

## Cornerstone Christian Academy – Questions and Answers

**PK and Kindergarten Classes** – Class size is small– usually 1 teacher to no more than 8 students. Abeka curriculum is the main material used with supplemental materials for support.

**First and Second Grades**– Class size is small – usually 1 teacher to no more than 10 students. Teachers use a combination of materials with Language being taught with Abeka Curriculum and Saxon Curriculum used for math. Christian based curriculum is always used for Science and Social Studies with a narrative format used predominantly.

**Third through Eighth Grades** - *These grades are taught in a combination of ways including an individualized learning style and traditional classes. Classes are much smaller (no more than 1 to 10 and usually smaller) and the learning programs are individualized for each student.*

**Please describe the learning method.**

Science, Social Studies, Bible and Specials are taught traditionally with a combination of narrative teaching, visuals, work books and hands on activities. Materials for these subjects are always presented from a Christian Worldview.

Each child is tested upon entrance to CCA in math and reading using Star Assessment testing. Curriculum is then designed specifically for that child in the areas of Language and Math. Based on that curriculum assignment, the goal is to have each student make at least one year progress in each school year in math and language. Most times, because curriculum is customized, the child will make more than one year's progress.

**If the teacher does not lecture to a group class in Math and Language, how does the student get the help he needs?**

From sixth grade through eighth grade, Language and Math classes are conducted by very qualified, specialized teachers who focus on the individual child's need in these subjects. Materials present combinations of new and review material in clear proven language, and many times a student will read and progress without a lot of help, but when help is needed, the teachers are there to offer Individual tutoring at the student's desk until the student understands and masters the concept. This individual approach serves to enhance the trust between the student and teacher and prevents the student's from feeling too embarrassed to ask a question.

At times a group class will be taught to strengthen new concepts and to create interest in subject matter. Teachers use many approaches in these classes.

**How does the curriculum work?**

Each student is taught to set goals for the day. This process becomes more student based and less teacher controlled as the child matures through his school years and becomes more responsible. This is a habit that will help the child become successful for life! The teacher always checks daily goals and initials the goal chart. Any work not completed during the day becomes homework for the night.

**How do you know if the student is progressing in the material?**

Star Assessment testing in math and language is done no less than quarterly and more often if needed to monitor progress. This is in addition to regular work sheets, quizzes and tests prescribed by curriculum and teacher.

**Do students ever fail in this program?**

If a child fails, then it is foolish to move to a new concept until that concept is conquered. The school operates on the concept of 'Mastery Education' which means that a student should not proceed to the next section of the course until he has completely mastered the concepts/information he has studied. He must be able to demonstrate this through regular, continuous assessment. The strength of the program is that a student will not leave school feeling behind or inadequate in any one subject because these weak areas will have been detected by the system and he will have been given every opportunity to work hard and improve in this subject. If a child has a grade of less than C (80%) the administration becomes involved in helping determine why progress is not being made.

Annual assessments are given (in alignment with Ohio requirements) to monitor progress as well.

### How is High School structured?

Students in High School are also tested when they enter in Math and Language just for assessment purposes. Classes are then designed individually for that student based on CCA requirements, Ohio Department of Education requirements and the students individual interests. Classes are varied in style of presentation based on the students best learning style and available curriculum. Core subject classes are directed by teachers highly trained in that specific area.

### Does Cornerstone Christian Academy require incoming students to take an entrance exam?

Not for the purpose of acceptance or rejection, but for the purpose of determining need.

### What special classes are incorporated into the program?

- Performing arts is a very important part of the daily activities of CCA. Private music lessons are offered and many students are involved in instrumental and vocal music and chapel or special program performances. An annual Christmas program and Spring Variety Show offer students opportunities to use their skills in music and drama. CCA participates in speech competitions each year.
- All students are taught typing skills very early, and computer programs enhance many of the subjects taught at the school. Even the youngest students spend time learning the computer. Students learn graphic program on a graduating scale, including slide presentations and photo programs for the older students.
- Reading and Writing are emphasized in special classes.
- Art is offered each week and more if an art project enhances a subject that is being covered in a pace.
- Hands on Science projects are incorporated weekly and through the annual Science Fair.
- Physical Education, including exercises as well as games, allow the students to develop physically.

### What are some of the observed benefits of Cornerstone Christian Academy?

- Jesus Christ is the center of what we do. Students are taught that they were created by God, that Jesus died for them and wants a personal relationship with them, and that they were created for a special purpose in life. This gives meaning to life for every student! They are taught moral truths and character building using the Bible. This provides them with both a foundational work ethic and a moral compass.
- Because we are concerned with individual students and their progress more than school test scores, students become the most important focus at our school. We attract a very diverse group of students academically, as well as socially and this makes a great social setting for our students. Our discipline is strong and students learn to accept each other as individuals.
- Students learn self discipline when they are taught to set and meet goals and receive feelings of great success as these goals are accomplished. This technique will carry into adult life and be a positive factor in their lives forever.
- Self confidence grows as the student realizes that he is a unique creation with strengths and weaknesses. Students blossom as their confidence grows.
- Students become students for life. This system of encouraging goal setting and to work on your own ability level teaches the student to “learn how to learn” instead of just feeding him information and requiring that it be fed back. This is really important as the student becomes a student of learning for life.