

Foothills Community Christian School

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Mrs. Carrie Morrison ***7th, 9th-12th English, College Prep, Speech, Yearbook***

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Mission Statement

The mission of Foothills Community Christian School is to assist parents in providing a Christ-centered education that values exceptional academics, strong moral character, and service to others.

September 1, 2022

Hello, everyone!

Welcome, or welcome back, to Foothills Community Christian School! I am extremely excited to be back with you again this year!

There are a lot of things I enjoy about teaching, and I would like to take a moment to briefly explain some of them to you, the best way I am able.

First, I absolutely love teaching! It is my main passion in life! Do I have bad days, and do I get frustrated sometimes? Of course! Don't we all? But ultimately, this is what I love to do and I strive to be the best I can be at it. With that in mind, I want my students to become at least a little passionate about English once you leave my classroom. I love for some of my joy to transfer to you. If you feel even the tiniest bit better about English in school once you've attended my class, then I have succeeded.

Second, I want you to feel comfortable and confident about asking questions. You will never move on or gain wisdom if you do not ask questions. I am sure you have heard "There is no such thing as a stupid question." At the risk of being cliché, it's true. If you don't know something, you have to ask, no matter how many other classmates already know the answer. Ignore the criticism or weird looks or laughter, and ask anyway. My job as your teacher is to answer your questions and make sure you learn what I am presenting to you. If you are confused and you haven't learned, then I have failed at my job, and I need to fix that.

Finally, but most importantly, God must be a part of my classroom. Even when I taught in the public schools, God was in my classroom. He is a part of my life and He has given me what I need to do my job here. I pray over my students, I pray over my lessons, I pray over my motivations in teaching. If God is for me, who could be against me?

I am looking forward to another great year! Go Falcons!

Mrs. Morrison

My Philosophy of Education
Mrs. Morrison

PURPOSE AND GOAL OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

I believe the goal of a Christian education is to empower our students to live a strong Christian life in a non-Christian world where they can shine the light of Jesus to those who do not know Him. To this end, I believe each subject should be taught through the lens of a biblical context. I show students how God would have us respond to certain situations within literature. We discuss the differences between worldly and Christian reactions so that in the real world, they can use these skills to be a better witness to those around them. Our great commission is to love one another, and by using a biblical framework within our studies I can help students relate to their secular peers, while still having the knowledge to testify to the Truth.

NATURE OF THE LEARNER

Every person was created in the image of God, and I believe each student is a physical, emotional and spiritual being. There are many facets of life that cause a student in my classroom to be the way he/she is and I try to keep that in mind. We all have a sin nature, so mistakes are bound to happen. However, we all have mercy and grace from a loving Father, and I do my best to offer these things as well. My role as a Christian teacher is to shine the light of Jesus and illustrate through my actions how real God is. I try to show my dependence on the Lord, so that when my students have struggles, they might learn from my example to lean on the Lord as well. Over the course of the school year I want my students to show a deeper understanding of God as our Creator, Protector, Healer and Father, and I pray this understanding may come, at least in part, from the way I conduct myself in my classroom.

ROLE OF THE TEACHER

I try to create an atmosphere of confidence and courage in my classroom. By this I mean that I understand all students learn in diverse ways, and as a teacher, my job is to help each student learn in the best way possible, without fear of ridicule. Thus, I nurture a classroom of respect and encourage my students to ask questions no matter what. I always say, "You will not know If you don't ask." I want them to ask questions, I want them to seek help from me, because I am the teacher and if at the end of the year, the students have not learned something, it's either their fault for not asking, or my fault for not doing my job. My job is to teach, but I cannot teach better if I do not know that a student is struggling.

NATURE OF THE LEARNING PROCESS

I believe each child learns in his or her own way. Every person as a created being of God is an individual and should be treated as such. In my classroom, I try to incorporate different teaching methods that allow for various learning styles so that all my students may be able to understand the material to the best of their abilities. I try to use lessons where students help teach each other, as well as the typical reading, writing and listening skills that are most common in an English classroom. Whenever possible, I try to integrate hands-on lessons to supplement book work as well.

SEQUENCE AND SELECTION OF CURRICULUM

In selecting and organizing curriculum, my goal is to offer a Christian perspective in materials and to choose materials that will challenge the students' minds. The curriculum is challenging, because I believe students should work hard for their grades and not simply be given them. Colossians 3:23-24 says, "And whatever you do, do it heartily, as unto the Lord and not to men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ." I know that when students work harder their grades mean more to them, and this equips them for life in the working world.

Personal Bio/Testimony

I was born and raised in Florida, spending the majority of my childhood in St. Augustine. I began teaching in 1998, right after college. My husband is retired Air Force, so we moved around a lot, but I taught for 7 years in Florida public schools and homeschooled my son for 2 years. I have been teaching at Foothills since 2017.

I accepted Jesus into my heart in middle school, and have loved Him dearly ever since. I am proud of how my relationship with God blossoms at times, and I turn to Him when I meet struggles in my life. Over the years I have overcome several life-changing obstacles simply by the grace of God. It is amazing how God can give you peace in a time when the world thinks you should be falling apart. My life-verse from the Bible is Isaiah 26:3 which states, “You will keep him in perfect peace, Whose mind is stayed on You, Because he trusts in You.” When times get tough, I look to God and He never fails to bring me that inexplicable peace.

To access my lesson plans:

Go to: www.planbook.com

Email: cmorrison@foothillschristian.org

Password/Key: Falcons22

Once logged in, you will be able to see the attached Back to School document on September 7th, simply click on it and it will open for you!

Lesson plans for the week are typically finalized the Friday before, however, lessons are often subject to change depending on how quickly the students learn things or events that were unexpected.

School Website

The school website is www.foothillschristian.org and there you can find links to Parent Web (RenWeb 1), the Student Handbook, the school newsletter and the school calendar, along with the school’s mission statement, philosophy and other important items.

Supplies

For my class specifically, you will need one 3-ring, 1” binder (this binder should be dedicated to English class), 4 dividers for the binder, two college-ruled composition notebooks (100 pages), plenty of notebook paper, pens, and pencils. **You will need all of these every day along with your books.** *** Please make note: If at any time you do not have the required supplies, you will be marked tardy to leave the room to get them, or you will be marked tardy in order to borrow something from me. So come to class prepared.

Mrs. Morrison's Class Schedule - Room 12 - M/T/Th/F

1st (7:50-8:44) – 7th Language Arts
2nd (8:47-9:41) – 9th/10th Grade English
3rd (9:44-10:38) – Planning
4th (10:41-11:35) – 11th/12th Grade American Literature
5th (11:38-12:32) – 9th/10th Grade English
12:35-1:05 Lunch
1:06-1:36 Advisory (Tuesdays HS STUCO)
6th (1:39-2:33) - College Prep/Speech
7th (2:36-3:30) - Yearbook

Wednesday Chapel Days

1st 7:50-8:40

2nd 8:43-9:33

3rd 9:36-10:26

4th 10:29-11:19

5th 11:22-12:12

MS and HS see right

6th 1:47-2:37

7th 2:40-3:30

MS

Lunch 12:12-12:42

Chapel 12:42-1:44

HS

Chapel 12:12-12:42

Lunch 12:42-1:12

Chapel 1:12-1:44

Instructional Objectives

The purpose of all English and Bible classes is to provide challenging educational opportunities in language arts, as appropriate by grade level, with respect to how all things relate to God, Creation, Mankind, Moral Order and Purpose. These opportunities will provide the skills needed for college and life in the real world.

Basic Outline of Materials (Subject to change)

7th Grade Language Arts

1st Qtr: Literature Unit 1; Grammar Ch 18/19 & 13-15; Vocabulary Ch 1-4

2nd Qtr: Literature Units 2, 3; Grammar Ch 1-3, 7; Vocabulary Ch 5-8

3rd Qtr: Literature Units 4, 5; Grammar Ch 4-6, 9, 10; Vocabulary Ch 9-12

4th Qtr: Literature Unit 6; Grammar Ch 8, 12; Vocabulary Ch 13-16; Novel

9th/10th Grade

1st Qtr: Literature Unit 1; Grammar Ch 11-16; Vocabulary Ch 1-4

2nd Qtr: Literature Units 2-3; Grammar Ch 3-4, 10; Vocabulary Ch 5-8

3rd Qtr: Literature Unit 4; Grammar Ch 5-8; Vocabulary Ch 9-12

4th Qtr: Literature Units 5-6; Grammar Ch 9; Vocabulary Ch 13-16; *To Kill a Mockingbird*

11th/12th Grade

1st Qtr: Literature Units 1-3; Grammar Ch 1-2, 14-16 (1 Essay); Vocabulary Ch 1-4

2nd Qtr: Literature Units 4-7; Grammar Ch 3, 4, 10 (2 Essays); Vocabulary Ch 5-8

3rd Qtr: Literature Unit 8-11; Grammar Ch 5-6 (1 Essay); Vocabulary Ch 9-12

4th Qtr: Literature Units 12-13; Grammar (Research Paper); Vocabulary Ch 13-16; *The Scarlet Letter*

College Prep

1st Qtr: SAT/ACT preparation and practice; college entrance requirements/application process/costs

2nd Qtr: Life Skills, budgeting, resume writing, job interviews, job aptitude/personality tests

Speech

3rd Qtr: Process and Fundamentals of Communication

4th Qtr: Fundamentals of Communications and Public Communication

Discipline Plan/Rules

Rules for my class are posted and are as follows:

1. Be respectful
2. Be prepared
3. Raise your hand
4. Pay attention

**Cell Phones or any other electronic device Must NOT be seen. If either is seen during class, I will take it, and it will be given to Mr. Culpepper. The ONLY exception is if I give express permission for a class assignment.

Consequences of breaking rules

1. Verbal warning (3 chances!)
2. Phone Call home/Detention
3. Office

Rewards for whole class participation and exceptional in-class behavior:

1. Free Homework Pass
2. Drop Lowest Quiz Grade

Conduct Grades on Report Card

- 1 – Exceptional behavior
- 2 – Satisfactory behavior

- 3 – Need to improve behavior
- 4 – Unsatisfactory behavior
- 5 – Poor behavior

Grading Procedures

Everything we do in class will receive a grade, whether it is classwork/homework, participation or assessment.

The grading scale is as follows:

100-90 A 89-80 B 79-70 C 69-60 D 59-0 F

Your overall grade is broken up as follows: **Classwork/Homework/Participation** - 20%; **Quizzes** (vocabulary, grammar and literature) - 30%; **Major Grades** are literature tests, essays, projects - 50%. There will only be 3 or 4 major grades per quarter, so make them count!

Homework: To be on time, homework assignments must be in the basket at the beginning of the period.

Makeup Work: As a general rule, students are given the same number of days to make up the work as the number of days absent, not to exceed five days. Project due dates and/or Major assessment days announced at least one week in advance are not delayed when the absence occurs on the day before the project/assessment due date.

Late Classwork/Homework: Any late work will be recorded as a zero (0). Students may turn in the assignment a day late for an additional grade. The zero stands on the original due date and the grade that the student makes from the late work turned in will be entered as a second grade.

Late Major Projects: When a special project (major test grade) is turned in late, 10% is deducted from the student's grade on the assignment for each class day the assignment is late.

If excused absences occur in such a way as to create an “incomplete” on the report card, the work must be completed within five (5) class days after returning to school. Special consideration, however, is given to students missing several days in a row or those too ill to prepare for school. All special consideration requests must be given to the teacher prior to the expected due date for make-up work.

Attendance: If your child is going to be absent, you must notify Mrs. Pennell and Mr. Culpepper. Be aware that students may have **no more than 10 absences (whether excused or unexcused) per semester** in order to receive credit for their classes.

Semester Grade Calculation

Grading and Reporting Periods High School (grades 9th – 12th)

Each semester is divided into two (2) nine-weeks grading and reporting periods. In computing the final grade for the course, all grades are determined in the following manner:

1 st Nine Weeks - 40%	3 rd Nine Weeks - 40%
2 nd Nine Weeks - 40%	4 th Nine Weeks - 40%
Exam or Activity - 20%	Exam or Activity - 20%

HIGH SCHOOL (grades 9th – 12th): Foothills Community Christian School believes that late work is not acceptable. Work turned in on time represents a work ethic that FCCS chooses to reward. Preparing students for the college experience is important. As a rule, colleges do not accept work turned in late. At FCCS each high school teacher is responsible for his or her late work practice. However, the high school teachers must maintain a minimum standard of: Zero (0) when work is late. Students may turn in the assignment a day late for an additional grade. The zero stands on the original due date and the grade that the student makes from the late work turned in will be entered as a second grade. For an Upper School student when a **special project (major test grade)** is turned in late, **10%** is deducted from the student's grade on the assignment for each class day the assignment is late.

SEMESTER EXAMINATIONS All students, including seniors, are required to take semester examinations in every course in the fall semester. In the spring semester, students (in grades 8-11) maintaining a 90 in the third quarter and a 90 in the fourth quarter are exempt. Exempt students are not to be on campus during their exempt exam. Written examinations are not given early for any reason. Written examinations are given in the following departments: English, Mathematics, science, social studies, and World Language. Written or performance exams are given in all other subject areas. Each semester is divided into two grading periods and one semester exam. The semester examination will count as 20% of the semester grade, and each of the two grading periods will count 40% each. Students taking semester exams will remain in class until the time allotted for the exam period ends. These tests are cumulative for a full semester only. Semester test schedules can be found on the school website and on the calendar.

SENIOR FINALS Seniors must maintain a passing grade in the **spring** semester to be exempt from the exam. Seniors who are failing are required to take the exam (during the same time as the other students). Any student who has not completed graduation requirements will not receive a diploma.

General Info

We do not do class parties, but we may recognize someone who has a birthday, and we try to sing to that person at lunch time.

Chapel

We have chapel every Wednesday. The last Wednesday of every month is all-school chapel. We try to have guest speakers, so if you are interested in sharing a testimony with the students, please let me know. You can earn FIP hours for this as well.

DRESS CODE

SHIRTS/SWEATERS/HOODIES AND SWEATSHIRTS:

- All tops must cover the shoulders, back, midriff and cleavage.
- No shirt may be worn that exposes skin when arms are raised.
- Hoods must be down when a hoodie is worn.

SHORTS AND PANTS:

- Shorts must be no shorter than 2 inches above the knee.
- Pants and shorts must not be immodestly tight or excessively loose fit and contain no lettering across the seat.
- Pants and shorts cannot have holes, tears, or fraying (even if new).
- Grades K-3 may wear knit legging style bottoms.
- Grades K-5 may wear work out style bottoms (no legging style work out pants or sweats).
- Grades 6-12 students may not wear yoga pants, work out pants, or sweats.
- Leggings may not be worn unless they are worn under a dress or skirt.

DRESSES/SKIRTS/SCOOTERS (Girls only):

- Dresses, skirts, and scooters must be no shorter than 2 inches above the knee at their shortest point.
- Dresses must cover shoulders or be worn with a cardigan or other shirt style top (no shawls). Covering tops may not be removed in school if the dress does not cover shoulders.
- Leggings or shorts must be worn under all dresses and skirts.
- K-5 Nylons and tights are not considered leggings and should not be worn in place of leggings during regular school days.
- Grades 6-12 Nylons or tights may be worn in place of shorts or leggings.

SHOES:

- Must be worn at all times
- No heels or soles greater than 2 inches (stilettos may not be worn).
- No pajama slippers.
- Grades Pre-K-5: No flip flops (sandals must wrap around the heel)

HAIR AND PIERCINGS:

- Hair should be conservative, neat, clean and a natural color. (Temporary wash out hair color may be allowed on School Spirit Days).
- No visible tattoos.
- Girls: No piercings other than the ears are allowed to be visible at school or any school function.
- Boys: Hair should be short and facial hair should be neat and trimmed with a shave line. No visible piercings.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

- FCCS has a PE uniform.
 - Long (basketball length) navy blue shorts
 - Gray FCCS shirt
 - PE uniform can be purchased through the school

- PE uniform is required for grades 6-12 and is part of student's PE grade
- Athletic shoes appropriate for running with non-marking soles
- Shoes must be worn at all times

SPECIAL EVENTS

(Field Trips, Pastors' Appreciation, or anytime the students are asked to represent the school)

- Khaki pants
- Navy blue polo with embroidered FCCS logo
- Students will be notified when Special Events Dress should be worn

OPEN DRESS

- The general guidelines for all students still apply
- Girls may wear maxi (ankle length) skirts/dresses
- Shirts should have no offensive language or pictures
- No tank tops
- Shorts: still Bermuda style
- Warm-up pants

OTHER SPECIAL ACTIVITIES

- The Head of School will designate proper dress for other special events (graduation, awards, grandparents and activity days i.e. Spirit Week, etc.). All guidelines related to hats, hair, cosmetics, jewelry, footwear, and winter wear, unless otherwise stated will remain in force. Extracurricular Supervisors (i.e. coaches, choir director, and student council advisors) have the authority to request and enforce specific dress code for school affiliated events with Head of School approval.

FORMALS (Upper School)

- Girls: No cleavage, no midsection showing, dress/skirts should be no more than two inches above the middle of the knee, must have at least one over the shoulder strap
- Boys: Formal wear

ATHLETIC EVENTS (ATHLETES ONLY)

- Whole team should be consistent in dress
- Should be worn all day on game days
- Should be worn before and after games
- Coaches will notify athletes of attire on a game-by-game basis

AFTER SCHOOL EVENTS

It is important that school sponsored and sanctioned events that take place after normal school hours reflect the mission of the school. Dress code compliance at these events helps reflect to others what type of school Foothills Community Christian School is. It is our desire at Foothills Community Christian School that we do all things pleasing to the Lord and in a manner that will honor Him. We recognize, of course, that true Christianity is a matter of the heart and not always the outward appearance. However, it is true that our appearance is important. In 1 Thessalonians 5:22 we read, "Abstain from all appearance of evil." Samuel notes, "The Lord looks on the heart...man looks on the outward appearance." However, Peter puts his finger on the real issue when he stated that our attractiveness should not be based on what we wear, but on "the hidden man of the heart...even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit." By our dress and our actions we represent the feelings and thoughts of our hearts. Therefore, our clothing and the way we wear it should represent our desire to please God and honor Him. Dress code compliance at after school events is on the honor system. The students are to exercise good judgment in what they wear and how they wear it. In the case of gross violations of dress code at an after school event, the student is asked to leave the event.

DRESS CODE VIOLATION CONSEQUENCES

UPPER SCHOOL (GRADES 7TH-12TH):

1st Offense

- The teacher will make contact with parent explaining the violation

- The contact/violation will be noted in behavior report on RenWeb
- The parent is asked to bring proper dress code items to school for the student to be in compliance.

2nd Offense

- The teacher will make contact with parent explaining the violation
- The contact/violation will be noted in behavior report on RenWeb
- The parent is asked to bring proper dress code items to school for the student to be in compliance.
- The student will be required to wear **Special Events Dress Code** clothing for one week.
- The student will serve detention if not in dress code within one hour.

Category 2 Violation

3rd Offense

- The teacher will make contact with parents, explaining the violation and that Head of School is being notified
- The contact/violation will be noted in behavior report on RenWeb
- The parent is asked to bring proper dress code items to school for the student to be in compliance.
- The student will be required to wear **Special Events Dress Code** clothing for more than one week set by Head of School.
- The student to serve multiple detentions if not in dress code within one hour.

4th Offense

- The teacher will make contact with parents, explaining the violation and that Head of School is being notified
- The contact/violation will be noted in behavior report on RenWeb
- The parent is asked to bring proper dress code items to school for the student to be in compliance.
- If the student is not in compliance within one hour of notification, the student will serve an in-school suspension until proper attire is found. The in-school suspension is considered an unexcused absence from class.
- The student will be required to wear **Special Events Dress Code** clothing for more than one week to be set by the Head of School.
- The student will serve an in-school suspension

5th Offense

The teacher will refer the student to the Head of School, who will make the parent contact to discuss the repeated issues and convene the Admissions Committee

Communication

If you ever need to reach me you can always call the school at 452-5276

You may also email me at cmorrison@foothillschristian.org

***An electronic copy of my Back to School packet can be found on Planbook.com, on September 6th for your student's class
