



HEARTWOOD CHRISTIAN ACADEMY



Established 1997
“Empowering Homeschooling Families to Raise Godly Leaders”

a ministry of Oak Park Church



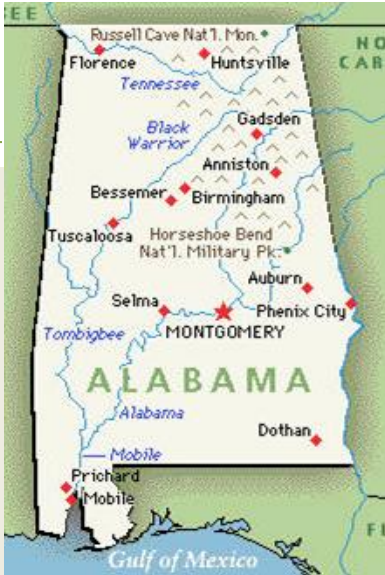
Just what is homeschooling?



- In the purest sense of the term, “Homeschooling” is the choice of a family to take sole responsibility for the education of their child(ren).
- In the early days of the homeschooling movement, parents assumed the total teaching responsibility - all the subjects, all the extra-curricular activities, etc.



Who can legally homeschool in Alabama?



ACCORDING TO ALABAMA STATE LAW 2014 :

- **OPTION 1: ATTEND A CHURCH SCHOOL**
- OPTION 2: ATTEND A PRIVATE SCHOOL
- OPTION 3: INSTRUCTION BY A PRIVATE TUTOR

HSLDA
Advocates for Homeschooling

Home Schooling in the United States: A Legal Analysis 2014-2015 Edition

As a ministry of a church, this home school group falls under Option 1.

Current Trends in Homeschool



The movement has changed in recent years. Many homeschooling parents/guardians are now the “general contractors” of the child’s education.

Today there is a vast diversity of formatting of home education:

- ✦ Home education, solely
- ✦ Combination of in-home education with support from co-op groups, private tutors, community classes, etc.



HISTORY



- Heartwood Christian Academy was founded in 1997 as the “homeschool division” of a traditional campus church school.
- Heartwood Christian Academy is now a ministry of Oak Park Church.
- Over the years, the mission of Heartwood Christian Academy has not wavered in its commitment to helping parents/guardians, as teachers.

MOTTO and MISSION STATEMENT



MOTTO

Empowering Home-Educating Families To Raise Godly Leaders

The choice to homeschool is a highly individualized decision that is between God and His people.

MISSION STATEMENT

As a school, we are committed

- to providing a full service, Christian homeschool program at an affordable cost to students of Alabama, particularly Mobile County, and nearby Mississippi counties.
- to helping parents, as teachers, in building a strong biblical, spiritual, moral, ethical, and academic foundation in their children.
- to encouraging parent-teachers in their goal to develop discerning citizens and leaders.

What is our educational philosophy?



- Lord Jesus Christ - preeminent in all of life, including education. This simple, but comprehensive, principle should underlie every aspect of our academic study, each activity, and all of our school life.
- Children mature at different levels. They should be encouraged to work at their own pace as they progress toward annual goals set by their parents.
- Children are precious gifts from God. They have been given inherent abilities and dreams that need to be nurtured and motivated under the guidance of their parents.

Parents, under God, have the ultimate authority and control over their child and his/her education.

“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge...” Proverbs 1:7

What do we offer the parents?



- Personalized support and counseling to aid in the success of homeschooling:
 - Choosing of appropriate curriculum . . .
 - Maintaining of school records . . .
 - Documenting for high school credit . . .
 - As an overall readily available resource.
- Assignment to small groups with a designated team leader
- Specific group meetings offer support to the new family, clarification of high school credits, etc.
- Regular updates (Electronic) of HCA activities
- S.A.L.T. - *Sharing Asking Learning Teaching* – informal meetings for parents/guardians
“You are the salt of the earth;” Matthew 5:13 NKJV

Are there any requirements for the home educator?



- Attendance at August orientation:

This meeting provides HCA calendar events, co-op updates, club information, teaching resources, and much more.



- Documentation of homeschooling for each enrolled student:

Although these regularly scheduled meetings are to document the academic records, it is a special time when team leader and individual family gather for encouragement and friendship. Academic records (attendance report, report card, reading and math reports, creative writing sample, and review of teacher lesson plans) are submitted to the assigned team leader.

- Membership in Home School Legal Defense Association (HSLDA):

*Our families are members of **HSLDA**, the Home School Legal Defense Association, a nonprofit advocacy organization established to defend and advance the constitutional right of parents to direct the education of their children and to protect family freedoms.*

We offer beneficial tools for the home educator.



Let's Go Learn DORA, ADAM, and DOMA are K-12th grades diagnostic online assessments in reading and math skills for the benefit of the family. Many parent / guardian teachers use the results to improve their student achievement.
<http://www.letsgolearn.com/mathematic>



Grades 3, 5, 8 standardized achievement tests: The standardized tests are another helpful tool for the home teacher and are administered in the spring of the school year in a group setting.

ASVAB Career Exploration test for grades 10-12, *optional*: Although this is an optional test, many of our students take the ASVAB to guide them or confirm their career choice. It is free!
<http://www.asvabprogram.com/>



ACT score for graduation: Individual colleges and universities have minimum standards for entrance. Because of this requirement, we set ACT standards for our graduates. However, if a student fails to meet this standard, we work with the family for other options for the high school diploma.

What do we offer for the home school student?



- Age-appropriate activities

- Elementary
- Middle
- High school
 - Student Council Association (SCA)
 - Spring formal/ banquet
 - Diploma
 - Full graduation ceremony



- Co-op classes: sciences, art, languages...



- Clubs: (change with volunteer leadership)

Past and/or current clubs include mountain biking, bowling, junior rockhounds...



- Yearbook: Student project with volunteer supervision

- School T-shirts: Provide identification in the community and are worn for school activities.



- School IDs

Our program is run with many volunteers.



- Advisory Board: Oak Park Church liaison, community members, and enrolled homeschool parents.
- Sponsors/Advisors
 - Elementary
 - Middle
 - High school
 - Student Council Association
 - Clubs
- Webmaster for public website: <https://heartwoodchristianacademy.com>
- Webmaster for private site: <https://praisechristianschool20102011.shutterfly.com/>

Our students become HEARTWOOD* of their communities!



Hope
Excellence
Academic
Responsible
Teamwork
Worthwhile
Options
Opportunities
Developmental

*The inner, darker section of the tree trunk is the heartwood, which is formed from old, "retired" sapwood and becomes the strong spine of the tree.

For the experienced woodworker, heartwood is the preferred section for woodworking. Many furniture woodworkers actually remove the bark and sapwood and then use only heartwood for their projects. The most beautiful furniture is made of the best component of the tree – the heartwood.

We want our student to become the HEARTWOOD of their society.



Questions?



- Administrator: *Bonita L. Harris*

251-599-2849 or harrisb.hca@gmail.com

Master's Degree in Education. Experienced in public, Christian school, homeschool education; homeschool administrator (18+ years); children's ministry director (20 years).

- Assistant Administrator: *Terina Mounce*

251-333-0036 or Mouncet.hca@gmail.com

13 years of successful homeschooling with two graduates (daughter and son).

Para-professional classroom experience (Haysville, Kansas): autistic, ADD, ADHD children; individualized tutoring; co-op classroom teaching.

- Bookkeeper: *Ed Harris*

heartwoodchristianacademy@gmail.com

How would an interested family enroll with HCA?



- Schedule a “Meet-and-Greet” interview with the home school personnel.
Administrator: *Bonita L. Harris* 251-599-2849 or bonitaharris@centurylink.net
Assistant Administrator: *Terina Mounce* mouncet@chbss.org
- Complete enrollment forms and paperwork.
- Complete benchmark assessment upon enrollment.



More Questions?



Find more answers at <https://heartwoodchristianacademy.com>.