

Homewood Christian Academy
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's)

1. Curriculum Fee (How much is it and what is included?)

The Curriculum/Material Fee (Book Fee) is a \$250 nonrefundable fee that is paid annually for each child enrolled. Items covered by this fee include books and related curriculum materials, computer software site licenses, ink cartridges for printed materials, and photocopying.

2. Breakfast/Lunch Programs (What are the specifics, changes, etc.?)

Breakfast is provided each morning at 7:45am. Lunch is also available daily for purchase. Students who order lunch must pay in advance for the following week's menu unless they are eligible for free meals. The weekly order form, fee schedule, and NSLP free/reduced lunch application can be obtained in the school office. The current lunch and breakfast menus for the month are on the website. The summer program includes free breakfast (8:30 am-9am) and lunch (12-12:30) for all students, and is open to the community. Homewood Christian Academy (HCA) follows its state-reviewed wellness policy in response to USDA and Illinois legislation. Our goal is to educate our children about the importance of maintaining wellness by eating healthy foods and by participating in age-appropriate physical activities. Please review our wellness policy and join the discussion "Walking in Wellness" at the Parents and Teachers for Excellence (PTE) on September 29 at 6:30. You can pick up a copy of the wellness policy at the nutrition table or review it on our website under the Parent Corner tab.

3. Fundraiser Fee (What is it, and how does it work?)

The Fundraising Fee is payable if a family has not raised at least \$250 (for first child) or \$400 (for families with more than one child) by participating in fundraisers during the school year. Parents receive credit for the profit earned from the funds they raise for fundraising events. The credit amount is deducted from the Fundraiser Fee (either \$250 or \$400 as previously mentioned). The due date for making up any deficiencies in the fundraising fee is March , and parents will only be billed for the balance remaining after credits (fundraising profits) have been deducted or the total Fundraising Fee if no credits have been earned.

4. Morning and After Care Program (What are the times and costs?)

Extended care is available from 6:30am until 6:00pm. Bills are sent out monthly detailing the previous month's charges. Payment is due on the 10th of the month. Students who arrive at school between 7:45am and 8:15am and eat breakfast will not be charged a morning care fee. Students who arrive at or after 7:45, and before 8:20 am, and do not eat breakfast, will be charged the minimum morning care fee. Students who are enrolled in AC tutoring will be charged an additional \$5.00 along with the regular Aftercare fee. For questions about tutoring, please call Mrs. Merichko. For a current fee schedule for morning and after care rates, please visit the school office.

5. Payment Plan Options (What are they?)

HCA offers four payment options: PAYMENT IN FULL (\$250.00 discount per family if paid in August 2013), THREE (3) EQUAL PAYMENTS, CREDIT OR DEBIT CARDS, and the MONTHLY TUITION MANAGEMENT PLAN (the yearly total is divided into ten monthly payments). See the *Parent/Student Handbook* or the website for more details.

6. PTE (What is it, when do they meet, and how do parents get involved?)

Parents and Teachers for Excellence (PTE) is a school organization comprised of teachers and parent volunteers who work together to enhance the quality of learning according to Christian principles as stated in its mission statement. PTE meetings are held quarterly. Parents, guardians, and grandparents can serve as volunteers, and there are no membership fees. Parent ambassadors are the parent volunteer leaders of the PTE who work directly with classroom teachers, school administrators, staff and other parents to raise funds and provide assistance at school events. Guidelines for parent volunteers and additional information can be obtained from the school office or

at the PTE table during the Open House (Volunteer sign-up sheets will be available in each classroom during open house.). Meeting dates for the year are shown on the school calendar and will be posted on the school website on the *Parent's Corner* tab.

7. School Information (What are the school start/end dates, hours, phone numbers, address and website?)

The first day of school this year is August 24, 2015. School hours are from 8:30am to 3:00pm. Office hours are 8:15am - 3:45pm, Monday through Friday on school days, and 12:30 – 5:30pm on Parent/Teacher Conference days. School ends on May 26, 2016, for Pre-K. School ends on May 27, 2016, for Kindergarten students and 8th grade students, and on May 31, 2016, for grades 1-7. The school phone numbers are: 708-535-1524 (office), 708-535-1524 (fax). The address is: 20820 South Western Avenue, Olympia Fields, Illinois 60461. The website is: www.homewoodchristian.com.

8. School Uniforms (Are there any changes to the dress code, and what is the Uniform Exchange?)

School uniform and dress code information can be obtained from the school office, and it is also included in the *Parent/Student Handbook*. An exciting change for this year's dress code includes a new summer program uniform and an alternate uniform for warmer weather. Any changes will be updated in the manual and sent to parents as an addendum. The Uniform Exchange is a way for parents to bring uniforms (i.e., jumpers, blouses, skirts, shirts, pants, sweaters, ties, gym clothes, etc.) to the school that their child has outgrown, so that other parents may have access to them. Visit the school office for more information. The Uniform Exchange rack is located by the office.

9. Sports Program (How do students get involved?)

Although HCA does have recess and PE, HCA does not have a sports program. Students may get involved with their own park district or participate in the program offered by the Chicago Heights Church of the Nazarene located at 699 West 8th Street, Chicago Heights, Illinois 60461. The phone number is 708-481-3210, extension 8. Check the website for more information, www.Nazsports.com. HCA students who participate in that program will receive recognition at the HCA Awards Program and on their 8th grade transcripts.

10. Staff Information (Is there a listing of staff and their functions for this year?)

A staff listing will be available at the HCA table during the Open House. The staff are also identified on the website, which is in the process of being updated.

11. Student drop off/pick up (What are the arrival/dismissal times and traffic flow patterns?)

Morning Care starts at 6:30am. Students may enter the building at 8:15am, and classes start promptly at 8:30am. School dismissal is at 3:00pm, and students may be picked up between 3:00 and 3:10 pm. After Care starts at 3:10 pm and ends at 6:00pm. Students may be dropped off/picked up at the school entrance on the south side of the facility. Traffic flow patterns and additional arrival/dismissal details are in the *Parent/Student Handbook* and can be obtained from the school office.