

FCS Elementary Year at-a-Glance



EVENTS



Elementary Adventure (September)

Each year we plan an elementary adventure day, where the students have a great time doing activities, playing games, eating yummy food, doing crafts, and learning about the year's spiritual theme. They will also have fun with a water activity! It is always a BLAST and an event that the students remember for years to come. This event generally takes place on campus during school hours in early September. The cost is covered in tuition and includes the theme T-shirt, pizza, crafts, and other activities. Students are asked to bring a snack to share and parents are encouraged to volunteer.



American Heritage Day / Biblical Heritage Day (The Wednesday before Thanksgiving)

The Wednesday before Thanksgiving is Heritage Day at FCS. Students choose a historical person from the list and period provided, write a short report, and dress up as that person. We invite parents to join us for a special Parade of Costumes where students say who they are and what they are known for. There is then a chapel service and a time of fellowship afterwards called Picnic, Pie, and Praise. This will be an early dismissal day.



Elementary Musical Programs (Christmas and Spring)

All of our elementary students participate in a large musical production before Christmas and in the Spring as part of their music class. Often these involve costumes, props, and a full set. Students are given the chance to audition for solos or speaking parts. These classes prepare for months and the culmination of that effort is an incredible celebration with the semi-annual performances. These performances are required and are part of the student's grade. The Christmas program is usually on a Friday evening in November or early December. The Spring musical production takes place during our Fine Arts Showcase and Elementary Open House in April which is usually scheduled for a Saturday afternoon. These dates are set far in advance to ensure that every family can be there.



Party with the Principal (January and May)

At the beginning of each school year, students will be introduced to an elementary-wide incentive program that will earn them a trip to the Park with the Principal. It will be in line with the spiritual theme for the year and students will have a visible tracker that helps them see how close they are getting to earning the trip. Students will earn points by turning in their homework, getting their planners/homework sheets signed, being in dress code, having fewer than 3 names and/or checks in a week, being on time to school, and for getting good grades.



Spring Open House (Saturday morning - end of January)

The Spring Open House Event takes place at the end of January, at the end of School Choice Week. This is our HUGE Spring Recruitment Event and includes a Book Fair, the Kindergarten Roundup, an Open House, and some fun activities for the kids. We are always looking for more people to join the Faith Family, so we need your help to make this event a success! This event is typically scheduled for the Saturday morning at the end of Schoice Choice Week.



Valentine's Celebration (Valentine's Day Week)

We celebrate our friendships with a Valentine's Celebration around Valentine's Day. On the day of the event, students should bring in a shoebox. They will decorate the boxes which will serve as receptacles for Valentine's cards, candy, or other items the students may wish to hand out.



Fine Arts Showcase (Spring Semester - including Spring Program and Elementary Open House)

The Fine Arts Showcase is our largest fine arts event of the year featuring our Elementary Music Program, K-12 art gallery and contest, and may feature performances from handbells, Worship Team, recorders, and guitars. This event is scheduled for a Saturday afternoon, so please make sure to get it on your calendar early.



Elementary Open House

Elementary Open House (Part of Spring semester Fine Arts Showcase)

This event typically takes place in April and should be considered one of the highlights of the school year. Following the Fine Arts Showcase featuring our Spring Musical Production, friends and family are invited to visit our Elementary Open House. This is a great chance for students and parents to get excited about what the future holds in the coming years. This event is scheduled for a Saturday afternoon, so please make sure to get it on your calendar early.



Fundraisers

Faith Christian School is an independent, not-for-profit organization, and as such, depends solely on tuition and fees that our parents pay. We do not receive funds from the government, a church or any other entity. Since enrollment varies from year to year and costs don't fluctuate significantly whether we have many students or few, we typically hold two major fundraisers a year to help keep tuition affordable for parents. We hold one fundraiser in the spring, our auction/dinner, and one in the fall, our serve-a-thon. It is very important that each family is a participant in and contributes to these two fundraising activities. Please be in prayer as to how you can support the important work of FCS by doing your part.

Service Projects

Service Projects

One of the missions of the school is to build hearts of service in our students and provide opportunities to serve those around us. Elementary students have a unique ability to touch others in a special way because of their innocence and child-like faith. In the past we have held service projects such as a coin drive, food drive, clothing drive, car wash, Santa for a Senior, card writing campaign, or acts of service in our community.

PARENT ASSOCIATION MEETINGS

Parent Association Meetings (September and April)

FCS' Association is the official founding body of the school made up of all parents. We hold two meetings a year in the fall and spring to give reports of the business and ministry aspects of the school. We ask that every family be represented at these meetings which typically occur on Tuesday or Thursday evenings.

FIELD TRIPS

Field Trips

We believe that learning can take place both inside the classroom and out. Students generally take educational field trips once a quarter or as frequent as monthly. Field trips are designed to enhance the learning that is taking place in the classroom and to expose the students to varied experiences throughout the year. Parents are also encouraged to chaperone when communicated.

Elementary Awards Ceremonies



Elementary Awards (May)

The Elementary Awards ceremonies take place at the end of the year and it is a special time when every student is recognized and given awards for their character and their achievements. A daytime ceremony is held on the last Tuesday of the school year to present awards to students in K4, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th grades. A ceremony is held that evening that also includes K5 and 6th grade graduation.

PROJECTS



Bible Truths & Memorization

Bible Truths and Memorization (weekly)

It is our conviction that an understanding of the application of God's Word is essential to the life of every student to adequately prepare them to live and respond appropriately in the world He has created. It is our desire that every student hear and respond to the clear call of God presented in the gospel as contained in the scriptures.

Memorizing God's Word and committing Biblical truths to memory are two key aspects of the elementary Bible program. A set rotation of foundational Bible truths will be presented to the students in Grades 1-4 and then again in greater detail in grades 5-8.



BOOK REPORTS

Book Reports (Quarterly)

As educators at Faith Christian School, we want to encourage our students not only to read, but to understand and recall what they have read. We want to instill in each child a love for reading by exposing them to a variety of books and authors. Our students will be challenged to develop and use proper writing skills, and verbally communicate with classmates important facts about the book.

Students in grades 1-6 will complete book reports each year. The frequency and expectations of those reports will vary by grade level. Oral reports will be given during class and parents may make arrangements with the teacher to be present.

SCIENCE EXTRAVAGANZA



Science Extravaganza (Fall, Bi-annually - on odd # years)

A Science Fair (Science Extravaganza) takes place every other year. (It rotates with a school-wide STEM Fair and Speech Meet). Students in Grades 1-6 will choose a Science Fair project using the guidelines communicated and will display their projects on the date announced. Presentations take place during the school day, and parents will be invited to attend.



STEM FAIR

STEM Fair (Spring, Bi-annually - on even # years)

Every other year (same year as Speech Meet), FCS puts on a STEM Fair to focus on Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics driven projects. Projects are done as a class in K-6. Projects are displayed and then presented to the whole student body during an afternoon assembly.



Speech Meet (Spring, Bi-annually - on even # years)

A school-wide Speech Meet takes place every other year. Students in Grades 1-6 will choose Speech from a prescribed notebook of speeches and poems (ACSI Speech Meet selections). Students will present their speeches in front of the elementary student body and parents on the day of the meet.



Anthology of Poetry (October/November)

The Anthology of Poetry is a forum that recognizes writing excellence in students in all grades. They select and publish the finest poems submitted by student writers and provide teachers with an objective forum for their students' creations. Each grade practices a different style of poetry and may submit eligible poems to the Anthology. If selected, parents will have the opportunity to order the printed anthology to keep. This project is typically completed in class but may be sent home for extra work if needed.



Spelling Bee (January)

1st-6th grade students are eligible to compete in the ACSI Spelling Bee in January. Teachers will choose up to 2 students (plus an alternate) from each grade level to compete in the ACSI Spelling Bee. We will have a few mock bees in the fall to help the participants prepare and practice for the official Spelling Bee competition. Spelling Bee participants will need to commit to extra practice time at home in order to prepare.



I Love to Read - Spring Semester

The "I Love to Read" program, sponsored by the Student Leadership Council, takes place in the Spring. You will use a bookkeeper card to track each 15 minutes of reading that your child completes at home. For every 2 hours of reading your child completes, they will receive a charm for their chain. Students who turn in at least 3 bookkeeper cards will get a pizza party. The top 10 students will receive a prize.



Standardized (IOWA) Testing - April

We use the IOWA Assessments for our standardized testing which takes place in April. During that week, students will have testing for a few hours in the morning and then the afternoons are mostly spent in rehearsals for our Spring Musical production.

Information about all of these events and projects will be communicated through the Faith Footnotes and through the classroom teacher. Keep an eye out for all of the details that will be coming your way throughout the year!