (all types), canned soups (all types), canned fruits and vegetables, cereals, oatmeal, & Spaghetti O's. Clothing items needed include men's & women's underwear (new), men's jeans (sizes 30-40), men's shirts (3XL or larger), packages of socks, baby diapers (sizes 4 & 5), and pull-ups (sizes 2T/3T & 4T/5T). Toiletry items are also needed: baby lotion and shampoo, full-sized bottles of conditioner, men's & women's deodorants, swabs, foot powder, ibuprofen, Tylenol, cough drops, Tums, razors and shaving cream, hair brushes, and hair bands. Thank you for helping HCS soar as our families share with others in our community!

*Be devoted to one another in love.
Honor one another above yourselves.*

ROMANS 12:10

Christmas Programs

The elementary Christmas program, *The Bethlehem Project*, is Thursday, December 11, at 6:00. The students have been working hard on learning their lines and songs. The secondary program is on Monday, December 15, at 6:00. Come enjoy the season's music with the HCS family.

PTF News and Fundraiser Update



The December PTF Night Out will be at the Panda Express at 801 NW 25th Street (the new one by the north Dillons) on Tuesday, December 16, from 4:00-8:00. The flyer is attached to this newsletter, and extras are available on the table in the front lobby.

The Fund to Serve Letter Writing Campaign final letters mailing results are in. The students mailed a total of 1325 letters. The following classes earned cookie parties: Preschool, Kindergarten, 2nd Grade, 3rd Grade, 7th Grade, 8th Grade, and 12th Grade. These classes also won ice cream parties: Kindergarten, 2nd Grade, 7th Grade, and 12th Grade. Several classes won pajama parties also: Kindergarten, 2nd Grade, and 7th Grade. Classes that have not yet had their ice cream or pajama parties will have those tomorrow, December 2nd. The individual winners are as follows: PreK-2nd Grade-Leopold Norton-134 letters-scooter prize, Matilda Munoz-honorable mention-111 letters-2 \$10 gift cards, 3rd-6th Grade-Ariel Laursen-75 letters-hover board prize, 7th-12th Grade-Luke June-102 letters-\$100 Amazon gift card.

As of Thursday, November 21, \$25,050.00 had been donated as a result of the letters from the first 3 weeks. The students ended the letter writing with record number of letters sent! An updated donation total will be announced in the next newsletter.

Every dollar raised makes a difference in the lives of our students and teachers. Thank you for giving, praying, and participating with hearts full of love.

Reminders

The monthly men's breakfast and work day is this Saturday beginning at 8:00. If you have questions, please contact John Freerksen at 913-515-2780. Men of all ages are encouraged to join the fellowship.

The Moms in Prayer group meets Wednesday mornings in the library at 7:45. Contact Kathleen Rothe at 785-383-5944 if you have any questions about this opportunity. There is also a group that prays remotely on Saturday mornings for every student in the school. Contact Joyce Cowsert at 785-221-5009 with questions about this. Speech/language pathologists will be on campus on Tuesday, December 9, to conduct screenings for our K3, K4, K5, and other students as needed to detect speech and language differences in comparison to typically developing same-age peers. Parents will receive a copy of their child's screening results.

The deadline to order a dedication for the 2025-2026 yearbook and receive a yearbook for a combined price of \$100.00 (a savings of \$15.00) is Thursday, December 18. Please contact Mr. Fanning by text at 620-273-9013 or by email at jamesfanning@hcstopeka.org.

The secondary finals are Tuesday-Thursday, December 16-18. Each of the secondary students has been given a copy of their finals schedule. It includes a signature section; a parent needs to mark a choice for each day and sign it. The students need to return it to the office or their AM block teacher by next Tuesday, December 9.

Calendar of Events

Speech/Language Screenings: K3, K4, K, & others as needed	12-9
Elementary Christmas Program 6:00	12-11
Secondary Christmas Program 6:00	12-15
PTF Night Out at Panda Express on NW 25th	12-16
Secondary Finals	12-16 to 18
End 2nd Quarter	12-18
Board Meeting 7:00 Room 14	12-18
No School—Christmas Break	12-19 to 1-5
Teacher Work Day	12-19
Teacher Work Day	1-5
Spring Semester Begins	1-6
Secondary Winter Retreat 12:12-3:30	1-6



HERITAGE CHRISTIAN

Sports Calendar*

Tuesday, 12-2 @ Cornerstone JH Girls:4:00, JH Boys:5:00, HS Girls: 6:00, HS Boys: 7:30

Thursday-Saturday, 12-4-6 Shea Tournament HS only TBD

Tuesday, 12-9 @ St. Joseph JH Girls: 4:30, JH Boys: 5:30, HS Girls: 6:30, HS Boys: 8:00

Friday, 1-9 vs. Blue Ridge JH Girls: 4:30, JH Boys 5:30, HS Girls 6:30, HS Boys: 8:00

Saturday, 1-10 vs. Whitefield JH Girls 1:00, JH Boys:2:00, HS Girls:3:00, HS Boys: 4:30

**The Sports Calendar is subject to change. Up-to-date schedules and directions can be found on the HCS website under "Athletics." Be sure to scroll all the way to the bottom of the page.*

2025-2026 Theme: Soar!

“But they who wait for the LORD shall
renew their strength;
they shall mount up with wings like eagles;
they shall run and not be weary;
they shall walk and not faint. “

Isaiah 40:31
Seek God Daily
Obey His Word
Abide in Christ
Rejoice Always

Our Mission: To provide a Christ-centered, quality education in order to prepare our children to serve Christ.

Our 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.



Gift Cards

You can purchase gift cards from the HCS office or by ordering from the Raise Right app. Contact Mrs. King in the office for information about the cards that we have in stock or how to order by using the app. Forms listing all of the cards available can also be picked up in the office. Purchase gift cards now for Christmas gifts!

School Improvement Plan

Each year HCS administration reevaluates our School Improvement Plan to address current needs. The 2025-2026 School Improvement Plan has three goals based upon the overarching needs of our students and faculty:

1. By the end of the 2025-26 school year, 85% of students will demonstrate growth, or learning gain, and be on grade level or above as measured by the Iowa Basics standardized tests core composite.
2. Enhance the rigor and relevance of curriculum to ensure that all students have access and entry points to high level content and skills.
3. By the end of the 2025-2026 school year, all HCS students will have received discipleship and opportunities to serve our community. Our teachers will also continue to work toward building the technological skills of our students.

The kindergarten students have been applying the Bible verses they have learned to how God's Word can help them grow in their Christian walk and service as they carry out the school theme of SOAR. They have been busy preparing a Christmas caroling program to present to some shut-ins this Christmas season. They will be bringing fruit to class to make a fruit basket for the shut-ins. They are learning to share the joy of Christmas and to SOAR as they give of themselves to be a blessing to others. All of the elementary students have been working very hard to prepare their presentation of *The Bethlehem Project* for the Christmas program on Thursday, December 11. The secondary music students have also been hard at work preparing for their Christmas program on Monday, December 15. Both of the programs are scheduled to begin at 6:00. Come watch the students SOAR as they celebrate the gift of Jesus' birth.

Upcoming Events

Tuesday, December 9—Speech Screenings for K3, K4, & K5 students
Thursday, December 11—*The Bethlehem Project*, Elementary Christmas Program @ 6:00
Monday, December 15—Secondary Christmas Program 6:00
Tuesday, December 16—PTF Night Out at Panda Express on NW 25th Street (by north Dillons) 4-8
Tuesday-Thursday, December 16-18—Secondary Finals
Thursday, December 18—End of 2nd Quarter/1st Semester
Thursday, December 18—HCS Board Meeting, 7:00, in room 14
Friday, December 19—No School: Teacher Work Day
Friday, December 19– Monday, January 5—No School: Christmas Break
Monday, January 5—No School: Teacher Work Day
Tuesday, January 6—1st Day of 2nd Semester
Tuesday, January 6—Secondary Winter Retreat after 5th hour

Check upcoming issues of the newsletter, the HCS website, your elementary students' class newsletter, and the BAND app for more information on these events and on potential PSC opportunities.



These four students competed in the Washburn Math Day contest on Tuesday, November 18, and took 2nd place in their division: Cale Banker, Chace Perry, Teddy McCormick, and Logan King.

2025-2026 LUNCH PRICES:

Hot Lunch (includes milk):

PK-2nd - \$4.25

3rd-12th - \$4.50

Milk - \$ 1.00

Side Cart Items - \$1.00 or \$1.50

Side Beverages - \$2.00

Salad - \$2.00

Extra Entree- \$2.00

Extra Slice of Pizza - \$2.00

PBJ or PB only - \$2.00

Ramen Noodles - \$1.75

Set up your prepay family lunch account in the office. You will receive an email reminder to replenish your account if the balance drops below \$10.00.

2025-2026 AFTERCARE FEES:

3:30-4:00 p.m.: No Charge

4:00-5:00 p.m.: \$5.00 per family

After 5:00 p.m.: \$5.00 per child for every 5 minutes or part of a 5 minute increment

Aftercare accounts, like lunch accounts, are set up as prepay family accounts. Charges for each family for the entire week are billed out the following Tuesday or Wednesday. Payment may be made online through the Family Portal or in the school office.

December Character Trait: *Joyfulness*

Joyfulness is a good attitude, even when faced with unpleasant conditions; a state of well-being and contentment that comes from faith, inner strength, and getting one's priorities in order.

“This is the day which the Lord hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it.”

Psalm 118:24

A Thought on Joyfulness: Joy grows not from all that we receive in life but in what we are able to give to others to put a smile on their faces and in their hearts.