



Hope
Christian
Academy

INFORMATION PACKET
2006-2007

A ministry of
Heart of Worship Community Church
Specializing in Individualized Curriculum &
Computer-Enhanced Learning

HOPE CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

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Welcome to the wonderful world of home schooling. We appreciate your interest in Individualized Education. God has made each of us uniquely and wonderfully different. It is His goal to develop our abilities and capabilities as a distinctive messenger of His grace. Your children are individual expressions of God's creativity, and they should be treated as such. We do not buy age-graded food or clothing for our children, and we should not expect an age-graded education to work any better.


It is my desire to encourage you to pursue and fulfill your God-given responsibility to train your children. Deuteronomy 6:7 makes training an all-day activity -- when you rise up, when you lie down, when you sit in your house, and when you walk in the way. You are God's gift to your children. He has prepared you for the task He has given you.

Home schooling is growing at a rapid rate, and many families are looking for help. We seek to provide the very highest quality in academic and spiritual materials for academic excellence in home education. There are many suppliers of curriculum. Some require bringing the classroom home. Some require significant preparation time on the part of the parent. I believe that the materials we provide are the most achievable on the market today.

Please carefully read and consider the enclosed information. Your decision should be led by the Spirit of God as well as by sound information. If you have additional questions, you may call and ask. We desire to support what God is doing.

In His Service,

Jeanie Sczublewski
Administrator



Hope Christian Academy Calendar of Events 2006-2007

2006	EVENTS
September 5	First Day of suggested 180 day school year.
November 06	End of suggested 1 st quarter – Send quarterly reports,
November 11	Veterans Day
November 23-24	Thanksgiving School holidays – HCA office closed
Dec. 25=Jan. 1	Christmas Break – HCA Offices closed
2007	
January 15	MLK Jr. Day – Suggested school holiday
January 22	End of 1 st semester & 2 nd quarter send quarterly reports
February 19	President’s Day School holiday HCA Office closed.
March 26	End of suggested 3 rd quarter send quarterly reports, etc
April 6 – 13	Spring Break
May 25	Reporting deadline for graduating 8 th graders & Srs.
May 28	Memorial Day – School holiday – HCA office closed
May 30	End of suggested 180 day school year- send reports
June 8	Possible 2006-07 Graduation Ceremony
July 4	Independence Day – HCA Office closed
August 31	Last Day work will be accepted for 2006-07 school year

HOPE CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

I have read, understand, and agree to the following:

1. I understand that as a parent I am responsible for the training of my child/children and will not hold HCA responsible for any lack of academic achievement or progress.
2. I will keep all printed tests and test answer keys in a location inaccessible to the student, and I will keep all computer curriculum test answers secure through use of my teacher/parent password.
3. All unit tests, whether paper or electronic, shall be administered by me and completed in my presence at one sitting, and all answers shall be strictly those of my student alone, unassisted by any other person or information source, other than such as may have been specifically named in test directions. (Calculators may be used when their use has been approved in the lessons.)
4. I will follow HCA directions pertaining to my student's courses, as stated in the accompanying forms, and I understand that failure to comply with HCA procedures could result in non-acceptance of my student's work and forfeiture of credits.
5. I will cooperate with HCA in establishing a reasonable deadline for completing a semester's work in each subject (normally a date 20 weeks from the day curriculum materials were shipped or 20 weeks following the preceding semester deadline)
6. Hope Christian Academy is under no obligation to give us extra time than it deems reasonable, and that no student will be allowed more than 12 months to complete work for a school year.
7. I understand that in the case of student transfer, acceptance of high school credit is always the decision of the receiving school.
8. I understand that advancement to the next grade level depends upon my student completing two semesters of curriculum units in at least four subjects.
9. I understand that only students who complete the college preparatory requirements may graduate early.
10. I understand that under no circumstances will Hope Christian Academy accept or give credit for completion of curriculum units for which fees have not been fully paid.
11. I understand that all shipments must be opened and checked immediately upon receipt, and that HCA is not responsible to replace missing items after 10 days from the invoice date.
12. I understand that high school graduates will pay a \$30.00 graduation fee.
13. I understand that all graduating seniors who have not taken a college entrance test (ACT or SAT-I) must take a HCA-approved achievement (CAT/5) test in March
14. I understand that all graduating 8th graders must take a HCA-approved achievement test (CAT/5) in March. (Achievement testing is recommended for all students at least every other year.)
15. I understand that no refunds are given for registration/enrollment fees. Tuition and course fee refunds are available up to 30 days after shipment of curriculum and are allowed on the following basis: 0-30 days – 100% refund, less unreturned curriculum materials and units graded (pro-rated), and a \$60 cancellation fee.
16. I understand that requests for withdrawal must be made in writing. Unused curriculum materials must be returned within 30 days of original shipment for credit. Items damaged in shipping or showing signs of handling will not be accepted for return or credit.
17. I agree to follow the WCA methods with all curriculum materials (LIFEPACs, SOS, etc.) as outlined in the HCA Handbook.

Father's Signature

Date

Mother's Signature

Date

Both parents must sign agreement unless a single-parent home exists.

Initial)
This is a single-parent home, and I have legal custody of my child(ren)

Why do parents home school?

Some parents believe that this is what God requires of them as parents. They believe that their children are a gift from the Lord and that He has entrusted their training to them. Some parents are looking for more time with their children. Some parents are desirous of an active investment in the training of their children. Some parents want to protect their children from the destructive anti-God, antifamily propaganda of many classrooms. Some parents are tired of being ignored and having their child treated as an assembly-line product. Some parents feel that there are no other acceptable options.

Is it legal?

It is legal in all 50 states. However, the regulations vary from state to state. In California there are no specific home school laws; instead, home schools are viewed as private schools. The state is looking for the parents to comply with one of three options:

(1) the parents may file their own private school affidavit with the state department of education; (2) the parents may choose to have a certified teacher who is teaching or tutoring the child to file the affidavit, or (3) the parents can be a part of an Independent Study Program (ISP) which files the affidavit. Consistent with government's desire to see individuals accountable, officials have said that they would prefer families to be a part of an ISP. HCA provides advantages beyond those of an ISP, in that it allows you to enroll your child in a recognized school, while you maintain complete control over your child's educational environment.

How long have parents been home schooling?

There are really two answers to that question. There is the historical fact that parents have always taught their children at home the skills necessary for life. As Reformation Christianity understood and promoted the need to read the Bible, academics grew in significance on a broad base. Accordingly, in colonial America the church buildings became school houses each Monday morning in order to assist parents in training their children to read and write. Nevertheless, parents and the home were non-negotiable and integral parts of the educational process. Even through the Revolutionary War, most children got their basic education at home. While the 1800's saw an increase in public school attendance, the vast majority attended private schools into the early 1900's. By the 1950's, with the consolidated school movement, parents were actively cut out of the process. They were informed that they did not have the skills necessary and should leave education to the trained professionals. Sadly, most parents accepted this pre-Reformation concept (trained professionals were the guardians of truth) which had been rejected 400 years earlier.

The second answer involves the modern home school movement which began in the late 1960's and early 1970's. It was promoted originally by those concerned about the educational issues, not the religious ones. Even at that point in time, the educational decline was evident. There were riots on campus, declining SAT scores, and a general spirit of rebellion. That decline has now continued for over 30 years. By the mid-1970's the religious segment of the movement was introduced into the mix through the efforts of Raymond Moore. It grew slowly at first, but in the last few years the number of home school families has increased dramatically.

Some estimate that there are over two million families home schooling. There is a growing number of students who have been home schooled their entire education. Additionally, there is an expanding pool of second generation home schoolers. Home school graduates are actively participating in the financial, professional, and political life of their communities.

HOW MUCH DOES IT COST?

We understand that our financial responsibilities are as follows and agree to pay on this basis: **Tuition Fees**

Kindergarten Tuition (LIFEPAC/ Horizons only)	\$500 Yearly	*\$265.00 per semester
Full Year, Full-time LIFEPAC	\$700 Yearly	*\$365.00 per semester
Full Year, Full-time SOS	1,100 Yearly	*\$565.00 per semester
Full Year, Per Subject LIFEPAC	\$175 Yearly	**\$90.00 per semester
Full Year, Per Subject SOS	\$275 Yearly	**\$140.00 per semester
Semester, Per Subject LIFEPAC	\$87.50 Yearly	Semester classes must be paid in full for current semester
Semester, Per Subject SOS	\$137.50 Yearly	

***Full time tuition paid by semester includes a \$15.00 per semester service fee.**
****Per subject tuition paid by semester includes a \$2.50 per subject service fee**
Per semester.

Electives are charged at the per subject fees listed above.

Full time students are required to take the four core academic subject: Language Arts, Math, History/Geography, and Science.

Part-time students may register for 1-3 subjects. High school diplomas are not issued to part-time students.

Bible	\$50
History	\$50
Language Arts	\$75
Science	\$75
Math	\$100

1. Complete year's curriculum, from the best individualized Christian curriculum products available (in print or on computer), in four or more academic subjects. (Additional elective subjects are available to students who have shown ability to handle an above-average work load.)
2. School Handbook with clear directions for success with HCA curriculum materials.
3. Diagnostic/placement testing upon enrollment.
4. Achievement testing each school year at a discounted price. (Students should test at least every other year. Testing is mandatory for eighth grade students and for seniors who do not take a college entrance test.)
5. Requesting records from previous school.
6. Professionally prepared and permanently maintained student records. (We rely on faithful daily attendance records and quarterly reporting by parents in order to create accurate school records.)
7. Home study record keeping helps packet.
8. Forms and necessary materials to assist parents in motivating individualized learning.
9. Qualified Christian teachers to help with on-line teacher-supported courses
10. Counseling and academic planning for high school graduation. (Students will not be allowed to graduate early -- before 17 years and 9 months of age -- unless they complete a college preparatory course of study.)
11. High school identification number and registration forms for taking college entrance exams.
12. A diploma of graduation upon completion of all requirements. (A June graduation service is provided in Fresno, California, for students who complete requirements in time.)
13. Telephone consultations for any academic, procedural, or record-keeping questions.
14. Test answer feedback for high school students
15. A legal umbrella of protection as a recognized distance learning institution. (But we still recommend that each family join the Home School Legal Defense Association.)
16. California work permits for students who are in good standing and academically on-schedule.

Can I do it?

Yes! Absolutely. There is an ample supply of evidence which demonstrates that moms are uniquely gifted to "scaffold" the learning of their children. This means that they are able to develop the necessary increasing complexity for their child's learning. These studies also show that as the biologically relational bonds decrease, so does the ability. Although these studies are about early childhood training, many of the relevant factors are the same.

No one knows your child like you do. No one loves your child like you do. No one is more concerned about your child than you are. No one has a better understanding of his or her future than you do. That means that no one has the concern, the knowledge, or the drive to provide for your child like you do.

You need to get past the myth of certification/credentialing. You or your friends may know of credentialed teachers who are incompetent. Credentialing or certification only means that you took the class; it does not mean that you can do the job. Generally, children want to learn. Generally, parents are good at freeing them to do so.

(As a side note: We do not believe that there is a public school in California that will teach Biblical character and values to your child. Therefore, be careful about public school "independent study" programs. The home school attorneys say that this is a "hostile contact.")

How much time will it take?

The short answer is, "The rest of your life." But I am sure that you were asking me to break that down on a daily basis. That, on the other hand, requires the long answer. Education needs to be divided into at least three broad categories. The most important of these is spiritual truth. This would include the area of character and values.

The second area is that of life skills. As parents, we need to be preparing our children to function in the world. This would include a wide variety of issues; work experience, political involvement, libraries, hospitals, doctors, cooking, shopping, banking, people relationships, etc.

The last area is academics. According to the Bible, and if we look at the world around us, we see that knowledge and academics are no guarantee of success. Success is usually a byproduct of a characterized life. Academics is the least significant and yet the most emphasized area in the educational process.

So, how long will it take? The academics will take 2 to 4 hours a day in the early grades. They will take 4 to 6 hours a day in the later grades. The "rise up, lie down, sit in your house, and walk in the way" time will fill the rest of your day.

Is socialization a problem?

Of course it is; we are dealing with human beings. However, to intelligently discuss socialization it is important to define it. In general we have uncritically adopted the idea that it is relating to one's peers. In light of the prevailing development of gangs and gang violence, it seems reasonable to challenge this notion. There should not be a big argument with the observation that gang members are not well socialized. But, if we accept the above definition, they are. Those who write critically on this issue refer to this as "peer dependence."

As an alternative, let us offer that socialization is maturity. It is learning how to responsibly interact and conduct oneself in an adult world. The product will be responsible independence. Now, with that definition, socialization will never be accomplished through peer interaction. No child will ever teach another child how to be an adult. No child will model how to be an adult. Adults are abdicating their responsibility when they contend that socialization is accomplished by other children.

Although this is an area that has limited research, the studies that are available have concluded that home school students are better socialized than classroom students. Some of these studies have even involved Christian school students in order to remove the religious content as a variable in the results. By controlling the definition you will control the conclusions. Socialization -- good socialization -- is a home school strength.

Do graduates have a problem getting into college?

As with any method of education, it depends on the graduate. There are home school graduates at over 200 different institutions as listed by HSLDA. Some colleges are actively recruiting home school graduates. Many of our graduates have already taken college level classes through the community colleges before gaining their high school diplomas. With adequate SAT-I scores and a track record of success, they do not have a problem.

What kinds of materials are available?

One could easily be overwhelmed by the variety and diversity of materials available to home school parents. These materials can be classified according to the educational methods employed. Most common are text books and work books. There is the unit study approach and the learning through literature approach. Two other methods are the classical and principle approach to learning. Each approach has its benefits, and there are suppliers for all of these. The simplest method uses the work books of programmed learning. We encourage new home schoolers to start with these. Families with multiple children will find this method the most workable.

My child has special needs. Is home schooling wise?

Again we answer, yes, you can do this. Dr. Duvall, a public school psychologist, recently did a study of home school learning-disabled (LD) students and classroom LD students. The results showed that the home school students did better.

As a part of the study they tried to determine the reasons for the results. Since public schools had more money and a higher level of teacher training, these could not be the reasons for home school students doing better. They also determined that the methods employed in both settings were fairly similar and could not be the reasons for the difference. What they found was that in the home school setting the child received a greater amount of one-on-one time, and there was more on-task time. Other studies have shown that either of these two factors will increase the academic results. Mom, Dad, you can do that.

There are also organizations like NATHAN that can assist you with the challenge of a special child. God knew what He was doing. He doesn't make mistakes. We all walk through the trials of life. You are able for the task that God has put before you.

What kind of support is available?

This is a question to be answered at several levels. On the legal front there is the Home School Legal Defense Association (HSLDA), which we encourage families to join. In this same vein there is Roy Hanson of Family Protection Ministries here in California. We believe it is good to support his work. He tracks legislation that has potential impact on home school families. Christian Home Educators Association (CHEA) of California is the largest statewide organization to support home schoolers. They operate curriculum conventions and local support groups. They also publish a bi-monthly newsletter for members called the Parent Educator. An excellent monthly publication is called The Teaching Home. Another whole facet is a national research center in Oregon. There are many additional publications and organizations that support, defend, train and otherwise help home school families.

Are there difficulties that I can expect?

Anytime you are dealing with people there will be problems. The biggest problem is probably not being understood by relatives. This is best handled if home schooling is a convictional issue. As with any decision, there must be agreement between Mom and Dad. They should understand the reasons for their decision and the goals that they desire to reach. Because education is a discipline, it works best in a structured and disciplined environment. You should have a plan and follow it. This will help with the possible difficulty of the child feeling as though this is not really "school." However, you must believe it first. Schooling doesn't just happen. There are a lot of routes to a good education but all of them require consistency and a diligent effort. Of course that opens the door to the difficulty of being too hard on yourself. You cannot provide everything that it is possible to provide. There are limits on both time and money. However, you can provide what God has gifted you to provide and you can believe God that it is enough.

Maybe in this area there is the difficulty of getting beyond our stereotype of education. Home schooling offers greater freedom and diversity than is possible in a classroom setting. With a little creativity and a sense of expectancy, there are educational opportunities all around us. The difficulty will be in deciding which ones to take advantage of. Remember that home schooling does not have to be at home all the time.

How do I get started?

Pray! Even if you feel as though there are no other options, you need the sense that this is God's will for you. Remember, there are no free lunches. There will be costs in terms of both time and money. Next, Mom and Dad, you need to be in agreement. This is something that you must be doing together, even if Mom is doing most of the hands-on work. Dad, you must be interested and a source of encouragement to both your wife and your children. God has placed you in a position of leadership.

The next decision is in regard to legal structures. Are you going to file your own California private school affidavit with the Department of Education, or are you going to enroll in an ISP or in a distance-learning school like Hope Christian Academy? Other states require other methods. While these decisions are being made, it is good to be doing your homework in regard to curriculum and method. Those decisions will help you structure your school day. It is wise to make a commitment to furthering your academic and educational abilities. Modeling these commitments will be invaluable to your children.

What advantages does Hope Christian Academy offer?

With HCA you get "the best of both worlds." You get to maintain control over your child's environment and schedule, while his academic progress is guided by a recognized school. Beside helping you avoid academic pitfalls, being part of a school like HCA tends to make your child's education much more portable if you ever have to place him back in a campus-based school. A HCA high school diploma also improves his chances of getting into the college of his choice, and of gaining certain scholarships.

What do I do next?

Contact Hope Christian Academy for a complete Enrollment Packet. Let us answer your questions and help you with diagnostic testing and placement, and curriculum decision

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