

# Heritage Christian Schools, Inc.

## Charter of Core Values

### Purpose and Application of the Charter

The purpose of the Charter of Core Values is to specifically define the foundational characteristics that have and will continue to define the purpose and ministry of Heritage Christian Schools, Inc. (HCS). This charter is a defining and enduring document that will serve as a foundation and cornerstone with which the ongoing development of the school will be aligned.

Considering the foundational importance of the Charter, it is to be recognized and abided by with respect to all members of the school family including board members, administration, faculty, staff, students, and parents. As such it is to be agreed to before a person is placed on the board, hired as an employee, or the admission of a student is granted.

### Statement of Priority

The highest priority of HCS is that it be a Christian institution in nature, accepting the full authority of God's Word above all others in every area of operations. Accordingly, HCS will educate students in a manner that is fully integrated with Biblical truth and the principles of Christian living.

All governing, instruction and activities that are a part of HCS will fall under this charter.

### Nature of the Institution

HCS seeks to partner with Christian families and churches in providing a school where educational excellence, spiritual growth and maturity are pursued simultaneously, and where students are enabled to reach their fullest God-given capabilities. In that context HCS shall be a school where committed believers in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ can enroll their children to be taught in a like-minded Christian perspective and where educational development is integrated with the salvation message and the promotion of spiritual growth. Thus, the school is committed to students of homes in which at least one parent or guardian professes Christ, and where parents are desirous that their children attend a Christian school.

Accordingly, HCS has chosen not to be primarily evangelistic in its purpose, meaning that it does not consider as its mission and ministry to enroll non-Christian families and students with the specific intent of evangelizing them toward acceptance of the Christian faith. Additionally, HCS shall not be a facility of rehabilitation whereby parents seek to enroll their children in a Christian school environment for the purpose of addressing emerging patterns of undesirable behavior. Notwithstanding, HCS affirms the inherent call to evangelism that is foundational to the Christian faith. Therefore, HCS will teach the gospel of Christ to its students, and will cultivate the Biblical mandate of evangelism in the educational process.

In addition to its primary purpose as a Christian school HCS is committed to the United States of America, its founding documents and the protection of religious freedom in America. Therefore,

the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, the Bill of Rights, and other original documents will be respected, honored and studied as the political basis for our freedom to worship, live, educate and evangelize as we see fit.

HCS will not embrace or promote any political party or candidate. Furthermore, HCS is an independent organization that will not be placed in a position where the government can interfere in the affairs of the school. Accordingly, HCS will not accept government funds, grants or vouchers or other assistance through which acceptance would in any way compromise our ability to maintain these core values.

## **Statement of Faith**

The school's Statement of Faith defines the core Biblical doctrines and standards of the school. HCS is by choice a non-denominational school, enrolling students and hiring faculty and staff of varied Christian denominations. HCS recognizes that the responsibility for instructing students in denominational differences that are outside the Statement of Faith, resides primarily with their parents, and secondarily with their local church.

### **The Bible**

We believe the Bible to be the inspired, the only infallible, authoritative, inerrant Word of God. Since we believe that God has spoken in the Scriptures, the Bible is to be believed in all that it teaches, obeyed in all that it requires, and trusted in all that it promises (II Timothy 3:16-17; II Peter 1:20-21).

### **God**

We believe there is one God, eternally existent in three persons—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (Genesis 1:1; Deuteronomy 6:4; Matthew 28:19; John 10:30).

### **Jesus Christ**

We believe in the deity of Christ (John 10:33); His virgin birth (Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:23; 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; Hebrews 2:9); His resurrection (John 11:25; I Corinthians 15:4); His ascension to the right hand of the Father (Mark 16:19; Ephesians 1:20); and His personal return in power and glory (Acts 1:11; Revelation 19:11-13).

### **Human Condition**

We believe in the absolute necessity of regeneration by the Holy Spirit for salvation because all men have sinned and fall short of the glory of God and that men are justified on the single ground of personal faith in Jesus Christ based on his all sufficient sacrificial death for our sins. It is only by God's grace through faith alone we are saved (John 3:16-19, 5:24; Romans 3:23, 5:8, 9; Ephesians 2:8-10; Titus 3:5).

### **Life after Death**

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; I Corinthians 3:11-15; Revelation 20:11-15).

### **The Unity of Believers**

We believe in the spiritual unity of believers in our Lord Jesus Christ (Romans 8:9; I Corinthians 12:12, 13; Galatians 3:26-28).

## **Sanctity of Life**

We believe that all human life is sacred and created by God in His image. Human life is of inestimable worth in all its dimensions, including pre-born babies, the aged, the physically or mentally challenged, and every other stage or condition from conception through natural death. We are therefore called to defend, protect, and value all human life (Genesis 1:26-27; Psalms 139:13-16).

## **Gender, Human Sexuality and Marriage**

We believe that God has uniquely and immutably created us male and female. We believe, these two distinct, complementary sexes together reflect the image and nature of God, and that rejection of one's biological sex is a rejection of the image of God within that person. We affirm that God's plan and benevolent intentions for human sexuality are found exclusively within the context of marriage between one man and one woman and that intimate sexual activity is to occur exclusively within that context. We affirm the goodness of sexuality in the context of marriage, the importance of purity, fidelity, and the sacredness of marriage. (Genesis 1:26-27; Genesis 2:23-24; Matthew 19:4-5; Mark 10:6-9).

## **Christian Living**

We believe in the present ministry of the Holy Spirit by whose indwelling the Christian is enabled to live a godly life (Romans 8:13-14; I Corinthians 3:16, 6:19-20; Ephesians 4:30, 5:18).

# **Key Tenets**

## **Education Grounded in Biblical Truth**

The Bible is the authoritative Word of God, defining our faith and how it is to be put into practice in daily life. The Bible is the foundation of the educational experience at HCS and is taught on a daily basis throughout every grade level. The integration of Biblical truth is planned into the learning experience, such that students will learn how to think critically in the context of Biblical truth, how to defend their faith, and how to live a lifestyle that is in alignment with the Christian faith. Thus, all subjects must be integrated with the truth of Scripture, and not contradict the principles of God's Word. It is expected that every class will begin with prayer.

## **Defining Character Traits of Leaders, School Employees, and Maturing Students**

All board members, administration, faculty, and staff shall profess faith in Christ alone and be living a life consistent with the Christian faith. Additionally, Christian education is character-centered, where it is essential that school leaders, teachers, and employees model the character desired in the students. Accordingly, HCS looks for the following characteristics in board members, faculty and staff, and also seeks to instill the development of these character traits in the lives of our students: 1) Maturity; 2) Patience; 3) Kindness; 4) Not envious; 5) Not proud; 6) Not arrogant; 7) Not easily provoked; 8) Forgiving; 9) Self-controlled; 10) Honest; and 11) Ethical (I Corinthians 13; Galatians 5:19-25; Ephesians 4).

## **Curriculum**

All instruction will be driven by a Biblically integrated curriculum guide and supported by appropriate instructional resources. The curriculum and instructional resources at HCS are to be in agreement with school values and policies, and formatted for excellence in education in approach, content, methodology and assessment.

## **Role of Athletics, Fine Arts and Extra-Curricular Activities**

HCS affirms the role of athletics, fine arts and extra-curricular activities as important elements of a well-rounded educational experience and an avenue for further developing a Christ-like character among the student participants. With this in mind, the faculty and students participating in these events are to seek to compete and perform with excellence. However, athletics, fine arts and extra-curricular activities will not take preeminence over the foundational importance of spiritual formation and academic achievement. This shall be reflected in the school's priorities, financial resources, time and the acknowledgement of student honors. Participation in athletics, fine arts and extra-curricular activities is a privilege and subject to students first meeting established academic, behavioral and other school policies. Students will be encouraged to develop their God-given abilities to maximum potential through an emphasis on outreach, discipleship and self-discipline in and out of the classroom.

## **Lifestyle: Attire, Speech, and Behavior**

The approach to all lifestyle matters will be purposeful, in alignment with Biblical principles, and designed to complement other educational and character-building efforts. Accordingly, acceptable attire, speech and behavior for students will be based in modesty, integrity and the respect of others as well as complementing a culture of educational and spiritual excellence. Staff, faculty and students are to understand that they represent Christ and the school at all times and they are expected to dress and act accordingly. These standards also apply to all student activities including performances, athletics and other events.

## **Christian Service**

HCS shall encourage and support student involvement in volunteering their time and talents to Christian ministries and others in need.

Approved by the Board of Directors August 20, 2009

Revised January 21, 2016, October 20, 2022