



Dear Parents or Guardians,

July 3, 2025

"Through education, we cultivate the mindset that sees challenges as invitations to grow, allowing us to triumph over even the most formidable obstacles" – Robert Johnson. I am amazed at the success of our students. We have witnessed the middle schoolers whose MAP (Measures of Academic Progress) have soared and our students SAT and ACT scores are unbelievable. As I type this letter we are anxiously awaiting our AP test scores which are released next week. These data points allow us to hold up a mirror to evaluate our teachers, our instruction and the students.

I am hoping this letter serves as an informational piece and guide before we start school.

ORIENTATION:-

All 6th graders are encouraged to attend orientation from 5-7 pm on August 7th. It will be held at Heritage Academy and dress code is school related casual clothing.

Parent Orientation will be Aug 11th at 5:00 pm at HHICC (Hilton Head Island Community Church) at 860 William Hilton Parkway on Hilton Head. **All** parents should attend. What a great way to meet other parents as well. At this meeting, we will begin to develop our parent association for 25-26. It will last one hour.

ATHLETICS:

Students have the opportunity to play at their public high school for sports that we don't offer. This year we are offering Boys Golf, Sporting Clays, swim team and sailing. Please complete the appropriate paperwork for SCISA if you are participating in a Heritage Academy sports team. If you plan to play for the public high school please reach out to our Athletic Director, Jalen Whitlow, at Jalen.Whitlow@heritagehhi.com to secure the additional paperwork that must be completed.

COMMON QUESTIONS THIS SUMMER:

1. What is the uniform or dress code? Students are expected to dress in a way that will not distract their peers nor the process of learning. Students may not wear pajamas, slippers, beach attire, hats or hoodies on their head. Students need to be presentable and if in question, I (Amanda ONan) will address the student and give an opportunity to change clothes. Flip flops are discouraged due to the fact our steps can get wet and slippery.

2. Where do we park if we drive to school? You can parking in our parking lot but spaces are limited. You may also park across the street in Charlie's parking lot. Be careful crossing the street. Stay off phones while walking to school. Students may also park in Nunzio's parking lot.
3. Rumor has it that school is starting earlier? Yes, we are beginning first block at 7:30 am. Instruction and delivery is crucial and we use about 10 min for morning announcements which takes away ten min from teaching time. Over a week, we lose 50 min of instructional time so we are beginning at 7:30 am to gain that time to teach.
4. How can my student stay hydrated? Last year we offered free water bottles to all students to the tune of just over \$5000 as a budget item. And the last two days of school we found 52 water bottles over half of the water left behind or thrown in the trash...very wasteful. So, we have a rising senior who has started his own business and providing us a vending machine of various beverages (Water and healthy options) for students to purchase. We are not making any money off of his new business adventure. We just want to support his entrepreneurial spirit.
5. When do we eat lunch and where? We have heard many concerns about the lack of healthy food options. So, we have spent a lot of time looking into lunch options. We are serving (via outside catering company) that serves hot and cold meals each day for \$6.75. For example, there will be grilled chicken wraps and vegetables as side items. Lunch will be served in room 102 as soon as 3rd block ends. If students just want snack items like chips or processed food, they can use the vending machine. Students can bring food items and consume in class as they get hungry without being disruptive to the teaching and learning.
6. Where do I find information quickly when I need it? Check out our Facebook page or Instagram page (@heritageacademy). I try to duplicate what I put on Facebook and IG so you only have to check one place. Also, you can check out the web page but that is fluid. And you can text me at 843-707-6455.
7. What if I want to change my classes? You can do so, without penalty up through the 5th day of instruction which is through Aug 15th.
8. Do I need to pay for a parking spot? No, parking is a privilege so please be mindful when driving in the parking lot. Avoid distractions such as loud music and when exiting be mindful bikers on the sidewalk are blind to drivers pulling out.
9. Can I play on a sports team? Yes, of course. You will need to refer to this letter (attachments) and complete the athletic forms which includes a sports physical. Each year the forms need to be completed even if you did it last year. You also need to know it is a Pay to Play concept. For example, to be on the swim team it is \$250 and needs to be paid before the first swim meet. Golf is \$500. The sporting clay team is more expensive and will be determined at a later time. Sailing is also paid to the SC Yacht Club. Prices are apt to change slightly based on enrollment for team. Playing is a privilege. Please see above portion of the letter about the new ability to play at the public schools.
10. Where can I get spirit wear or merchandise? See please this link prior to Aug 1st.
<https://heritageacademyathleticsgear.itemorder.com/shop/home/>
(<https://heritageacademyathleticsgear.itemorder.com/shop/home/>)

CLUBS

I plan to have a variety of clubs to benefit student's interest. If we do not have a club for your student, please let me know. I am open to all ideas. But keep in mind if we have a "democratic club" than we will need a "republican club". We seek balance. Clubs that we intend to offer:

Student Govt-by application and selection process only

Ambassadors-By application and appointment only

Interact

Chess Club

Yearbook

4-H

National Honor Society-By invitation only

Skateboarding Club

Clubs will meet at various times, depending on the advisor's schedule.

If your student is interested in running for student government for 25-26, they need to complete an application. I have attached it in this letter and it is due to Mrs McGuire by Aug 15th. There will only be two representatives per grade level chosen.

(If your student would like to apply to be an ambassador, please have them submit attached application and return to me prior to Aug 1st. Ambassadors that are selected will have their first meeting Aug 8th at 1:30 pm for an hour.)

SCHOOL SUPPLIES:

Students will provide their own laptop with Microsoft Office. They will not have direct access to print materials from their personal device so any printing can be emailed to a faculty or printed outside the school. Students will bring their paper, pencils/pens and any assigned textbooks. Students are not issued lockers so all valuable items that are not needed for class should be locked in their homes or vehicles. We are not responsible for any stolen or missing items.

Some teachers may ask students to bring in a composition book, sketch book, a set of highlighters, etc. If that is the case, that will be outlined by that teacher on the first day of school.

SCHOOL SAFETY:

Safety is paramount and comes in many ways: Emotional safety, Physical safety, Internet Safety, etc. It is our priority to keep all aspects of your student safe. I thought I would share a few measures in place.

1. Keep in mind great teaching eliminates behavior problems. Therefore, a trusting climate eliminates problems among the staff and/or students. Building that culture is not a quick process nor easily done. Having little turn over in the faculty is a great thing as we build a uniform sense and climate that focuses on school safety.
2. Details matter. Greeting at the door seems like a greeting but it is a screening. When a teacher or staff greet students at the front of the school or as they walk in their class, it is a way to pick up moods, attitudes, problems and make small talk which builds relationships.
3. Each morning on the announcements students are going to be asked to help with safety of everyone. I was raised to feel we are our brother's keeper. Therefore, safety can be something we all take part in. They will be asked to scan the room for odd or sketchy items and report as well as ensure the door is shut and secured during class time.
4. We will review an intruder prevention and reaction scenario in detail during Heritage 101 and hold intruder drills.
5. When you talk safety, you have to address the internet and things at student's fingertips. We have a blocking software device that prevents students from looking up topics such as firearms and how to build explosives, etc while they are on our server. But keep in mind your student uses their own device and we do not and cannot monitor their social media or internet searches so please safeguard your student knowing that. Middle schoolers cannot use their cell phones

during school. In fact, I don't want to see their cell phone, hear it or think they have it. If we see it, we will confiscate it and return to a parent/guardian.

6. There will be an anonymous reporting box for students who wish to report something confidentially. In the past 15 years as principal and Head of School, with thousands of students, no one used this type of reporting method. So, I found them not useful but I don't want to risk someone needing this type of method and not having it.
7. An extensive video surveillance system is in place inside and outside with night seeing capabilities and high resolution.
8. Each classroom is equipped with a flashcard system used in larger school systems to quickly identify areas of need or problems.
9. Tamper proof windows are in place so if a person wanted to throw a brick at the window it would not shatter. It would prevent someone from entering the building via breaking or shooting through a window or at least slow a person down.
10. The Sherriff's Dept will conduct a training for our faculty again this year regarding intruders and safety measures. The fire department will conduct a training on universal precautions, fire aid, CPR and epilepsy.
11. Our crisis manual is revised and includes a school safety segment, self harm segment and is the guidance for training the faculty and staff.
12. All employees and coaches have an annual background search for county and federal crimes including the national criminal search, SSN trace, and sex offender search as well as the Global Watchlist Search.

School safety is paramount. If students do not feel safe, they cannot and will not learn. It leads to anxiety, stress, self medication, depression and secrecy. It is a dangerous and slippery slope. I will do everything in my power to make sure students feel love, safe and nourished.

CHANGES IN STAFF

We said good bye to Mrs Deir and Mr Seifrit. Mr Seifrit will continue as our 4H club advisor and sporting clay coach.

This brings me to Mr Kotze, the son of Mr and Mrs Kotze (former teachers at Heritage). He will be teaching middle school math classes. Also, many of you will know Dr Chris Gray, former district teacher of the year and math teacher from the public school. She comes to us to teach math. Welcome back Darcie Patrick to take on our esteemed AP Capstone program.

IMPORTANT DATES:

Aug 4	Senior-Workshop for college applications (3 pm to 6 pm -bring laptop)
Aug 7	Senior class parent meeting-5:00 pm-college counseling (All senior parents should attend)
Aug 7-8	Inservice days for teachers
Aug 7	Orientation for 6 th graders (5-7 pm)
Aug 7	Junior class parent meeting-College Counseling- 6:30 pm (all junior parents should attend)
Aug 11	First day of school-Heritage 101 -Location HHICC- 8am to noon 860 William Hilton Pkwy in Fellowship Hall
Aug 11	5:30 First Parent Meeting for all parents (Parent Orientation)
Aug 14	Open House-5:30 pm to 6:45 pm

Aug 15	Last day to drop classes with no penalty
Aug 15	All middle schoolers in Math and ELA will MAP test
Aug 29	Packet Pick up for Big Fish 5K at 8 am-10 am
Aug 30	Big Fish 5K Race at Sea Pines (87 N Sea Pines Drive)
Aug 30	College Colors Day and senior college application day (12:30-2:30)
Sept 3	Parent Association meeting at 7:45 am
	*Parent Association meetings are open to all parents and will be first Wednesday of each month at 7:45 am to 8:45 am (except Jan)
Sept 4	9:05 am Freshmen Class meeting and Get to Know You activity
Sept 4	9:35 am Sophomore Class meeting and Get to Know You Activity
Sept 4	10:05 am Junior Class meeting and Get to Know you Activity
Sept 5	Picture day for all students including Tux/Drape pictures for seniors
Sept 12	Foundation Board meeting at 9:30 am
October 1	Reality Store for all students and Veterans Panel presentations (Results of Career Interest Surveys will be shared and reviewed)
Oct 12-14	Washington, DC trip
Oct 16	PSAT for all juniors
Oct 17	Make up Picture day for all students
Oct 23	Ghost Pirates Game field trip (In evening)
Nov 5	Ghost Pirates Game field trip (parents only)
Nov 6	Juniors-Practice SAT begins at 8 am
Nov 14	Foundation Board Meeting at 9:30 am
Dec 11	Ghost Pirates Game (High schoolers only)
Jan 7	In Service for teachers
Jan 8	First day of second semester
Jan 15	Foundation Board Meeting at 9:30 am
Jan 15	Open House-5:30 pm for second semester
Jan 19	No School in observance of MLK Jr
January 20	5 pm-Financial Aid workshop and FAFSA workshop
Jan 25-27	Universal Epic Universe trip for high schoolers
Jan 29	Career Day for all students
Feb 13	Founders Day-A Day of Giving
Feb 13	9:05 am-6 th grade spelling bee
Feb 13	9:45 am-7 th grade spelling bee
Feb 13	10:45-8 th grade spelling bee
April 23-25	Grad Bash for seniors at Universal
April 26-May 1	Costa Rica Student Trip
May 4-15	AP tests dates
May 15	Student Awards Day, Athletic Signing and Senior Signing (tentative)
May 18	Foundation Board Meeting at 9:30 am
May 22	Graduation at 1 pm at HHCC

*Fire Drills are monthly at various times on the last Monday of each month

*Severe weather drill is announced by the state department and we use the same date. It is generally around Oct 13th

*Intruder drills will be done October 3rd and once during second semester

IXL Math competition this Summer:

As of last week the following students are doing really well in the Math iXL competition:

Jerome S, Maia B, Henry J, and Teagan T. Keep up the hard work. The student with the highest level of achievement will win a \$100 Amazon gift card and every student that works at least an hour a week will get a prize.

Mission Trip opportunity:

Mr Czarnecki is our "Story of Scripture" teacher and also serves as the Director of Youth at HHICC. They are planning a mission trip through HHICC to Belize June 6- 13, 2026. If you would like more information please see him as he teaches here first block or email him or Justin Boyter at Jboyter@hiltonheadislandcc.org or Mr Czarnecki at Matthew.czarnecki@heritagehhi.com

International Travel with Heritage Academy:

Every year we travel out of the country....We will be repeating a trip to Costa Rica that we did a few years ago to explore everything from the rainforest, dormant volcano to the crystal clear beaches and water. The trip will be April 26th-May 1, 2026. Parents are welcome to go and we will share more information at the Parent Orientation on Aug 11th. This trip will be through Kelley Tours.

Washington DC

I am a big believer that every child should see the sights of Washington DC. Students can sign up using attached forms. This trip is also organized by Kelley Tours, an outside educational company. If students sign up, they are also exempt from their Govt/Econ final or US History final as I believe the travel will be more educational than any final exam. The trip is planned for Oct 12-14, 2025.

MRS MCGUIRE's info

Mrs McGuire needs a picture(not necessarily a professional picture) of all seniors. She wants to hang these in the hall by her office and needs all pictures via email by August 1st.

There are a couple of classes that may spark your interest and if your child is interested in taking these classes, please contact Mrs McGuire: Story of Scripture (both semesters), Auto tech (Fall semester), ACT/SAT prep for reading and ACT/SAT prep for math (Fall semester), Life Skills for Boys (Fall semester). We have a course catalog with descriptions on the web site as well.

Parent Association:

We have two lovely co-Presidents (Ari Pernice-Ariana.Pernice@gmail.com and Meredith Truitt-metruitt@gmail.com). Our goal is \$20K this year with fundraising to help with various student centered activities that the Parent Association provides that tuition does not cover. I have attached a letter as an alternative to fundraising that should be a big hit for many of you. We also have a very simple way of fundraising that we will share at the Parent meeting on Aug 11th at HHICC.

Shout Outs:

1. Tilly Greene who helped me personally with keeping plants alive and helping around the school.
2. Teagan and Thatcher Truitt who organized a school supply drive for students who have next to nothing in Tanzania and delivered them personally.
3. Amalie Huggins and Cooper Pernice along with Camryn Sokolinski who helped a lot with the animals at school.
4. Mr Seifrit who applied for a grant for the Sporting Clays team and got it!

I am super excited about this year. I cant wait to see everyone. Thanks so much for entrusting us with your students. All students will be given my cell number so please make sure you have it as well (843-707-6455).

Sincerely,

E. Amanda Williams O’Nan
Head of School

Attachments:

1. Parent Association Fundraising letter
2. Calendar
3. School bell schedule
4. Big Fish 5K info
5. Ambassador application

2025-26

DAILY BELL SCHEDULE

(Students' ID key cards will be activated from 7:00 am - 2:00 pm)

Block 1 7:30 - 8:55 am

Block 2 9:00 – 10:35 am

Block 3 10:40-12:05 pm

Block 4 12:10-1:35 pm

2025-26 Heritage Academy Ambassador Application

Name: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____

Cell phone: _____

Social Media presence? Yes or no (circle one) and list your profiles or names on social media. Yes, we will be checking your social media

What do you think the purpose of a school ambassador might be? Please answer in the space provided.

What do you find positive about Heritage Academy? Answer in the space provided.

In 5 or less sentences how would you introduce yourself to a prospective family that you would be giving a tour to for our school? Use the space provided.

Can you attend the hour long first meeting on Aug 8th, 2025 at 1:30 pm at the school? Yes or no

Signature: _____



Heritage Academy Parents Association Alternative Fundraiser

We are trying something new and would like your help and consideration.

This year's Parent's Association fundraising goal is \$25,000 to cover the costs of Winter Informal, Prom, Spring Fling, and Faculty Appreciation Week.

We are hoping to limit the number of fundraisers this year out of respect for everyone's time and hope to focus on only a few that also create an opportunity for fun interaction (ex: Trunk-or-Treat, Ghost Pirate Night). As an alternative, we are going to try something new if you'd like to opt out ahead at the start of the year but help us fundraise early so we can plan accordingly:

Recommendations

___ \$15: I'd prefer not to bake in the monthly PA Bake Sales. Here's the money I would have spent on flour, eggs or store-bought cookies for one of the bake sales.

___ \$35: I'm all stocked up on wrapping paper and prefer not to ask friends/family to purchase during the busy holidays so I'll contribute now.

___ \$50: Love getting healthy but save the free tee shirt, I won't be in any walk, run, swim, or bike-athons. I am going to keep to my regular routine but happy to cheer on anyone who does participate.

___ \$75: Would prefer not to attend a formal parent fundraiser or Oyster Roast. Here's the money I would have put towards a new outfit.

___ \$ You choose: I simply want to support the kids and recognize they love these events, and I appreciate you knowing a budget upfront allows for better planning and puts less "asks" on busy parents which I appreciate. Thank you for putting in time and energy into planning them.

- Annual Parents Association Fundraising Goal to cover event costs: \$25,000
- Hope through this Alternative Fundraiser: To limit the "asks" of parents during the busy school year.
- Number of Heritage families: 150

Total I'd like to contribute: \$ _____

Name: _____

Method of payment:

- ☐ Heritage to invoice and I'll pay within 30 days.
- ☐ Check included and made out to "Heritage Academy Parents Association."
- ☐ Zelle now: accounts@heritagehhi.com [Education Inc.]
Please note "PA Alt Fundraiser" with payment.



BIG FISH 5K



Beach run in Sea Pines

Saturday August 30th 8am



Scan me

