

Faith Christian School PreK-12

The Paw Print

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How to Fight the Homework Battle

The first of the year is a traumatic time for many students as they move to a new grade and a different level of expectations. This is especially true this year as we are moving two grades from an elementary level to middle school environment. Based on my experience and past observations, I have some *words to the wise* to help you through this adjustment period.

The biggest error I see students making, especially in the transition period is that they either under study or over study. The under studying, more common with teenage males (God didn't create them to sit still for long periods of time) is an easy fix. Create a routine, follow the routine, make sure that your child is focused for the entire study period and once the study period is over move on to a time to relax and enjoy the family. Get the homework out of the way early and reward the child for staying focused and completing tasks.

The student over studying is a little more problematic and usually more associated with females (they tend to be more Type A personalities, although I can't explain it). The Type A students have a tendency to study for recall as opposed to recognition. This has more to do with how they are studying than if they are studying. These students often also lack a routine. They are trying to study to the point of total recall. For example, they can list all of the causes of the American Revolution off the top of their head. Few tests ask the material in this manner. In fact, if the teachers are regularly using this style of testing then I need to be notified. While it occasionally has its place, it is not the most effective form of testing. Students who are memorizing for the test will forget the material as soon as they take the test.

Our objective is to teach students to think, not to memorize. As a result, learning material to the point of recognition is the most effective use of the students' time. Instead of answering questions with broad

lengthy answers such as list or tell, practice questions should have active words such as why, how, relate, or compare. These questions should have a great deal of the material included in the stem of the question, thus requiring much less memorization on the part of the students. You will find this will also best reflect the style of questions the teacher is using in the classroom. If a teacher is using multiple choice questions, considered superior for testing higher order thinking skills, then the question itself will provide the student many key terms to help jog their memory.

At the same time we work with students and parents on how to study, we also work with teachers on how to make homework effective without being a burden. Teachers are encouraged to give homework designed primarily to reinforce learning. For example, math teachers are encouraged to limit two problems of the same type for homework. This improves the efficiency of the homework assignment as well as allowing the teacher to use the full range of problems in a unit. It is the hardest problems that will typically be expected on standardized testing. This also allows the math teacher to move more quickly through the material.

We also mandate that the teachers use a test calendar when scheduling tests. We have a strict rule that there should never be more than two major tests on the same day. High/Middle school students are encouraged to communicate with their teachers and let them know when this rule has been overlooked. Our secondary teachers also maintain a test calendar to coordinate and ensure that they don't exceed this expectation.

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Volleyball Teams Bring Home the Hardware

The Faith Christian School volleyball teams have all started hot this season with three of the four teams beginning the season with winning records and tournament wins.

The varsity A team has started the season 7-2 this year and a third place finish in the Saks Invitational Tournament. The Lady Lions began the season with two away victories over Wellborn and White Plains and concluded this stretch by defeating Cleburne County High School and Clay Central High School.

The junior high A team has started the season 6-1 and finished as runner-up in the Pleasant Valley tournament. Their victories include big wins over rivals Sacred Heart, Ohatchee, and Wellborn.

In addition, the junior high B team went undefeated in the Pleasant Valley tournament (although a tournament champion was not named for this classification).

Members of the varsity volleyball team include **Sarah Kate McVeigh, Abby Emerson, Tori Waldrop, Cornelia Simpson, Emily Sills, C.J. Setters, Emma Rutledge, Morgan Robinette, Abby Kazanjian, Montana Huie, Nicole Frechette, Olivia Elston, Zana Christjohn and Sarah Jessica Christjohn.**

Members of the junior high volleyball teams include **Cailee Waldrop, Janie Sills, Isabella Patten, Kassidy Nix, Gracie Johnson, Sydnee Johnson, Sadie Huie, Hannah Freeman, Gabrielle Frechette, Meagan Ford, Anna Keri Davis, Julie Cleckler, Ariana Arevalo, Juliette Arevalo, Elizabeth Bedford and Emma Bradberry.**



Varsity A Team



Junior High A Team

Boyd and Conaway named Faith Representatives to Youth Leadership Calhoun County



Boyd



Conaway

Congratulations to **Logan Boyd** and **Charles Conaway** who were named Faith Christian School's representatives for Youth Leadership Calhoun County.

As representatives, Logan and Charles will spend one day each month engaged in activities including Team Building, Law and Justice Day, Career Mentors' Day, Community Service Day, Industry Day, and Quality of Life Day.

Faith Christian School Dual Enrollment Programs Expands for 2016-2017

Four years ago, Faith Christian School made a commitment to teaching dual enrollment classes on campus. Until that time, if a student took a dual enrollment class they had to travel to Gadsden State Community College campus. That first year, Faith offered two semesters of United States History 201/202 and English 101/102. This allowed those students to graduate with twelve hours of college credit.

Last year, we expanded the program to include College Algebra 102 and College Trigonometry 103. As a result, several Faith students graduated high school with eighteen hours of college credit. This year we have again expanded our program to include Political Science 101. This will allow several students to graduate from Faith Christian School with twenty-one hours of college credit.

We are now considering expanding our program again to include a senior dual enrollment class in English Literature. As with all classes, the quality of dual enrollment is only as valuable as the teachers who teach the class. We are very fortunate to have dual enrollment teachers with advanced degrees and at least eighteen graduate hours in the field they are teaching. Our dual enrollment faculty include Mrs. Donna Conaway, Miss Emily Dewberry, Mrs. Angie McVeigh, and Mrs. Nancy Turner.

Student Teacher Ratio 15:1

In our opinion the three factors which influence the quality of education in the classroom are the quality of the teacher, the quality of the resources, and the student-teacher ratio. In my opinion, we have fantastic teachers that as a parent I am honored to have as my child's teachers. Thanks to our unprecedented enrollment and your contributions to the school, such as our present PTF fundraiser, we have some of the best recourses available.

However, in my opinion, one of the greatest advantages of having your child at Faith is the extremely low student-teacher ratio. Even our larger classes would be considered an average size class in public schools. At present, our class size for grades prekindergarten through 12th grade is fifteen students to one teacher (15:1).



Dr.Minish's 11th gr. Bible Class



Mrs. Badgett's 10th gr. Geometry Class

September Calendar

Date	Event	Time
9/1	High School Chapel	9:00 a.m.
	Junior High Volleyball vs. White Plains/Ohatchee	5:00 p.m.
9/2	Elementary Sword Drill	8:00 a.m.
9/3	Junior High Volleyball Tournament at Donoho (A and B)	All Day
	Cross Country at Waffle House Invitational at Oxford Lake	9:00 a.m.
9/5	Labor Day-School Closed	
9/6	Varsity Volleyball at Southside/Oxford (A and B)	5:00 p.m.
	Junior High Volleyball vs. WP/SH (A)	5:00 p.m.
9/9	Mid Term Ends	
	UAH Representative Meeting with Junior and Senior Classes	8:00 a.m.
	Cookie Dough Sale Ends	
9/10	ACT Test	
	Varsity Volleyball at Pleasant Valley	
9/12	Moms In Touch	8:00 a.m.
9/13	PTF Meeting	8:00 a.m.
	Junior High/Varsity Volleyball vs. Weaver	5:00 p.m.
9/15	Progress Reports	
	University of South Alabama Representative Meeting with Juniors and Seniors	1:00 p.m.
	Varsity and Junior High Volleyball at Sacred Heart	5:00 p.m.
9/16	Elementary Chapel	8:00 a.m.
9/17	Varsity Volleyball in Donoho Tournament	All Day
	Faith Christian School Invitational Junior High Volleyball Tournament	All Day
	Cross Country at Spain Park	Very Early
9/19	Moms in Touch	8:00 a.m.
	Varsity Volleyball vs. Donoho (A and B)	5:00 p.m.
9/20	Vision Screening (Grades K-5)	8:00 a.m.
	Calhoun County Junior High Volleyball Tournament at Saks High School	5:00 p.m.
9/22	Beta Club Induction	9:00 a.m.
	Varsity Volleyball vs. Glencoe (A and B)	5:00 p.m.
	Junior High Volleyball at Weaver (A and B)	5:00 p.m.
9/23	JSU College and Career Day Senior Field Trip	
9/24	Calhoun County Junior High Volleyball Tournament at Saks High School	All Day
9/24	Cross Country at Cold Springs	Very Early
9/26	Moms in Touch	8:00 a.m.
	Spain Trip Interest Meeting in the Sanctuary	6:00 p.m.
9/27	Varsity Volleyball (A/B/JH) vs. Saks/Etowah	1:30 p.m.
9/29	FCS Blood Drive	All Day
	Varsity (A and B) and Junior High Volleyball at Ranburrne	5:00 p.m.
9/30	Jacksonville State University Representative Meeting with Junior and Senior Classes	10:00 a.m.

Faith Christian School (FCS) is a ministry of Faith Presbyterian Church of Anniston (FPC), Alabama. Faith Christian School's purpose is to provide an exceptional educational program for each individual from a Biblical perspective challenging the whole student, offering a college preparatory education, and equipping each student to serve God and others in a global society. FCS is a board-operated school accredited by SACS and is a member of ACSJ and the Alabama High School Athletic Association. The pastor of FPC is Rev. Rick Searle. The chairman of the school board is Dr. Boyce Callahan. The headmaster of FCS is Mr. Robert Phillips.

"From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked." Luke 12:48b