# STEP ONE, PART B

# CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

# THIS ANSWER PROVIDED BY FAITH CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

The development of Subject Philosophy Statements was the starting place for this component. Our process began during a Teacher Planning day, where teachers were given sample Philosophy Statements, assigned particular subjects, and placed in groups. Teachers then refined the draft Subject Philosophy Statements during team meetings. Once the Philosophy Statements were completed, teachers were asked to list three to five learning goals for the areas requested at their grade levels. Vertical alignment is the focal point of the learning goals.

**Subject Philosophy Statement:** Mathematics

Our Lord is a God of order and perfect design. He has given us the gift of mathematics to understand the perfection and precision of His creation. One of the purposes of Faith Christian Academy is to have all students comprehend and value mathematics as a tool to uncover the mysteries of our universe. *“When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, The moon and the stars, which You have ordained; What is man, that You are mindful of him? … O Lord our Lord, how excellent is you name in all the earth!” (Psalm 8:3-9)NKJV.* We desire students to be confident in their mathematical ability and be fully equipped for whatever God has planned for their lives. Our intention is for every student to acquire “mathematical endurance”; the ability to find strategies to solve a problem without relinquishment or frustration. *“Therefore then, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us strip off and throw aside every encumbrance and that sin which so readily clings to and entangles us, and let us run with patient endurance and steady and active persistence the appointed course of the race that is set before us” (Hebrews 12:1) Amp.*

Faith Christian Academy students will become problem solvers, mathematically proficient in the following: application, procedure, utilization of manipulatives, personal awareness of number sense, and exploration of current theorems. These aspects will enable the students at Faith Christian Academy to communicate mathematical exchanges efficiently, effectively, and without apprehension. *“But there is a spirit in man: and the breath of the Almighty gives him understanding. Great men are not always wise: nor do the aged always understand justice” (Job 32: 8-9) NKJV.*

**Mathematics Grade Level Learning Goals:**

Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten (VPK)

* Rote count from 0-50, recognize and write numbers from 0-20
* Classify and sort objects by size, shape, color and quantity
* Be able to read a circle graph
* Work missing element problems
* Know the days of the week, months, recognize a ruler and a scale and a clock

K5

* Numbers 0-100, count by 1’s, 5’s and 10’s, add and subtract to 10
* Simple geometric shapes, bar graphs
* Sort, graph, group and patterns
* Measure objects, match shapes, count by 5’s, time, money
* Draw a diagram for word problem

First Grade

* Order and round numbers 0-100, even and odd numbers, adding two digit numbers
* Shapes with dimensions, special visualization, patterns
* Able to read pictographs, use data to solve problems
* Ordinal numbers and input/output graphs, understand number patterns
* Measure length, mass and capacity in standard and nonstandard units
* Use word problems and non-routine problem solution by acting it out

Second Grade

* 0-1000, add 3 digit whole numbers and fractions, subtract whole numbers, inequalities
* Use geometric models for problem solving
* Use graphs to ask and answer simple questions
* Missing elements, continuing number patterns
* Measure length, mass and capacity in standard and nonstandard units, time, temperature
* Develop and explain how they solved a problem, break the problem into parts

Third Grade

* Addition, subtraction and multiplication with whole numbers, whole number division
* Recognize basic plane and 3D shapes, combine shapes, transformation and interpretation
* Complete and construct a data display and used to solve problems or predict outcomes
* Understand simple functions, inequality sign rules, algebraic patterning
* Solve problems involving length, weight, area, perimeter, time and temperature, clocks
* Construct a model to solve math situations and relate ideas

Fourth Grade

* Equivalent fractions, +, - of fractions, decimals using grid paper, × and ÷ with decimals
* Draw and identify lines, different types of angles and triangles, interpret coordinate geometry in first quadrant, connect 2D shape with 3D solid
* Draw conclusions from data by choosing the appropriate graph for data display
* Understand the algebraic missing element in division and properties of commutative
* Estimate length and distance, temperature, elapsed time in a.m. or p.m., BC, metric units
* Determine reasonableness, estimate money purchase, word formulation, conjectures

Fifth Grade

* Four operations using fractions, estimation of fractions, ratios and probability
* Find perimeter and area of a square or rectangle, classify plane and solid figures, pi
* Construct and analyze a histogram, know difference between a bar graph and histogram
* Solve for missing element, utilize the associative property, numeric fractional patterns
* Understand AD and BC from a time line, a.m. and p.m. for elapsed time
* Problem solving strategies, estimate and mentally compute different types of numbers

Sixth Grade

* Interpret and calculate percentage problems, solve fractions of any denominator size
* Perimeter of a circle and polygons, area of a rectangle, classify angles, graph coordinates
* Statistical graphs, circle, line, bar graphs and frequency tables, mean, median and mode
* Solve one and two step equations and formulas, distinguish an equation from an expression
* Convert customary and metric measurements, rename the measurement for + and -
* Use the strategies of “guess, check and revise”, “look for a pattern”

Seventh Grade

* Four basic operations with integers, operations involving fractions and decimals, percents
* Area of a rectangle, triangle, and circle, recognize a parallelogram and trapezoid, angles
* Mean, median, mode and range, display various data graphs, translation and reflection
* Write an expression for a mathematical sentence, solve “two step” equations, inequalities
* Measure the area of a triangle and circle, measure the volume of a prism, scientific notation
* Make a list or table, explain the solution process

Eighth Grade

* Real number operations, commutative, associative, distributive and properties, square root
* n-sided polygons, shape transformation, calculate perimeter and area of 2D polygons,
* Utilize the counting principle, interpret misleading graphs
* Algebraic expressions, graph linear equations, geometric patterns, ratios and percents
* Volume of a cylinder, measure the area of a trapezoid utilize the Pythagorean theorem
* Use the strategies of “write an equation” and “work backwards” to solve problems

**Subject Philosophy Statement:** Social Studies

The Bible, with its ancient books of chronicled history, attests to the value placed upon recording and studying historical events for the benefit of following generations. Scripturally, we should learn from the past so that we might apply ourselves to wisdom regarding the future. Deut. 29:30 clarifies this God-given responsibility that “*those things […] belong to us and our children forever, that we may do all the words of the law.*” Joshua, the leader of the Israelites, put action to this Biblical principle as the Hebrews crossed over the Jordan River. He instructed the people to build a stone memorial so their children’s children would not forget God’s faithfulness in bringing them into the Promised Land (Joshua 4:21-22). This recorded history stands as a witness and a guide for us to follow. History (Biblically speaking) is an important class in any academic setting.

Students will know and value the past of our nation, the United States. American history, current events, world history, and geography are important aspects of the social studies curriculum. Jesus, being very mindful of geography and people groups, told his disciples to “*go ye therefore, and teach all nations*” (Mat.28:19). The Apostle Paul traveled the ancient Greek world extensively preaching the Gospel, befriending the Gentile world that he might win them for Christ. His respect for others and a desire to live his life unto God is a monumental example for us today. Lev. 19:18 reveals God’s heart concerning the nations and people groups: “*You shall love your neighbor as yourself*.” In our present-day global existence, the question and answer (who is my neighbor?) has become far reaching. Now my neighbor is across the ocean in Asia or Africa. Social Studies, history, and geography teach us to value what God values. Our curriculum honors and reflects the heart of God, promoting compassion and responsibility toward the nations of the world.

**Social Studies Grade Level Learning Goals:**

K5

* Community Helpers
* Children of the World
* America: Our Great Country (map studies, famous Americans and places)

First Grade

* America's Freedoms
* Symbols of America
* Great People of America
* Overview of selected countries (e.g., Israel, Italy, Mexico)

Second Grade

* America, Our Home- our flag, songs and holidays
* The People Who Built America - Separatists, Native Americans, Colonists, Pioneers, etc.

Third Grade

* Continents and oceans of the world
* Overview of world geography and the United States
* Study of American heritage through the lives of great people (e.g., Squanto, William Penn, George Washington, Martin Luther King, Jr.)

Fourth Grade

* Map studies
* Florida history
* Survey of American history, beginnings through end of the 20th century

Fifth Grade

* Introduction to Geography terminology
* Historical, geographical and cultural study of Eastern Hemisphere by geographical regions, including the Middle East, Asia, Africa, Europe, Australia, Oceania, and Antarctica.

Sixth Grade

* Advanced map studies
* Geography facts, including the 50 states
* Study of the geography, resources and a survey history of the western hemisphere

Seventh Grade

* World history- Creation to the early 21st century, emphasizing the hand of God in human events.

Eighth Grade

* Survey of American history, including the First English Colonies, The Revolutionary War, Westward Expansion, The Civil War, The Industrial Revolution,
* Into the Twentieth Century, World Wars I and II, Current events and National, State, and Local Government

**Subject Philosophy Statement:** Language Arts

The expression of language, as a gift from God, is a vital factor in relationships today. In our modern world, built upon multi-media expression, the ability to convey thoughts effectively—spoken and written—enables students to be successful in life. Understanding the ideas of others and expressing one’s own thoughts clearly and logically encourages sharing and interaction. Consider the epistles of Paul. In his absence, he pours out his heart to the churches through the written word, as his “*consolation also aboundeth by Christ*,” bringing comfort, inspiration, and instruction to his spiritual children (2 Cor. 1:5).

Additionally, having a strong foundation in language arts and critical thinking skills enables students to think for themselves. In a world that has been inundated with pervasive, humanistic ideology that denies the relevance of a Living God, proficiency in language is essential in order to remain anchored in Biblical truth. Romans 12:2 echoes, “*Be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind.*” Combining Biblical truth with language arts helps to foster a positive attitude and spiritual maturity “as a wellspring of wisdom” (Pro. 18:4). God spoke and the worlds were framed (Gen 1:1-3). When Biblical truth is allowed to “speak” into our lives, with “*the word of Christ dwell[ing] in [us] richly*”, our lives are shaped and framed by Godly principles (Col. 3:16). For this reason, Biblical integration is an essential part of the language arts curriculum. Students study grammar, writing, vocabulary, literature, and reading skills from a Biblical perspective. It is through this Christ-centered world view in language arts that the students of Faith Christian Academy can communicate Christ’s salvation to the world.

**Language Arts Grade Level Learning Goals:**

**VPK**

* Recognize and print capital and lower case letters
* Begin blends
* Read one vowel words

**K5**

* Match letters to sounds phonetically
* Blend consonant and short vowel sounds
* Reading comprehension
* Value of written word
* Illustrate a journal entry
* Reading development

**First Grade**

* Phonics: long vowels, digraph, consonant blends
* Spelling rules
* Synonyms
* Prefix and suffix
* Capitalization to begin sentences
* Punctuation end marks for sentences
* Multiple sentence journal entry

**Second Grade**

* Decode words/phonics
* Homophones/antonyms
* Compound words
* Proper noun punctuation
* Oral reading
* Comprehensive reading
* Write personal letter and thank you note

**Third Grade**

* Spelling
* Punctuation-commas
* Mechanics of subject and predicate
* Pronouns, nouns, and action verbs
* Capitalization of holidays, months and days
* Interpret, analyze and evaluate texts
* Cursive writing
* Journal paragraph

**Fourth Grade**

* Apostrophes
* Adjectives
* Auxiliary verbs
* Preposition
* Word meaning using dictionary/thesauruses
* Proofreading
* Prewriting skills
* Expansive writing

**Fifth Grade**

* Use Standard English conventions
* Linking verbs
* Adverbs, prepositions, personal pronouns
* Dialogue punctuation
* Synthesize information
* Research using encyclopedias/atlases
* Fiction book report
* Report on nonfiction material

**Sixth Grade**

* Semi colon, colon
* Interjection, conjunction
* Expanded verb tense
* Compound subject, compound predicate
* Foreshadowing, back flash
* Computer research
* Limericks, poetry
* Write historical fiction story

**Seventh Grade**

* Action verbs with direct objects
* Perfect tense of verbs
* Demonstrative and interrogative pronouns
* Participles
* Reading: author’s purpose, predictions, fact and opinion
* Expository essays
* Business letter
* Haikus

**Eighth Grade**

* Predicate noun, predicate adjective
* Progressive verbs, linking verbs
* Hyphens/dashes
* Figurative language
* Idioms
* Write an analytical essay, persuasive essay,
* Write free verse poetry

**Subject Philosophy Statement:** Bible

The purpose of Faith Christian Academy’s Bible curriculum is to produce students who are being conformed to the image of Jesus Christ (Romans 8:29) and have an understanding of the principles that form a biblical worldview. At Faith Christian Academy, we believe that a reverent fear of the Lord and respect for His word is the beginning of all knowledge and wisdom (Proverbs 1:7); therefore, every academic and elective pursuit is centered on biblical truth. Biblical study will prepare students to discern truth from error, enabling them to give a confident response to the many questions and differing opinions the world has to offer (I Peter 3:15). We aim to provide our students with a solid foundation, trusting that as they come to know the Person of Jesus Christ, they will take ownership of their faith (I Corinthians 3:11). As students are taught to study the Bible for themselves, they begin to recognize God’s voice speaking to them through His Word, they learn what it means to live a life modeled after Christ that is pleasing to the Father (Psalm 119:10-11, John 14:21), and the Holy Spirit moves to carry out His transformative work (Romans 12:2). The result is students who are empowered by God to embrace humanity, help their communities, and give hope to the nations, all with an awareness of the destiny that God has for them (Jeremiah 29:11).

**Subject Philosophy Statement:** Science

The study of science is the basis for understanding God’s creation for his people. *“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth” (Genesis1:1)NKJV.* By exposing our students to the scientific method of observing, classifying, measuring, inferring, predicting and reporting, we discover the wonders of God’s universe and an awareness of His greatness and sovereignty. *“Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns ... Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow” (Matthew 6:26-30, Job 12:7-10).* Through the study of astronomy, students discover the regularity and precision of heavenly bodies as a testament to God’s faithfulness and through the incomprehensible vastness of our universe we get a glimpse of God’s love for us. “*As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us” (Psalm 103:12).*  In earth science our students discover how God controls the air, the sea, the weather, and the earth’s layers. *“The earth is the Lord’s, and the fullness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein” (Psalm 24:1).* Within the physical sciences we learn that God’s laws of the natural world are absolute; however, only God has the power to alter those laws when the sun and moon stood still for the Israelites to finish the battle *(Joshua 10:12-14).* God told Adam and Eve in Genesis 1:28 to *“subdue and have dominion”* over every living thing that moves on the earth. This command to our first ancestors implies studying and understanding their world which is the essence of biology and life science. Our science curriculum supports creationism and teaches from the Biblical perspective that man is created in the image of God *(Genesis 1:27).* The students are taught to be responsible stewards of the earth and its natural resources and make responsible decisions as contributors to improving the quality of life for mankind through technology, experimentation and enrichment. The science program at Faith Christian Academy utilizes critical thinking skills that go beyond the subject of science, solidifying within our students a foundation of faith in our Creator for all of life.

**Subject Philosophy Statement:** Physical Education

God made us in His own image. Learning through physical education how to keep our bodies as God’s temple is pleasing to Him. “*Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you… Therefore honor God with your body.*” (1Corinthians 6:19-20) Many important components of the Christian life can be learned through Physical Education. PE allows students to evaluate personal performance, design workout strategies and establish goals for individual development. (Hebrews 12:1) Team sports promote playing together for the benefit of the group, unselfish participation, playing within the framework of rules, as well as winning and losing. (1Corinthians 10:24, 2 Timothy 2:5) Students participate knowing whether “on the bench” or the “star” of the activity, the benchmark is: have I done my best with my God given talents? (Ecclesiastes 9: 10a) Athletic competition and training promotes commitment to a cause, develops perseverance, and fosters determination in striving towards a goal. (1 Corinthians 9:24-27) These disciplines transfer to leading a Christ centered life. “*Whatsoever I do, I do all for the Glory of God.*” (1Corinthians 10: 31b)