

Third grade

We are serious about curriculum at Fredericksburg Christian Schools! If we are to stay focused on our mission of training the next generation of Christian leaders, it is vital that we offer them the best academic program possible in keeping with God's excellent character and expectations. This curriculum guide is intended to provide an overview of the program at each grade level in order for you to understand what students are taught each year at FCS. As part of our partnership with parents, we desire for you to be informed and involved in your child's education. We hope that this information is helpful. You are encouraged to talk with the school's principal or a teacher of a particular grade level for more information.

The Heart of Our Curriculum

Authentic biblical worldview integration is an important component of the curriculum at FCS. Our desire is for students to view every subject area as a way to better know the character of God and learn more about His creation, mankind, moral order and purpose for our lives. Both Christian and secular textbooks are used to develop in students a biblical worldview and teach them wisdom, discernment and critical thinking in all things.

Ultimately, the quality of our curriculum rests in the skillful hands of teachers and is an outgrowth of their commitment to Christian education and excellence in academics. Luke 6:40 says that one who is fully trained will be like his teacher; this is a sobering challenge for every teacher and reminds us of our incredible calling to point to Christ in every area, including our school curriculum.

Fredericksburg Christian Schools

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Physical Education

In Physical Education class, offered twice each week, students learn to appreciate the amazing abilities of the human body and are taught the importance of care of the body. Students also learn and practice skills in a variety of team, individual and lifetime sports. Physical fitness testing is administered beginning in 1st grade, and students can earn National or Presidential Awards based on their achievement.

Library

Students attend weekly library class where they learn how to use libraries as well as explore many literary topics such as the parts of a book, authors and illustrators, listening skills, genres, research skills and overall literature appreciation. Students enjoy checking out books and develop personal responsibility for returning them each week.

Field Trips and Special Events

- Little House Christmas Celebration
- Charlotte's Web Day
- Annual Spelling Bee (1st—8th grades)
- Math Olympics (3rd—8th grades)
- Science Fair (3rd—8th grades)
- Grandparents' Day
- Art Festival
- Mount Vernon field trip
- Stratford Hall field trip
- Friends of the Rappahannock field trip
- Field Day



Fine Arts

Music

Music class is held weekly, and students experience and participate in God's gift of music. Students apply previously learned musical skills as they learn to play the recorder throughout the year in 3rd grade.

Art

Students attend art class every other week and explore the foundational elements of line, shape, space, texture and color. An annual Art Festival highlights each student's artwork.

Resources & Textbooks

Bible: CEF, A Beka
Reading: A Beka, McGraw-Hill, various trade books
Language: Shurley English
Mathematics: Saxon
Spelling: Modern Curriculum Press
Handwriting: Zaner-Bloser
History: Bob Jones University Press
Science: A Beka

Bible

Daily Bible class is an important part of spiritual development at FCS. We are committed to the study of God's Word and its application to our lives as the foundation for living a joyful, victorious Christian life. We ultimately desire that every student discover and strengthen a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and develop a biblical worldview. Students read and study the Bible, sing Bible songs, memorize Scripture verses and discuss Christian character and missions. Topics studied in 3rd grade include:

- Gospel message through the Wordless Book
- Samuel
- David
- Elijah
- Elisha
- Esther
- Daniel
- Parables
- Life of Christ
- Pilgrim's Progress



Chapels

All are welcome to attend our weekly chapels for worship and sharing about God's Word and its application

Mathematics

The study of mathematics provides unique opportunities to learn about God's orderliness, precision, unchangeableness and absolute truthfulness. Our students use the Saxon Math curriculum to study a wide variety of mathematical concepts in increasing difficulty throughout the elementary school years. Emphasis is placed in several key strands: numbers and operations, measurement, geometry, patterns, algebra and functions, statistics, data analysis and probability, problem solving, communication, mathematical reasoning, and connections. Yearly participation in the Math Olympics allows an opportunity for students in 3rd through 8th grades to compete with students in other Christian schools and challenge themselves to grow in their math ability.

Computer

Students receive training in Microsoft Office through curriculum that is produced and updated annually by School Technology Programs (in partnership with Boston University and the University of Richmond). Skills are taught in working with databases and spreadsheets (Excel), graphics, desktop publishing (Publisher), multimedia (PowerPoint) and word processing (Word). Students create projects to practice the skills taught in each unit and apply these skills in their other classes in completion of various projects assigned by their teachers.

Science

The study of God's world through science is exciting and full of opportunities for us to know our Creator and Lord. The basic principles of the scientific method are illustrated during the year. In 3rd through 8th grades, students are encouraged to participate in the school's annual Science Fair. 3rd graders specifically study the following units:

- Nervous System & Five Senses
- Plants
- Vertebrates
- Invertebrates
- Biomes/Ecosystems: Deserts, Oceans, Ponds, Forests, Fields, Food Chains
- Weather



Social Studies

History, geography, culture, economics, civics and current affairs are the foundation of the social studies program through which we seek to learn about God's providence in His world. At the 3rd grade level, students continue the chronological study of American history from 1776 to 1876 which includes:

- Forming the United States Government
- The French Revolution
- Settling the Western Frontier
- The Civil War
- Railroads
- Integrated geography and map skills, including memorization of the 50 states

Language Arts



Language arts is a foundational subject area, and we commit considerable time and attention to it on a daily basis.

3rd grade students, with their mastery of phonics and independent reading ability, begin to apply their reading skills in every subject area. Students continue to practice reading skills in small groups during half of the year, and vocabulary building and comprehension skills are integrated throughout the program. *Little House in the Big Woods* and *Charlotte's Web* are read and enjoyed as a class and are used to teach foundational literary concepts. Students complete their first independent book report in 3rd grade.

In English, students thoroughly study the structure of sentences, including parts of speech, types of sentences, vocabulary, grammar, usage and mechanics. Opportunities are given regularly for students to write about a variety of topics and experience the complete writing process.

Spelling words are learned on a weekly basis, and students are given the opportunity to participate in the ACSI Spelling Bee every year.

Handwriting (cursive) is taught and emphasized daily.