



Faith Christian
— ACADEMY —

Program of Studies

2017-2018

Upper School





The Mission of FCA

Our mission has five objectives, all summed up in the word FAITH:

Fellowship with God through Jesus Christ

“But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.” - 1 John, 1:7 (NKJV)

We are reminded over and over in the Bible that our God is a personal God, and Jesus is a personal savior. As part of the design of our program, students at FCA are encouraged to fellowship with God weekly during chapel services, and daily through individual Bible study and prayer.

Academic Excellence

“Do you see a man who excels in his work? He will stand before kings; He will not stand before unknown men.” - Proverbs, 22:29 (NKJV)

Students at FCA are held to a high standard of academic excellence. We believe that a strong academic foundation will prepare our graduates to be successful in God's eyes, and in life.

Integrity of Heart

“I know also, my God, that You test the heart and have pleasure in uprightness. As for me, in the uprightness of my heart I have willingly offered all these things; and now with joy I have seen Your people, who are present here to offer willingly to You.” - 1 Chronicles, 29:17 (NKJV)

We believe that those armed with strong spiritual faith will be able to stand firm against the temptations of the sinful world.

Faith Christian Academy

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Psalm 127:3-4



Transformation of Self

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.” - 2 Corinthians, 5:17 (NKJV)

We believe that anyone who develops a personal relationship with Jesus Christ will undergo a spiritual transformation of self, replacing the sinful nature of man with the righteous outlook of God.

Hope for the Nations

“And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.” - Mark, 16:15 (NKJV)

We believe that Jesus Christ is the hope for all nations, and our purpose is to spread the Good News to all the corners of the Earth.

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Accreditation

Faith Christian Academy is a proud member of the Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI). Serving nearly 24,000 schools in over 100 countries worldwide, ASCI is the largest Protestant educational program in the world.

Faith Christian Academy is also a member of the Florida League of Christian Schools (FLOCS), a state and nationally recognized accrediting agency that has been serving Florida since 1984.

Measure of Academic Progress (MAP) Test

FCA uses the Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) test to measure academic growth throughout the year.

At FCA, student progress is measured three times throughout the year; at the beginning, in the middle, and at the end of the year. We measure student growth in the areas of math, language, and reading, to ensure that students are steadfast on the path to success. The data gathered is used to place students in appropriately challenging learning situations that will allow them to grow to their highest potential, with feelings of success and encouragement.

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Academic Programs

Faith Christian Academy is committed to meeting the developmental needs of the whole child- spiritual, social, emotional, and intellectual. In tandem with our standardized testing program, the Measures of Academic Progress (MAP), our curriculum is evaluated yearly to measure instructional effectiveness, identify areas of relative student strength and weakness, and construct learning activities for the improvement of all students.

Standards of Practice

Faith Christian Academy curriculum is aligned with state and national standards that provide a framework for appropriate instruction at each grade level. While students at Faith Christian Academy are not subject to state end-of-course exams (EOCs) while attending FCA, students transferring from FCA to a public middle or high school in the state of Florida would be required to take the following state-mandated EOC's:

- Civics (if transferring before mid-year of 8th grade)
- Algebra 1
- Biology 1
- Geometry
- Algebra 2
- U.S. History

These exams are computer-based, criterion referenced assessments designed to measure student understanding of the Florida Standards (FS) or the Next Generation Sunshine State Standards (NGSSS) for the specific courses listed above. For more information, please refer to the Florida Department of Education website.

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Course Requirements

<i>Middle School - Grades 6 through 8 (annually)</i>		<i>9th Grade</i>	
Bible	1 credit	Bible	1 credit
Math	1 credit	Math	1 credit
Science	1 credit	Science	1 credit
Social Studies	1 credit	Social Studies	1 credit
Language Arts	1 credit	Language Arts	1 credit
Physical Education	½ credit	Physical Education	½ credit
<u>Elective/Fine Art</u>	<u>1 ½ credit</u>	<u>Elective/Fine Art</u>	<u>1 ½ credit</u>
Total	7 credits	Total	7 credits

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Course Descriptions and Philosophy Statements

Please note that not every course listed in the Program of Study will be offered every year. Course offerings are based on the number of students enrolled and the overall needs of the student population.

Bible

The purpose of Faith Christian Academy's Bible curriculum is to produce students who are being conformed to the image of Jesus Christ (Romans 8:29) and have an understanding of the principles that form a biblical worldview. At Faith Christian Academy, we believe that a reverent fear of the Lord and respect for His word is the beginning of all knowledge and wisdom (Proverbs 1:7); therefore, every academic and elective pursuit is centered on biblical truth. Biblical study will prepare students to discern truth from error, enabling them to give a confident response to the many questions and differing opinions the world has to offer (I Peter 3:15).

We aim to provide our students with a solid foundation, trusting that as they come to know the Person of Jesus Christ, they will take ownership of their faith (I Corinthians 3:11). As students are taught to study the Bible for themselves, they begin to recognize God's voice speaking to them through His Word, they learn what it means to live a life modeled after Christ that is pleasing to the Father (Psalm 119:10-11, John 14:21), and the Holy Spirit moves to carry out His transformative work (Romans 12:2). The result is students who are empowered by God to embrace humanity, help their communities, and give hope to the nations, all with an awareness of the destiny that God has for them (Jeremiah 29:11).

Course Recommendations

- 6th-8th Grade Bible Study Skills for Middle Grades

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- 9th Grade Bible Study Skills I

Bible Study Skills for Middle Grades

This course is designed to introduce students to key Bible concepts and principles, while teaching Bible study skills and encouraging students to engage in a personal relationship with God through prayer and reading of God's word. Courses for each grade level differ by topic and depth of instruction.

Bible Study Skills I

This course is designed to engage students in personal Bible study by enhancing study skills and encouraging personal exploration and execution of biblical principals. Students will use interpretation, observation, and application to study the scriptures of the Bible (2 Timothy 2:15), and grow in their personal journey with Jesus Christ.

Mathematics

Our Lord is a God of order and perfect design. He has given us the gift of mathematics to understand the perfection and precision of His creation. One of the purposes of Faith Christian Academy is to have all students comprehend and value mathematics as a tool to uncover the mysteries of our universe.

“When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, The moon and the stars, which You have ordained; What is man, that You are mindful of him? ... o Lord our Lord, how excellent is your name in all the earth!” (Psalm 8:3-9)NKJV.

We desire students to be confident in their mathematical ability and be fully equipped for whatever God has planned for their lives. Our intention is for every student to acquire “mathematical endurance;” the ability to find strategies to solve a problem without relinquishment or frustration.

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“Therefore then, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us strip off and throw aside every encumbrance and that sin which so readily clings to and entangles us, and let us run with patient endurance and steady and active persistence the appointed course of the race that is set before us” (Hebrews 12:1) Amp.

Faith Christian Academy students will become problem solvers, mathematically proficient in the following: application, procedure, utilization of manipulatives, personal awareness of number sense, and exploration of current theorems. These aspects will enable the students at Faith Christian Academy to communicate mathematical exchanges efficiently, effectively, and without apprehension.

“But there is a spirit in man: and the breath of the Almighty gives him understanding. Great men are not always wise: nor do the aged always understand justice” (Job 32: 8-9) NKJV.

Course Recommendation

Placement in math courses is dependent on demonstrated mathematical ability in prerequisite courses and on the MAP exam.

- 6th Grade Math 6
- 7th Grade Math 7 or Pre-Algebra
- 8th Grade Pre-Algebra or Algebra 1
- 9th Grade Algebra 1 or Algebra 2

Math 6

This course is designed to reinforce and build upon operational math skills. Students will learn to add, subtract, multiply, and divide whole numbers, decimals, and fractions, basic concepts of geometry, integers, functions of ratio, proportion, and percent, and basic concepts related to statistical analysis and graphing.

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Math 7

This course is designed to review, reinforce, and build upon operational math skills, and introduce students to basic algebraic concepts. In addition to review of computational math skills, students will learn how to apply the order of operations to simplify and evaluate expressions and equations, and solve inequalities. Students will also focus on units of measurement and plane geometry.

Pre-Algebra

This course is designed as an introduction to fundamental algebraic concepts using numbers and variables. Students will be introduced to simplifying algebraic expressions and solving one- and two-step equations and inequalities using the order of operations. Students will also be introduced to translating algebraic expressions from word form, polynomials, basic functions, and algebraic problem-solving strategies. Scientific calculators will be used regularly in this course.

Algebra 1

This course is designed to build upon the foundation of algebraic concepts and skills gained in Pre-Algebra in 8th grade. Students will learn to simplify expressions and radical expressions, solve equations, systems of equations, and inequalities, factor polynomials, solve quadratic equations, graph functions, exponential functions, systems of exponential functions, and systems of linear equations and inequalities, and interpret data to solve real world problems. Scientific or graphing calculators will be used regularly in this course.

Algebra 2

This course continues the study of algebraic concepts, including further exploration of polynomials, functions, rational expressions, number systems, systems of linear equations and inequalities, and exponents. Students will also be introduced to advanced algebraic concepts, including logarithms and matrices. Real world application of algebraic concepts will be emphasized.

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Science

The study of science is the basis for understanding God's creation for his people. By exposing our students to the scientific method of observing, classifying, measuring, inferring, predicting and reporting, we discover the wonders of God's universe and an awareness of His greatness and sovereignty.

“Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns ... Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow” (Matthew 6:26-30, Job 12:7-10).

Through the study of Earth/Space Science, students discover the regularity and precision of heavenly bodies as a testament to God's faithfulness and through the incomprehensible vastness of our universe we get a glimpse of God's love for us, as well as how God controls the air, the sea, the weather, and the earth's layers. Within the physical sciences we learn that God's laws of the natural world are absolute; however, only God has the power to alter those laws, such as when the sun and moon stood still for the Israelites to finish the battle (Joshua 10:12-14). God told Adam and Eve in Genesis 1:28 to “subdue and have dominion” over every living thing that moves on the earth. This command to our first ancestors implies studying and understanding their world which is the essence of biology and life science.

“The earth is the Lord's, and the fullness thereof the world, and they that dwell therein” (Psalm 24:1).

Our science curriculum supports creationism and teaches from the Biblical perspective that man is created in the image of God (Genesis 1:27). The students are taught to be responsible stewards of the earth and its natural resources and make responsible decisions as contributors to improving the quality of life for mankind through technology, experimentation and enrichment. The science program at Faith Christian Academy utilizes critical thinking skills that go beyond the subject of science, solidifying within our students a foundation of faith in our Creator for all of life.

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Course Recommendation

- 6th Grade Comprehensive Science 6
- 7th Grade Comprehensive Science 7
- 8th Grade Comprehensive Science 8
- 9th Grade Biology

Comprehensive Science 6

This course is designed as an exploration of topics in life science. Students will apply the scientific method and critical thinking skills to uncover fundamental aspects of life. Students will learn about matter and energy, cells and cell structure, classification of organisms, and the human body.

Comprehensive Science 7

This course is designed as an exploration of topics in life science. Students will apply the scientific method and critical thinking skills to uncover fundamental aspects of life. Students will learn about matter and energy, cells and cell structure, classification of organisms, and the human body.

Comprehensive Science 8

This course is designed as an exploration of the processes of the Earth and the universe. Through opportunities in astronomy, geology, meteorology, and oceanography, students will learn about the mechanisms of the universe that God put into place, including the rock cycle, plate tectonics, weather, volcanology, and seismology.

Biology

This course is a laboratory course that allows students to explore the concepts of life science, focusing on biochemistry and the makeup of organic life on Earth, including cell structure and function,

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genetics, microbiology, biological systems and cycles, and classification of organisms.

Social Studies

The Bible, with its ancient books of chronicled history, attests to the value placed upon recording and studying historical events for the benefit of following generations. Scripturally, we should learn from the past so that we might apply ourselves to wisdom regarding the future.

*“...those things [...] belong to us and our children forever, that we may do all the words of the law.”
(Deuteronomy 29:29) NKJV*

Students will know and value the past of our nation, and the world. American history, current events, world history, and geography are important aspects of the social studies curriculum. Jesus, being very mindful of geography and people groups, told his disciples to “go ye therefore, and teach all nations” (Mat.28:19). The Apostle Paul traveled the ancient Greek world extensively preaching the Gospel, befriending the Gentile world that he might win them for Christ. His respect for others and a desire to live his life unto God is a monumental example for us today.

“...you shall love your neighbor as yourself.” (Leviticus 19:18) NKJV

In our present-day global existence, the question and answer (who is my neighbor?) has become far reaching. Now “my neighbor” is across the ocean in Asia or Africa. Social Studies, history, and geography teach us to value what God values. Our curriculum honors and reflects the heart of God, promoting compassion and responsibility toward the nations of the world.

Course Recommendation

- 6th Grade World Studies
- 7th Grade U.S. History

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- 8th Grade Civics
- 9th Grade Cultural Geography

World Studies 6

This course is an exploration of geography and world history from creation through the major periods of history. Students will explore the growth of civilizations following man's exile from the Garden of Eden through the course of history, with specific study of the emergence of Islam and other world religions, the expansion of Asian, African, and European cultures, the Renaissance and Reformation period, and the age of European exploration of the world.

U.S. History

This course is an exploration of American history from European colonization to the Reconstruction Era. Students will focus on the growth of America as a nation, as well as major events in U.S. history that have influenced our uniquely American culture. Students will also learn about American geography, and how the geography of our country influenced the further exploration and growth of our nation.

Civics

This course is designed as an introduction to American Government. Students will learn about the major events in U.S. history and the philosophies that directly influenced the writing of our Constitution, as well as the responsibilities of citizens, the electoral system, and the three branches of government and their respective roles in the system of checks and balances. Students will also explore the roles of state and local governments, and how they can become involved citizens in the community.

Cultural Geography

This course is an exploration of the physical and cultural aspects of the geography of our world.

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Students will focus on how the physical geography of a region influences culture and the human interactions with landscape. Students will learn about the geography, cultures, landforms, climates, resources, economy, religions, and government of each region.

Language Arts

The expression of language, as a gift from God, is a vital factor in relationships today. In our modern world, built upon multi-media expression, the ability to convey thoughts effectively— spoken and written—enables students to be successful in life. Understanding the ideas of others and expressing one’s own thoughts clearly and logically encourages sharing and interaction. Consider the epistles of Paul. In his absence, he pours out his heart to the churches through the written word, as his “consolation also aboundeth by Christ,” bringing comfort, inspiration, and instruction to his spiritual children (2 Cor. 1:5).

Additionally, having a strong foundation in language arts and critical thinking skills enables students to think for themselves. In a world that has been inundated with pervasive, humanistic ideology that denies the relevance of a Living God, proficiency in language is essential in order to remain anchored in Biblical truth.

“And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind...”
(Romans 12:2) KJV

Combining Biblical truth with language arts helps to foster a positive attitude and spiritual maturity “as a wellspring of wisdom” (Pro. 18:4). God spoke and the worlds were framed (Gen 1:1-3). When Biblical truth is allowed to “speak” into our lives, with “the word of Christ dwell[ing] in [us] richly”, our lives are shaped and framed by Godly principles (Col. 3:16). For this reason, Biblical integration is an essential part of the language arts curriculum. Students study grammar, writing, vocabulary, literature, and reading skills from a Biblical perspective. It is through this Christ-centered worldview in language arts that the students of Faith Christian Academy can communicate Christ’s salvation to the world.

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Course Recommendation

- 6th Grade English 6
- 7th Grade English 7
- 8th Grade English 8
- 9th Grade English 9

English 6

This course is designed to promote academic success in language arts and reading. Students will learn about literature, writing, grammar, vocabulary, and speaking and listening skills.

English 7

This course is designed to promote academic success in language arts and reading. Students will focus on literature, writing, grammar, vocabulary, and speaking and listening skills. This course builds upon reading and language skills learned in English 6.

English 8

This course is designed to promote academic success in language arts and reading. Students will focus on literature, writing, grammar, vocabulary, and speaking and listening skills. This course builds upon reading and language skills learned in English 7.

English 9

This course is designed as an introduction to literature, as well as a review in basic grammar and writing composition skills. Students will be introduced to literary elements through the study of literary works in the form of novels, short stories, essays, dramas, and poetry. Vocabulary, including Greek roots, will be a major focus in this course.

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Physical Education

God made us in His own image. Learning through physical education how to keep our bodies as God's temple is pleasing to Him.

“Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit who is in you... Therefore honor God with your body.” (1 Corinthians 6:19-20) NIV

Many important components of the Christian life can be learned through Physical Education. PE allows students to evaluate personal performance, design workout strategies and establish goals for individual development. (Hebrews 12:1) Team sports promote playing together for the benefit of the group, unselfish participation, playing within the framework of rules, as well as winning and losing. (1 Corinthians 10:24, 2 Timothy 2:5) Students participate knowing whether “on the bench” or the “star” of the activity, the benchmark is: have I done my best with my God given talents? (Ecclesiastes 9: 10a) Athletic competition and training promotes commitment to a cause, develops perseverance, and fosters determination in striving towards a goal. (1 Corinthians 9:24-27) These disciplines transfer to leading a Christ centered life.

“...whatever you do, do all to the Glory of God.” (1 Corinthians 10: 31b) NKJV

Course Recommendation

- 6th-8th Grade Physical Education for Middle Grades
- 9th Grade Physical Education I

Physical Education for Middle Grades

This course is focused on teaching the importance of keeping the body, the temple of God, in good physical condition. With emphasis on physical health and well being, students will learn how to keep their bodies in shape through exercise and healthy practices.

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Physical Education 1

This course is focused on teaching the importance of keeping the body, the temple of God, in good physical condition. With emphasis on physical health and well being, students will learn how to keep their bodies in shape through exercise and healthy practices. This course also includes topics specific to the physical education of high school students.

Elective Studies

To ensure that students at Faith Christian Academy develop a well-rounded education, as well as remain engaged in areas of interest, we encourage participation in elective courses. Several courses are available through Florida Virtual School. Available elective courses may change according to the number of interested students.

Course Recommendations

- 6th-8th Grade Business Keyboarding, Fine Arts Wheel, Social Media, Peer Counseling, M/J Creative Photography, M/J Critical Thinking, Career Research and Decision Making
- 9th Grade Fine Arts Wheel, Social Media, Driver's Education, Peer Counseling, Law Studies, AP Psychology (2 semesters), Leadership (2 semesters), Creative Photography (2 semesters), Foreign Language (2 semesters)

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Business Keyboarding - ½ credit

This course is an introduction to typing and keyboarding. Students will learn to type quickly and efficiently using proper keyboard techniques. Students will also learn about computer hardware, the internet, business communication, word processing, and how to create presentations. This course is available to middle school students only.

Critical Thinking, Problem Solving, and Learning Strategies - ½ credit

This course, offered through FLVS, is a half credit course designed to improve study skills, critical thinking, and problem solving skills. Students will learn strategies to help them identify important information quickly and retain the information in long term memory. Strategies learned may be transferred to other courses, and will aid in improving performance on tests and assignments. Students will become efficient, balanced learners.

Fine Arts Wheel - ½ credit to 1 credit

This course is a combination of theater and music education. The theater component is an introduction to dramatic theater and basic acting. Students will learn about theatrical techniques, as well as theater history and theater as a form of art. This class is highly interactive and energetic. Students are expected to participate with maximum effort in both in-class productions and in school wide performances. The musical component is designed to be an outlet for musical expression. Students will learn various vocal techniques and will explore a range of musical styles. Students will apply techniques learned in periodic school wide performances.

Social Media - ½ credit

This course, offered through the Florida Virtual School (FLVS), is designed to help students explore the proper use of social media, as well as the history of social media and how to find truth in an ever changing online world. Topics include, but are not limited to, the digital “footprint”, what it means to

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“go viral”, online personalities vs. real life, the impact of social media on the psyche, and many more interesting topics that are very relevant to today’s teen community.

Peer Counseling - ½ credit

This course, offered through FLVS, is a half credit course designed to help students learn skills that may be applied in all aspects of their lives. Students learn how to “take action, set goals, manage their time, and help peers.”

Career Research and Decision Making

This course, offered through FLVS, is an exploration of college and career pathways. Students will learn how to prepare for, get accepted, and pay for college. Students will also learn how to ace an interview, write an effective resume, network, and prioritize goals to build a successful future.

Creative Photography - up to 1 credit

This course, offered through FLVS, is designed to teach students fundamental skills to use a camera. Students will learn about the evolution of the camera and the art of photograph from a form of documentation to an art form. Students will use techniques learned to develop a photographic portfolio, and will analyze and critique photographs.

Courses available to High School students only:

Driver’s Education - ½ credit

This course, offered through FLVS, is designed to help students become safer drivers as they take their first steps of independence. Students will “study the Highway Transportation System, traffic signs and laws, learn accident avoidance, and gain real-world driving knowledge through road simulations.”

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Law Studies - ½ credit

This course, offered through FLVS, is an elective course that focuses on law and court decisions that affect all citizens, as well as studies of specific laws and decisions that directly affect teenagers. Students will gain a greater understanding of the legislative process and the United States legal system. This course offers students the opportunity to explore and express their opinion on matters of civil concern.

AP Psychology - 1 credit

This course, offered through FLVS, is an AP college-level course that provides an overview of human thought processes and behavior. In addition to preparing for the AP Psychology exam, students are immersed in modern psychological theories and investigation practices. This course helps to foster scientific thinking, as well as an understanding of human interaction and behavior.

Leadership Skills Development - 1 credit

This course, offered through FLVS, is a 2 semester course that helps students master skills to help them succeed now and in the future. Students will build upon time management skills, problem solving skills, goal setting, and social awareness.

Foreign Language - 1 credit

These courses, offered through FLVS, will introduce students to a chosen foreign language. Students will learn the grammar rules of their chosen language, and build fluency and understanding of their chosen language. Languages offered include Spanish, French, Chinese, and Latin. These courses will satisfy one credit of the foreign language requirement for graduation.

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“Children are a heritage of the Lord: and the fruit of the womb is His reward. As arrows are in the hand of a warrior, so are children of the youth.”
Psalm 127:3-4