

# FORMATION

FOR LIFE



FAITH CHRISTIAN  
SCHOOL

KINDERGARTEN INFO PACKET

# Welcome!

As your family considers school options, what are your priorities? As a mother who raised two children at Faith Christian School, I believe the core commitments and values of Faith Christian School offer you and your family something rare and precious.

In this packet, we will tell you about our school—a connected, thriving community. It is made up of engaged parents, dedicated and remarkable teaching faculty and staff, and all of our incredible students.

As we hope to show you in this packet and in a tour, an education at Faith Christian School moves beyond preparation for college or establishing an academic foundation to succeed. We focus on a deeper calling: FORMATION FOR LIFE. Through a classical academic program, lasting friendships, spiritual maturation, and practical opportunities to serve and lead others, our alumni have proven time and again to *thrive in life*.

We are delighted about your interest in Faith Christian School and can't wait to meet you and your child soon.

Warmly,

*Cathi Weber*

**Cathi Weber**  
**Director of Enrollment**



# Kindergarten

*Our Kindergarten program is designed to encourage students to explore their world by asking good questions that lead to rich understanding.*

Kindergarten at Faith Christian School builds on the early foundation laid in Junior Kindergarten to encourage students to observe and explore by asking good questions that lead to discovering what is good, true, and beautiful.

## **Kindergarteners At FCS Will:**

- Build strong relationships with their teachers. With a low teacher to student ratio, Kindergarten students are able to spend one-on-one time with teachers to receive the individual attention they need.
- Explore God's creation, developing observation skills and logic.
- Have their young faith nurtured by loving teachers who know them by name and integrate a biblical worldview into all of their earliest lessons
- Experience the joy of learning to read that sets a foundation for years of joy to come
- Explore mathematics in concrete, fun, hands-on lessons to build strong number sense and an excellent foundation for more advanced mathematics in the years to come.



## **As A Kindergarten Parent, You Can Expect:**

### **Alignment With Your Family Values**

Our students come from over 80 different church communities and Christian denominations, but all of our teachers model what it means to live out the Gospel and infuse those values into a Christian education that supports everything you're teaching them at home.

### **Individual Attention For Your Child**

Our Kindergarten class provides an environment where students flourish alongside teachers and peers who truly know and love them.

Along with a low teacher to student ratio, a purposeful schedule is designed so students receive individual attention from teachers in order to provide support as needed for students to grow in foundational skills such as reading and math.

This past year we have seen our son truly thrive, raise his expectations of himself, and have an abundant love of life and love of learning.

- Mark & Robbin W.

## KINDERGARTEN PARTICULARS

- Kindergarten students have a snack, lunch, and quiet time each day, along with two recess periods. The afternoon quiet time is a time for students to complete unfinished work, engage in crafts or games that correspond with learning, and enjoy stories read by their teacher.
- Many supplies are provided by the school but a list of supplies to be purchased will be provided prior to first day of school.
- Uniforms are required. For more information visit the New Families section of fcsva.com.

*I love the way our biblical worldview is supported and reinforced as it is interwoven through the curriculum. The teachers and staff truly care about student success, both academically and spiritually.*

- H. Donithan, JK & 1st Grade Mom

- The focus in Kindergarten is on learning and growth rather than grades, so a typical grading scale is not used. A report card will contain a narrative from the teacher highlighting the skills the students are learning and mastering.
- Students attend a weekly, age-appropriate chapel, interacting with lower school students as they pray, sing, and listen to a theme-based lesson.
- Students work as a class to memorize scriptures and questions/answers from the New City (Children's) Catechism.



- Students practice life-giving principles of the Fruit of the Spirit instead of mere adherence to rules (e.g. loving our neighbors as ourselves or proper conflict resolution) through Peacemakers curriculum.
- Students are prepared for reading by learning letters and phonograms in a fun and meaningful way.
- Students are prepared for math concepts in consecutive lower school grades using Singapore's Dimensions Math, a curriculum designed to provide students with a deeper understanding of mathematical concepts. Singapore Math enables students to learn math concepts in the following ways:
  - Concrete - manipulatives
  - Pictorial - using pictures
  - Abstract - algorithms and problem-solving
- Physical Education and the Arts are considered a core part of the curriculum, providing ever so much more than just a creative outlet.
- Nature Studies gets children outside, observing, exploring, and journaling—all skills they will depend on in later grades.
- Parent-Teacher conference occur at least 1-2 times per year.

# A Day In The Life

Wondering what your child's day will look like in our Kindergarten class? Here's a sample schedule from one of our typical days:

## **Before Morning Classes - Math Meeting Board**

The Math Meeting Board Additionally, this includes counting the days of the school, talking about coins, grouping by tens, and other methods of building math skills. They also practice recitations including weekly scripture.

## **Morning Classes - Core Subjects**

Letter study, Writing, Bible, and Math encompass the core subject areas. Each class actively engages students in purposeful and intentional play and experiential learning that includes critical thinking, problem-solving, and hands-on student-centered activities. You will often find students working with manipulatives on the floor or in flexible seating while learning.

## **Independent Works**

Students will engage in play-based, independent activities including academic skills with numbers and letters, practical-life works which develop fine and gross motor skills, and fun works such as puzzles and games.

## **Enrichment Classes**

Students can often be found conducting science experiments in nature studies, learning and experiencing different cultures in music class. Physical Education classes include a Motor Lab which help students develop motor skills. Enrichment classes serve to add depth to the already robust learning of the day.

## **Afternoons**

Students have a 45 minute rest period in the afternoon, a snack, and additional enrichment or play time.



Early drop-off is available for families from 6:45 AM until class time and our after-school program, Faith Zone, is available from 3-6:30 PM.

# You're looking for a school for your child to grow and thrive.



*We understand what the search process can be like!*

**As a parent,** you'll find FCS is a place where your family's values are reinforced, where you'll be welcomed and involved in the educational process, and where we'll help you find affordable options so you can enroll your child with confidence.



**FAITH CHRISTIAN**  
SCHOOL

**As you compare the options, we're here to help you understand the unique benefits of a Christian, classical school. It's a place where your child will find:**

- Integrated academics that promote exploration and a love for learning
- Community built around Christian values and culture
- Caring, expert teachers
- Opportunities to learn by playing, exploring, and having FUN
- Exceptional phonics program and math preparation for the next grades
- Ways to engage their imaginations

Come visit and see firsthand why students, graduates, and parents have found that Faith Christian School is a place to thrive.

*We're here to answer your questions and arrange your personal tour!*

Faith Christian School  
Admissions Office

 **540.769.5200**

 [cweber@fcsva.com](mailto:cweber@fcsva.com)



# Lower School: Foundation For Learning

## Foundational Curriculum

The Lower School (K-5th) curriculum taught by loving faculty embraces all of the innate, God-given attributes in children: A desire to discover and learn, endless curiosity, an open heart and mind, and a soul to be gently formed in the image of God. Your child's education at this formative stage should be inviting, fun, nurturing, and encouraging so they will be inspired to become life-long learners.

Visiting any school will provide the clearest picture of how to answer the question all parents must ask, "Which school presents the greatest prospects for helping my children become all God intends for them to be?"

## Core Subject Areas

Great attention is given to language arts and mathematics. Students move from "learning to read" in the primary grades to "reading to learn" in grades 3-5. Great focus is placed on number sense and understanding the "why" and not just the "how" about what they are learning in math to help them have great success in more advanced mathematics in the future.



## Enrichment Classes

Students participate in a variety of specialty classes to aid in the formation of a well-rounded child and to nurture their creativity and wonder through exposure to the arts, nature study, and physical education.



Elementary grades build on foundational habits and skills in core disciplines of language arts and math, all while continuing to build lifelong skills such as asking good questions, speaking with confidence, working as a team, being a good friend, and addressing conflict in a biblical manner. At Faith Christian School our gifted preschool through fifth-grade teachers encourage a sense of wonder that leads students to confidently embrace the unique individual God has made them.



GRADES JK-5

# LOWER SCHOOL

The curriculum at FCS embraces all of the innate, God-given attributes in children: a desire to discover and learn, endless curiosity, an open heart and mind, and a soul to be gently formed in the image of God. Your child's education at this formative stage must be inviting, fun, nurturing, and encouraging so they will be inspired to become life-long learners.



## Core Subject Areas

- Bible
- Cursive (Begins in 2nd Grade)
- Geography
- Grammar
- History
- Literature
- Manuscript
- Math
- Phonograms
- Spelling
- Reading (Decoding & Comprehension)
- Science

## Enrichment Classes

*(Rotating Creative Offerings)*

- Music
- Theater
- Visual Arts
- Library
- Nature Studies
- Chapel

## Activities, Sports, and Clubs

- Activities - Special celebration days, field trips, and school traditions and celebrations
- Physical education program using Motor Labs (3 times a week for 30 minutes)
- Clubs: Run Club (3rd-5th), Cavatina, Orff Ensemble
- Sports: Archery (4th-5th) and Junior League Basketball (4th-5th)



## Is my child ready for school?

Parents with children transitioning to Kindergarten often ask what they could do to prepare for the best possible transition. Below are several skills students should demonstrate before entering Kindergarten.

### Typically Required Skills

- Perform simple 1- to 3-step directions without assistance
- Count to 20
- Recognize the majority of the letters of the alphabet
- Identify and write their name

### Additional Skills

- Manipulate small objects to improve small motor skills for writing/crafts.
- Dress on their own (e.g. tucking in shirts, tying shoes, carrying their own bag).
- Handle their own bathroom needs. Eat independently (minus opening packages, etc.).
- Complete a chore and organize/clean up their spaces.
- Focus for a 5-10-minute period of time while doing a task or listening to a story.
- Make lower-level decisions such as which task to do first.

### Fun Things To Do

- Read quality literature to your child every day to increase vocabulary, retention skills, and focus.
- Give your child 1- to 3-step directions to see if they can recall and complete without your help.
- Work on small motor skills to strengthen muscles— this can be done by working with Play-doh, Legos, pencils, crayons, children's scissors, stickers, clothespins, and/or threading toothpicks or pipe cleaners through strainers.
- Assign your child a daily chore. The follow-through will serve as preparation for handling responsibilities in the classroom.
- If possible, take time to play on the school's playground over the summer to increase familiarity and have something to which they can look forward.
- Work together on age-appropriate puzzles.

# Why Parents Choose FCS

1

Parents know that a school's culture—and worldview—will impact their child's academic and spiritual growth.



We love the way our biblical worldview is supported and reinforced as it is interwoven through the curriculum. The teachers and staff at Faith Christian School truly care about student success, both academically and spiritually.

— *Donathan Family*

2

Parents want to partner in the formation process with teachers and mentors who see, know, and deeply care for their children.



We are thankful for teachers at Faith Christian School who see, know and care for our children. We are thankful for how they train minds and hearts to see God's goodness and glory. We are thankful for a school that partners with parents.

— *Eng Family*

3

Parents want to ensure their children become life-long lovers of learning in a community that values learning HOW to think.



The academic structure of the classical Christian model of learning has been a great fit for our family. The support shown by the faculty and staff creates a partnership in raising believers with a love of learning. The community at Faith Christian School is unmatched in the Roanoke Valley. — *Price Family*

# Why Christian Education?

*5 Reasons To Consider A Christian Education: A private Christian education provides the kind of return on investment that lasts forever.*



## **Supportive Community**

In a Christian school, not only the students but also the entire family can plug into a supportive community of like-minded believers who share values, eternal principles, and informed boundaries. This reinforces your family's values while your children mature in their journey with God.



## **Personalized Approach**

Typically, Christian schools have some of the smallest class sizes, allowing teachers to fully know their students and respond to their individual needs in a way that is likely more reminiscent of your own experiences as a child.



## **Lasting, Positive Friendships**

Christian schools provide a greater opportunity for students to build Christ-based, close friendships with peers and mentors that last long after graduation. Since one of the deepest human longings is to know and be known, a Christian education provides the best and safest environment for your children to develop socially.



## **Preparation For Learning**

Our JK program sets the stage for a child's educational journey through age-appropriate, hands-on learning. As they play and grow academically, socially, emotionally, and spiritually, their teachers are making the most of their natural curiosity to inspire lifelong, passionate learners.



## **Biblical Worldview**

All education is based on some type of worldview—a Christian education helps students build their own vibrant, Christian worldview starting in the foundational years of exploring, playing, and sharing in JK and Kindergarten. It prepares students to engage their culture with love and eternal principles.

*I am thankful for the friendships that my son, husband, and I have made with other Faith Christian families. We are also thankful for the amazing staff that is so caring and supportive. I love the communication we have with our son's teacher. This community is such a blessing!*

*- Melissa, mom to Joseph, Kindergarten*



# Christian Education In: The Early Years

From Junior Kindergarten through twelfth grade, students at Faith Christian School will build a foundation for life and learning. During the formative years, we seek to form a strong foundation by enabling our students to discover Biblical truth in every subject area—from math to nature studies. This integration equips students to answer life's most important questions about who they are and their valuable impact on the world around them.

Being a Christian school means more to us than offering a Bible class or a worship hour. It means nurturing and imparting Christian character, values, and concepts through all the subjects, activities, and relationships.

- 
- Together we will be kind to others that work with us.
  - Together we will be diligent to honor God through our work.
  - Together we will be obedient to those who lead us.
  - Together we will be respectful to those around us.
  - Together we will be truthful to always uphold the One who is Truth.

*- Faith Christian School "Together At School" Rules*

# So, Why Classical?

## In a word: Results.

Harmonious with a biblical worldview, a classical education provides a framework that nurtures and encourages a student's God-given innate desire to discover, investigate, question, and probe. Students gain mastery of foundational content, develop strong reasoning skills, and mature into keen critical thinkers as they delve deeply into the study of Liberal Arts and Sciences and find themselves equipped with tools necessary to become life-long learners.

We invite you to listen to the experts—our graduates. For over 25 years, graduates of Faith Christian School consistently report that as a result of the distinct offerings of our Christian and classical education, they have been better prepared than their peers in the following areas:

- **Academical Preparedness**
- **Stronger Writing Skills**
- **Confidence Engaging New Material**
- **Ability To Handle Rigorous Requirements Of College-level Work**
- **Comfort With High Standards For Excellence**
- **Ease In Approaching Professors**
- **Confidence Defending Their Faith**
- **Poise In Public Speaking & Presentation**
- **Ability To Reason, Make Sound Judgments, & Think On Their Feet**
- **Ability To Handle Rigorous Requirements Of College-level Work**
- **Greater Level Of Personal Responsibility**

Note: For the results of a national study on the results of Christian classical education compared to other educational models, see the Good Soil Report by Notre Dame Research Center at [classicaldifference.com/good-soil](http://classicaldifference.com/good-soil).

*For more on What Is Classical Christian Education, visit [fcsva.com](http://fcsva.com).*

# Educational Comparison

**Christian Classical education is powerful, proven, and purposeful education.**

For nearly a quarter of a century, Faith Christian has offered a distinctly Christian and distinctly Classical education that prepares our students for what lies ahead. At Faith Christian School we want our students' education to prepare them for the future, not just prepare them to pass a test. Our goals differ from most schools today, with robust curriculum that includes the arts, humanities, math, and science, and Scripture—integrating all disciplines in a Christian classical worldview.

## Faith Christian School

- Christ-centered education
- Education for formation
- Development of critical thinking: “Why?”
- Emphasis on the true, good, and beautiful
- Integrated interdisciplinary learning
- Appreciation of Western Civilization
- Latin taught as a core requirement and foundation for STEM subjects
- Humanities and fine arts emphasis
- Requires the student to learn how to learn
- Mastery: Working to one’s fullest potential
- Ultimate Goal: Lifelong love of learning
- Truth is objective, knowable, and absolute

## Modern Education

- Man-centered education
- Education for information
- Development of correct procedures: “How?”
- Emphasis on politically correct views
- Fragmented and disjointed learning
- Critical of Western Civilization
- Latin as an elective
- Techno-rational emphasis
- Requires the student to learn how to pass tests
- Mastery as measured by test grades
- Ultimate Goal: Graduation
- Truth is subjective, relative, and individual

*For more on What Is Classical Christian Education, visit [fcsva.com](http://fcsva.com).*

# The Value Of Continuity In Elementary School

FCS elementary students dive deeper into the core academic areas, scaffolding on concepts taught in previous grades.

For example, reading—and learning to love it—starts in Junior Kindergarten with an introduction to letters and all their single-letter phonograms, in fun and meaningful settings. It continues in Kindergarten where students increase their vocabulary, sight-word knowledge, and ability to decode words using an excellent and time-tested phonics program. By first grade, students master all 71 phonograms and are reading independently. In the upper elementary school years, students enjoy reading and discussing quality literature including classics such as *Charlotte's Web*, *The Lion*, *The Witch*, & *The Wardrobe*, and Dicken's *The Christmas Carol*.

Additionally, students discover and explore their unique passions through special subjects, service projects, and extracurricular activities. Our teachers ensure they help students to make valuable connections across subject areas and grades.

In math, we follow the time-tested methodology of Singapore Math (concrete, pictorial, abstract) which helps student gain a strong a strong number-sense and build a firm foundation for higher-level mathematics in the future.

To ensure students master a wide variety of skills requires continuity.



## OPEN ACCESS

Parents are encouraged to be involved in numerous class activities and events, with open access to teachers.



## INTEGRATED EDUCATION:

Subjects are integrated to demonstrate an intentional and purposeful Creator and increase relevancy for students.



## COMMUNITY SERVICE:

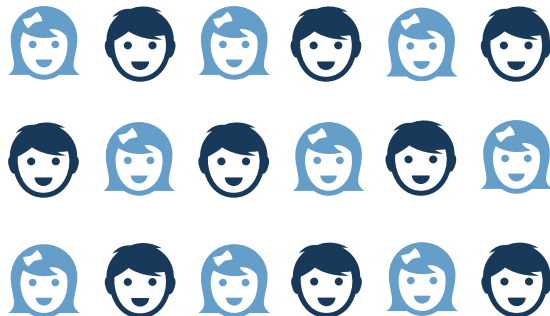
Students (and their families) engage in community service projects, leadership opportunities, and caring team or class activities.



## ENRICHMENT COURSES:

Ranging from Nature Studies to theater, students learn to recognize and appreciate what is good, true, and beautiful

## AVERAGE CLASS SIZE: 18



*I am thankful for Faith Christian School instilling a love of learning in my children. It is a blessing to see them so excited to share the new knowledge they gain at school. Even more exciting is watching them make a connection between a concept learned in school and applying that knowledge in their lives.*

- S. Nichols, 3rd and 5th Graders

# An Investment In Their Future

*From your own experience, you likely understand the significant role school plays in shaping the minds and hearts of students. We're committed to making an excellent education affordable.*



## ***Variable Tuition***

We believe so strongly in our Christian Classical education that we want to provide assistance to as many families as possible from a wide range of economic backgrounds.

Faith Christian School proudly offers Variable Tuition to fulfill our commitment to make a private, Christian, classical education affordable to families in the Roanoke area. Because of the outstanding support of others, no family at FCS pays the full cost of education through tuition.

Variable Tuition allows families to apply for affordable reduced tuition for their unique financial situations. Families apply online to an independent third party, FACTS Grant & Aid Management.

Call Cathi Weber at 540-769-5200 Ext. 148 if you have any questions!



***At Faith Christian School,  
tuition is not one size fits all.***

With variable tuition, an education at FCS has never been more accessible: [fcsva.com/affordable-variable-tuition](https://fcsva.com/affordable-variable-tuition).



*We can't wait to meet you!*

*Three ways to schedule a visit:*

Register online at  
[fcsva.com/schedule-a-visit](https://fcsva.com/schedule-a-visit)

Email us at  
[cweber@fcsva.com](mailto:cweber@fcsva.com)

Call us at  
540.769.5200

## *Admissions Process*

If you have any questions about the admissions process, please contact Cathi Weber at (540) 769-5200 ext. 148 or [cweber@fcsva.com](mailto:cweber@fcsva.com).

**Schedule a visit.** Go to [fcsva.com/schedule-a-visit](https://fcsva.com/schedule-a-visit), call (540) 769-5200 ext. 148, or email [cweber@fcsva.com](mailto:cweber@fcsva.com).

**Start online application process.**  
Go to <https://fcs-va.client.renweb.com/oa/?memberid=2006>

**Complete assessments.**  
Go to <https://fcs-va.client.renweb.com/oa/?memberid=2006>

EDUCATION  
PREPARATION  
FOUNDATION  
INSTRUCTION  
FORMATION

**FORMATION** *for life*

FORMATION  
FRIENDSHIP  
COMMUNITY  
CONNECTION



**FAITH CHRISTIAN**  
SCHOOL

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