

Instrumental Music

The main emphasis of the instrumental program at FCS is to provide a medium through which musicianship and social skills can be formed through a well-rounded music education. This encompasses a basic knowledge of music history and music theory in addition to technical and expressive skill in the student's respective instrument. Other benefits of the program include the pride of accomplishment, self-discipline, leadership and morale.

Students with knowledge and experience in a musical instrument may participate in the Middle School Orchestra (6th-8th grades), the 6th Grade Concert Band or the Middle School Wind Symphony (7th and 8th grades).

Concert performances, competitive festivals and other opportunities to share and grow in musical ability are experienced throughout the year.

Athletics

6th and 7th grades:

Girls: volleyball, basketball, cheerleading, soccer

Boys: basketball, soccer, football through the Fredericksburg Area Youth Football League (weight and age restrictions apply)

8th grade:

In addition to the above, 8th graders have the opportunity to participate with the high school in:

Girls: cross country, swimming, softball, field hockey

Boys: cross country, baseball, swimming, golf

Choir

Choir for middle school students is an opportunity to develop their musical talents and honor the Lord by sharing them with others. Students in choir meet every day to explore basic techniques of singing and vocal production, expand their score reading skills and understanding of musical elements, develop personal vocal range, tone, control and listening skills, and perform a variety of types of music. The choir performs concerts, competes in festivals and sings in other venues during the year. Choir students in 7th and 8th grades add to their skills by learning to play hand chimes. Leadership is also developed through student directing, solos and accompanist opportunities.

Clubs and Activities

- Spelling Bee (1st-8th grades)
- Math Olympics (3rd-8th grades)
- Geography Bee (4th-8th grades)
- Science Fair (3rd-8th grades)
- Grandparents' Day
- Art Festival
- Student Government
- Music Concerts
- Rake-A-Thon Service Project
- Missions Emphasis: Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child; Sponsorship of ACSI International Students
- 8th Grade Retreat
- 6th Grade trip to National Cathedral
- 7th Grade trip to Jamestown/Williamsburg
- Other field trips in 6th-8th grades

Sixth 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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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. At the 6th grade level, students participate in a survey of the Old and New Testaments and discover the themes and continuity of the Bible. The supplementary textbook for the 6th grade Bible curriculum is *Route 66: Travel Through the Bible* (Positive Action for Christ).

Chapels

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

Science

Students explore a variety of topics from the life, earth and physical sciences using Holt's Short Course textbooks. Creation is taught in accordance with the account in Genesis, and other issues in science are studied in light of biblical principles. Hands-on learning opportunities and emphasis on the Scientific Method are a regular part of science class. Specific units studied in 6th grade are:

- Weather & Climate
- Microorganisms, Fungi, & Plants
- Introduction to Matter
- Animals
- Water on Earth

Language Arts

Students use *Shurley English* to thoroughly study the structure of sentences including parts of speech, types of sentences, vocabulary, grammar, usage and mechanics. Opportunities are given regularly to write about a variety of topics and improve students' ability to communicate with words. Effective paragraph writing and research skills are emphasized and often integrated with other subject areas.

A variety of literature is read and utilized to develop increased literacy, comprehension and critical thinking skills. Among the literature concepts studied and novels read at the 6th grade level are:

- *Island of the Blue Dolphins*
- Poetry
- *A Christmas Carol*
- *The Bronze Bow*
- *Tuck Everlasting*

Spelling and vocabulary development are integrated with the study of literature. Greek and Latin roots and their application to word spellings and meanings are studied in 6th through 8th grades.

Students are also given the opportunity to participate in the ACSI Spelling Bee and the ACSI Creative Writing Festival every year.

Art

Students attend art class for a portion of the year and explore the foundational elements of line, shape, space, texture and color. An annual Art Festival highlights each student's artwork.

Mathematics

The study of mathematics provides unique opportunities to learn about God's orderliness, precision, unchangeableness and absolute truthfulness. Our students study a wide variety of mathematical concepts in increasing difficulty throughout the elementary and middle 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.



Students in 6th grade use the Saxon Math curriculum.

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.

History

During the middle school years students embark on a chronological study of history in order to recognize God's providence and sovereignty in world events. Students begin with ancient world history in 6th grade using *Old World History* (A Beka). Geography concepts are integrated throughout the following topics of study:

- The Fertile Crescent/ Mesopotamia
- Egypt (including participation in an annual Egypt Day event)
- Ancient and Modern Middle East
- Greece
- Rome
- Christianity
- Middle Ages

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. Students also continue keyboarding which includes learning correct fingering and daily practice to improve proficiency.