

# FORMATION

FOR LIFE



**FAITH CHRISTIAN**  
SCHOOL

**UPPER SCHOOL INFO PACKET**

# Welcome!

As your family considers school options, what are your priorities? As a mother who raised two children at Faith Christian School, I believe the core commitments and values of Faith Christian School offer you and your family something rare and precious.

In this packet, we will tell you about our school—a connected, thriving community. It is made up of engaged parents, dedicated and remarkable teaching faculty and staff, and all of our incredible students.

As we hope to show you in this packet and in a tour, an education at Faith Christian School moves beyond preparation for college or establishing an academic foundation to succeed. We focus on a deeper calling: FORMATION FOR LIFE. Through a classical academic program, lasting friendships, spiritual maturation, and practical opportunities to serve and lead others, our alumni have proven time and again to *thrive in life*.

We are delighted about your interest in Faith Christian School and can't wait to meet you and your child soon.

Warmly,



**Cathi Weber**  
Director of Enrollment



# FCS prepares students to face the future with confidence.

*"College assignments were a breeze after the rigorous study habits and thesis defense of my senior year. I was so grateful for the preparation Faith Christian School gave me." - Alumni, Class of 2001*

**As a student,** you'll find FCS is a place where you can connect and expand: making friendships that can last long after graduation and challenging yourself to find and explore your place in this world as a leader.



**FAITH CHRISTIAN**  
SCHOOL

High school is a fun and exciting time. As the transition to adulthood, high school can also include a feeling of uneasiness or uncertainty about your future. You deserve an environment where you can have fun; develop lasting friendships through extra-curricular activities and sports; are treated with respect; can ask the tough, honest questions about life; form and strengthen your worldview; and learn from exceptional teachers who truly care about you.

## **At FCS, Upper School Students:**

- Deepen friendships and learn from mentors.
- Enjoy a healthy, competitive atmosphere as they strive to excel in academics, leadership, visual and performing arts, and athletics.
- Exemplify their faith through service to the community and younger students who look up to them.
- Step into a variety of leadership opportunities including team sports, clubs, and associations.



# Upper School: Formation For Life

## Prepared To Excel At College & Life

The course of study deepens with a greater integration of subjects, and increased reliance on self-motivation, and higher expectations for active participation. Due to the previously completed work in Lower and Middle Schools, students are confident, enthusiastic and prepared.

The power of this model of education is on full display in the Upper School students' excitement for learning, exploring, and discussing, and in the expansion of their knowledge, wisdom, and ability to discern for themselves. In specific disciplines, such as math and the sciences, the distinct classical training is particularly potent as an emphasis is placed on understanding and synthesizing concepts and information.

## Core Subject Areas

Exceptional opportunities for intellectual growth and learning as well as the distinct classical model prepare students for success in college and beyond.



## Thesis Preparation

Beginning in summer of Junior and culminating Senior year, students research, present, and defend a thesis, amply preparing them for college with distinct, practical, and life-long skills.



## Activities, Clubs & Sports

Every season of the year and every day of the week, there are multiple opportunities to participate in co-curricular activities that suit your special interests.



Faith Christian School graduates go on to top-tier colleges, but this is not our focus—it is a *result* of the formation students undergo. Our upper school students excel both academically and in life. Teachers use the Socratic method of teaching to help students fully integrate all they have learned in previous grades with what they discover in the upper grades to develop a comprehensive worldview, a vital understanding of God's character, and who they are in Christ.



GRADES 9-12

# Upper SCHOOL

In Upper School, students assume increasing responsibility for their thinking. They learn to formulate and articulate their opinions about important ideas, supported by authoritative texts and informed by a Christian worldview.

To advance their previous studies in Lower and Middle School, Upper School students read some of the best books in the Western canon—"wisdom" texts that have shaped our world and our place in it. In math and science studies, students learn to discover for themselves theorems, principles, and laws previously discovered by leading thinkers. As one theologian put it, they learn to "think God's thoughts after him." In their fine arts studies, students give artistic expression to their ideas in visual, musical, and theatrical mediums. The culmination of their academic career is the completion of a 15-page senior thesis, which they present and defend before a panel of teachers. All of this is intended to shape the student into an adult whose appetites are satisfied by truth, goodness, and beauty alone.



## Core Subject Areas

- Fine arts (i.e., art, theater, and music)
- History
- Languages
- Literature
- Math
- Science
- Theology (Christian Mind, Systematic Theology, and Apologetics)

## Classical Core Areas

- Logic
- Rhetoric
- Latin
- Thesis

## Activities, Sports, and Clubs

- Clubs including Student Government Association (SGA), Ministerium (chapel), Model General Assembly (MGA), Fides (Chapel & Praise Band), Veritas Honors Society (student tutoring), Key Club (service), Latin and Spanish Clubs, Debate Club, and Chess Club.
- For sports, see section on athletics.
- Events, Field Trips, Community Service, and Leadership Opportunities

# Why Parents Choose FCS

1

Parents know that a school's culture—and worldview—will impact their child's academic and spiritual growth.



We love the way our biblical worldview is supported and reinforced as it is interwoven through the curriculum. The teachers and staff at Faith Christian School truly care about student success, both academically and spiritually.

— *Donathan Family*

2

Parents want to partner in the formation process with teachers and mentors who see, know, and deeply care their children.



We are thankful for teachers at Faith Christian School who see, know and care for our children. We are thankful for how they train minds and hearts to see God's goodness and glory. We are thankful for a school that partners with parents.

— *Eng Family*

3

Parents want to ensure their children become life-long lovers of learning in a community that values learning HOW to think.



The academic structure of the classical Christian model of learning has been a great fit for our family. The support shown by the faculty and staff creates a partnership in raising believers with a love of learning. The community at Faith Christian School is unmatched in the Roanoke Valley. — *Price Family*

# Why Christian Education?

*5 Reasons To Consider A Christian Education: A private Christian education provides the kind of return on investment that lasts forever.*



## **Supportive Community**

In a Christian school, not only the students but also the entire family can plug into a supportive community of like-minded believers who share values, eternal principles, and informed boundaries. This reinforces your family's values while your children mature in their journey with God.



## **Personalized Approach**

Typically, Christian schools have some of the smallest class sizes, allowing teachers to fully know their students and respond to their individual needs in a way that is likely more reminiscent of your own experiences as a child.



## **Lasting, Positive Friendships**

Christian schools provide a greater opportunity for students to build Christ-based, close friendships with peers and mentors that last long after graduation. Since one of the deepest human longings is to know and be known, a Christian education provides the best and safest environment for your children to develop socially.



## **Better Preparation For College**

Studies show private Christian schools tend to provide a more rigorous academic program and more personalized care than public schools. Students graduating from these schools tend to score higher on SAT's, perform better during college, as well as go on to complete more Bachelor's, Master's, and Doctoral programs.



## **Biblical Worldview**

A Christian worldview strives to view people, challenges, purpose, and community from God's perspective. All education is based on some type of worldview—a Christian education simply helps students build their own vibrant, Christian worldview.

*I am thankful for the friendships that my son, husband, and I have made with other Faith Christian families. We are also thankful for the amazing staff that is so caring and supportive. I love the communication we have with our son's teacher. This community is such a blessing!*

*- Melissa, mom to Joseph, Kindergarten*

# So, Why Classical?

## In a word: Results.

Harmonious with a biblical worldview, a classical education provides a framework that nurtures and encourages a student's God-given innate desire to discover, investigate, question, and probe. Students gain mastery of foundational content, develop strong reasoning skills, and mature into keen critical thinkers as they delve deeply into the study of Liberal Arts and Sciences and find themselves equipped with tools necessary to become life-long learners.

We invite you to listen to the experts—our graduates. For over 25 years, graduates of Faith Christian School consistently report that as a result of the distinct offerings of our Christian and classical education, they have been better prepared than their peers in the following areas:

- **Academical Preparedness**
- **Stronger Writing Skills**
- **Confidence Engaging New Material**
- **Ability To Handle Rigorous Requirements Of College-level Work**
- **Comfort With High Standards For Excellence**
- **Ease In Approaching Professors**
- **Confidence Defending Their Faith**
- **Poise In Public Speaking & Presentation**
- **Ability To Reason, Make Sound Judgments, & Think On Their Feet**
- **Ability To Handle Rigorous Requirements Of College-level Work**
- **Greater Level Of Personal Responsibility**

Note: For the results of a national study on the results of Christian classical education compared to other educational models, see the Good Soil Report by Notre Dame Research Center at [classicaldifference.com/good-soil](http://classicaldifference.com/good-soil).

*For more on What Is Classical Christian Education, visit [fcsva.com](http://fcsva.com).*



# Educational Comparison

Christian Classical education is powerful, proven, and purposeful education.

For nearly a quarter of a century, Faith Christian has offered a distinctly Christian and distinctly Classical education that prepares our students for what lies ahead. At Faith Christian School we want our students' education to prepare them for the future, not just prepare them to pass a test. Our goals differ from most schools today, with an emphasis on the arts, humanities, and Scripture—and the integration of all subjects in a Christian classical worldview.

## Faith Christian School

- Christ-centered education
- Education for formation
- Development of critical thinking: “Why?”
- Emphasis on the true, good, and beautiful
- Integrated interdisciplinary learning
- Appreciation of Western Civilization
- Latin taught as a core requirement and foundation for STEM subjects
- Humanities and fine arts emphasis
- Requires the student to learn how to learn
- Mastery: working to one’s fullest potential
- Ultimate Goal: Lifelong love of learning
- Truth is objective, knowable, and absolute
- Parents as primary educators

## Modern Education

- Man-centered education
- Education for information
- Development of correct procedures: “How?”
- Emphasis on politically correct views
- Fragmented and disjointed learning
- Critical of Western Civilization
- Latin as an elective
- Techno-rational emphasis
- Requires student learns how to pass tests
- Mastery as measured by test grades
- Ultimate Goal: Graduation
- Truth is subjective, relative, and individual
- Teachers as primary educators

*For more on What Is Classical Christian Education, visit [fcsva.com](http://fcsva.com).*

# The Value Of Continuity In Education

To be skilled at life, one must be skilled at learning. At FCS, students hone the necessary skills of learning: asking good questions, parsing the answers into data, scientifically testing and proving the data, and applying the results to solve problems.

In classical education, subjects are also integrated to demonstrate through cohesion an intentional and purposeful Creator. This increases the relevancy of subjects in the minds of the students, giving them a comprehensive context for their world, including past and present.

This formation culminates in a thesis presentation in the student's senior year. The student presents and defends their thesis on a level many college students would find challenging.

To develop these skills to the extraordinary degree of excellence required, each grade builds upon the foundation of previous grades as well as:

- **Latin** - The foundation for most languages, science, and mathematics
- **Logic** - The ability to reason well and the foundation for all problem-solving skills needed in STEM careers
- **Rhetoric** - The ability to convince others and win them to a way of thinking

## 80/20

### HANDS-ON LEARNING:

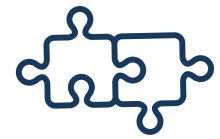
80% of class time is spent on teacher-initiated/lead engaging, hands-on activities. Only 20% is teacher-directed/led instruction.



### COMMUNITY SERVICE:

Students (and their families) engage in community service projects, leadership opportunities, and caring team or class activities.

### AVERAGE CLASS SIZE: 12



### INTEGRATED EDUCATION:

Subjects are integrated to demonstrate an intentional and purposeful Creator and increase relevancy for students.



### ADVISORY

Students are assigned teacher-mentors who help them develop their unique, God-given strengths in preparation for life.

### EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES:

Athletics, Clubs, Events, Field Trips, Community Service, and Leadership Opportunities

*I am thankful for the wonderful teachers at Faith. While they do an outstanding job with academics, it's the way that each teacher invests so deeply in the spiritual growth of every student that has a profound and lasting impact in the hearts and lives of our students.*

- A. Caywood, 10th Graders

The following represent some of the opportunities available to students for leadership and service and provide yet another robust avenue to prepare students for the next steps in their lives.

*As parents, we all desire our children to become mature, thoughtful adults with a thriving faith. A significant step in that journey, for children of all ages, is to take on responsibility.*

- Peter Baur, Head of School

### **Ambassadors**

Selected by the administration, students are responsible for representing the school as Tour Guides for prospective parents, and as Greeters and Hosts at school events and other community events.

### **Cavatina**

Beginning in 2nd grade and ending in 6th grade, students may audition for this exceptional select choir. The choir holds several formal concerts each year and performs at the weekly chapel services and other special occasions.

### **Chess Club**

Chess takes a day to learn and a lifetime to master. Chess Club is for all skill levels, from beginners to experts. Students meet every other week to improve their chess game and to challenge their schoolmates.

### **Fides (Latin for Faith)**

Fides members help shape and contribute to the planning and leading of weekly chapel and other activities to encourage our community spiritually. Students with particular gifts, talents, and a desire to help are encouraged by the Fides members to contribute to chapels whether speaking, performing, leading worship, teaching, or praying.

### **Hi-Y**

The Virginia Y is a statewide educational organization promoting leadership and civic engagement for teenagers in the Commonwealth.

Faith students have excelled at the Model General Assembly conference based on their training in sound reasoning and communication and as a result, often are awarded leadership positions.

In the last decade, FCS has:

- Had close to 10 students win election to office (only 6 offices/officers out of 600-700 attendees are selected each year).
- FCS students are often selected by the YMCA to be on the Governor's Escort Committee, to pray before sessions or before the banquet, or serve on special groups such as the Youth Governor's Cabinet.
- Typically, FCS takes 3-4 bills to MGA, and each year have at least one of them pass Committees, Chambers, and the Youth Governor (all completed by students without attorney assistance).

## **Debate**

Debate participants enjoy discussing a wide variety of topics from silly to serious. In addition to learning the rules and regulations of formal debate, students enjoy playing speech and debate games together like "Just a Minute," where competitors have one minute to speak on a topic without any "ums," "likes," "uhs," etc. Debate is an excellent way to sharpen reasoning and thinking skills alongside friends!

## **SGA (Student Government Association)**

Elected by their peers, SGA representatives in grades 6-12 are responsible for planning various social events for Middle and Upper School students. SGA representatives must build and manage a budget, raise funds, manage projects, create marketing materials, and consistently work toward improving their processes.

These responsibilities align with many of the skills necessary for running a business. The social activities are meant to promote community within our school, to deepen relationships, and to foster strong communication among faculty, staff, and administration.

## **Ministerium (Latin for Ministry)**

Ministerium, a school service club, allows students to specifically direct their growth in leadership and responsibility. Projects have included serving dinner at the Ronald McDonald House, making shoes for children in Uganda, writing cards for Veterans, making blankets for the elderly and children in foster care.

## **HOBY (Hugh O-Brian Youth Leadership)**

Founded in 1958, HOBY's mission is to inspire and develop our global community of youth and volunteers to a life dedicated to leadership, service, and innovation. This opportunity is available to Faith juniors and seniors.

## **Veritas**

Veritas Honor Society is comprised of students in grades 9-12 who meet the academic requirements for membership by maintaining a GPA of 3.5 or higher for the previous year at FCS.

As a club, Veritas seeks to serve the school community by providing free tutoring services to FCS students. Veritas members also mentor 6th grade students during the first few weeks of the school year and host a PigFest in the fall to foster Upper School group discussion of current, debatable topics.

## **Sodalitas**

Students participating in Sodalitas have the opportunity to grow their understanding of the Latin language and Roman history and culture through fun games and group activities. Students enjoy comparing their Latin "word banks" with others in different grades and programs. Sodalitas is the place for students who wish to go deeper in their study of Latin or share their love for the language with like-minded students!

## **Theater**

Students perform classic musicals and dramas, contemporary performances, period pieces and more.

**For more information on school-related athletics and activities, visit [fcsva.com](http://fcsva.com).**



# Athletics: Character Formation

FCS encourages all its students to experience athletic competition because the requirements of athletics often play a powerful role in preparing them for all of life. Persistence, discipline, hard work, teamwork, fairness, camaraderie, selflessness, courage, as well as the ability to both win and lose well—all characteristics of success.

When godly coaches modeling godly behavior mold students through athletics, lasting godly character is formed. Athletic competition can give students a deeper understanding of the Gospel itself.

***The goal of Faith Christian School Athletics is that the students move beyond the act of competition to deepen their biblical understanding of its purpose, pitfalls, and rewards.***

In addition to these awards, our athletes have been honored with individual district, region, state, and national awards. Due to our rich history in athletics, several of our athletes have gone on to compete at the collegiate level.

**14**

VACA REGULAR SEASON TITLES

**12**

SOUTHWEST DISTRICT TITLES

**11**

VACA STATE RUNNER UP

**13**

VACA STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

**1**

VISAA INDIVIDUAL CHAMPION

**1**

NACA TEAM RUNNER UP

**3**

NACA TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS

**4**

NACA INDIVIDUAL CHAMPIONS







# Athletic Opportunities:

FCS has recently sent teams to national competitions, taking awards in both men's and women's basketball, women's volleyball, cross country, and archery.

- Co-ed Archery Team (Winter, grades 4-12)
- Boys MS Basketball (Winter, grades 6-8)
- Girls Youth Basketball (Grades 3-6)
- Boys Varsity Basketball (Winter, grades 9-12)
- Girls Varsity Basketball (Winter, grades 9-12)
- Boys MS Cross Country (Fall, grades 6-8)
- Girls MS Cross Country (Fall, grades 6-8)
- Boys Varsity Cross Country (Fall, grades 9-12)
- Girls Varsity Cross Country (Fall, grades 9-12)
- Boys Golf Team (Spring, grades 6-12)
- Girls Golf Team (Spring, grades 6-12)
- Boys MS Soccer (Fall, grades 6-8)
- Boys Varsity Soccer (Fall, grades 9-12)
- Girls MS Soccer (Spring, grades 6-8)
- Girls Varsity Soccer (Spring, grades 9-12)
- Girls MS Volleyball (Fall, grades 6-8)
- Girls Varsity Volleyball (Fall, grades 9-12)
- Boys MS Volleyball (Spring, grades 6-8)
- Boys Varsity Volleyball (Spring, grades 9-12)



**BECOME A WARRIOR!** For more information on our athletics program contact our Director of Athletics or visit our athletics website at [fcsva.com/fcs-athletic-program](http://fcsva.com/fcs-athletic-program).



# An Investment In Their Future

*From your own experience, you likely understand the significant role school plays in shaping the minds and hearts of students. We're committed to making an excellent education affordable.*



## ***Variable Tuition***

Faith Christian School proudly offers Variable Tuition to fulfill our commitment to make a private, Christian, classical education affordable to families in the Roanoke area.

Tuition at FCS is not “one-size-fits all.” It’s a range that spans 45-80% of the actual cost of education. Families pay no more than about 80% of the actual cost of education.

We are able to offset costs through the generosity of our donor base and our financial support programs. Our Variable Tuition adjusts tuition rates to meet your family’s unique financial position. Because of the outstanding support of others, no family at FCS pays the full cost of education through tuition.

Variable Tuition allows families to apply for reduced tuition that is affordable for their unique financial situations. Families apply online to an independent third party, FACTS Grant & Aid Management.



***At Faith Christian School,  
tuition is not one size fits all.***

With variable tuition, an education at FCS has never been more accessible: [fcsva.com/affordable-variable-tuition](https://fcsva.com/affordable-variable-tuition).





*We can't wait to meet you!*

*Three ways to schedule a visit:*

Register online at  
[fcsva.com/schedule-a-visit](https://fcsva.com/schedule-a-visit)

Email us at  
[cweber@fcsva.com](mailto:cweber@fcsva.com)

Call us at  
540.769.5200

## *Admissions Process*

If you have any questions about the admissions process, please contact Cathi Weber at (540) 769-5200 x. 148 or [cweber@fcsva.com](mailto:cweber@fcsva.com).

**Schedule a visit.** Go to [fcsva.com/schedule-a-visit](https://fcsva.com/schedule-a-visit), call (540) 769-5200 x. 148, or email [cweber@fcsva.com](mailto:cweber@fcsva.com).

**Start online application process.**  
Go to <https://fcs-va.client.renweb.com/oa/?memberid=2006>

**Complete assessments.**  
Go to <https://fcs-va.client.renweb.com/oa/?memberid=2006>

EDUCATION  
PREPARATION  
FOUNDATION  
INSTRUCTION  
FORMATION

**FORMATION** *for life*

FORMATION  
FRIENDSHIP  
COMMUNITY  
CONNECTION



**FAITH CHRISTIAN**  
SCHOOL

Faith Christian School  
3585 Buck Mountain Road, Roanoke, VA 24018  
[www.fcsva.com](http://www.fcsva.com) | 540.769.5200