

## Expected Schoolwide Learning Results

### **E – Effective Communicators**

Students are able to communicate effectively in both oral and written language. *They will...*

- Read with comprehension and literary analysis skills
- Write with clarity, creativity and power
- Speak with poise and command of language

### **A – Academically Successful**

Students will possess learning skills which enable them to achieve academic success. *They will...*

- Strive to reach their God-given potential
- Develop research and organizational skills
- View learning as a life-long process

### **G – Greater Appreciation for the Arts and Cultural Diversity**

Students are healthy and well-rounded individuals. *They will...*

- Develop an understanding and appreciation of diverse cultures and opinions
- Develop an understanding and appreciation of the arts
- Develop positive habits of good nutrition and physical fitness

### **L – Lovers of God**

Students will have knowledge of Christ, which leads to personal salvation and a discerning lifestyle that *honors God*. *They will...*

- Develop an understanding of the Bible and Christian world-view
- Successfully integrate Christian ideals into their lives
- Recognize their personal value and giftedness

### **E – Effective Users of Technology**

Students will have the computer and technology skills needed for success in the 21st Century. *They will...*

- Demonstrate competency in the use of the computer and technology
- Advance their achievement using the Internet and other technology resources
- Demonstrate high standards of ethics in the use of technology

### **S – Skilled Thinkers and Problem Solvers**

Students are complex thinkers with creative problem solving abilities. *They will...*

- Be able to compare, analyze and evaluate effectively
- Transfer learned skills to new situations
- Use logical and effective decision making skills

## Electives Supporting English

**Young Authors** – Students will have the opportunity to improve their written communication through a variety of writing genres. Their confidence will increase as they learn to write clear, coherent essays and to edit and critically analyze their own writing.

**Literary Circle** – Students will read and analyze award-winning novels. They will discuss elements of the story such as character and plot development, use of vocabulary, foreshadowing and symbolism.

**Word Power** – Nothing says “smart” like a strong vocabulary. Reading, writing and test taking are all easier when you have the right words at your disposal. Students will strengthen their vocabulary with new strategies, word games and on-line resources.

**Cultural Literacy** – The ability to recognize and understand the idioms, colloquialisms and collective knowledge that is part of our culture will enhance a student’s comprehension and appreciation of literature while improving their ability to communicate effectively.

**Original Speech** – This class will give students an opportunity to learn how to express themselves through persuasive writing and oral communication. We encourage our students to present their essays and original speeches at the ACSI Junior High Speech Meet.

**Language Mechanics** – Where to put the commas and the quotation marks once your story is written can be a daunting process. This class will provide a great review of the rules for punctuation and the parts of speech to improve written communication.

# Foothill Christian School

## Junior High English Curriculum Overview



FOOTHILL  
CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

### **Decidedly Academic. Distinctively Christian.**

The mission of Foothill Christian School is to provide families with a Christ-centered, biblically-directed education which encourages the development of a personal relationship with God and which instills the vision and practice of excellence in academics, character and service to God and others.



## Philosophy

Strong written and oral communication skills are essential to the students' success in all academic disciplines. Our curriculum aligns with the state standards. Students will become effective communicators. They will: read with comprehension; write with clarity, coherence, and good grammar; value listening and speak with poise; and demonstrate a command of language. Mastery of these skills enables our students to become life-long learners, and to read, comprehend, and communicate the gospel of Jesus Christ.

## Literature

- ✚ Students use their knowledge of word origins and word relationships, as well as historical and literary context clues, to determine the meaning of specialized vocabulary and to understand the precise meaning.
- ✚ Students read and understand a variety of literature. They will identify areas that advance the plot, analyze characterization, recurring themes, and contrast points of view.
- ✚ Seventh grade students read the novel *The Pearl*. They will study the theme, plot, conflict, setting, and characterization. Students will identify and use new vocabulary from the text.
- ✚ Eighth grade students read and respond to the novel *The Outsiders*. They will study the theme, plot, conflict, setting, and characterization. Students will identify and use new vocabulary from the text.
- ✚ Students are encouraged to strengthen their reading skills by developing personal reading goals. They will read and report on a minimum of one book per quarter. Reports will be designed to strengthen the students' literary analysis skills and love of reading.

## Writing

- ✚ Students write clear, coherent, and focused essays. The writing exhibits students' awareness of the audience and purpose. Essays contain formal introductions, supporting evidence, and conclusions.
- ✚ Students utilize the writing process including pre-writing organization, revising and editing in order to improve organization and word choice after checking the logic of the ideas and the precision of the vocabulary.

## Writing Genres

- ✚ Students will *write an autobiographical narrative*.
- ✚ Students will *write responses to literature* that develop interpretations exhibiting careful reading, understanding, and insight.
- ✚ In conjunction with other core subjects, students will *write research reports* that convey clear and accurate perspectives on the subject and include evidence compiled through the formal research process.
- ✚ Students will *write a persuasive composition* that states a clear position or perspective in support of a proposition or proposal.
- ✚ Students will *write summaries* of reading that include the main ideas and most significant details.

## Oral Language

- ✚ Students deliver focused, coherent presentations that convey ideas clearly and relate to the background and interests of the audience.
- ✚ Students deliver well-organized formal presentations employing traditional rhetorical strategies such as narration, exposition, persuasion, and description.

## English Conventions

- ✚ Students will write and speak with a command of standard English conventions. They will identify and correctly use all parts of speech.
- ✚ Students will demonstrate the mechanics of writing by properly using quotation marks, commas, hyphens, dashes, brackets, and semicolons.
- ✚ Students will use correct capitalization.
- ✚ Students will spell derivatives correctly by applying the spellings of bases and affixes.

## Homework

Homework is a vital part of the learning process. Assignments are designed to extend or reinforce concepts learned in class. Students will have weekly homework assignments in spelling and vocabulary. In addition, students can expect to complete reading, writing and grammar assignments at home.

## Research/Projects

### Science

In conjunction with the science curriculum, students will write a research report. Research, writing, and documentation procedures will be taught in English. Students will receive two grades for the report, one for English and one for Science.

This brochure is designed to give an overview of the curriculum taught at Foothill Christian School. The depth of each subject taught goes far beyond this brief description. For further insight, you may contact your child's teacher.