



## ELEMENTARY

Cypress Christian School faculty and staff actively seek to carry out the school's mission of honoring the Lord Jesus Christ by providing students an education based upon academic excellence and biblical values. In elementary school, we hope to cultivate a love of learning in our students. Students get a firm foundation in basic skills and are challenged to think critically in order to grow academically, socially and spiritually.

### The CCS Advantage

- Transitional Kindergarten (TK) through 12th grade
- Academic excellence since 1978
- Accredited by the Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI) and Cognia
- Caring, committed Christian faculty who are degreed and professionally certified
- Biblical values integrated throughout the curriculum
- Weekly chapel time to participate in worship and hear biblical messages
- Chromebook issued to each student for classroom and home use
- Weekly instruction in art, technology, science lab, library, music, physical education and PE lab
- Clear, timely communication
- Strong parent-teacher partnership
- Active parent involvement

### Curriculum

- Students receive standards-based instruction in the following classes: Bible, math, reading (including phonics), writing, handwriting, social studies and science.
- CCS has developed our own set of standards based on TEKS that also incorporate key standards from other high achieving states.
- Biblical values are integrated in every subject throughout every grade level.
- Teachers use cutting-edge curriculum along with other research-based tools to ensure that students are mastering grade-level standards and learning critical thinking skills.
- Students participate in art, technology, library, science lab, music, PE and PE lab to create a well-rounded experience.

### ERB Assessments

- CCS uses the Educational Records Bureau (ERB) assessment. Student scores are compared with national norms and independent norms developed for schools across the nation.
- This data is used to inform instruction and curriculum for the grade level and individual students.

### Co-Curricular Activities and Events

- Field trips
- Homecoming, Tribal Wars, Run-4-Fun
- Service Projects
- Spiritual Emphasis
- Christmas Program
- Sports - Soccer, Softball and Baseball
- Holiday Celebrations
- Daddy Daughter Dance
- Mom/Son Game Night
- Grandparents and Special Friends Day
- Operation Christmas Child

## Curriculum Objectives

- Academic excellence and biblical values starting at the transitional kindergarten level
- Strong core classes:
  - **Reading/Language Arts** – Phonics-based instruction in both reading and writing is used, along with one-on-one, small group and whole group instruction to allow for individual student growth. Book clubs and literature talks develop in older grades.
  - **Handwriting** - Emphasis on proper pencil grip, manuscript and cursive letter formation.
  - **Math** - Emphasis on fact fluency and problem-solving skills while mastering grade-level standards through whole group and small group instruction to maximize achievement.
  - **Science** - Develop and understand the scientific method through hands-on and STEM-based experiments while seeing the world through God's lens.
  - **Social Studies** - The study of the world God created and the events that have taken place over time.
  - **Bible** - The study and understanding of God's Word through instruction and Scripture memorization

## Elementary Strengths

### *Teachers*

- Each elementary teacher is a degreed and certified born-again believer who models spiritual and academic excellence.
- Elementary teachers build relationships with each of their students, providing the ability to have meaningful interaction and conversations about the Lord.
- Elementary teachers intentionally focus on the school's mission to honor the Lord Jesus Christ by providing students an education based on academic excellence and biblical values.

### *Classes*

- Elementary classes allow for attention to individual student needs. Teachers build upon foundational knowledge by teaching students higher-order thinking skills.
- Students learn to recognize their strengths and build upon them while addressing their weaknesses.
- CCS provides a loving, encouraging atmosphere where there is a focus on relationships between teachers and students. Questions and collaboration are celebrated and encouraged.
- Students develop lifelong friendships with their peers in an environment where differences are celebrated.

### *Instruction*

- Elementary teachers use research-based teaching in each subject area. Teachers may incorporate whole group, small group and individual practice into each lesson. Teachers lead small group individualized instruction and take time to conference with students about their work. This allows teachers to not only know student strengths and weaknesses in order to build upon and improve their academic skills and to include rigor or re-teaching when appropriate but also to provide immediate feedback.
- It is important for students in elementary school to have a strong foundation in basic skills. Emphasis is placed on knowing math facts with automaticity, reading with fluency and comprehension, mastering basic technology skills and platforms and properly communicating in both oral and written forms.