



Heritage Christian School Vision Statement 2005-2012

Vision

This document is the product of the sacrificial and energetic effort of the Board, administration, faculty, parents, and friends of Heritage Christian School. The HCS leadership team spent much of 2003-05 in the development of our 7-year vision. It incorporates the doctrinal position, core beliefs, mission, and essentials which we now call:

Vision 2012 – Building a Heritage – Raising Tomorrow’s Leaders.

The adoption of this vision, alongside the founding of HCS, the independent incorporation of the school, and the various expansion phases, will prove to be one of the most significant moments in our rich heritage and history.

Heritage Christian School’s influence is felt through-out the world as our graduates daily live out the mission of Christ-centered service through contributions to their professions, higher educational institutions, churches, and larger communities.

With this great heritage to build upon, HCS seeks to move boldly into the future poised as a change agent in the world through the field of Christian education. Through further development and expansion, we aspire, through God’s help, to become and be known as an outstanding pre-school through twelfth grade Christian education institution, while retaining our Christ-centered distinctive. We envision that all students who desire to attend HCS will live in the world equipped to Defend their Faith, Excel in Future Studies, and make a profound Impact in their Community.

This vision is challenging and will require great sacrifice and unified commitment, but all things are possible through He who gives us strength and wisdom. By God’s grace, for the glory of Christ, we can achieve the deepest aspirations contained in Vision 2012 – Building a Heritage – Raising Tomorrow’s Leaders

Heritage

Heritage Christian School is profoundly grateful for God’ provisions and faithfulness. Our foundation was laid as two men met to seek the Lord’s direction in forming a Christian school in the Iowa City community – one that was built on solid biblical truths and one with a strong academic program. Birthed in prayer, HCS was launched in 1992 as thirteen families pulled together to see that Christian education became reality in the community. The first day of school, 37 students arrived at school, a former local daycare, to begin their heritage. In 1996, we were blessed when Grace Community Church allowed us to build a nine-classroom (our current) facility attached to the east side of their church.

HCS is a ministry where many miracles have taken place and lives have been changed from the inside out. Graduates have gone on to community high schools, colleges, professional employment, and are leaders in their church – each life is a testimony of God’s personal interest in transforming young minds and hearts. We cannot knit the story of HCS without acknowledging the steadfast hand of blessings from God.

Our Mission

HCS exists to provide a Christ-centered, academically challenging education, which reinforces a parent’s responsibility to raise children who love and serve Jesus Christ.

HCS is a Christian school dedicated to provide excellent, challenging academics, and an environment of physical, emotional, and spiritual education of students leading to a life that honors God. The school exists to train the mind, develop the moral character, and enrich the spiritual lives of all who come within the

sphere of its influence. HCS stands as a witness for Jesus Christ modeled by administration, faculty, parents, and students.

Through a Christ-Centered offering of academic, artistic, co-curricular, and athletic programs, HCS provides an opportunity for each student to reach his or her maximum spiritual, intellectual, social, and ethical potential. HCS stresses the highest excellence and proficiency in academic education with a goal of developing, within each student, mastery of all the basics of learning while establishing thinking and clear communication skills. Operating as a Christian community, HCS emphasizes understanding and responsiveness to the student needs and capabilities from a Christ-centered, biblical perspective. HCS serves as a training ground for the development of healthy Christian relationships across race, ethnic and gender lines.

HCS seeks to develop the whole person with the knowledge and skills to embrace a lifetime of personal fulfillment, Christian service, and contribution to society. The competencies to act ethically, to care for and serve others, and to practice Christian stewardship of human and natural resources are integrated into the fabric of all HCS programs. Programs and activities help students explore their value and role in society as well as the importance of vocation and service in their lives.

HCS, in an effort to reflect the community, strives to maintain a student body that represents social, economic, ethnic and academic diversity. Race, color, national and ethnic origin shall never be a barrier to admission at HCS.

Our Values

Personally discover God's truth to *Defend their Faith*

We believe that God is absolute truth and is the final authority in all matters of life. We believe in the complete sovereignty of God and that the word of God is the standard for all decisions. We endeavor to integrate biblical truth and the character of God into all education at HCS. We believe that each individual, being created in the image of God, is of supreme worth and is created for the purpose of glorifying God. We value individual giftedness and integrity in all relationships as we demonstrate open communication, obedience, and accountability, as well as mercy and forgiveness. We desire that each individual have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. We are committed to providing a safe, nurturing environment that will encourage spiritual growth of students and staff in their personal walk with Christ.

Develop a love for intellectual and cultural development to *Excel in Future Study*

We value excellence in education, development, and maturation of the whole person. We desire that students will love and pursue truth, recognize beauty in all its forms, live virtuously, think critically and problem solve logically, read insightfully, write incisively, speak persuasively, and be physically fit. We aspire to encourage personal growth and to provide opportunities for every student to discover and develop their unique gifts in an atmosphere of wise freedom. Students will be exceptionally equipped to pursue future higher education of their choosing, preparing them to be knowledgeable Christian participants in our nation and the world.

Impact the Community in the present and future

We believe that God ultimately holds parents responsible for the education of their children. We seek to glorify God by partnering with Christian families and churches in educating future generations through Christ-centered training, application, and example. Therefore, we believe that HCS holds a sacred trust to mold the lives of students in partnership with the home, church and Holy Spirit, all teaching the child from a Christian biblical perspective. We desire to prepare our students to be servant leaders in the world around them. This leadership emphasizes humility over intimidation, listening over pontification, modeling behavior over commanding it, and responsible citizenship. As practicing servant leaders, we desire that students be equipped with the moral strength, the spiritual discernment, and the academic integrity to impact society through responsible, effective Christian living.

‘We see tomorrow’s leaders in our hallways today’.

Essentials for Excellence

Vision 2012 identifies the priorities for Heritage Christian School for the next 7 years, building on the school's values and mission since 1992. The following eight essentials, which grow out of our institutional foundational assumptions and core convictions, provide the broad framework for the schools' direction. They describe the key areas where our resources, time and attention will be directed. While the next seven years will produce changes that enhance and improve teaching and learning, it is our desire that HCS will then, as now, be immediately recognizable as the Christ-centered institution that alumni and friends remember and cherish.

Establish a dynamic learning environment 1

Heritage Christian School (HCS) desires to maintain a learning environment that fosters academic excellence while encouraging dialogue and understanding as to how a Christian worldview interprets and affects the academic point of view. Classroom learning environments will become more stimulating through curriculum enhancements that encourage continuous learning.

Develop a top quality faculty and staff 2

HCS believes the solid Christian influence of our teachers and a firm foundation in creation-based learning is essential to the personal, spiritual, and social development of each student. We will recruit and maintain a faculty and staff representing the best of current scholarship. This faculty and staff will embrace the Christian faith in a personal manner, and exemplify the integration of faith and learning in their disciplines. HCS makes a firm commitment to invest in continuous learning and development opportunities for faculty and staff, and to develop programs which assist in retention of the best and brightest employees.

Guide all students to an enriched Christian faith through curricular, 3 co-curricular, and student life programming

HCS will emphasize the central importance of the Christian faith in all aspects of life. Questions such as "Who am I?", "How am I to live?", and "How should I best use my talents?" will be taken seriously as HCS guides students in making some of life's key decisions. To assist students in addressing such issues, chapel, worship and prayer will be hallmarks of a student's experience, and biblical precepts will be integrated into all curriculum. HCS will provide multiple opportunities, both curricular and co-curricular, for students to learn and implement their Christian faith into all aspects of life.

Enrich academic programs through utilization of the 4 most effective teaching/learning techniques and systems

HCS will enrich all academic programs by embracing and incorporating the most effective teaching techniques and resources into the daily curriculum. Technology will be embraced for its ability to enhance the effectiveness of both the teaching and learning process. All classrooms will be interconnected, and will be able to share information instantaneously. HCS will explore innovative approaches for providing education.

Build a full spectrum of fine arts, athletics, and co-curricular programs 5

HCS recognizes that in the area of fine arts, athletics, and co-curricular activities, many of life's most important lessons are learned as it relates to realized giftedness, personal commitment and challenge, and commitment to teamwork. HCS believes that a commitment towards excellence in these programs is a key component in the development of the "whole" person.

Provide outstanding learning facilities 6

HCS understands that academic excellence relies in part on superior facilities. HCS will develop and implement a comprehensive site program that addresses immediate needs in the current facility, with expansion of early education, as well as future co-curricular, and extra-curricular support. Long term, HCS envisions the building of a new elementary and junior high school with future expansion of a high school and an athletic complex.

Generate strong financial support for ongoing programs and for endowment 7

HCS will build its financial base through an expanded program of institutional advancement and development to sustain and enhance financial aid and to create excellence in academic and student life programming. HCS will build this financial base on biblical principals that glorify God. A strong base of financial support will be achieved through successful fund raising, support partners, and responsible stewardship.

Enhance the involvement of the entire HCS family 8

HCS will facilitate events and outreach programs for students, faculty, staff, and parents. HCS will develop multiple opportunities for school families to interact with faculty and staff in the total development of their child. HCS will build a school culture that provides open communication of the mission, vision, objectives and goals. HCS will reach the extended family including alumni, churches and the greater Iowa City community through effective communication, use of school facilities and events.

“Your Life today is a result of your thinking yesterday.
Your life tomorrow will be determined by what you
think today.” – John C. Maxwell

**We, as a Christ-honoring Christian institution, also have a passionate desire for excellence,
and we
have the ultimate visionary in the person of Jesus Christ.**

*Many are the plans in a man's heart,
but it is the LORD's purpose that prevails.* Proverbs 19:21

**We whole-heartedly believe that the vision which lays before you is God-inspired and we
covet your prayers and support for the exciting days which lay ahead.**