

Summit Christian Academy

Mission Statement:

Summit Christian Academy is a private, Christian University-Model School® whose purpose is to partner with families by providing students with a comprehensive, well-rounded education that prepares each student for life; in so doing, we seek to encourage and support the development of the whole child academically, spiritually, relationally and physically through a traditional classroom environment and individual family involvement.

Academic Vision:

By God's blessing and His wisdom, *Summit Christian Academy* endeavors to provide staff and curriculum that supports an educational environment where a love for learning is encouraged, students' academic disciplines are sharpened and each child's God-given gifts are nurtured, for His glory and the furthering of His Kingdom.

Guiding Principles:

1. Each staff member is selected based on the following criteria:
He/She possess...
 - a. a personal faith in Jesus Christ and a growing relationship with Him
 - b. a love for children and a passion for teaching
 - c. a set of educational skills : professionalism, dedication, proficiency in teaching methods, mastery of the subject areas being taught
 - d. a commitment to instructing from a Biblical, Christian worldview
 - e. a commitment to supporting the family unit
 - f. a commitment to the Great Commission
 - g. a teachable, flexible, joyful and industrious spirit.
2. Curriculum is selected based on its commitment to a Biblical foundation, reflecting God's glory and its richness in academic content. It must also be efficiently taught, allowing for time to be used wisely in the classroom and to provide for more meaningful family interactions at home.
3. During the course of each academic school year, *Summit Christian Academy* partners with each family and student to provide *curriculum selections, academic planning, formal instruction and assessment*. Each parent's commitment involves *supporting their student by administering assigned work intended for reinforcement and practice, teaching lessons needed in preparation for the next school day and encouraging a general love for learning* demonstrated by their commitment of time and thoughtful involvement. They are encouraged to enrich and extend their individual child's talents and interests as they deem necessary and confer with the teacher to best meet each student's needs.
4. *Summit Christian Academy* seeks to provide grade appropriate curriculum while recognizing our mandate to encourage each child's uniqueness and to help them set academic goals and achieve them.

Curriculum Selections for 2009-2010

History/ Geography

Tapestry of Grace

All students in grades K-12 will follow Tapestry of Grace (TOG) curriculum. This series was written to help students discern the threads and patterns in the tapestry of time woven by God in ages past. This curriculum is an integrated literature-based program, encompassing a wide genre of rich historical texts, to include poetry, Biblical texts, Hebrew based literature, historical epics, etc. This classical approach to the study of history will be driven by these rich texts, along with a Socratic method of question/answer dialogue between student and teacher. Additionally, this history curriculum will incorporate geography, government, and Church history.

Tapestry of Grace is a Christian-based history curriculum that will cycle through world history every four years. All grades will study the same time period in history each week, with each grade level learning age appropriate material. Lessons in TOG are presented for every learner: visual, auditory, and tactile. History is brought to life through the use of art, crafts, research projects, and other hands-on activities. In order to demonstrate the culture and education students focused upon in that particular era/study, SCA will host a family day at the end of each 9 week grading period. This family festival will include the food, art, costumes, and items of that time period. The four year cycles are listed below:

YEAR 1 The History of Redemption

From Creation to the Fall of Rome

YEAR 2 Between Ancient and Modern

From Byzantium to the United States Constitution

YEAR 3 The 19th Century

From Napoleon to Teddy Roosevelt

YEAR 4 The 20th Century

From Teddy Roosevelt to September 11th

Language Arts

BJU Reading, Writing, and Grammar

As we searched diligently to find a program that encompasses all the language arts skills and followed NAUMS essential elements, we wanted to keep focused on growing these precious children for God's glory by encouraging growth in Christian character.

Bob Jones reading program offers just that and more. Included is a variety of selections-family stories, adventure, Christian realism, historical fiction, Bible accounts retold, biographies, information articles, folktales, poems and plays. It also offers delightful instruction building comprehension skills and developing phonics systemically while producing confident eager readers. Most importantly, it teaches the process of literary analysis that will enable our students to interpret and evaluate what they read in light of biblical truth.

At the kinder level, the goal will be to invite children into the excitement of reading –encouraging interest and a desire to learn. BJU makes provisions for individual differences using varied methodologies and activities to target the variety of learning modalities. These young learners will be singing phonics songs, games and motor activities to practice and review sounds/words they learn. It promises to set the stage for comprehension and provides for strong phonics instruction in a logical format. Decoding words is simplified by focusing on predictable patterns. Another feature is the use of composition activities to promote the reading/writing connection. It comes with 32 (7"x 10") small paper books. Our first graders will have 6 books to read throughout the year increasing in difficulty as they progress.

We will also use BJU for Grammar and Writing. Our initial goal will be to foster an appreciation of language as a gift from God. Other goals include: developing the correct use of English grammar in written and oral communication, using the writing process to teach different types of compositions, encouraging clear and effective writing, developing study and reference skills, improving speaking and listening skills, and encouraging enjoyment through chapter themes and connections to other subjects. Alternating chapters between grammar and writing helps to provide a strong link between these two areas of language arts. Grammar is foundational to good writing but grammar skills alone do not develop good writers. Each chapter includes writing, speaking and listening skills.

The use of journals will also be encouraged as students begin to share their thoughts, observations and creative expressions.

Language Arts/ English Program: Bob Jones (www.bjupress.com)

Write Source will be used in first grade *only* as a supplemental writing program.

(www.thewritesource.com)

A literature list will be provided in the language arts package to fulfill 9 week reading grades and projects. Classical reading selections will be included.

Spelling

Teachers will be creating a list of words from reading and other content areas in addition to the use of high frequency words.

A foundational skill to learning English is to recognize the common phonograms used in our language and learn the rules that govern their spelling. The English language is 93% phonetic which makes it imperative to learn phonics correctly in order to both read and spell well. *Spell to Write and Read phonogram and spelling rule cards* will assist co-teachers in teaching the foundation of the English Language. These flashcards will be used at home to both guide the co-teacher in proper phonics instruction as well as a daily activity that can be done with your children.

Handwriting

Being that some children do not naturally write well and can become discouraged with this discipline, we sought an encouraging and kid-friendly approach to penmanship, thus selecting *Handwriting without Tears*. In Kindergarten, the teacher will be responsible for handwriting instruction. In 1st and 2nd grades the parents will be the primary teachers, with the students' classroom teachers taking periodic grades on selected assignments. In 3rd, the teacher will again instruct in the skill of cursive, leaving 4th for the parents to reinforce. Families will purchase the guides for each school year and work at their own pace. The teachers will continue to take periodic grades on assignments.

In grades 5th -6th, a reasonable percentage of written assignments will include a penmanship grade. This is to encourage the discipline. No workbooks will be purchase during these educational years.

Handwriting Without Tears (<http://shopping.hwtears.com>)

Literature

In K-1st the students will be exposed to great literature through a collection of classic selections. They will enjoy age appropriate activities designed to enhance their love for literature and compliment each story. Each story will be enjoyed audibly during a story time gathering.

Starting in 2nd, the students will begin to read great works of literature and personalize the stories through book reports or other creative means. Our literature selections will be chosen on the criteria that they are richly written, wholesome in their subject matter and age appropriate. We seek to encourage the students to expand their imaginations, develop a love for reading and become more proficient at the skill of reading. Reading logs will be kept and turned in every two weeks. Research shows that when a student reads at least 20 minutes a day, their proficiency increases greatly.

Veritas Press is our provider of K-1 literature selections.

(<http://www.veritaspress.com> - First click on *Literature* and then on the specific grade level.)

Mathematics

enVision Math

enVision Math is based on scientific research on how children learn mathematics as well as on classroom-based evidence that validates proven reliability. Our students will be engaged and interacting with math content from the beginning of each lesson. This new program was especially designed for Texas students keeping in mind the essential elements, which NAUMS follows closely due to the fact that these are exceptional national math standards with high expectations. The six strands of mathematics are: Number and Operations, Algebraic Thinking, Geometry, Measurement, Probability and Statistics, and Problem Solving. The heavy emphasis is on our students becoming excellent problem solvers for the future.

Step One of each lesson begins with recursive review and a Problem of the Day.

Step Two is Interactive Learning where the concept is being developed and students are motivated to engage in the lesson through visual learning and real world connections. It is manipulative based - "hands-on, minds-on" and incorporates games, songs, and cross curricular connections to make math come alive.

Step 3 is the guided and independent practice part of the lesson.

Step 4 closes the lesson with a brief quick check to prescribe differentiated instruction.

enVisionMath (www.envisionmathtexas.com)

Flashcard Magic is one option for the mastery of math facts. This is a self paced program and fun for the kids to manage (optional). There will be scheduled math fact quizzes to keep the students accountable to the mastery of math facts.

Flashcard Magic (<http://www.AboutGod'sWorldNews.flashcardmagic.com>)

Science

BJU Science

Bob Jones Science is a very comprehensive, systematic, quality curriculum that meets national standards as well as incorporating biblical truths within the lessons. Materials are developed with increasing depth at each grade. All major science topics are introduced in grades 1-6 and then developed in detail in grades 7-12. Each class will participate in a variety of hands-on, science skill-building activities or experiments. We were excited to find the scientific method within each one. We feel certain this curriculum will give your young children a solid foundation in science.

Some of the major advantages are:

- Excellent scope and sequence
- Extensive labs/hands-on activities
- Provides an excellent preparation for upper-level science.

The following is an overview of topics that will be studied:

First graders will be introduced to the world of physical science: senses, space, plants, matter, animals, basic laws of motion, air, weather and more are all covered in age-appropriate detail with colorful pictures and photos. Activities at the end of textbook chapters help bring concepts to life with additional reinforcement.

Second graders will learn about God's earth and His creation clearly as they study bones, plants, the shape and movement of the earth, natural forces, and shorelines. Young explorers will learn about the spiritual and natural facts that support each other, as they become aware of the wisdom that's behind every facet of the universe. Students will study the basic elements of science, including plants, living and nonliving organisms, the earth, force, light and measuring length.

Third graders will learn about animals, plants, ecosystems, matter, sound, energy & motion.

Fourth graders will learn about the moon, light, electricity, area, volume, simple machines, digestion, plants, trees, erosion, and insects, rocks & minerals, weather, the solar system, cells & organs, and skin.

Fifth graders will learn about fossils, oceans, wind, weather, thermal energy, atomic theory, flight, the sun, and the nervous system.

Sixth graders topics include volcanoes, earthquakes, stars, chemistry, motion, the circulatory system, and the biosphere, the sun, and the nervous system.

BJU Science (www.bjupress.com)

Wednesday Electives

Electives Classes are taught by talented individuals who have had training in their particular area of expertise. We would like any parents with unique abilities that would like to share some wonderful new experiences with our young warriors to contact Mrs. Graham.

The intent of this day is for the students to step out of the regular classroom schedule and subject matter to experience new and enriching opportunities. Another advantage of having all electives at the school on Wednesdays is for the parents to have “one stop” for extracurricular activities opposed to running all over town fighting traffic. This may just turn out to be the warrior’s favorite day!

Many times our students have asked Mrs. Graham to watch them on the playground for just 5 minutes between classes due to the special relationships they have formed during the school year with one another. These friendships have the ingredients to last a long time.

The students can participate in one or as many activities as their parents feel they can handle. Enrollment will occur at each semester only.

As our school grows, we will be able to hold athletic team practices during the day, so as to protect family time in the evenings.

Fees will vary by class. Please contact the school for specific details. We also plan to maintain a study hall time with an adult monitor for kids who would like to do school work in between their scheduled classes.

Below is a list of possible activities:

Physical Education (Tues/Thurs)

Latin

Spanish

Sign Language

Art

Bible

Group Guitar Lessons

Group Piano Lessons

Music

Robotics

Karate

Cooking-Young Chef’s Academy

Sewing

Public Speaking

Dance/Ballet

Performing Arts

Crocheting