

Summit Christian School
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We believe that the best way to train and equip children to become strong, effective, and competent followers of Jesus Christ, prepared in every way to transform their world is through the intentional fusion of learning and faith taught in a Christian school. We believe that great schooling must *be great scholastically, be student-centered, and acknowledge Christ as Lord.*

Being great scholastically means that our fundamental purpose – schooling – is to be notably rich in knowledge and content, that the “reverential awe” of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom and that God will be pleased as we investigate together His world around us. We use avenues of instruction (i.e., textbooks, technology, projects) that take advantage of a child’s nature, his God-given curiosity and his ability to acquire and apply information.

Being a student-centered school means that decisions about schooling are based on what we believe is best for the student as we understand his nature and giftings. We have envisioned a set of values, abilities, and skills a student will acquire upon graduation, and we understand his need to be nurtured and directed to loving God and his neighbor along the way. Being student-centered in this way gives us the means to examine how the curriculum will advance our vision for the student.

Acknowledging Christ as Lord means that He is given paramount rank in every endeavor of the School. We know Him to be our foundation and sustainer, and we will endeavor to “have the mind of Christ” (I Corinthians 2:16).

Curriculum - 2009-2010

We want children to learn that God is sovereign in His design and purpose, and that all subject matter and every aspect of life are His domain. As His image bearers and agents of restoration, we are committed to excellence in curriculum and in all areas related to the learning that takes place at the school. We continually evaluate our curriculum, and we have chosen what we believe to be that which best reflects God’s truth and brings Him delight.

Pre-Kindergarten

Our early childhood education program aligns with the newest Florida state legislation on kindergarten readiness.

The standards include the following:

- Curriculum designed to prepare a student for early literacy
- A minimum of 540-instructional-hours
- Rigorous credentialing of staff
- Maximum class size of 18 students

Our goal is to provide a stimulating environment in which each student will be encouraged to experiment and explore. Our curriculum consists of units that revolve around various themes and topics. While growing in our understanding of God’s Word, sufficient for all of life, students will have the opportunity to investigate those themes and participate in developmentally appropriate activities that encourage growth in the following

areas: social skills (sharing, cooperating, communicating), work habits (caring for materials, cleaning up, helping), personal skills (obeying, using manners), and readiness skills (retelling stories, counting, recognizing shapes, and relative size).

Materials will be available in various centers that are designed to facilitate learning. Students will learn math and science through manipulation and experimentation with a variety of objects. Oral and written language will be developed through story telling, sharing, drama, and creative play. Pre-literacy skills will be developed through an integration of meaningful activities; and they will begin to understand this wonder and intricacy of themselves and of God's world.

Summit Christian's program is developmental in nature. If a child is ready for the next step in his/her education, we will work with the child to keep the learning process ongoing, and we will challenge the child to discover and explore with awe and appreciation. Accompanying the spiritual development of your child, some of the main goals are the social development, eye-hand coordination, persistence at tasks, and following directions. In the pre-kindergarten program, the second semester will include awareness of the letters A-Z, awareness of the numbers 1-31, and identification / writing of the child's name, if able.

Kindergarten through Grade Eight

LANGUAGE ARTS

In our language arts program, the students are immersed in quality children's literature. While developing an understanding of a biblical Christian worldview, students are challenged to compare and contrast such a framework to author and character worldviews. They are encouraged to respond to that curriculum in a variety of ways, including art, drama, writing, and sharing. The reading program is driven through the use of literature-based materials. In addition to the textbooks, multiple copies of novel books are used in the upper grades to extend the reading experience. Phonetic skills are systematically developed through literature so that students learn not only to decode individual words but also to comprehend what they are reading. Reading instruction at the kindergarten through second grade levels is phonics-based.

Effective writing skills are vital at all intersections of education and future employment. The ability to convey complex ideas and information improves achievement across the curriculum and in future careers. Summit's writing program draws upon the research of the *National Writing Project* which calls for common expectations of proficient writing and authentic tools to assess writing. Specifically, students will become competent in six expository forms of writing (recounting, narrative, procedural, reportive, explanatory, persuasive) and assessed on six dimensions of proficiency.

Spalding Phonics, published by Quill.

Open Court Reading, published by SRA/McGraw-Hill Education, 2002.

Trophies, published by Harcourt, 2003.

Shurley Grammar, published by Shirley Instructional Materials, 1997.

Accelerated Reader Program, Renaissance Learning.

D'Nealian Handwriting, published by Scott Foresman, 2000.

Summit Christian School-Writing Standards, 2007.

Writesource, published by Houghton Mifflin, 2000.

MATH

After exhaustive investigation and development using the Thomas B. Fordham Institute's "The State of State Math Standards" guidelines recommending the "A" ranked state standards (including Indiana, California and Massachusetts), our math program is designed to meet the standards issued by the National Council of

Teachers of Mathematics and to prepare students to be successful in mathematics in high school and beyond. These standards, including problem solving and reasoning, are incorporated into the daily lessons through questions, practice sets, and activities using manipulatives. Drill on the basic math facts is an integral part of the students' learning, as well as an approach toward developing higher-order thinking skills.

Grades Kindergarten – 4: Houghton-Mifflin Mathematics 2007.

Grades 5 – 8: Glencoe Mathematics Applications & Concepts 2006.

Summit Christian School-Mathematics Standards K-8, 2008.

BIBLE

Our Bible curriculum, written from a Reformed Christian perspective, presents the story of God creating and calling a people into relationship with Himself throughout all of history. Students begin to understand more fully what it means to be a part of God's family as events unfold in the context of a God covenanting to be their one and only sovereign God and to unconditionally love them. It presents the Bible, God's acts and words, written so that His people might know God and themselves, receive His unmerited gift of salvation, and live grateful lives of joyful service and obedience. Our approach intentionally aims at training and equipping students to become knowledgeable and competent lovers of God and followers of Jesus Christ.

An important aspect of biblical understanding is the systematic memorization of essential Scripture. Too often, the typical program focus is on memorizing Scripture from week to week only to be forgotten. The purposes of the Scripture Memorization Program are the following:

- To write God's Word on the hearts of the students and the faculty.
- To instill a passion for God's Word in the hearts of the students.
- To reduce the number of passages memorized per year while cementing them in memory.
- To implement a memorization review system that retests, refreshes, and reminds the students every year of every verse they have learned in their tenure at Summit Christian School.

The Story of God and His People published by Christian Schools International, 1989.

Summit Christian School-Understanding God's Word for My life: Scripture Memorization Program (K-8), 2008.

21st CENTURY SKILLS

At Summit, instruction is aimed at developing the core competencies outlined by *Partnership for 21st Century Skills* including the essential learning and thinking skills comprised of critical-thinking and problem solving, communication skills, creativity and innovation skills, collaboration skills, contextual learning skills, and information and media literacy skills. To promote these essential learning and thinking skills, Summit incorporates information and communication technology (ICT) literacy – skills that do not develop naturally in the course of mastering academic content. Students learn how to think adaptively – to solve problems, communicate, innovate, and collaborate - through the infusion of integrated technology. Strategic investments in laptops, wireless internet and network, interactive white board technology, document cameras, audio enhancement, hand-held interactive equipment, and a voice recognition program have taken Summit classroom instruction from great to exemplary.

SMART Technologies Notebook Software, published by SMART Technologies, 2008.

Custom Typing, published by Custom Solutions, 2007.

Follet Library Electronic Catalog, published by Follet Library Resources, Inc., 2008.

Voice Recognition System, (The Tyndale House Learning Center).

SCIENCE

Reflecting the current national science standards, our science program is a hands-on, experimental program that encourages students to become actively involved in scientific discovery. Students are equipped to discover the infinite complexity and amazing orderliness of God's world through an innovative study of life, earth, and physical sciences from a clear, Christian perspective. Middle school students have the opportunity to apply their sciences in hands-on adventures to NASA's Space Camp and Mote Marine's Sea Camp. These concrete, creative learning experiences will enrich students' knowledge of creation, affirm their faith in the Creator, and enable them to use science to the glory of God.

Science published by Christian Schools International, 2004.

HEALTH

Our health program uses a comprehensive health education curriculum that addresses the mental, emotional, social, and spiritual aspects of health as well as the physical. It helps students take responsibility for their health as individuals and as members of families and communities. It gives them the opportunity to develop basic life skills, such as communicating, decision-making, and resolving conflicts in order to prepare them to meet the challenges of daily living. Its Christian perspective leads students to recognize that a healthy lifestyle is a lifestyle of obedience to God.

Healthy Living published by Christian Schools International, 1992.

HISTORY-SOCIAL STUDIES-GEOGRAPHY

Students gain the knowledge, skills, and values they need for a lifetime of full and productive citizenship through studies of their world, country, state, community, and home. Students will understand and know how to analyze chronological relationships, and develop a sense of historical perspective. Our approach guides students to understand God's redemptive plan for humankind through the unfolding of various aspects and events and their God-designed roles as shapers of their culture and governors mandated to bring restoration to a fallen world (Genesis 1:26).

A Beka History and Geography, 2004.

Eastern Hemisphere, published by Pearson Education, Inc., 2008.

Medieval Times, published by Pearson Education, Inc., 2008.

Steck-Vaughn - Maps and Globes, 2004.

The Ancient World, published by Pearson Education, Inc., 2008.

MUSIC

The study and making of music is one of the most valuable steps in a student's education. Some of the many benefits include an increased sense of responsibility, mental discipline, teamwork, and above all an enjoyment and lifelong appreciation for God's gift of music. More than 200 times in Scripture, we are enjoined to sing to the Lord and make a joyful noise. In addition to classes, students enjoy such singing incorporated into chapel times and in monthly joyful noise sessions.

FOREIGN LANGUAGE

The cornerstone of our Spanish instruction is the highly acclaimed *Rosetta Stone*. The guiding principle behind learning a new language is dynamic immersion – the method that we all used to master our first

language. First, students will learn through context with no translation or memorization to hold them back. Second, they will receive immediate reinforcement of correct pronunciation utilizing voiceprint technology. Finally, the curriculum is carefully sequenced, gradually incorporating new words, phrases, and more complex grammar as it reinforces existing learning. In other words, a student's understanding of the new language grows naturally.

Rosetta Stone, published by Rosetta Stone Limited, 2008.

Expresate, published by Holt, Rinehart, and Winston, 2007 (when offered at middle school level).

PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND ATHLETICS

The amazing complexity and intricacy of the bodies God has designed for us become evident as we pursue physical education and athletics at Summit. Physical education involves the development of fine and gross motor skills and skills to lead an active, healthy lifestyle. But physical education also involves the development of the necessary skills for team cooperation and leadership, concepts enhancing both the individual and the corporate nature of our design. Students' daily schedules incorporate either free play during class recesses or organized PE classes including sports physiology instruction. Competition in sports and physical education is desirable when students strive together to compete to their physical potential. Summit Warriors compete in interscholastic flag football, volleyball, boys and girls soccer, and boys and girls basketball.