



HCS News

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Heritage Christian
School

Volume 29, Issue 9

December 15, 2025

Coin War

Since pennies are no longer being produced and are becoming harder to find, our traditional Penny War has been renamed Coin War. During the week of January 12–16, each class will have a collection bucket and will compete to gather the highest amount in coins while avoiding paper money, which counts against their total. Buckets will be collected at 11:00 each day, and the class with the best net total will receive 1000 points for that day. At the end of the week, 1st-3rd places will be awarded points. Coin War points are added to spirit week points to determine class rewards for elementary and secondary classes. Money raised is used to support missions, making an eternal impact. Start collecting US coins, plan your strategy, and get ready for the COIN WAR to begin!

Spirit Week

Spirit Week is coming January 20-23! Get ready for a fun-filled week of creativity, energy, and class unity as we celebrate with themed dress-up days and daily activities! Students and staff will be dressing according to the theme for each day as follows:

Tuesday: Patriotic Day (Wear your red, white, & blue.)

Wednesday: Dress to Impress Day (Look your sharpest, classiest, and most ready for success.)

Thursday: Career Day (Wear clothes appropriate for your chosen profession.)

Friday: Comfy-Cozy Day (Relax in your favorite, school-appropriate, comfy clothes.)

You can begin planning costumes now and not have to think about them at the last minute!

There will be game competitions, jump rope challenges, and all-school worship time each day, as well as other ways for each class to earn points toward special rewards. We are looking forward to a week of Christ-centered fun, so let's make this Spirit Week unforgettable!



BLESSINGS

...to you and yours, from
the faculty and staff of
Heritage Christian School.
Merry Christmas!

PTF News and Fundraiser Update



The December PTF Night Out is at the Panda Express at 801 NW 25th Street (the new one by the north Dillons) tomorrow, December 16, from 4:00-8:00. A flyer is attached to this newsletter, and extras are available on the table in the front lobby. News about the January PTF Night Out will be added to the BAND app as soon as possible. The Fund to Serve Letter Writing Campaign ended before Thanksgiving break for mailing the letters, but the donations continue to be sent in. The total that had been donated as of December 12, was \$38,794! Thank you for your support!

Reminders

The deadline to order a dedication for the 2025-2026 yearbook and receive a yearbook for a combined price of \$100.00 is Thursday. Please contact Mr. Fanning by text (620-273-9013) or email (jamesfanning@hcstopeka.org). Secondary finals are Tuesday -Thursday. The students meet their buddies for a movie tomorrow afternoon, and the Student Council Secondary Christmas party is Thursday afternoon. There is no secondary after school study hall on Thursday; all secondary students need to be picked up by 3:30.

Covering HCS in Prayer

God continues to bless HCS in countless ways, and we know prayer is one of the greatest tools and privileges we have. Each Saturday morning, from 8:00–9:00, in their homes, a group of HCS moms and grandmothers pray by name for our students and intercede for our staff and school. This dedicated time is already a powerful encouragement and spiritual support.

We would love to see this ministry grow; imagine several groups of Heritage families across Topeka, united in purpose, seeking God's protection, wisdom, and blessing over HCS every week. If God stirs your heart to join this ministry, or if you would simply like more information, please contact Melissa Pagán at 785-221-7504. Your prayers matter, and they make an eternal difference. "Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving." Colossians 4:2

Welcome back Lil Eagles!

REGISTRATION is open in the BAND app and closes on December 19 (limited to the first 25 paid girls due to game day space restrictions)! The medical and child release form (found on BAND) is required. Who: K-5th grade girls; Cost: \$25 per cheerleader Practices: Jan. 7, 14, & 21, 3:45-4:30pm, HCS gym Game schedule: 5 games

Sat. 1/10 - varsity girls, 3pm

Tues. 1/20 -junior high boys, 4:30pm

Fri. 1/23 - junior high girls, 4:30pm

Mon. 1/26- junior high girls, 4:30pm; perform cheer dance to "The God I Know"

The girls will cheer for the first half of the games and can be picked up at halftime. T-shirts are included in the registration cost!

Thanks,

Coach Toni



Calendar of Events

Secondary Christmas Program 6:00 12-15

PTF Night Out at Panda Express on NW 25th, 4:00-8:00 12-16

Secondary Finals 12-16 to 18

Baseball Preseason Meeting, 4:00, Room 7 12-17

End 2nd Quarter, 1st Semester 12-18

HCS 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

Coin War Week 1-12 to 16



Sports Calendar*

Watch for texts or emails from the coaches and check the BAND app about practices over Christmas break.

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

Tuesday, 1-13 @ Flint Hills
JH Girls: 4:30, JH Boys: 5:30, HS Girls: 6:30, HS Boys: 8:00

Friday, 1-16 @ Whitefield
JH Girls: 4:00, JH Boys 5:00, HS Girls: 6:00, HS Boys: 7:30

*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. Gift cards are great 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.

Mr. Fanning's 8/9 Bible students are analyzing a debate between two AI bots; one represents Believers and the other represents Atheists. The students will determine what each side says that is accurate and what each side says that is not accurate. One goal with this project is to determine the accuracy of an AI bot as it tries to explain Christianity. Since the Holy Spirit guides Christians into an understanding of scripture, and an AI bot therefore lacks true understanding, much of the focus will be on the bot that represents the Believer. Students are given a typed copy of a small portion of the debate; then they will listen to that portion. A group discussion of what they heard will follow. Students are encouraged to back up their statements with scripture. Some questions about what the AI bot representing the Atheist says may be assigned for students to do a deeper study and then report their conclusions to the class.

Upcoming Events

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**

Wednesday, December 17—

Baseball Preseason meeting 4:00, in
room 7

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 students were recognized for
having the character trait of
contentment: Back: Mike Mullikin,
Landon King, Cruz Perry, Ella
Seashols, Rowan Rice, Ariel Laursen;
Front: Carter Oesterreich, Gianni
Perry, Nora Drinkard, Jack Moore,
Briar McNary, Liliana Aragon.

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.**