Athletic Handbook

HEARTLAND

Christian School



Educating Lives for Eternity
Est. 1995

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The Crusader Way

The Crusader Way is a set of values based on the vision of the Heartland Christian School founders. This vision, characterized by a central focus on Christ, wrapped in academics, wrapped in extracurricular, is the foundation for The Crusader Way.

A Crusader…

Embraces God's Truth

Strives for Excellence

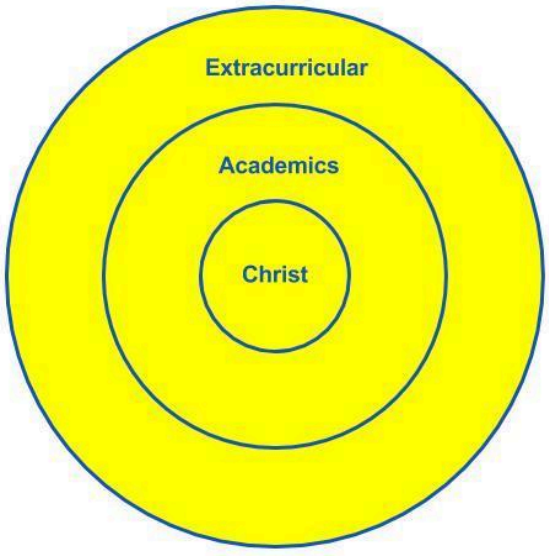
Demonstrates Leadership

Values Scholarship

Exhibits Christ-like Character

Actively Pursues Service

The Crusader Way Model



I. Introduction to Handbook

PURPOSE OF THE HANDBOOK

The Athletic Handbook was developed to answer many of the commonly asked questions that parents and students may have during the school year. Because the handbook contains information about student rights and responsibilities, parents and students are responsible for knowing its contents. Please take the time to become familiar with the following information – it is available anytime from Heartland Christian School's website (hcscolby.org) and Facebook page (www.facebook.com/hcscolby). This handbook is a valuable reference during the school year, as it provides clarity when questions arise.

The school reserves the right to interpret the content of this handbook, including the rules and regulations governing the academic and nonacademic conduct of students. This handbook is not a contract, nor is it intended to be so construed. Our school reserves the right to modify and/or amend the content of this handbook at any time during the year. If any written modification or amendment is made to this handbook, it will be made available to parents and students.

If you have any questions about the handbook or any of its policies, please contact our Administrator.

VISION STATEMENT

The primary goal of Heartland Christian School is to train students spiritually. It is our desire to be the extension of the Biblical and educational training begun in a Christian home.

MISSION STATEMENT

Heartland's mission is to fulfill our vision by encouraging its students to reach their highest spiritual, intellectual, social, cultural, and physical potential. We seek to present the truth about God, life and the world.

MEMBERSHIP

Heartland Christian School is approved for operation by the Kansas State Department of Education and is a member of the Association of Christian Schools International.

ACCREDITATION

The state of Kansas does not require private schools to be accredited. Heartland Christian School has chosen not to seek accreditation from the state because we desire the freedom to make operational decisions for the school regarding class subjects, context, textbooks, and time allotments independent of state mandate.
Accreditation of a Christian school is not necessary for a graduate who wishes to enroll in a college or university. The basic criteria for college admission are student aptitude and achievement as determined through national standardized test. The instructional program of Heartland Christian School is designed and implemented to allow our graduates to stand on their own academic achievements and merit.

LETTER TO PARENTS AND STUDENTS

Dear Parents and Students,

Welcome to Heartland Christian School. Since its inception in 1995, Heartland Christian School has sought to offer its students and families a safe, supportive, and caring Christian institution devoted to the classic educational curriculum.

As parents, we understand that you have been given a tremendous opportunity and privilege by God. It is humbling to consider that He has given us the responsibility of raising up the next generation of Christian leaders. It is our desire to be an institution that supports you in this wonderful challenge.

We also want our students to understand our commitment to them. As an educational institution, we pledge to provide you with the necessary competencies to compete in today's world. In addition to that educational content, we will provide you with a foundational Christian world-view through which you may come to understand that "all truth is God's truth" and there is nothing which does not fall under the Lordship of Christ.

I trust that this handbook will answer the questions, which you may have about our school. In it you will find most of the information you will need to have the best possible experience while here at Heartland Christian School.

If we can be of service to you in any way, please do not hesitate to contact the school and we will seek to provide you with the assistance necessary.

Serving Christ in Christian Education,

Heartland Christian School Administration

WHAT WE BELIEVE

Biblical Education

There are many good reasons for enrolling your child in a Christian school. However, the reason that is above all others is that God requires parents to educate their children according to His principles. Note God's instructions…

Deuteronomy 6:6-7 – "And these words which I command you this day shall be in your heart, you shall teach them diligently to your children, speaking of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise up."
Proverbs 22:6 – "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it."
Ephesians 6:4 – "And, fathers, do not provoke your children to anger; but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord."
Colossians 2:8 – "Be careful that no one spoils your faith through intellectualism or high sounding nonsense, guided by human tradition, following material ways of looking at things, instead of following Christ."
Jeremiah 10:2 – "Thus says the Lord, 'Learn not the way of the heathen.'"
Proverbs 19:27 – "Cease listening, my son, to discipline, and you will stray from the words of knowledge."

Statement of Faith

1. We believe in one God, eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
2. We believe that Jesus Christ was begotten by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, and is true God and true Man.
3. We believe in the Scriptures of Old and New Testaments as verbally inspired by God and inerrant in the original writings; and they are of supreme and final authority in faith and life.
4. We believe man was created in the image of God; that he sinned, and thereby incurred not only physical death, but also spiritual death which is separation from God; and that all human beings are born in sin and that this sinful nature is the origin of all sinful acts in thought, word and deed.
5. We believe the Lord Jesus Christ died for our sins, according to the Scriptures, as a representative and substitutionary sacrifice and that all who believe in Him are justified on the basis of His shed blood.
6. We believe that all who receive by faith the Lord Jesus Christ are born again of the Holy Spirit, and thereby become children of God.
7. We believe in the bodily resurrection of Christ and His ascension to Heaven, and His present work as high Priest and advocate.
8. We believe in the personal return of Jesus Christ.
9. We believe in the bodily resurrection of the just to everlasting blessedness, and the unjust to everlasting punishment.

School Unity

Even though a variety of denominations are represented among our staff and school families, God has blessed Heartland Christian School with much unity. We are exhorted in Ephesians 4 to walk worthy of the position that we have in Christ, “endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.”

Our goal is to keep Jesus Christ at the center of everything we do. God continues to bless our school because of this goal. We do not compromise on the central message of God’s Word and fully support our published “Statement of Faith.” We want to teach interdenominationally and thus we are aware that as a group of believers some differences in beliefs exist. It is important for parents to realize that when denominational issues are raised at school, our teachers are instructed to refer the students to their parents or pastor for discussion and guidance. Therefore, we covenant with all faiths, not to teach (or allow those who teach under our invitation) any material that could cause us to differ on points not covered in our doctrinal statement. Those topics are: communion, baptism, eschatology, tongues, security of salvation and healings. By keeping our focus on Jesus Christ, we “major” on the central message of God’s Word. Our prayer is that each plan made and each lesson taught will be done in such a way that the Lord Jesus Christ receives all of the glory and honor.

Philosophy of Heartland Christian School

The real difference between a Christian school and the public school is philosophy. While the public school is based on a **man-centered philosophy**, Heartland Christian School holds a **God-centered philosophy** of education, one that is based upon the Word of God. The primary objective and purpose of the school is to train students in the way of life presented in the scriptures while giving them a quality education.

Our educational philosophy is based on a Christian worldview that comes from the truths found in the infallible, inerrant, and inspired Word of God. We recognize the Bible to be authoritative, reliable, and the final source of truth. Colossians 1:16 declares, “All things were

created by Him and for Him; He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together." Therefore, true education must begin and end with God.

Education can most effectively be accomplished in an environment that recognizes that all truth is God's truth. We emphasize this fact and stress the development of an eternal perspective of life. We strive to provide an environment in which the individual student can mature spiritually as well as achieve academic excellence. Pupils are directed not only in the acquisition of knowledge and skills, but also in the pursuit of worthy interests, ideas, and attitudes essential for Christian maturity. We want to develop the complete individual spiritually, mentally, physically, and socially (Luke 2:52)

The academic program, through the traditional approach, emphasizes the progressive understanding of the fundamental blocks necessary for high achievement in the program of studies. Emphasis is placed upon the acquisition of facts and concepts in the areas of study, leading to the development and exercise of the powers of reasoning. Realizing the difference in innate ability, we encourage and expect students to do their best. We believe the traditional system of education educates the mind, builds character, and teaches the value of living under a free enterprise system of government.

We believe that the heart of character training is obedience (deciding to do right), which will eventually cultivate inner self-discipline and is essential to the emotional, physical, social, and spiritual well-being of the student. The teacher is the authority in the classroom. To obey, to do right, and to always measure one's attitudes against scriptural principles are goals we strive to instill in students to equip them for carrying out God's plan for their lives.

Scripture clearly teaches that parents are responsible for their children's education and discipline. **The school is not a substitute for the home, but is an extension of it, and operates as one means through which parents fulfill the responsibility the Lord has given them.** We believe that our nation, homes, and schools are strengthened when our educational process points the young to Jesus Christ and teaches character and patriotism along with faith in God.

Spiritual Emphasis

- The Bible is presented to students as the only, inspired Word, which is the final authority for all truth and knowledge. *(John 17:17)*
- Students are taught what the Bible says in content and are encouraged to study it so that they are open minded and affected by it. *(Joshua 1:8, James 1:22-25, 2 Timothy 3:16-17)*
- Students are taught their need for Christ and are encouraged to accept Him as their personal Savior. *(Ephesians 2:8-9, John 1:12, Romans 3:23, 2 Timothy 3:16-17)*
- Students are given encouragement and direction from God's Word to help them develop a deep commitment to walk with Christ throughout their lives. *(Deuteronomy 6:5, Psalm 119:9-16, 105)*
- Students are taught to pray and are encouraged to practice it in personal devotion time and when with a group in school. *(1 Thessalonians 5:16-17, 1 John 1:9, James 5:16)*
- The place of the local church and personal commitment to it are emphasized. However, no recognition of denominations or denominational issues should be presented, only according to the doctrinal statement. *(1 Corinthians 12:12, Hebrews 10:24-25)*
- Students are shown how to live as Christians in this present world, being in the world, not of the world. Doing justice, loving mercy and walking humbly are presented as life-long objectives for each student. *(Titus 2:11-12, Micah 6:8)*
- Students are taught to accept the Great Commission and to be witnesses for Christ both at home and abroad. *(Matthew 28:19-20)*

- Parents are expected to accept their responsibility to their children in providing a Christian home and responsible life style congruent with Biblical principles. *(Deuteronomy 2:6, Psalm 119:11, Ephesians 6:4)*

Academic Emphasis

- Students are guided to develop a Christian mind, which enables them to see all of life and learning from a Biblical viewpoint. *(Colossians 3:17, Psalm 24:1, Proverbs 1:7)*
- Students are encouraged to develop their full academic potential. *(Colossians 3:23, Proverbs 4:5-8, Proverbs 3:13, 1 Corinthians 15:58)*
- Students are taught the skills required for meaningful witness, service, and participation in society, including reading, writing, speaking, listening and using mathematics. *(2 Timothy 2:15)*
- Students are taught good study habits. *(2 Timothy 2:15, Proverbs 4:7, 1 Thessalonians 4:11, Colossians 3:17)*
- Students are encouraged to develop creative and critical thinking in order to be able to make mature Christ-like decisions. *(Proverbs 3:21-22, Hebrews 5:14)*
- Students are taught to work independently and cooperatively. *(Matthew 25:14-30)*

Social Emphasis

- Students are taught to understand and accept themselves because they are created in the image of God. *(Genesis 1:27, 5:12, 2 Corinthians 5:17-18, Romans 12:12, Colossians 3:23)*
- Students are taught the importance of treating all others with love and respect because they also are made in the image of God. *(Ephesians 4:29, 32, Ephesians 5:12, Romans 13:10, Philippians 2:2-4, Romans 15:7)*
- Students are taught about our American Heritage and the current problems facing our world; and are encouraged to participate in civic responsibilities. *(Romans 13:16, Titus 3:1-2, 1 Peter 2:13-17)*
- Students are shown the Biblical concepts of the family to be used when establishing their home in the future. *(Ephesians 5:22, Colossians 3:18-21, 1 Peter 3:1-7)*

Cultural Emphasis

- Students are encouraged to develop an appreciation for and participation in man's God-given capacity for creativeness as expressed in the fine arts. *(Genesis 1:27, Colossians 3:17)*
- Students are taught to understand and appreciate cultural patterns different from their own in order to increase their effectiveness in communicating the gospel. *(Acts 1:8, Galatians 5:13, Romans 14)*
- Students are taught to evaluate all cultural patterns on the basis of scripture, understanding what is in direct contradiction to God's Word and what is not. *(Galatians 5:13, Acts 5:29)*

Physical Emphasis

- Students are given the opportunity to develop and maintain a level of physical fitness through a variety of skills and games relevant to their individual level of competence. *(Isaiah 40:28-31)*
- The physical education program is structured so that each child can become competent in management of the body and can develop useful physical skills. *(Proverbs 31:17-25, Zechariah 8:9, 11, 2 Timothy 1:7)*

- Students are taught how God has created their bodies to provide movement and the importance of keeping fit. *(Psalm 139:14, Colossians 2:18-19)*
- Through physical education the students are encouraged to seek participation in and derive enjoyment from wholesome recreation during their leisure time. *(Psalm 139:14, Colossians 2:18-19)*

SCHOOL HISTORY

Two farmers leaned against the tailgates of their pickups and talked of the coming school year when their children would enter those magic years. They wished they had the choice to send their kids to a Christian school. But, you see this is Northwest Kansas. The population is sparse. How could there be a Christian school in Northwest Kansas? Would there ever be enough families committed to Christian education to make it work? They talked to a few more guys and a committee was formed to pursue the idea. After much prayer and seeking the Lord's will, a meeting was announced in February of 1995. This meeting would give the committee an idea of how much interest was actually out there, and if they should pursue this idea at all. To their amazement, 17 families were represented at the first meeting. The answer was definitely a "YES." Yes, there were enough families committed to Christian education in Northwest Kansas to have a Christian School education choice.

By the summer of 1995, there were three teachers and 28 students on board. The Mingo Bible Church building was suitable for classroom space, a lunchroom, parent meetings, and school programs. The generosity of that congregation allowed for an agreement to use their facilities. Heartland Christian School (a 501 © (3) organization) officially began September of 1995.

By 1996 there were nearly 60 students enrolled and the church building was outgrown. We had to have one class in the basement of a nearby home. Something had to be done. We were able to purchase three modular classroom buildings from the Colby Public Schools. The modulars were moved to Mingo by tractors in February of 1997. Two modulars were classrooms and one was an office/classroom. By 1998 it was apparent that Heartland Christian School needed the leadership of a full-time administrator. God graciously provided. The Board also began to pray about a permanent location for the school. On June 4, 1999, an anonymous gift of $250,000 was given to the school. It was then decided that the gift would be earmarked for a permanent location for Heartland. After months of research and prayer, a bid of $120,000 was made on the old Colby Plaza, an abandoned 78,000 square foot shopping center and 7 acres of land on West Highway 24 in Colby which was in bankruptcy. This property had last sold for $800,000! The bid was rejected. After more prayer and believing firmly that they were following God's lead, in June of 2001 the board resubmitted a bid of $125,000 which was miraculously accepted. That means each square foot of the initial HCS building cost $1.61. However, the work was just beginning. One generous day, a former electrician felt led to take a sabbatical year from his current job as a spray pilot to give his time and attention fully to the renovation project. Another dad with a construction business brought in his construction crew and worked between his other jobs. Between these two men and numerous other volunteers, remodeling was completed and HCS began its first day of school at its new site in Colby on August 27, 2002. What a delight to see 56 children walking through the doors on their first day of school! New families were added during the school year, and by the second semester there were 61 students enrolled at Heartland Christian School

The 2003-2004 school years brought another exciting change as a high school program began with the addition of ninth grade. Another high school grade was added each new school year until the high school program was complete. As of September 2003, 68 students were enrolled from preschool through ninth grade. Another exciting addition this school year was the newly formed basketball program. One of the board members became the acting athletic director and volleyball was added to the HCS athletic program the fall of 2004.

The school continues to reach out to Christian families of all denominations and emphasize the teaching of biblical truths to all facets of life to this day.

ADVANCEMENT ACTIVITIES

One of the ways to get involved and participate at Heartland Christian School is to volunteer or attend our Heartland family events throughout the year. If you would like more information on volunteering or any of our activities, please contact our Administrator, at 785-460-6419, or visit our website at www.hcscolby.org.

Event Highlights for the Each School Year

- School-wide campout
- Golf Tournament
- Fall/Spring BBQs
- Annual Homecoming Chili Cook-Off and Volleyball Tournament
- Teacher Appreciation Week

II. Extracurricular and Athletic Activities

PHILOSOPHY

1 Corinthians 10:31, "…whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God."

The extracurricular and athletic programs of Heartland Christian School are an integral part of our Christian education program. Our primary goal is to uphold the reputation of Jesus Christ. We want to provide quality extracurricular and athletic programs in a Christian atmosphere.

General Goals

- To reflect Jesus Christ in all areas of participation. (Colossians 3:17)
- To present one's abilities to the Lord as if He were the only spectator. (Romans 12:1-2)
- To assist each individual in achieving his/her maximum potential in the development of a strong, healthy body and an alert mind.
- To place the great emphasis upon instilling the "will to win" rather than a "win at any cost" concept.
- To display good sportsmanship and conduct in winning or losing.
- To have a well-rounded program in which every student will have an opportunity to participate.
- To keep the fun in athletics.
- To have fellowship with other schools.
- To teach students how to mutually respect one another's gifts, abilities and talents.
- To prepare students for adult life by teaching and instilling discipline, responsibility and character.
- To always maintain team unity by developing a responsibility to the team and the role and value of each member to the overall success and accomplishment of the team.

ATHLETICS

At Heartland Christian School, athletics are designed to play a vital role in the development of one's physical body, character, and spiritual nature. It is hoped that as many students as possible will be involved with a team. As a Christian school, it is hoped that our students will set a higher standard in behavior, dress, competition and attitude. We are being watched by the community. They want to see if there is anything different in the way we act and in the way we play. We belong to Jesus Christ; thus, we are commanded to be His ambassadors and to do all things in His name.

This applies to "fans in the stands" as well. Let your parents know they are being watched, also. Colby wants to see how the fans will react to bad officiating or poor sportsmanship by a player on the other team. We hope and expect that all spectators would fully support the athletic philosophy of Heartland Christian School. Therefore, we trust that they will always respond in an encouraging, supportive way, which will bring glory to God rather than hinder the cause of Christ. We must guard against anything that would bring disparagement upon the name of Christ. Our adversary would do anything to cause the name of Christ to be brought under criticism. We desire to show forth Christ to the community through us.

ATHLETIC FEE

The athletic fee for each student who desires to participate in the sports program at Heartland Christian School is $125 per student, per sport. All fees must be paid in full before uniforms will be issued. If you are unable to pay the fee prior to receiving your uniform, please talk to the office. This

fee helps cover the cost of team uniforms, gym rental, catastrophic insurance, league and tournament entry fees. ***It does not cover the cost of transportation to away games.***

PHYSICALS

Each player must have a physical examination on record in the school office before he/she will be permitted to participate in practices and/or games.

PRACTICE AND PARTICIPATION

Each coach will provide information concerning the particular procedures for his/her sport. Games and practices will be on a scheduled basis allowing for continuity in training and family arrangements.

Commitment is of utmost importance, especially in the area of team practices. Therefore, each player is required to attend **ALL** practices and games.

An athlete will not be able to participate in any practice or game if he/she is absent from school the last half of the school day of the event. With the exception of a scheduled appointment.

TRAVEL TO EVENTS

The school office personnel will organize transportation to and from games/events. All players will be organized in vehicles by the office or coaches. If space permits, other students may ride with the team on a first come, first serve basis. Throughout the year, Heartland Christian School utilizes city transportation, parent, staff, and coach drivers to transport students to games/events.

We are so fortunate to have parents who wish to be active in the academic and athletic success of our students. Many times, when we transport our students to activities, it is not necessary for us to utilize a large bus or city transportation; therefore, parents, staff, or coaches are asked to use their personal vehicles. Our first concern with transportation at Heartland Christian School is the safety of the students and the drivers. Therefore, in compliance with school policy and insurance recommendations, volunteers and staff who transport students must be on the Heartland Approved Drivers list.

Students will be assigned seating while traveling to games. Boys and girls will be separated by front and back of the vehicles (if boys and girls must travel together). Students must turn in cell phones to their coach before traveling to the games/events. Cell phones will be handed back out to students when we are close to home to let parents know how much time until they arrive at Heartland.

Students may return home from the trip by other means if written or verbal permission by a parent/guardian is given in advance to the athletic director, coach, and/or driver of the trip. For unusual circumstances, the administrator or athletic director must approve any exception. Under no circumstances should a student be given permission to drive another student.

ELIGIBILITY

Extracurricular and athletic activities are considered an integral part of our curriculum. However, participation must never pre-empt or detract from the total learning experience. Each student must

give priority to Godly attitudes and living rather than to mere physical achievement. We see in Psalm 147:10-11 that physical achievement has little significance to the Lord. “He takes pleasure in those that fear Him, who put their hope in His unfailing love.” Therefore, if a student demonstrates through attitude or behavior any noncompliance with the extracurricular and athletic philosophy or school code of conduct, he/she can be declared ineligible for a specified time.

Students must have passing grades in all subjects and a “C” average overall to be eligible for athletics. If a student’s academic performance falls below these standards, he/she will be declared ineligible from games/events for a period of one week. Grades must be submitted at the end of each school week to determine eligibility for the following week. Ineligibility starts on the following Monday and runs through the following Sunday. Those dates will be listed on the school schedule. The first week of ineligibility will result in removal from games/event. The second week of ineligibility will result in removal from games and practices for one week. Three weeks of ineligibility, whether consecutive or not, during the course of a full sports season will result in the athlete/student being removed from the team for the rest of the season. (Eligibility will start after a three-week grace period at the beginning of each semester.)

FOOD

The distance of most away games/events is too great to go without food until the players return home. Therefore, proper arrangements will be made in advance of such games and parents will be notified as to how to make provisions for a meal for their son or daughter. If a stop at a fast-food restaurant is planned, parents may overrule that decision and send along a sack lunch at their own discretion.

DRESS

Our desire is to look sharp in order to be a proper reflection of the Lord. Male players will wear a dress shirt, dress pants, and dress shoes. Female players will wear a dress, skirt and blouse, or dress slack and blouse. Players are to wear the attire above unless the coach assigns a different dress for that particular game day. All dress must be in line with the student handbook dress code.

The above regulations will be adhered to on the day of a game/event while at school and in route to the game/event. Casual dress may be worn after the game/event on the trip home.

Practice Dress

No half shirts will be allowed and shirts must have a sleeve. The short length must be no shorter than 5 inches above the top of the knee. No undergarments can be showing.

AWARDS

HEARTland Award

Athlete who best exemplifies Christ with his actions, conduct, and attitude in games and practices and in his daily life. This athlete is the team’s representative for this award. It includes performance, but their relationship with the Lord and their living for the Lord is the primary consideration.

Most Inspirational

Presented to the player whose attitude, hard work, enthusiasm and encouragement, caused other players to want to do a good job. This is a player that has positive attitude and did everything he/she could to be an encouragement and help to his/her teammates.

Character Award

Given at the coach's discretion to the athlete or athletes that have displayed specific character qualities throughout the season. This will include qualities such as dependability, initiative, endurance, humility, diligence, joyfulness, etc.

**This handbook does not and cannot define all types and aspects of student behavior; however, administration has the responsibility to set forth general policies, rules, and regulations to help each student function well at Heartland Christian School. In addition, teachers and coaches within the classroom or particular activity may establish additional rules that are consistent with those established by administration.

**Copies of this policy shall be provided to all Heartland Christian School employees, volunteers, students, and parents.