

Foundations Christian Academy

About us

Foundations Christian Academy (“FCA”) was founded in 2009 by a group of five families who all shared the same vision. These families saw a need for a homeschool tutorial that offered excellent academics, ample social opportunities, and Christian character development while supporting the homeschooling family. After much prayer and seeking God's will, these five families came together to form the Board of Directors.

Currently, the Board of Directors consists of four of the original founding families:

Jim & Laura Blue Jeff
& Michele Chandler
Mike & Hollie Ingram Alan
& Delinia Poenitske

In the spring of 2011, the Board of Directors hired Peggy Sullenger to serve as Academy Director. Mrs. Sullenger holds a Bachelor's Degree in Early Childhood Education, as well as a Master's Degree in Educational Administration and Supervision. She is licensed to teach in the state of Tennessee and taught in a public school system for several years before homeschooling her own children.

Our Mission

The mission of Foundations Christian Academy is to provide the highest quality education in a Christ-centered, interdenominational environment that supports and enhances the homeschool experience. The Academy focuses on the development of Christian character, worship, quality education, and opportunities for social growth in a supportive environment for its students. Our goal is to prepare our students for lives of integrity, learning, and service to their communities.

Educational Philosophy

We believe that the ultimate responsibility for a child's education lies with the parents. Foundations Christian Academy exists to encourage, enable, and empower parents to educate their child in a way that first and foremost honors God. We believe it is a privilege to partner with parents, and our desire is that this program complements the primary education being offered in the home. We accomplish this by maintaining the highest standards in academics in a Christ centered environment.

At Foundations Christian Academy, our desire is to capture and captivate children in a way that instills in them a lifelong love of learning. We provide an environment rich in opportunities for exploration, thinking, and learning. Realizing each child is an individual; our goal is to fan the flame of their gifts and passions, while kindling new areas of interest which may otherwise remain dormant. Instructors maintain a close partnership with parents in order to understand, encourage, and nurture their students.

We consider the developmental phases of the students and use the appropriate teaching methods for that stage of development. We do not adhere to one particular methodology of teaching. We incorporate parts of the classical approach of the grammar stage, including memorization of subject matter, particularly in the study of Science and Latin. We utilize the Montessori style of using hands on manipulatives, particularly in the early elementary division, to increase comprehension. We use living books and create an environment rich in opportunities, suggesting an element of Charlotte Mason's method of education. We make connections for the students by integrating themes in content throughout the subject areas. Literature correlates with the History and Science curricula, as well as the Art curricula at times.

Academics

Grades K-6:

Courses of Study

Kindergarten-2nd grade are self-contained classrooms, while grades 3rd-6th rotate through core subjects. Our core subjects include a Language Arts Supplement, Science, History, Latin, and Art. A committee of instructors and professionals choose the particular books and curricula for each academic year.

Language Arts Supplement: Our Language Arts component utilizes literature as a springboard for comprehension and composition. Composition entails creative writing, poetry, paragraph writing, and the formal essay. In addition, public speaking will be emphasized and incorporated at all grades levels as appropriate.

***Note on Language Arts Supplement:** Foundations Christian Academy does NOT provide formal instruction in phonics, spelling, or grammar. It is the responsibility of parents to teach these subjects during at home instruction for all grades. The Language Arts program at Foundations Christian Academy comes alongside to bring enrichment to your child's language experience. These aforementioned skills will only be discussed in the classroom to the extent they pertain to or are incorporated in composition discussions.

History: All K-6 graders will study the same historical era on a four year rotation. History and Language Arts will be tied together when possible to reinforce the subject matter. The time period planned for study for the 2016-17 academic year will be Year 2: Explorers, Middle Ages, Reformation (400-1600 AD). (Please refer to the "Education Continuum" section for full four year rotationschedule.)

Science: Lower and upper elementary students will have separate science subject rotations. K-2 students will rotate through a three year broader study while students in grades 3-6 will rotate through 4 years of in-depth science studies. For upper elementary students, immersion in one scientific topic for an extended period of time gives students the opportunity to develop a love for the field and an appreciation for the intricacies and patterns God has embedded within it for us to discover. As with all subject areas, Science will be taught from a Biblical perspective. Hands-on projects and experiments will be incorporated in order to give concrete understanding. For the 2016-17 academic year, K-2 will study Year 3: States of Matter, Simple Machines, Physics, Soil/plants, Insects, Life Cycle(butterflies). The students in grades 3-6 will study Year 2: Human Body/Botany. (Please refer to the "Education Continuum" section for full three and four year rotation schedules.)

Latin: Beginning in 3rd grade, Latin will be studied one day per week, with emphasis on vocabulary and origins of the English Language. Lower grades may introduce basic vocabulary words within their self-contained classroom.

***Note on Latin:** Latin is essential to the fundamental understanding of English, History and writings of Western Civilization. Latin is a very systematic language, and it trains the mind to think in an orderly fashion. It improves English skills, spelling, and vocabulary. The grammatical structure of English is based on Latin, and 50-60% of English words have Latin roots. Latin is also an excellent foundation for the study of many other languages, which are also based on Latin, as well as future studies in medicine, law, and philosophy. Understanding the Latin roots can also be helpful when taking standardized tests.

FCA practices a 4-year cumulative Latin class which emphasizes translation skills acquired in successive years of Latin study for its upper elementary program. As a result, new students in the 4th, 5th, and 6th grades are required to take a week-long summer Latin intensive designed to equip them with the grammatical and translation skills needed for a successful transition into FCA's Latin program. In addition, accepted students prepare for the summer Latin intensive by learning the Latin vocabulary taught to the students in their respective grade. The summer Latin intensive for entering 4th, 5th and 6th graders will be held in August 2015 - actual dates TBA. If your child is unable to attend Latin Camp, then tutoring will be mandatory, either with our Latin instructor, or someone he approves for the task.

Art: Art will be offered one day per week for grades 3rd-6th. Creativity, art theory, and art history will all be emphasized. Art will be incorporated into the core subjects for the lower grades.

Grades 7-8:

Courses of Study

Foundations Christian Academy offers challenging opportunities for learning and growth in the Upper Academy. Students are encouraged to analyze, investigate, and question as they prepare to apply logic and discernment both inside and outside the classroom. FCA's Upper Division course of study draws connections between the four core academic disciplines (Language, History, Science, and Math) and emphasizes how this knowledge relates to students' own lives and the world around them.

English:

World Literature and Language

This course is designed to strengthen critical thinking skills, improve critical writing skills, and afford students a means of exploring other cultures. Through this experience students will gain a better understanding of their world and themselves. Students will synthesize themes, symbolism, and motifs of the literature they read through group projects and/or individual presentations. Students will have the opportunity to write an instructor-guided research paper that ushers them through the process step-by-step. Grammar and vocabulary are also key elements to this course.

American Literature and Language

The ultimate goals for this class are to expose students to American culture, heritage, and history through study of our literature; and, to continue advancement towards more mature, refined writing skills. A variety of works will be explored from historical to modern. We will discuss questions such as: What is the proverbial 'American Dream'? How are my cultural heritage and the heritage of my country reflected in American literature? Students will be able to maturely comprehend and analyze works of literature to generate insightful ideas about themselves, their cultural history, and their world. Communication and leadership skills will continue to play an important part of this class through group and individual projects and presentations. Students will also write a research paper. Grammar and vocabulary continue to be important elements of this class.

History:

World Geography and Cultural Studies

Students will become inspired to make a difference in this world for God's Kingdom as they travel the globe and meet heroes of the faith along the way. Amy Carmichael and Hudson Taylor are a few of the amazing heroes students will encounter while investigating the history, culture, and current events at each stop on their worldwide expedition.

History and Government of the USA

The USA, from the early inhabitants to the making of a country, will be studied in this course. The study focuses on the founding fathers and foundations upon which our government was built. Students will discover the significance of the "National Treasures" of the USA as they study original documents such as the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, and the Federalist Papers.

Science:

Life Science

Students will study the building blocks of life, the symbiotic relationships between living organisms, and the incredible way that God orchestrated His world. Cell anatomy, cell processes, and genetics are a few of the fascinating topics covered in Life Science.

Physical Science

Physical Science is where science and math come together to help explain the things observed in nature. Mathematics is used in Physical Science to calculate the measurements of objects and their characteristics, as well as to show the relationships between

different functions and properties. An objective of this course is to impart a clear understanding of the basics in chemistry and physics.

Math:

7th Grade Math

This course is designed to give students a strong foundation in mathematical skills in preparation for studying algebra and upper level skills. This is the year to attempt to fill-in any holes that may exist from prior mathematical studies, as well as direct students to think algebraically. Topics of study include: integers, rational numbers, powers and roots, ratios, proportions and percent, inequalities, introduction to linear equations and functions, probability and statistics, area and volume, as well as applications to real-world problems.

Algebra I

This is a first year Algebra course in which students will learn the basis for upper level math courses. Success in Algebra is crucial to forming a strong foundation on which to build advanced mathematical skills. Students will be studying topics such as simplifying expressions, solving multi-step linear equations, graphing linear functions, solving systems of equations and inequalities, exponents and radicals, factoring polynomials, solving quadratic equations, solving rational equations, solving radical equations, simplifying rational and radical expressions, probability and statistics, as well as solving a wide array of application problems.

Education Continuum

Language Arts

In order to create a consistent writing skill progression and build a strong writing program for all the grades, Foundations Christian Academy will utilize four key components to its writing program. The four components are: 1) the 5-step writing process, 2) the author's chair, 3) the hamburger paragraph model and 4) peer review.

The 5-Step Writing Process

All grades at Foundations Christian Academy will learn the 5-step "Writing Process." Lower grades will experience an introduction to the writing process steps. As students progress through each grade, they will utilize the writing process with greater detail, ultimately writing a five paragraph essay.

The Author's Chair

Introduced in Kindergarten and used at each grade level, students will utilize an "author's chair" type of format where they can share some of their writing with the class in an informal presentation manner. The benefits of an "author's chair" include: overcoming fear of public speaking, improving public speaking skills, taking pride in one's work, teaching students to be excellent listeners and positive encouragers and utilizing one form of "publishing" in the writing process.

Hamburger Model Paragraph

Introduced in lower elementary and used at each grade level, students will learn the "Hamburger Paragraph." This is where the concept of beginning/middle/end and the terms topic sentence, supporting details, and closing sentence, are illustrated with a top bun, burger and trimmings and bottom bun.

Peer-Review

nd

Beginning in the 2nd Grade and used at each grade level thereafter, students will utilize the "peer review" process where student drafts are shared in the classroom for the purpose of gathering input in the revision step of the writing process. Teachers will provide specific guidelines for the "peer review" and instruct students how to speak the truth in love when providing feedback to authors.

History Rotation Schedule*

Elementary (grades K-6)

Year 1: Creation, Ancient Civilizations, China, Egypt, Greece, Rome (5000 BC – 400 AD)

Year 2: Explorers, Middle Ages, Reformation (400 AD – 1600 AD)

Year 3: Early American history – settlers, pilgrims, Native Americans, early Tennessee history (1600s – 1850s)

Year 4: American history – Civil War through modern times (1850s – 2000) with lower elementary focusing on modern inventions

Science Rotation Schedule*

Lower Elementary (grades K-2)

Year 1: Earth Science, Weather, Solar System, Properties of Water, Life Cycle (frogs and tadpoles)
Year 2: The Human body, the 5 senses, Nutrition, food chain, habitats, vertebrates/animals, bird identification, Life Cycle (chicks)
Year 3: States of Matter, Simple Machines, Physics, Soil/plants, Insects, Life Cycle(butterflies)

Upper Elementary (grades 3-6)

Year 1: Astronomy/Weather

Year 2: Human Body/Botany

Year 3: Zoology

Year 4: Chemistry/Physics

*NOTE: These are general guidelines for History and Science rotations at Foundations Christian Academy. FCA reserves the right to adjust or modify the rotation schedule and subjects covered based upon available materials and time constraints.

***Note on Math:** We understand that students have varied learning styles and progress at different paces. Math will NOT be offered at Foundations Christian Academy for grades K-6. This subject should be covered as part of the elementary students' at home instruction. Math will be offered in 7-8.

Grading Scale and Progress Reports

The Academy year is broken into four quarters lasting eight weeks each. Progress reports are issued at the end of each quarter. Parent/instructor conferences are held in the fall and spring. The instructors are available to meet with the parents if desired at the parent or instructor's request. However, if parent or instructor has concerns about a student's academic progress, a conference may be scheduled at any time. Parent and instructor should work together to help the student. It is the parent and the student's responsibility to support the instructor's plan for improvement. Foundations Christian Academy reserves the right to hold progress reports if a family is not current with their financial obligations to the Academy.

Regular attendance and completion of homework is crucial to academic progress. If a child misses more than four days per quarter, the instructor may be unable to evaluate the student's participation and retention of subject matter, and an incomplete may be issued. Homework assignments are given by the instructors to progress the students academically, prepare them for in class discussions and provide the instructor a basis by which to assess the student's ability. Therefore, homework assignments are not optional unless coordinated with the instructor directly.

A+	97-100	B+	87-89	C+	77-79	D+	67-69	F	below
A	93-96	R	83-86	C	73-76	D	63-66		
A-	90-92	B-	80-82	C-	70-72	D	60-62		

st

Kindergarten and 1st grade are graded using Needs Improvement, Satisfactory and Outstanding categories. Grading Scale Used in grades 2-6:

Academic Requirements

We require that all students maintain a "C" average each quarter for grades 3 – 6. If a student drops below a "C" average, the student will be placed on academic probation. At the end of the following quarter, if the student again earns below a "C" average for that quarter, the director will meet with the parents to determine next steps with dismissal at the discretion of the board.

In addition to the grade earned, students at all grade levels will be evaluated on their class preparedness, class participation, timeliness and respect for both their instructors and fellow students. Each student's class participation will be reviewed in conjunction with the quarterly grades. A student may be placed on academic probation at the discretion of the board if they exhibit disrespect for their instructor or fellow students or significantly slow down the pace of the class as a result of their actions even if they maintain the required "C" grade average.

Academic Integrity

FCA students are held to the highest standards of academic integrity. At times, take home tests or quizzes will be given to be administered by the parent. FCA expects that the student will take the test independently or in accordance with the instructor's guidelines and apply the same level of integrity as would be expected during classroom tests. Cheating or plagiarizing in any instance will result in parental consultation, and the student will receive a zero on the assignment in question. Repeated offenses will result in the student's dismissal from FCA.

Chapel/Bible Club

As part of our studies, Chapel is held on Monday mornings from 8:35 until 9:05. This is a time for students to gather corporately to share in kid friendly worship, study a passage from Scripture and celebrate accomplishments. On Fridays, students will meet with their homeroom instructor during this same time for Bible Club. During this time, the students dive a little deeper into the Bible lesson discussed during Chapel to discuss and understand how the lessons apply to their daily lives. A curriculum that is developmentally appropriate for the Kindergarten through the 6th grade is used as a basis for these times of study. Parents are always welcome to attend Chapel or observe Bible Club

General Information

Kindergarten Entrance Requirement

For entrance into kindergarten at Foundations Christian Academy, FCA requires that the child must be five years old by August 15, 2016.

Location/Academy Hours

Foundations Christian Academy currently meets at Strong Tower Bible Church, 5253 Granny White Pike, Nashville, TN 37220, on Mondays and Fridays, from 8:30 a.m. - 2:25 p.m. The Academy year begins mid-August and goes through mid-May, actual dates TBD.

Dress Code

All clothing should be modest, weather appropriate and conducive to the learning environment. The appropriateness of dress is at the discretion of the staff as outlined in the family handbook. Students who are not compliant with the dress code will be sent home for the day unless a parent provides an appropriate change of clothing.

Medication Policy / Allergies

Foundations Christian Academy cannot administer any medications. If a child needs to receive medication while at the Academy, the parent is welcome to come administer the medication as needed. Any child with a food or other allergy must have a Food Allergy Action Plan or equivalent documentation completed by their physician and on file in the Foundations Christian Academy office. If an EpiPen is required for the child, this issue must be discussed with the Director prior to starting classes at the Academy. Also, for the safety of the child, we require that two EpiPens be provided by the parent; one to be kept in the office and one to be kept in the child's backpack. While Foundations Christian Academy will provide guidelines to instructors and families regarding cleanup procedures intended to reduce cross contamination, we cannot guarantee that these procedures will be followed without exception. Although Foundations Christian Academy will strive to provide an environment in which exposure to allergens is minimized, we cannot guarantee an allergy free environment.

MTHEA Membership

Foundations Christian Academy requires that all families be members of MTHEA (Middle Tennessee Home Educators Association). A copy of each family's MTHEA membership card is required for our files. To join MTHEA, please visit www.mthea.org.

Umbrella Academy Registration

Foundations Christian Academy is NOT an umbrella program; therefore, we require that all students be registered under an umbrella program. Umbrella programs serve to maintain permanent academy records for homeschooled students. Foundations Christian Academy does not maintain permanent attendance or academic records for its students. Progress reports are issued to parents, and it is the responsibility of the parent to forward these to their umbrella program. Proof of enrollment in an umbrella program is required for admission to Foundations Christian Academy. If you need a listing of umbrella programs, please visit www.mthea.org.

Policy and Fee Schedule

New Family Application Fee	\$50 per family (<i>new families only</i>) Non-refundable Must be received with application Separate check required
Registration Fee	\$125 per child / \$375 family max Non-refundable Must be received with application Separate check required The registration fee is non-refundable; however, if a child applies, but is not accepted into the program, the registration fee will be refunded.
Supply Fee	\$150 per student in grades 3-8 \$175 per student in grades K-2 (additional amount covers special activity days in K-2). Supply Fees to be paid in full within two weeks of receiving Acceptance Letter Supply Fees confirm acceptance of offered spot and are non-refundable
Book Fees	Varies by grade. Book lists are sent in July.
Lab Fees	Applies to 7 th -8 th grade Science. Amount varies by class.
Late Pickup Fee	A \$5 late fee will apply for each child not picked up from their classroom by 2:30 pm. An invoice will be emailed for the late fees, which will be due the following academic day.

Tuition

Tuition is broken down into ten equal monthly payments and is due by the 1st of every month, starting in August and continuing through May. A late fee of \$25 will be assessed for tuition not received by the 5th of the month.

The preferred payment method is AutoPay through each family's personal bank of choice; however, personal checks are also an acceptable form of payment. Cash payments cannot be accepted. Please note that there is a \$25 fee on all returned checks. If you wish to pay by personal check, tuition payments may be paid in the office during normal Academy hours or may be paid by mailing checks to:

Foundations Christian Academy
P.O. Box 681028
Franklin, TN 37068

Tuition Rates for 2015-2016*:

K-6th : \$300 first child, \$280 second child, \$260 third +

7th-8th: \$350 first child \$330 second child (*Please see note below)

*If multiple children attend FCA and the oldest child(ren) attend the 7th/8th grades, tuition will be due at the 7th/8th grade rates. For additional siblings in grades K-6th, tuition will be applied at the sibling rate of the lower grades (i.e. first child 7th grade: \$350, second child 5th grade: \$280).

**FCA reserves the right to change tuition rates for 2016-17 if needed to balance expenses.*

Outstanding Fees

If tuition and late fees are not paid by the 30th of the month (for any given month), the student may not be allowed to return to the Academy until financial obligations are paid in full.

Withdrawal Policy

Students withdrawing from the Academy after August 1st but before November 1st are responsible for the first semester's tuition. Students withdrawing after November 1st are responsible for the entire year's tuition. Tuition cannot be refunded or reduced due to absences, withdrawal, or dismissal from the Academy. If a student joins the Academy after the cutoff dates, the withdrawal policy remains the same.

Thank you for your interest in Foundations Christian Academy.
Please let us know if you have any questions.

FoundationsChristianAcademy@gmail.com
FoundationsChristianAcademy.com
(615)495-5471