



ACCREDITATION PROCESS

Christian Heritage Academy is accredited by the Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI) and that accreditation is recognized by Oklahoma's State Department of Education. Accreditation is renewed on a 5-year cycle, and 2015 is the end of CHA's current cycle.

The first step in the renewal process is the preparation of a self-study, which takes an in-depth look at our school in ten areas, including facilities, academics, financial practices, school governance, etc. The second step is an onsite visit by an accreditation team comprised of experienced, professional colleagues who are able to evaluate the school's effectiveness, make judgments, and prepare commendations and recommendations which will assist the school in its quest for excellence.

CHA's team was made up of men and women from Christian schools in Oklahoma, Kansas, and Arkansas. The purpose of the team visit is to verify the accuracy of the school's self-study. The chairperson and team confirm that the school is meeting all of the ACSI standards and, then, they prepare a written report which is presented to the accreditation Commission.

The team was very complimentary regarding what they observed that God is doing at CHA. For each of the ten ACSI accreditation standards, the team writes commendations (identifying outstanding strengths) and recommendations (identifying specific areas for improvement). The team then identifies those commendations and recommendations that they consider to stand out from the rest and designates those as "Major Commendations" and "Major Recommendations" which are included here.

MAJOR COMMENDATIONS

The visiting team commends the school for the following:

1. A philosophy statement which consistently applies as an integrative, coordinating, and examining device throughout all aspects of the programs, operations, and curriculum.
2. Developing the Master Teacher Program, including financial incentives for master teachers, which builds teachers into expertly qualified educators.
3. The development of the Discovery program to help address and assist students with different learning needs at every grade level.
4. Providing weekly professional development directed at improving student learning, professional growth and personal research.
5. Exceeding the requirement on background checks and providing Ministry Safe training for all employees.
6. Establishing a three-year training program for new teachers to help train them in effective teaching methods and the philosophy of the school.
7. Developing written assessments of Bible and English knowledge as a graduation requirement.
8. Development of facilities and grounds in the last five years.

MAJOR RECOMMENDATIONS

The team recommends that the school for the following:

1. Complete and implement the long-term strategic plan, which includes three to five-year goals in the areas of home-school-community partnerships, curriculum, instruction, finances, and technology.
2. Investigate a plan for term limits for Board members.
3. Review and develop formal hiring policies and procedures for faculty.
4. Develop a program for training new athletic personnel in the philosophy and practices of the school.



PURPOSE OF THE SURVEY

Grace Works Ministries is an organization committed to lead meaningful and necessary change in Christian child-training venues. One of their most helpful services is to conduct a survey measuring how satisfied constituents are with the quality of their school and how likely they are to refer other families to their school.

In the fall of 2014, Christian Heritage Academy hired Grace Works to conduct that survey within the CHA family, including current students, alumni, alumni parents, and current parents. The survey was completed by 343 individuals.

Both the satisfaction and the referral rate for CHA is in the top 28% of over 500 Christian schools across the country that have taken the same survey. The top three strengths and the top three growth areas as revealed by the survey are listed below.

SCHOOL STRENGTHS

1. Education that is developing Christian leaders.
2. Administration that provides leadership and addresses parental concerns.
3. Teachers who are Christian role models.

We are thankful that our constituents recognize the areas of our school that we have been working on and that the Lord has been blessing. Our teachers are wonderful and they are, indeed, the strength of the school and the ones who influence the lives of our students. Jesus stated clearly that “everyone when he is fully trained will be like his teacher” (*Luke 6:40*).

GROWTH AREAS

1. Review hiring practices to ensure the employment of academically competent and qualified teachers.
2. Examine discipline procedures to ensure that standards of behavior are enforced consistently.
3. Improve the quality of communications with parents, particularly in athletics.

These growth areas are consistent with what the ACSI Accreditation Team concluded in their report. We are in the process of improving our interviewing/hiring practices and taking a close look at ourselves to see where we need to be more consistent with students and more intentional in our communications with parents. We thank the Lord for bringing these to our attention and giving us the opportunity to improve our school.