

New Hope Christian Academy Admissions Packet

A Classical and Christian School



Welcome

Thank you for your interest in New Hope Christian Academy (NHCA), Saline County's only independent Pre-K - 12 classical and Christian school.

NHCA is committed to the time-tested classical model of education, which produces students who love to learn, and who think clearly, write persuasively, and speak precisely. A distinctly Christian worldview is integrated into our entire student experience, which includes academics, arts, and service. Our aim is to graduate students who have a deep understanding of their world: the ability to discern truth, beauty, and goodness; and the ability to think, learn, and influence the world for the glory of God.

NHCA was founded in 2012 in Harrisburg, Illinois. Today, close to 100 students are enrolled at our campus housed within the First Church of God, Harrisburg. Our staff consists of Christian men and women who love their students and the teaching vocation. NHCA provides our students with an engaging atmosphere in which to think, study, master, and achieve.

We invite you to review the enclosed materials and to visit our website at www.nhcalions.org for more details. To schedule a tour of our campus, visit www.calendly.com/nhca/tour or call the school at 618-205-6707. We would be happy to arrange classroom visits and answer any questions you may have.

When ready to submit your admissions packet, please visit www.calendly.com/nhca/enroll or call the school at 618-205-6707 to schedule a brief admissions meeting. Again, thank you for your interest in New Hope Christian Academy. We pray that God will lead you and your children to our school, where you will discover the truly unique results of a classical Christian education.

Sincerely,

Greg Hoffman
NHCA Principal and Board Member

A Classical Approach

At New Hope Christian Academy (NHCA) students not only learn content but pursue the heart of learning itself: the art of thinking. NHCA draws on the wisdom of the medieval trivium, teaching students in three developmentally appropriate stages: in Grammar (Pre-K - 2nd), students are learning to use language well to speak to the world; in Logic (3rd - 7th), when students are predisposed to question existing structures, they think deeply and reason carefully to discern the interrelationship of facts within a discipline and among disciplines; finally, in Rhetoric (8th - 12th), when students want to engage with the world around them, they synthesize what is gained in the first two stages to formulate, articulate, and defend their positions in speech and writing. A NHCA education is designed to meet students' deepest intellectual desires at each developmental stage.

Our academic program draws from the rich heritage of the Western liberal arts tradition. In literature classes, students study the "great books" that have inspired thinkers in every age. History classes are organized chronologically so students develop a deep understanding of how each age proceeds from and is a response to the last. Scientific principles are uncovered through hands-on experimentation, and the study of mathematics lays the foundation for the logical thought process. Students learn both classical and modern languages, communicating with worlds past and present, near and far, and students' lives are enriched with a deep appreciation for the fine arts.

At the heart of a NHCA education is understanding motivated by delight and wonder. NHCA inspires students to delight in the world around them and experience wonder at the beauty and diversity of creation. At NHCA the demands of a classical education are carefully balanced with each student's spiritual and emotional well-being. The quest for knowledge never outshines the call to live in Christian community, building one another up rather than degrading one another through excessive competition or meaningless work. While we maintain rigorous academic standards for our students, learning is above all regarded as a gift from God that inspires awe and appreciation for the world we seek to understand.

A Biblical (Christian) Approach

Education is never neutral. It involves the sharing of life principles and values. At NHCA the understanding of God as Creator is the foundation of our study as we seek to illustrate the story of God's interaction with humankind through the study of history, literature, and the fine arts. Education is the equipping of our students to love God with all their minds (Matthew 22:37), to ask questions, and to fearlessly explore the various areas of knowledge from the conviction that all truth is ultimately God's truth (Psalm 24:1).

As a part of our commitment to the formation of a whole person, we value the spiritual growth of our students. Every aspect of NHCA is based on Scripture. A quality education is offered in an atmosphere where Jesus Christ and His Word are an intimate and inseparable part of each school day. We aim to guide the affections of our students toward loving God and loving the things that God loves.

NHCA's educational mission is rooted in the principles of historical Christianity and has been carefully crafted to emphasize the unity all Christians share in the essentials of our faith while respecting the diversity in faith and practice in matters considered non-essentials. We believe in God almighty, maker of heaven and earth. Therefore, we approach all truth as edifying for those who believe in God, and we strive to understand every aspect of the world as part of God's creation. We believe creation - including human thought and culture - is good, yet fallen from its proper relation to God. Therefore, we approach the best of human culture as an expression of creation yearning to be reunited to God, and we recognize that our own understanding of God and creation is limited.

We believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, God's only Son, one in being with the Father, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. We believe God acted decisively in history through Jesus, who suffered, died, was buried, and on the third day rose again, ascended to heaven, and who with the Father will come to judge humankind. We believe through Jesus Christ, God reconciled the world to himself by granting the remission of sin, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Therefore, the story of God's saving work in history and promised consummation is essential to our understanding of the world. We believe God continues to work in history through his Holy Spirit to restore the image of God in us. Therefore we trust in God's indwelling presence to empower us to discern truth, excellence, and beauty, and to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly before God.

We believe Holy Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness. In response to the goodness and grace of the Triune God made manifest in creation, Christ, and the Holy Spirit, we develop our minds and our hearts that we may be good stewards of God's creation and faithful bearers of Christ's image in love and service to one another.

The Admissions Path

The admissions team looks at all of the information presented below to make a decision as to whether NHCA will be a good fit for all parties involved.

First Steps

- Complete an Application for Admission - <https://nhcalions.org/apply/>
- Submit a Parent/Guardian Information Form - <https://forms.gle/WxUeQbEcL19XFSsD9>
- Read the Parent and Student Handbook - <https://tinyurl.com/tkk2trf>

School Records

- Complete a Release of Records Form, if applicable - <https://tinyurl.com/rkogon8>
- Pre-K, Kindergarten and First Grade students will be required to complete a school readiness assessment.
 - Pre-K applicants must be 3 years old by September 1 of the year for which they are applying. Kindergarten applicants must be 5 years old by September 1 of the year for which they are applying. Kindergarten applicants must be able to care for their restroom needs independently.
- First - Seventh Grade:
 - Copies of current/most recent report card as well as previous school records (report cards and standardized test scores from the last two years), and any educational or diagnostic testing.
 - If applicable, disciplinary records should be included as well.
- Eighth - Twelfth Grade:
 - Copies of current/most recent report card as well as previous school records (report cards and standardized test scores from the last two years), a transcript, and any educational or diagnostic testing.
 - If applicable, disciplinary records should be included as well.
- Homeschool applicants will be required to complete a placement test.

Personal Records

- Birth Certificate
 - A copy of a student's birth certificate is required at the time of enrollment. This document will be kept permanently in the student's cumulative folder for the duration of his/her education at NHCA.
- Medical Forms
 - Physical, Immunization, Eye, and Dental Forms
 - A copy of the applicant's most current immunization record is required. Immunization records must include month, day and year of each shot, and the healthcare provider's signature or stamp.
- A copy of any special testing reports (physical and/or psychiatric).
- If a student has been assigned an Individualized Education Plan, parents must submit plan.
- If a student is on any type of medication, parents must supply name and dosage information.
- With any custodial arrangements, the most recent copy of all court documents regarding custody and educational decisions that are signed by a judge and notarized must be submitted.

Family Interview

- Once the admissions packet is returned, the parents will be contacted to schedule a Family Interview appointment with the admissions team. The admissions team consists of the principal and at least one other faculty member. The principal will make the final admissions decision.
- The Family Interview is an opportunity for convictional compatibility discussions as well as a Q&A opportunity. If testing was required, scores will be reviewed during the interview.
- Though not required to be Christians, the parents of students in NHCA should have a clear understanding of the Biblical convictions and purpose of NHCA. This understanding includes a willingness to have their child exposed to the clear teaching of the school's doctrinal statements in various and frequent ways within the school's programs. The parents should be willing to cooperate with all the written policies of

NHCA. This is most important in the area of discipline and schoolwork standards, as well as active communication with the respective teacher(s) and administration.

Final Steps

- A student file is complete when it has an application for admission, all requested student records and documents, a documented family interview, signed parent contract and paid book fee.
- Complete an Automated Payment Processing Form - <https://tinyurl.com/tmoukcd>
- The annual book fee for Pre-K is \$150 per student. The annual book fee for K-12th grade is \$200 per student. Fee is refundable if application is denied unless books have already been purchased.
- All families must sign a parent contract for an enrollment to be finalized. By signing the parent contract a parent is pledging to uphold the doctrinal statement of NHCA and actively support the school's administration, faculty, and policies.
- You will be notified of the result of your application within two weeks of receipt of all required materials.
- The school address is P.O. Box 296, Harrisburg, IL 62946. Forms may also be scanned and emailed to hello@nhcalions.org. Please address any questions regarding the admissions process to the principal by calling 618-205-6707.

Parent and Student Handbook Agreement

My child and I have read and understood the New Hope Christian Academy Parent and Student Handbook posted at www.nhcalions.org (<https://tinyurl.com/tkk2trf>).

My child and I will uphold all rules, regulations, and guidelines in the Handbook. I agree to the tuition payment plan due on the first of each month from August through the month of June. If there is ever a concern, I will contact the school immediately.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Classroom Honor Agreement

I will strive to observe and follow the tenets of behavior and expectations of NHCA, on-campus and off-campus, in-person, through social media and every other form of communication and relationship. I will:

- **Be Ready to Learn**
 - I will be in my seat prepared to learn at 8:00AM every school day. I will do my very best to obey those in authority over me. I will honor the additional classroom specific rules that my teacher feels are in accordance with Christian principles from Scripture. I will not lie, cheat, or steal.

- **Respect People**
 - My relationship with myself and others will be based on the principles of Christ's love. I will work purposefully to develop and remain in good relational standing with my parents, fellow students, teachers, coaches, mentors, and others while showing care and concern in my speech and actions. I will speak truthfully, honestly, and will conduct myself in a manner worthy to be followed. I will respect the beliefs and opinions of others and will not seek to degrade or bully. When disagreements arise with others or if I become alienated from others, I will seek restoration and right standing.
 - I will refrain from being disrespectful, selfish, irresponsible, demanding, discourteous, irreverent, hurtful, or destructive with my physical body or my attitude toward fellow students, teachers, staff members, and/or visitors.
 - I will only touch others in the safe zone area (top of the arm to fingertip). I will never cause physical harm to another student, teacher, and/or staff member.

- **Respect Property**
 - I will value the development, use, and maintenance of all property and possessions.

- **Preserve and protect the intention, environment, and culture of NHCA**
 - Collaboration, personal investment, and ownership lead to personal growth. Spiritual, emotional, intellectual, and physical growth are cornerstones of the intention, environment, and culture of NHCA.
 - I will learn to accept all school policies with a positive attitude. I will at all times refrain from the use of profanity, offensive slang, vulgarity, foolish jesting and complaining.

I agree to diligently uphold this Classroom Honor Agreement for the full twelve months of the year, at school, at school activities, and outside of school.

Student _____ Date _____

Father/Guardian _____ Mother/Guardian _____

Dining Room Expectations

To maintain order and keep noise to an acceptable level during meal times NHCA has simple dining room expectations that we expect every student to follow. These simple expectations are posted in the dining room and are reviewed at every meal time. The Dining Room Expectations are as follows:

When I am in the Dining Room for breakfast, lunch or snack, I will:

- Have Fun and Be Kind
- Use Good Manners
 - I will say "Please", "Thank You", and "Excuse me."
 - I know that good manners make kind friends.
- Use My Inside Voice
 - I will speak softly in line and at the table.
 - I know the last five minutes of each meal time is quiet time.
- Stay in My Seat
 - I will wait nicely in line and walk to my table.
 - I will raise my hand when help is needed.
- Clean My Seat and Table
 - I will pick up all food and rubbish before leaving the dining room.
 - I know a clean area is more fun.

I have read these dining room expectations with my parents.

Student _____ Date _____

Father/Guardian _____ Mother/Guardian _____

Family Questionnaire

Thank you for applying to New Hope Christian Academy. We can't wait to meet you! This questionnaire does not assure final enrollment, but provides information upon which a decision will be based. The questionnaire is in addition to the online application at our website. Some questions are not applicable for kindergarten students.

Part One | Student Information

Student's Name (First, Middle, Last): _____

Age: _____

Sex: _____

Birthdate: _____

Grade Level for Upcoming Term: _____

School Last Attended: _____

Has student ever had disciplinary difficulty in school?: _____

If yes, please describe: _____

Has student ever been expelled, suspended, or refused admission to another school?: _____

If yes, please describe: _____

(Continued on next page)

Does your child receive special services from his/her school? (tutoring, etc.): _____

If yes, please describe: _____

List special interests or hobbies of the student: _____

Are there any unusual factors in the child's life? (absence of father or mother, unusual accidents, serious illness, etc.): _____

Does your child regularly receive medication?: _____

Type and reason: _____

Does your child make friends readily?: _____

Are you satisfied with the education of your child at this point in time?: _____

If not, in what areas do you desire improvement: _____

(Continued on next page)

What are your child's weaknesses?: _____

What are your child's strengths?: _____

How do you gauge your child as a student? (Circle One)

Excellent Good Average Fair Poor Slow

What, in your opinion, motivated your child to learn?: _____

What forms of discipline have you found effective with your child?: _____

What character trait of your child do you value the greatest?: _____

What contributions does your child make to his/her family?: _____

(Continued on next page)

Part Two | Parent Information

Are you applying for admission of all your children of school age: _____

If no, please explain: _____

List special interests or hobbies you do together as a family: _____

What practices do you follow that provide spiritual strength for your family?: _____

How much time per day does your child spend with electronics (TV, iPad)?: _____

How did you become interested in New Hope Christian Academy?: _____

State briefly why you want your child(ren) to attend this school?: _____

In your opinion, what is a classical Christian school?: _____

(Continued on next page)

I hereby affirm that all of the information contained in this questionnaire is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge.

Parent / Guardian Signature

Date

Authorization to Administer Medication

Children's medication should be administered at home. Only those medications, whether prescription or non-prescription, that are absolutely needed during school hours shall be administered at school and only if the following conditions are met:

- We must have written instructions signed by BOTH the parent/guardian and, if a prescription, the prescribing physician. The parent/guardian must complete and sign below. The physician may sign below, submit another form, or email instructions to the school (hello@nhcalions.org).
- If prescription medication, the medicine to be given must be brought to the school by a parent/guardian in a container appropriately labeled by the pharmacy or physician. If the physician changes the dose, we must have a new, correctly labeled container. If non-prescription medication, the medicine to be given must be brought to the school by a parent/guardian in a container appropriately labeled by the parent/guardian.
- The parent/guardian must assume the responsibility for keeping track of when additional medication will be needed.
- This medication sheet will be valid until the end of the school year. A new medication form must be signed each new school year.
- All medication must be picked up by the parent/guardian at the end of the school year or the medication will be disposed of.

Authorization to Administer Medication Form

Please complete all information below:

Child's Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Name of Medication: _____

Dosage to be given: _____ Time of Administration: _____

Diagnosis: _____ Termination Date: _____

Common Side Effects: _____

***Ashtma - Child is able to self administer inhaler: _____

(MD signature required for child to administer inhaler at school.)

MD Name (Please Print):

MD Signature

Address

Telephone Number

Email (*optional*)

I hereby request that my child be administered the above listed medication by school personnel, and I waive any claims I might have against New Hope Christian Academy (NHCA), it's employees and agents arising out of the administration of said medications. I understand that the designated staff who administers these meds to my child in accordance with these written instructions shall not be held liable for damages as a result of adverse reaction to administering the medication.

I also give permission for medical release to administration, school nurse, and/or staff in obtaining and/or releasing information on the above student in regards to behavioral progression and/or medication issues when deemed necessary.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Electronic Communications Release Form

I hereby grant permission to New Hope Christian Academy to post photographs and/or videos of my children (*listed below*) taken during class times and/or school events on any form of social media, the school website, and in communications related to the mission of New Hope Christian Academy.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Child's Name(s): _____

I hereby grant permission to New Hope Christian Academy to email me for any school related item (for example, tuition statements, activity statements, general school announcements) at the following email address:

Email Address

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Emergency Medical Release Form

I, _____, being the parent/guardian of _____, give my consent for emergency medical treatment of this minor by a licensed physician should his/her condition so require it in my absence. I understand that in such a case reasonable attempts would first be made to contact me, with time and condition permitting. As long as the medical treatment is considered necessary in the situation and is in accordance with generally accepted standards or medical practice for the particular type of injury or illness involved, I impose no specific limitations or prohibitions regarding treatment other than those that follow:

My child is allergic to these medications: _____

Parent Contact Information

Parent Name(s): _____

Home Address: _____

Cell Phone

Work Phone

Other Emergency Contact Information

Name: _____

Home Address: _____

Cell Phone

Work Phone

I understand children play and do sometimes get hurt by tripping, falling off play equipment and other various activities. I will not hold New Hope Christian Academy responsible for medical attention needed in such circumstances. I will provide New Hope Christian Academy a copy of current medical card/insurance, hospital coverage, and doctor information.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date