



Set Apart to Serve

UFCA Curriculum

Guide

2016-2017

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Mission of UFCA

United Faith Christian Academy is committed to impact the world for Christ by developing and educating hearts, souls, minds and bodies through the passionate teaching of a Christ-centered curriculum in a Christ-centered environment.

Description of Program

United Faith Christian Academy is a college-preparatory school and as such academics are of high priority, only second to the spiritual focus within our classrooms. Organizationally we have five divisions, four of which are academic, they are:

- Daycare (Ages 1 & 2)
- Early Childhood (Pre-3, Pre-4, and TK)
- Elementary School (K-5, with distinguishing programming for K-2 and Grades 3-5)
- Middle School (Grades 6-8)
- High School (Grades 9-12)

These groupings are based on developmental levels and educational activities. It is the goal of this curriculum guide to document the current state of UFCA curricula and to begin defining areas of academic advancement in the next school year.

EARLY CHILDHOOD (Pre-3, Pre-4 and Transitional Kindergarten)

The Pre-3, Pre-4, and TK programs are developmentally appropriate programs that meet the physical, emotional, spiritual, social, and cognitive needs of young children. We believe in and value the uniqueness of each child. Careful consideration is given to meeting the individual developmental needs and interest levels of the Early Childhood child within the scope of our curriculum.

The Bible curriculum is central in all areas of UFCA instruction. It is a goal of each teacher to bring their personal faith and the study of scripture to life in their classroom so that each student will grow in their personal faith in Jesus Christ. A secondary goal is to integrate biblical principles into each area of instruction. The TK Bible curriculum is a Positive Action for Christ (PAC) curriculum entitled Exploring God's Love.

Using a thematic approach, various teaching methods are used to accomplish the goals of the curriculum. Whole group instruction and small group instruction are used to introduce concepts. Activity centers are used to practice and reinforce skills. The goal is that the children will grow in all areas of development: physical, emotional, social, cognitive, and spiritual. Individual assessments are conducted to evaluate each child's progress in these areas. The Early Childhood program provides a stimulating and well-balanced environment conducive to learning and designed to challenge the students and prepare them for kindergarten.

Pre-3 begins and Pre-4 as well as Transitional Kindergarten continues the integrated hands-on learning curriculum with the introduction of letters, letter sounds, name recognition, and a large amount of time "playing" with language. The Pre-4 students are introduced to writing and start forming letters and numbers on their own through the use of journals, predictable charts, "class books", listening/reading centers, and teacher

modeling. Abeka Little Reader Books are utilized as well as the “Breaking the Code” phonics curriculum. TK students who are ready will begin reading in reading groups.

Math is taught by various hands-on methods and introduces patterning, sorting, classifying, and number concepts. Calendars and math centers all reinforce the skills being taught. Students have a great time in TK learning numbers to 20, understanding the number line, classifying, patterning, and beginning simple addition.

Students in Pre-3 and Pre-4 have a variety of enrichment activities and students in TK have Music, Library, Spanish, and Physical Education that enhance the academic day.

Seasonal and community awareness make up most of the Early Childhood Social Studies and Science curriculum. TK students learn about life in early America with hands-on activities including putting together a paper quilt and making bread and butter. The curriculum includes many hands-on activities, such as science demonstrations, science tubs, planting gardens, nature walks, field trips, and activities that are part of the UFCA Creek Project. Students in the TK program have units of study on: water, air, and animals, including mammals and egg layers.

Christian values are evident throughout the school day. At the weekly chapel, children hear scripture and a Bible story. Reinforcement of Biblical learning is provided through chapel songs and a brief Bible lesson. Christian values are also reinforced within the classroom on a daily basis and include a focus on the Fruit of the Spirit characteristics.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL (Kindergarten – Grade 5)

The curriculum for each elementary grade level is developmentally appropriate with opportunities for remediation, enrichment, and differentiation as needed to best address the learning needs of the students in the areas of Bible, Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies. The goal is for the students to be academically challenged and to grow socially and spiritually in a Christ-centered environment.

Numerous teaching methods are used in the classroom to reach all types of learners. Whole group instruction and small group instruction are used to introduce concepts. Activity centers and projects are used to practice and reinforce skills. Emphasis is placed on taking responsibility, developing organizational skills, using communications skills, and recognizing the special talents and gifts that God has given each child. The goal is that the children will grow in all areas of development: physical, emotional, social, cognitive, and spiritual.

Bible:

Beginning in kindergarten and continuing on through fifth grade UFCA students walk through the Old and New Testaments learning key principles from each book. As students study key biblical characters they learn about how these men and women were used by God and how He touched each of their lives. Bible memorization is a key part of our elementary Bible curriculum. The Elementary School Bible classes use Positive Action for Christ curriculum.

The following is only a partial list of biblical study in each elementary grade level at UFCA:

Kindergarten – Learning About God – the life of Noah, Jacob, Esther, Daniel, and Jonah

1st Grade – Enjoying God’s Gifts

2nd Grade – Finding God’s Promises, Life of Moses, Creation, Fruits of the Spirit, The Lord’s Prayer, and the Ten Commandments

3rd Grade – Growing with God

4th Grade – Building Life Castles: Life of Christ, Gospels, Acts, and the life of Paul

5th Grade – Possessing the Land

Language Arts – including Grammar and Writing

The goal of the UFCA Elementary Language Arts program is to teach students to read with fluency and comprehension, write with precision and variety, and listen with interest and courtesy. Students are taught explicit, systematic skills along with experiencing a variety of literacy forms and genres.

The Language Arts program in kindergarten through fifth grade primarily uses BJU Press curriculum for phonics and language, and first through fifth use BJU Press for spelling and vocabulary curriculum.

Kindergarten students are provided a variety of writing opportunities through modeling, guided writing, journal writing, letter writing, and content writing. Students have various reading levels, but all are challenged using small group instruction. Students develop phonemic awareness and build comprehension skills. In addition, students learn the basics of sentence structure, punctuation and writing skills.

Journal writing across the curriculum enhances instruction, as do various projects and reports done both in the traditional pen-and-paper style as well as utilizing computer programs such as Microsoft Word.

Students in Grades 3-5 continue to ask and answer questions to show that they understand a text, and they are required to refer to the text to support their answers. Beginning in third grade students are required to tell the meaning of words and phrases in a text, noting the difference between literal and nonliteral language. Students in the third grade also begin to understand the importance of written text and pictures as they determine mood, setting, and the characters in the stories they read.

Writing

First through fifth grade use BJU Press English: Writing and Grammar. This curriculum builds on grammar skills taught the previous year and continues to develop writing. Students use the five-step Writing Process for different types of writing.

Novel Studies

- Beginning in Grade 3, novels: 1) Sarah, Plain and Tall, The Hundred Dresses, 2) Number the Stars, 3) Peanut Butter Friends in a Chop Suey World, 4) The Swiss Family Robinson, 5) Pilgrim's Progress, and 6) Charlotte's Web.
- In Grade 4 students gain a deeper understanding of history through novels: 1) The Sign of the Beaver, 2) Freedom Train, 3) Littlejim, and 4) Bud, Not Buddy are part of the curriculum.
- By the fifth grade students study at least one novel per quarter. Current novels studied by our fifth grade include: 1) Treasures of the Snow, 2) The Westing Game, 3) My Side of the Mountain, and 4) A Wrinkle in Time, and 5) Wonder.

The novel series provides opportunity for students to learn skills they will need in the UFCA Middle School program including comprehension, projects, vocabulary, and writing activities.

Reading

Kindergarten emphasizes phonics as well as sight words, using multiple methods and genres and whole language. Themes are followed weekly, monthly, and seasonally which integrate reading, writing, and listening skills. Students are exposed to all forms and genres of reading materials, and those who are ready to read independently are provided books and other supplemental materials in their classrooms and in our library.

The goals of the reading program are accomplished by reading aloud to students at all levels, along with explicit instruction in phonemic awareness, alphabetic principles, phonics, and blending. Comprehension strategies such as questioning, clarifying, making connections, predicting, summarizing, and visualizing are introduced at the earliest level and built upon in each successive grade.

Fluency is taught by using decodable books and providing practice in small groups in the lower elementary school grades. Decodable books are books that contain only phonetic code that the student has already learned. For example, a child in the lower elementary grades will be at the beginning stages of reading and has learned short vowel sounds. These young readers can decode simple words like hat, bed, and pig, but cannot yet decode words like see and owl.

All elementary classes utilize the Media Center and the Computer lab is also used for technology instruction, projects, and research on a regular basis for third through fifth grades.

Comprehension is focused on in the second grade using Open Court Readers. Students in the third grade use Scholastic News to reinforce English Language Arts (ELA) skills, such as reading comprehension, gathering evidence from the text, drawing conclusions, vocabulary, and chart reading.

Handwriting

UFCA kindergarten students learn handwriting skills using “Letters and Numbers For Me”, first grade students use “My Printing Book”, and students in second grade use “Printing Power”. Students in the third grade begin to review literature written in cursive and begin to master the skill of writing cursive using “Cursive Writing”. All of these texts are published by *Handwriting Without Tears*.

Mathematics

The UFCA Mathematics program for kindergarten through fifth grade uses the Saxon Math – Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Math text series. This program is designed to develop mathematically literate citizens by emphasizing problem solving, written and oral communication, and mathematical reasoning. Students are taught how to connect ideas in mathematics to other everyday activities. This is a spiral curriculum. Concepts are introduced in one lesson and are then practiced in lessons throughout the year.

An increased focus of the program is to shift from learning mathematics as accumulating facts and procedures to learning mathematics as an integrated set of tools for making sense of mathematical situations. Through hands-on manipulatives, technology, and various methodologies, students experience steps to become mathematical problem solvers and thinkers.

The following is a general overview of UFCA Elementary School math progression:

- First grade students learn addition, subtraction, and multiplication, as well as beginning to understand geometry concepts, word problem solving, fractions, and graphing.

- Second grade students have first grade math concepts reinforced and learn division, perfect squares, two digit addition and subtraction, problem solving, graphs, measurement and time.
- Third grade students have concepts reinforced from earlier grades and learn mental computation, temperature, time, money, graphing, math facts, and specific problem-solving strategies.
- Fourth grade students learn computation, problem solving, geometry concepts, measurement, and data analysis and probability.
- Fifth grade students learn fractions and decimals, exponents, types of graphs, symmetry, and Pre-Algebra concepts.

Science

The BJU Press science text series is the curriculum used by first through fifth grades. All elementary students study concepts that develop knowledge of God, encourage Christian growth, and promote scientific literacy. The following is a general overview of UFCA Elementary School science progression:

- Kindergarten students learn about their five senses, science tools, magnetism, animals and their habitats, and weather. Students in kindergarten are involved in the UFCA Creek Monitoring Project.
- First grade students' topics include but are not limited to astronomy, weather, living things, physical science and scientific investigation.
- Second grade students study animal life cycles, the human body, matter, force and motion, gravity, weather, energy, plants, and also about ocean life.
- Third grade students study earth science, biology, astronomy, and physics.
- Fourth grade students have study units that include: Living Things, Energy, Gravity in Motion, the Earth's Resources, and the Human Body.
- Fifth grade students study minerology, chemistry, matter and energy, weather and biomes ecosystems, and biology. The fifth grade year ends with a unit of study on health.

The material in the elementary science texts are supplemented by demonstrations, experiments, and materials from other sources. Kindergarten through grade five integrates science into the curriculum using thematic units of study. Students learn through reading as well as hand-on activities that include conducting experiments and making models. Older students learn to take notes and use study guides to assimilate the material they learn in class and through their independent reading. They are assessed using traditional tools including written tests and participation in individual and group projects.

Social Studies

The Social Studies program provides the opportunity for students to learn about history and the social sciences. Students are introduced to a variety of concepts that encourage them to use critical thinking and reasoning skills.

The A Beka Social Studies Curriculum is used in first through third grade. To further compliment the Abeka Curriculum, students in fourth grade use "North Carolina Our Home" published by Gibbs Smith to further learn

about North Carolina History. Students in fifth grade are taught about the United States of America using a Scott Foresman Pearson published text.

- Kindergarten students learn about themselves, families, schools, communities, holidays, and the United States. Students in kindergarten also study the importance of Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Easter.

Comparing “Long Ago” and “Today”.

- First grade students study about their communities as well as study about America and our national symbols. Students also study basic world geography and communities around the world.
- Second grade students focus their Social Studies study on citizenship, community, an introduction to all fifty states, and patriotic holidays.
- Third grade students study famous Americans and US geography, while learning map skills.
- Fourth grade students study main points of North Carolina’s history, from the time the first peoples settled in North Carolina and ending just after the Civil Rights Movement. Students will end their year-long study of our state with a field trip to Old Salem. Fourth grade students document their learning and create a keepsake document, their North Carolina Notebook.
- Fifth grade students study the United States of America. Their study begins with a study of Native American cultures, European explorations, colonization, the struggle for freedom and unity, and our growth as a nation.

Classroom newspapers, trade books, and magazines, as well as Internet connections supplement the Social Studies program at all levels. Practice workbooks, projects, field trips, speeches, videos, music, art, maps, globes, and special events enhance student abilities in Social Studies.

Lower School Enrichments

Art – Elementary art students will concentrate on the following elements of art: color, shape, value, line, texture, form and space. Students use the Principles of Design in both 2D and 3D art work. Students have the opportunity to work in a variety of mediums including clay, paper, paint pastels and more. Students are introduced to the works of influential artists as they emulate some of those artists’ techniques into their own works.

Computer – Students learn age appropriate skills in keyboarding, word processing and power point. Grades TK-2 use computers in their classroom to reinforce concepts learned in class. The program *Kidspiration* is used in the computer lab. *Jumpstart* and *Mavis Beacon* are both used in the upper elementary grade levels along with Microsoft Office applications. The instruction is directed toward integration of classroom instruction.

Foreign Language

- **Chinese** – Students in grades four and five receive one semester of introduction in Chinese through speaking and pictures.
- **Spanish** – Students in grades kindergarten through fifth are scheduled for Spanish. These classes are exploratory courses that strive to introduce basic Spanish vocabulary and common grammar through a variety of methods including music and self-generated repetition booklets.

Music – Students have weekly instruction in music. Students learn age appropriate music concepts including basic music theory, instructional and vocal concepts, movement and rhythm. Students in grades three and four learn to play the recorder as an exposure to playing an instrument. Emphasis is placed on how we worship God with music.

Library – Students enjoy a variety of activities in library including story time and research. Students are encouraged to check out books as well as make use of computers available in the library.

Physical Education – Students learn basic fitness and coordination appropriate to their age and development. The program seeks to development coordination and athletic skills. Students are involved in relays, individual athletic activities, and team games.

MIDDLE SCHOOL – Grades 6-8

The Middle School curriculum enables students to develop excellence in academics, athletics, spiritual development, technology and the fine arts. Students in the UFCA Middle School have schedules that allow each class to meet for a total of five instructional periods each week. M/Tu/F classes are traditional single period classes. Depending on the course, Middle School students meet on either Wednesday or Thursday for a double period or a block class.

The UFCA MS core subjects are: Language Arts, Math, Bible, Social Studies and Science.

Special enrichment classes include: Art, Band, Black Light, Chinese, Computer, Culinary, Music, Physical Education, Spanish, and Theatre.

Extra-curricular activities available to Middle School students during the 2014-15 school year include the National Junior Honor Society, Student Council and various athletic teams. Students participate in academic competitions such as Math Counts, Spelling Bee, Geography Bee, and Science Fair. The goal is for students to be academically challenged and to develop higher level critical thinking skills. While academics are a priority, so are areas of responsibility, organization, and communication.

The following table highlights most of the courses required for each student to successfully complete UFCA Middle School.

Grade 6 Course	Grade 7 Courses	Grade 8 Courses
Bible 6	Bible 7	Bible 8
Foreign Languages: Spanish and Chinese	Foreign Languages: Spanish and Chinese	Foreign Languages: Spanish and Chinese
Language Arts 6	Language Arts 7	Language Arts 8
General Science	Life Science	Earth & Environmental Science
Math	Pre-Algebra IA, Pre-Algebra	Pre-Algebra IB, Algebra
World Studies	US History	Geography

Physical Education	Physical Education	Physical Education
Study Skills	Study Skills	
Electives	Electives	Electives

Language Arts

Language Arts at the Middle School level integrates literature, writing, and grammar into an instructional program aimed towards maximizing the intellectual and creative potential of each student.

Grade 6 -- students develop their understanding and use of language. Students sharpen their skills by reading and analyzing literature, studying language mechanics, writing various compositions, and expanding their vocabulary. Students develop their ability to effectively express their own ideas through the written word. Students use the Writing Process to write personal narratives, newspaper editorials, instructions, research reports, historical fiction, compare-contrast essays, limericks, free verse, and cover letters for submitting work to a publisher.

- Texts: Literature – *Pearl* (ACSI-Mosdos Press), Grammar – *Writing and Grammar 6* BJU Press

Grade 7 – Students are provided with the opportunity to build their knowledge of English by analyzing sentence structure. Students cultivate their ability to write with clarity. Reference chapters include dictionary skills, library skills, and study skills. The literature studies include poetry, fiction, nonfiction and an examination of a full-length novel.

- Texts: Literature – *Jade* (ACSI-Mosdos Press), Vocabulary – *Vocabulary from Classical Roots, Book A* (EPS), and Composition – *Writing and Grammar* (BJU Press)

Grade 8 – Students place emphasizes on integration of vocabulary, literacy analysis and grammatical construction for fine-tuning students’ writing skills. Writing projects include a news report, a character profile, a short fable, an informal debate script, a photo essay, and an in-class essay. Students will write a research report. Students continue to expand their vocabulary through the study of roots, prefixes, and suffixes.

- Texts: Literature – *Gold* (ACSI-Mosdos Press), Vocabulary – *Vocabulary from Classical Roots, Book B* (EPS), and Composition – *Writing and Grammar* (BJU Press)

Mathematics

The middle school math curriculum is designed to develop Mathematics as a way of thinking, not an isolated group of skills to be memorized and practiced automatically. At every level, the UFCA Mathematics program offers a blend of concept development, skill-oriented activities, and problem-solving opportunities. The approach is to carefully and systematically develop over time the critical topics that are prerequisites for success in Algebra. The program has three textbooks that can be used to prepare students for Algebra. Throughout the textbooks, the approach to building mathematical concepts is to provide learning experiences based on reasoning before presenting practice.

Each grade within the UFCA Middle School has two math levels. Both levels prepare all students for success in UFCA High School and for college. Math Placement is based on a combination of factors including a student’s

prerequisite math performance and experience, results of the Orleans-Hanna Algebra Prognosis Test, and teacher recommendation.

Math 6 is a rigorous course that prepares students for Pre-Algebra. This well-rounded curriculum that provides lessons in all of the major areas including numbers and operations, functions, measurement, geometry, algebra, statistics, data analysis, probability, problem-solving strategies, and solving equations and inequalities.

- Text: *Math Concepts Course 1* (Glencoe – McGraw Hill)

Pre-Algebra IA is the first course in a two-year Pre-Algebra curriculum. Students develop their understanding of algebraic topics including the topics of integers, solving equations and inequalities, while further studying fractions, proportions and decimal.

- Text: *Pre-Algebra* (Glencoe – McGraw Hill)

Pre-Algebra IB is the second course in a two year Pre-Algebra curriculum. Students continue to develop their understanding of algebraic topics. These topics will include the solution of equations and inequalities, operations with fractions and decimals, applications of percent, proportions and decimals, data analysis, geometry, linear functions and graphing.

- Text: *Pre-Algebra* (Glencoe – McGraw Hill)

Pre-Algebra is an accelerated one-year course designed to prepare students for Algebra I. The curriculum includes algebraic topics and skills. Topics include the solution of equations, inequalities, operations with fractions and decimals, applications of percent, proportions, data analysis, geometry, linear functions, and graphing.

- Text: *Pre-Algebra* (Glencoe – McGraw Hill)

Algebra I is a course of study offered to those eighth grade students who have demonstrated the ability and need for a more advanced mathematical curriculum. Instruction seeks to effectively introduce, organize and integrate important algebraic concepts. Major topics include solving linear equations and inequalities, graphing, functions, polynomials, factoring, quadratic and exponential functions, radicals and radical expressions, probability and statistics, and rational expressions.

- Text: *Algebra I* (Glencoe – McGraw Hill).

Science

The middle school science curriculum is designed to provide an accelerated program that allows students to develop new skills and learn new concepts while maintaining and expanding previous knowledge. The science curriculum is selected to help students learn about the impact that science has on daily life and to develop the value and inclination towards solving problems in a scientific method. Subjects are taught in a manner that encourages the students to use more creative and critical thinking skills as their middle school experience progresses. Units of study in all grades are extended and enriched with the use of periodicals such as Popular Science and National Geographic, audiovisual materials, community resource professionals, Internet research, field trips, and newspaper articles and hands-on labs. Technology is an integral part of the science program.

Grade 6 – General Science examines basic science concepts of earth science, physical science, life science, and health in the light of a biblical worldview. The curriculum includes an introduction of basic concepts,

scientific tools, scientific methodology and procedures. This course is biblically integrated to emphasize God as the Creator. Hands-on labs and creek monitoring activities are a large part of this course.

- Text: *Science 6* (BJU Press)

Grade 7 – Life Science emphasizes the study of living organisms from the cellular level to the complexity of the human body. This course is biblically integrated to emphasize God as the Creator. As students study the kingdoms classifying living organisms they expand their understanding of the creativity of God. Student learning is enhanced through lab time that includes the use of the scientific method, and science tools. Dissection is included in this course. Hands-on labs and creek monitoring activities are a large part of this course.

- Text: *Life Science 7* (BJU Press)

Grade 8 – Earth & Environmental Science examines God’s creation including the heavens, the atmosphere, the waters and the earth. Emphasis is on an inquiry approach to science allowing students to develop their ability to understand the earth’s water, weather, climate, geology, space exploration, and astronomy. An emphasis is placed on environmental issues related to these topics. Critical thinking skills are developed as students examine the evidence for God as the Designer of the heavens and the earth.

- Text: *Earth Science 8* (BJU Press)

Social Studies

The Social Studies program teaches World Geography in the sixth grade and US History in the seventh grade. US History is a comprehensive study of the United States beginning with the exploration of North America. In this study emphasis is placed upon the major events that have shaped our nation, following the ten NCSS themes. Through visualization, original document research, and individual and group efforts, the students gain insight into the world today. Eighth grade completes MS social studies with a course in geography focusing on the development of geographic literacy.

Grade 6 – World Studies focuses on the cultural and religious history of the ancient and medieval worlds. This class provides a fresh look through the lens of a Christian worldview. The cultural aspects include government, economics, religion and society. The course introduces geography and demographics. Students develop an appreciation for and an understanding of early civilizations. This course integrates a biblical worldview in its evaluation of ancient and modern civilizations.

- Text: *World Studies* (BJU Press)

Grade 7 – US History provides an in-depth study of issues integral to the formation and development of our country. Examining Christianity as a theme in the formation of early US History provides an understanding of the religious, social, geographic, political, and economic history of our nation. Students develop a better understanding of current events by studying past experiences. Through this study, students develop their critical thinking skills, research, and writing skills.

- Text: *The American Republic* (BJU Press)

Grade 8 – Geography offers the student a view of the world by focusing on the development of geographic literacy. Every region is studied in two parts: physical and political geography. Emphasis is placed on understanding the world spatially in order to equip students as wise stewards of the geographic resources God has provided us. Critical thinking skills are emphasized.

- Text: *Cultural Geography* (BJU Press)

Bible

Bible is a course that emphasis character development while expanding biblical understanding through the study of God's Word using various media. Students will be challenged in their faith, encouraged to deepen their faith, and learn about faith through serving others.

Bible 6 – Students in Grade 6 take a journey through part of the 66 books of the Bible. This journey will trace the history of the earth from the beginning to end – including the future! Route 66 will be their roadmap through the Bible, guiding them every step of the way. Each year there is a focus on either the Old Testament or the New Testament.

Students become acquainted with the Bible as a whole, not just in bits and pieces based on certain characters and stories. They will discover how the Bible's divisions relate, the context of each division, what each book is about, and how it fits into God's plan for Godly living. Learning basic principles repeated throughout Scripture also helps to prepare students for Christian thinking and further Biblical interpretation.

- Text: *Route 66* (A study into all 66 books of the Bible) – (Positive Action for Christ)

Bible 7 – Students in Grade 7 take the second part of the journey through the Route 66 curriculum. Students become acquainted with the Bible as a whole, not just in bits and pieces based on certain characters and stories.

They will discover how the Bible's divisions relate, the context of each division, what each book is about, and how it fits into God's plan for Godly living. Learning basic principles repeated throughout Scripture also helps to prepare students for Christian thinking and further Biblical interpretation.

- Text: *Route 66* (A study into all 66 books of the Bible) – (Positive Action for Christ)

Bible 8 – This course is designed to equip students with a toolbox of knowledge for defending their Christian faith. The author of the text that is used was once an atheist and a legally trained investigative reporter. As he examined the evidence for Jesus Christ, he became a Christian. This class examines the arguments for and against the “case for Christ.”

The units covered each year include:

1. Who is this Jesus?
2. How reliable is the information about Christ?
3. Can a dead man come back to life?
 - Text: *Case for Christ, Student Edition* (Zondervan)

Middle School Enrichments

Art – Middle School art students have the opportunity to learn about the elements of art and the principles of design. As students are introduced to line, shape, form, value, texture, space and color they are assigned varied projects to reinforce the concepts learned. Students also have the opportunity to work with a variety of media from charcoal to clay and paint to pastels. During these assignments, students study about the artists who made certain styles famous. Biblical integration is emphasized.

Band – Middle School band provides students the opportunity to select their first instrument and develop their musical skills. Students have the opportunity to learn about different elements of music. Students are introduced to various instruments and they are encouraged to begin developing skills needed to master the art of performing in the MS Band.

Black Light – Middle School students are given the opportunity to learn the art of Black Light. Students in this elective are encouraged to learn about how the visual arts are an outstanding opportunity to share one’s faith.

Students in black light have a highlight of the year when they participate in the fall or spring Festival of the Fine Arts.

Computer

Student typing skills are reinforced through the use of Mavis Beacon typing software. Students learn good computer navigation skills using a Windows operating system. Students learn to demonstrate efficient file management strategies; as well as, learning and demonstrating efficient use of the necessary functions to become proficient using Microsoft Office 2010 (Word – word processing; Power Point – slide presentation; Excel – spreadsheet analysis and design; Publisher – newspaper and design).

Culinary Arts – Middle School Culinary Arts is an age-appropriate introduction to food preparation. Students enjoy working with food preparation including working in the kitchen as well as watching instructional videos. Students have a part in preparing and serving food during the Middle School Festival of Fine Arts.

Foreign Language

The foreign language program is provided to all UFCA students from Kindergarten through the eighth grade; as well as being a two-credit requirement in the high school. Chinese and Spanish programs strive to give the students the feeling that they can have fun learning a second language. The focus of the curriculum is on the

progressive development of listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills in Spanish. The course of study is communication-based, developing the skills necessary to produce and receive understandable messages. Students communicate both orally and in writing while learning about the culture and customs of the Spanish people. The teachers provide a variety of instructional approaches to renew and maintain student interest and attention. The Spanish program is flexible to allow for different levels of competency among students. The Spanish program provides students with the skills and confidence to continue the study of a second language at the High School level.

- **Grade 6 – Spanish/Chinese** provide students a focus on pronunciation, basic vocabulary, memorization of short conversations, and culture.
- **Grade 7 – Spanish/Chinese** are courses that allow a student to experience a semester of a level 1 foreign language target study as well as learn about the culture of the language. Students take a semester of Spanish I and a semester of Chinese I.
- **Grade 8 – Spanish** students develop skills through an interactive, personalized storytelling technique that encourages communication in the Spanish language. In addition, grammatical skills develop as structures are introduced. Students will acquire a respect and knowledge of the foreign language and culture. This course is not designed for students already proficient in Spanish.
- **Grade 8 – Chinese** provides instruction in the four basic skills of listening comprehension, speaking, reading and writing. Students learn the phonetic system, or pinyin, basic sentence structures, and vocabulary of standard Mandarin.

Physical Education

Students in grades six through eight have required physical education classes that emphasize fitness, sportsmanship, teamwork and learning that the human body is made in the image of God. Students learn skills for both team and individual sports.

Theatre (Offered one Semester each year) – Middle School theatre teaches students to tell a story using basic elements of theatre. Set design, characterization, costumes, stage direction, memorization of lines and theatre vocabulary are all studied to develop an understanding of theatre. Students work cooperatively throughout the semester on a Middle School theatre production.

- The students have performed multiple productions including *Bugsy Malone Jr.*, *Anne of Green Gables*, *Little Women*, *A Year with Frog and Toad Kids*, and *Cool Suit*

HIGH SCHOOL – Grades 9-12

The UFCA High School curriculum is designed and implemented to provide a college preparatory program that provides students with a comprehensive biblical worldview. The goal is to prepare students in academics, athletics, spiritual development, technology, and the arts.

Servant leadership is intentionally integrated into the high school curriculum. Honors and AP courses differ from the standard courses in rigor and complexity. Honors/AP courses require more independent study and require a student to proficiently demonstrate that he/she understands the subject matter in depth. Students must be able to reason, explain abstract concepts, and demonstrate dexterity in thinking and writing regarding the course matter. Honors/AP courses have prerequisites including teacher recommendation.

Grade 9	Grade 11
Old Testament Survey	Apologetics
Literature and Composition Literature and Composition Honors	American Literature and Composition American Literature and Composition Honors
World History I World History I Honors	US History AP US History
Physical Science Physical Science Honors	Chemistry Chemistry Honors
Algebra I, Algebra I Honors, Geometry, Geometry Honors	Algebra II, Algebra II Honors Pre-Calculus, Pre-Calculus Honors
Health	Spanish III or Chinese III
Spanish I or Chinese I	SAT Prep (Sem 1)
Electives (Sem 1 and Sem 2)	Jr. Seminar (Sem 2)
	Electives (Sem 1 and Sem 2)
Grade 10	Grade 12
New Testament Survey	Worldview Comparison
World Literature and Composition World Literature and Composition Honors	British Literature and Composition British Literature and Composition Honors AP Literature and Composition
World History II World History II Honors	Sociology, Civics/Economics, Psychology, AP Government and Politics
Geometry, Geometry Honors Algebra II, Algebra II Honors	Advanced Functions and Models AP Calculus
Biology, Biology Honors	Anatomy, Anatomy Honors
Speech	Physics, Physics Honors
Spanish II or Chinese III	Spanish IV or Chinese IV
Electives (Sem 1 and Sem 2)	Senior Seminar
	Elective (Sem 1 and Sem 2)

Biblical Studies

- **Freshman Bible:** Old Testament Survey provides an overview of the Old Testament’s themes and content. It is designed to allow students to study the literature, history, theology, and contemporary relevance of the Old Testament.
- **Sophomore Bible:** New Testament Survey provides an overview of the New Testament’s themes and content. It is designed to expose the students to the literature, history, theology and contemporary relevance of the New Testament.
- **Junior Bible:** Apologetic for the Bible presents a reasoned defense for the reliability, authenticity and authority of the Scriptures. In this study of the Bible and how it came into existence, students explore the following nine essential concepts: preparation, revelation, inspiration, preservation, canonization, translation, illumination, interpretation and authorization.

- **Senior Bible:** Worldview Comparison presents the biblical Christian worldview in contrast to the five prevalent worldviews of Secular Humanism, Cosmic Humanism (New Age), Marxism, Postmodernism and Islam. The perspective of each of the six worldviews will be investigated in ten essential areas of study: theology, philosophy, ethics, biology, psychology, sociology, law, politics, economics, and history.

English

- **Literature and Composition** provides students with a fundamental understanding of grammar and composition. In addition, students will be prepared to perform well on standardized college entrance examinations and in future English classes. Students will study vocabulary from the SAT. The grammar studied includes parts of speech, commas, punctuation, capitalization, active voice, clarity, phrases, clauses, sentence structures, and quotation integration. Instruction in writing includes concrete details, creative commentary, introductory elements, sentence variety, thesis development, topic sentences, and effective conclusions. Assignments include narrative, creative, and expository compositions. Literature selections include but are not limited to The Lord of the Flies by Golding, The Glass Menagerie by Williams, and Animal Farm by Orwell.
- **World Literature and Composition** develops a fundamental understanding of grammar and composition. Students study vocabulary from the SAT. The grammar studied includes parts of speech, commas, punctuation, capitalization, active voice, clarity, phrases, clauses, sentence structures, and quotation integration. Instruction in writing includes concrete details, creative commentary, introductory elements, sentence variety, thesis development, topic sentences, and effective conclusions. Assignments include narrative, creative, and expository writing. Literature selections include but are not limited to The Death of Ivan Ilych by Tolstoy, The Misanthrope by Moliere, Oedipus Rex by Sophocles, The Pearl, and 1984 by Orwell.
- **American Literature and Composition** provides students with a fundamental understanding of grammar and composition. Students study vocabulary from the SAT. The grammar studied includes parts of speech, commas, punctuation, capitalization, active voice, clarity, phrases, clauses, sentence structures, and quotation integration. Instruction in writing includes concrete details, creative commentary, introductory elements, sentence variety, thesis development, topic sentences, and effective conclusions. Assignments include narrative, creative, expository and persuasive writing. Literature selections include but are not limited to The Great Gatsby by Fitzgerald, The Crucible by Miller, Of Mice and Men by Steinbeck, Death of a Salesman by Miller, and To Kill A Mockingbird by Hill.
- **British Literature and Composition** utilizes the fundamentals of writing, reading, vocabulary study, and critical analysis of selected works from British Literature. Students study vocabulary from the SAT. The grammar studied includes parts of speech, commas, punctuation, capitalization, active voice, clarity, phrases, clauses, sentence structures, and quotation integration. Instruction in writing includes concrete details, creative commentary, introductory elements, sentence variety, thesis development, topic sentences, and effective conclusions. Assignments include narrative, creative, expository, and persuasive writing. Literature selections include but are not limited to Brave New World by Huxley, Hamlet by Shakespeare, Othello by Shakespeare, and Pride and Prejudice by Austen.
- **AP Literature and Composition** is a college-level class that will prepare students for taking both the AP English Literature and Composition exam and future English classes. This course follows the curricular requirements described in the AP English Course Description. Students study vocabulary

from the SAT. The grammar studied includes parts of speech, commas, punctuation, capitalization, active voice, clarity, phrases, clauses, sentence structures, and quotation integration. Instruction in writing includes concrete details, creative commentary, introductory elements, sentence variety, thesis development, topic sentences, and effective conclusions with a major focus on poetry. Assignments include narrative, creative, expository, persuasive writing, and style analysis. Literature selections include but are not limited to Brave New World by Huxley, Hamlet by Shakespeare, Othello by Shakespeare, Pride and Prejudice by Austen, and The Picture of Dorian Gray by Wilde.

- *Prerequisite: American Literature and Composition, Teacher recommendation - 1 credit*

ESL is an English course required for all international students.

Mathematics

- **Algebra I** instruction seeks to effectively introduce, organize and integrate important algebraic concepts. Major topics include solving linear equations and inequalities, graphing functions, polynomials, factoring, quadratic and exponential functions, radicals and radical expressions, probability and statistics, and rational expressions.
- **Algebra II** instruction seeks to effectively build upon concepts introduced in Algebra I. Major topics include solving advanced linear equations and inequalities, graphing lines and curves, polynomials, factoring, quadratic functions, exponential functions, logarithms, radical expressions, rational expressions, probability, and introduction to trigonometry.
 - *Prerequisite: Algebra I, Geometry - 1 credit*
- **Geometry** students study by exploring patterns and developing reasoning skills. Students learn geometry fundamentals involving segments, angles, and parallel lines. Using this foundation, students investigate properties of geometric figures including triangles and quadrilaterals and explore the concepts of congruence, similarity, area, and volume. The concepts in geometry are ideas and properties that describe the orderly structure of the physical world, and an emphasis on a biblical worldview is emphasized in this course.
- **Pre-Calculus** seeks to effectively build upon concepts learned in algebra and geometry to prepare students for calculus. The first semester starts with a review of linear and quadratic functions and then extends to a study of polynomial, radical, and rational functions, and inequalities. The second semester focuses on exponential and logarithmic functions, analytic geometry, and an in-depth study of trigonometry.
 - *Prerequisite: Algebra II, Teacher recommendation - 1 credit*
- **Advanced Functions and Models (AFM)** The objective of this course is to effectively build upon Algebra I-II concepts and introduce real-life models of such concepts. An emphasis is placed on group work and preparing each student for college math by concentrating on topics that typically prove challenging for the average college freshman.
- **AP Calculus** blends algebraic and geometric concepts with the idea of limits to arrive at the two main concepts of calculus: the derivative and the integral. This course thoroughly investigates the derivative and the integral and their many applications in order to prepare students to take the AB Advanced Placement (AP) Examination.

- *Prerequisite: B or above in Pre-Calculus Honors, Teacher Recommendation - 1 credit*

History

- **World History I** teaches religious, political and social events from Renaissance times to the Reformation. Some of the interwoven subjects that are a part of the world history class are geography, lifestyles, culture, economies, and conflict.
- **World History II** teaches religious, political and social events from the Reformation to present times. Some of the interwoven subjects that are a part of the world history class are geography, lifestyles, culture, economies, and conflict.
- **United States History** is a chronological, thematic, and analytical study of the political, economic and social, cultural, and diplomatic history of the United States from colonial origins and early nationhood through the present day.
 - *Prerequisites: World History I and World History II*
- **Psychology** -- A general survey of the important concepts in psychology with traditional theories and modern developments. It includes, but is not limited to, such topics as the history of psychology, the biological foundations of behavior, learning, memory, problem solving, sensation and perception, states of consciousness, motivation, emotions, personality, intelligence, gender and sexuality and abnormal behavior -- all taught from both a secular and Christian worldview.
 - *Prerequisites: World History, US History, Civics & Economics.*
- **Sociology** is a general survey of the important concepts behind human behavior in groups including a study of family, education, religion, government, ecology, and deviancy from both a secular and Christian worldview.
 - *Prerequisites: World History, US History, Civics & Economics.*
- **Civics/Economics** is a general survey of the important concepts in civics and economics where students will acquire the skills and knowledge necessary to become responsible and effective citizens in an interdependent world. The goal of this course is to provide a practical understanding of these systems of civics and economics that affect their lives as Christian consumers and citizens of their world.
 - *Prerequisites: World History I, World History II, and US History.*
- **AP United States History** is a college level course designed to provide the skills and knowledge necessary to critically analyze problems in US history. The student learns to assess historical materials—their relevance, reliability, and importance—and weigh evidence and interpretations presented in historical scholarship. The course is designed to prepare the student for the advanced placement exam in United States history. Summer reading is required.
 - *Prerequisite: World History I, World History II Teacher recommendation - 1 credit*
- **AP Government and Politics** provides an analytical approach to government and politics in the United States. This course follows the curricular requirements described in the AP Course Description. Summer reading is required.

- *Prerequisite: World History I, World History II, United States History Teacher recommendation - 1 credit*

Science

- **Physical Science** provides students the opportunity to explore physics and chemistry concepts. Students apply concepts to everyday life allowing them to see physics and chemistry in the world around them. Students investigate the laws and patterns that govern the creation. Students are prepared for further lab-oriented high school science courses.
- **Biology** utilizes both class work and laboratory experiences to develop understanding of major biological concepts. The objective of this course is to examine different forms of life and laws of nature as they were created with great precision by God. Students learn basic biological concepts, procedures and the practical applications of the biological sciences. Students are encouraged to research and examine the theories about life's origin. Students practice preparing for standardized college entrance questions involving biology as a part of the units of study. Dissections are integral to the laboratory experiences for this course.
- **Chemistry** encourages students to continue their investigation of the structure of matter along with chemical reactions and the conservation of energy in these reactions. Inquiry is applied to the study of the transformation, composition, structure, and properties of substances. The course focuses on basic chemical concepts and incorporates activities that promote investigations to reinforce the concepts.
 - *Prerequisite: Algebra I - 1 credit*
- **Anatomy** students study both the form and function of all the human body. Students learn how the complexity of the human body supports a belief in God. Each quarter, students are required to write a paper or complete a research project. Dissections are integral to the laboratory experiences for this course. Students are required to dissect several representative organisms. Honors Anatomy requires dissection of the cat or equivalent project of teacher's determination.
- **Physics** is a conceptual course that stimulates the students' higher-level thinking skills and encourages them to see science everywhere in God's creation. Students develop comprehension of physics concepts through thought-provoking questions and hands-on demonstrations and labs. The majority of the course will emphasize the study of mechanics, including the topics of force and acceleration, momentum, energy, circular and rotational motion, and universal gravitation. Also covered will be the topics of sound, light, color, electricity, and magnetism. With physics concepts understood, students are better prepared for college-level physics.
 - *Prerequisite: Algebra II, Teacher recommendation - 1 credit*

Foreign Language

- **Spanish I and II** students acquire Spanish skills through exciting curriculum that stresses language acquisition. Repetitive comprehensible input with reading will result in second-language loving students. These courses are not designed for native speakers of the Spanish language.
- **Spanish III and IV** students are expected to acquire and develop comprehensive grammatical skills, practice oral communication and the written word. Students acquire advanced Spanish through a

combined curriculum of storytelling with advanced structures, extensive reading, grammar reviews and AP practice tests. Oral conversations and creative writing are regularly assessed. Field trips and other cultural events are encouraged.

○ *Prerequisite: Spanish II, Spanish III - 1 credit*

- **Chinese I and II** are designed for students who are learning the basics of Chinese. Students learn the skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing for everyday communication. Building upon the vocabulary and sentence structures learned in Chinese I, Chinese II students learn advanced sentence structures necessary for use in everyday life. A large part of the class time is devoted to conversations related to topics in daily life.
- **Chinese III and IV** build on the vocabulary and sentence structures taught through Chinese II. Students learn more useful expressions and advanced sentence structures in these courses. A large part of the class time is devoted to conversations related to topics in daily life. While emphasis is placed on the communicative skills of listening and speaking, students also continue to learn to read and write Chinese characters. To facilitate the study of the language, different aspects of Chinese culture are introduced through such activities as Chinese videos and group activities.

○ *Prerequisite: Chinese II, Chinese III - 1 credit*

High School Electives

1. **Health** is a freshman class that seeks to help students in developing habits and learning information to protect their health. Topics include the body, nutrition, fitness, mental health, and social health. This course is designed to help students develop an understanding of health, health issues, and the biblical foundation for a healthy lifestyle.
2. **Speech** is a sophomore class that provides students the means and ability to be confident in presentation and public speaking. Students create original speeches, study great communicators of the past, learn to connect on all levels with their audience, and understand the power of the written and spoken word.
4. **SAT Prep** is a junior course designed to familiarize students with the format and content of the SAT. Students learn how each section of the test is presented and how to use specific strategies to do their best when taking the test.
5. **PE** is a required course for all students graduating from UFCA.
6. **Junior Seminar /Senior Seminar** are courses designed to prepare students for college. Each class covers such topics as the college application process, creating and finalizing resumes, budgeting for and during college, college research, etc. Students have the opportunity to visit with college representatives and attend college fairs. Students learn what is important to ask and to experience on a college visit. Junior Seminar is designed to be specific to college preparation needed by juniors, while Senior Seminar is designed to help seniors with the final steps needed for college acceptance.
 - a. *Junior Requirement - .25 credit*
 - b. *Senior Requirement - .5 credit*

7. **Art I** using the elements of art and the principles of design, students learn to create artwork and to improve the quality and scope of their work. Students use a wide variety of materials to produce two dimensional and three-dimensional projects.
8. **Art II, III and IV** these courses expand on High School Art 1. Students spend more time in an area of art that is suited to their interest. The courses also allow students to build a portfolio that will help them if they continue their education in the field of art.
9. **Culinary Arts** is an introduction to the study of food preparation including understanding the food service industry. Students enjoy working with food, practice techniques of cooking, and consider potential careers in the food service industry. Concepts include food preparation and service, food storage, work simplification, and team building. This is a performance art course that supports the overall objectives of the UFCA Fine Arts Department.
10. **Crossfit Conditioning** is an opportunity for students to train in cardio-vascular and muscular conditioning. As students learn to be good stewards of their physical resources, they are also reminded of the importance of spiritual disciplines for growth in their relationships with Christ.
11. **Physical Education** emphasizes fitness, sportsmanship, teamwork, and learning that the human body is made in the image of God. Students learn skills for common team and individual sports.
12. **Praise Band** provides students the opportunity to develop their musical skills and learn to lead others in worship. Students lead worship which includes student-written songs in weekly chapels.
13. **Student Aides** is an elective in which students in their Junior and Senior years are given opportunities to support teachers, office/administration and the Athletic Department.
14. **Theatre** (Offered one Semester each year) further explores the basic principles of acting and all aspects of play production. Basic set design, costumes, stage direction, memorization of lines, and theatre vocabulary are all studied as students work cooperatively throughout the semester on a high school production. (Students have performed the full-length productions of *Arsenic and Old Lace*, *Our Town*, *Get Smart*, *Willie Wonka*. *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*, *Into the Woods Jr*, *School House Rock Live! Jr*, and *A Cricket County City Christmas*).
15. **Yearbook** provides a course in which students plan, develop, market, publish, and distribute the school yearbook. Students have the opportunity to work individually, in pairs, and in small groups to learn a wide variety of skill sets. Class size is limited to 5-6 students.