**WELCOME** to First Baptist Christian School! My name is Dr. Sandra Phelps and what a joy and privilege it is for me to be the Headmaster at First Baptist Christian School!

In 2009, I became the Headmaster of First Baptist Christian School. Together with the stakeholders of the school, I have strived to bring the school to the next level of excellence. We have begun the accreditation process which will be completed in April, 2011. We have implemented standardized testing and have redefined school goals to be realistic, measurable and attainable.

Over the last twenty plus years, I have served as principal of three different campuses of Hyde Park Baptist Schools in Austin, Texas where I also directed the Curriculum, Instruction and Accreditation for the Hyde Park Baptist School System, grades K-12th. I am glad that God and the FBCS Board called me to come and serve as the head of both the Child Development Center and Elementary School at First Baptist Christian School. I think that God intends to use both my experience and education in Christian schooling to grow FBBCS.

My credentials include Texas Teacher Certification, Texas Principal’s Certification, Texas Mid-Management Certification, Texas Curriculum Supervisor Certification, and I have completed the course work for the Texas Superintendent’s Certification at the University of Texas in Austin. I attended Texas Tech University and completed my Bachelors Degree in Education at the University of Houston. I completed both my Masters Degree and my Doctors Degree at the University of Texas in Austin majoring in Educational Administration and Curriculum and Instruction.

At the Elementary School, FBBCS teachers are degreed, Texas Certified, and are teaching in their field of specialization. They are all experienced teachers and born-again Christians who are excited about teaching in a Christian school.

At the Child Development Center our Assistant Director is Mrs. Cindy Koopmans. Previously, she taught the Pre-K class at FBBCS for seven years and is known and loved by the parents and children at all grade levels. Cindy is a certified Child Development Center Director and has served as a CDC Assistant Director at Redeemer Lutheran School in Austin. She has also served as the CDC Director at Our Savior Lutheran School in Austin.

We are very excited about the growth of FBBCS CDC and Elementary School. Our vision is to continue to grow our school all of the way through 12th grade. In April, 2011, we will complete accreditation for the CDC and Elementary School through the Texas Education Agency and through SACS (Southern Association of Colleges and Schools) which is the same accrediting body that accredits the University of Texas and other major universities. This has been a two year process and has involved all of the stakeholders of the school and First Baptist Church in conducting a self-study of FBBCS to develop long range improvement plans. A team of qualified educators will be visiting FBBCS and will study our curriculum and plans to determine the FBBCS status for meeting accreditation standards. Upon successful completion of this process, they will put their stamp of approval on FBBCS for accreditation. Currently, both the CDC and Elementary School are licensed through the State of Texas.

What an exceptional school that God has blessed us with at First Baptist Christian School. We hope that you will join us in receiving the blessings that God has in store for us!

God’s Blessings,

Dr. Sandra Phelps
Headmaster
First Baptist Christian School

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” Jeremiah 29:11
Overview

First Baptist Christian School is a Christ-centered, college preparatory school system in Marble Falls, Texas. FBCS elementary serves Kindergarten through 6th grade students; and FBCS Child Development Center serves infants through Pre-Kindergarten students. FBCS is a ministry of Marble Falls First Baptist Church. FBCS's enrollment is 150 for the 2010-2011 academic year. Elementary students enjoy Art, Music, Drama, Spanish, EXCEL Challenge Lab, P.E. and weekly Chapel. Its school hours are 8:15 a.m. to 3:15 p.m. Monday through Friday. All of the elementary classroom teachers are degreeed and certified with proven experience to ensure a quality educational experience. Elementary class size is limited to 15. FBCS curriculum consists of A Beka, Bob Jones, and ACSI. Dr. Sandra Phelps serves as headmaster and principal.

Belief Statement

First Baptist Christian School exists to glorify God through the ministry of an excellent Christ-centered education.

Mission Statement

The mission of FBCS is to provide a Christ-centered foundation of biblical truth integrated in strong academics and well-rounded extracurricular programs; and to teach and train the children so that their lives may be touched for eternity. FBCS makes a difference in the hearts and lives of all the children who enter its doors. FBCS educates them in Godly wisdom, knowledge, and understanding so that as they grow and develop they will make choices that are rooted in a faith committed to Jesus Christ and grounded on the truth of the Scriptures.

Purpose

First Baptist Christian School is a ministry of the Marble Falls Baptist Church to the children of the Highland Lakes. Its purpose is to provide care, education, and development of each child as Jesus did.

Objectives

FBCS believes that its children absorb concepts of Christ from people, things and experiences that are part of their environment. Therefore, a love and appreciation for Christ and things that Christ has made are stressed through appropriate activities. FBCS curriculum design helps each child develop in all facets of his life – physically, mentally, emotionally, socially, and spiritually.

Goals of Education

- To teach children to love God with all of their heart, soul, mind, and strength through a transforming, redemptive, personal relationship with Jesus Christ of Nazareth as Lord and Savior (Mark 12:30).
- To enable each student to become an effective, responsible, and pleasing servant of our Lord Jesus Christ, trained for works and service that he has prepared for each one to do by loving one’s neighbor as oneself (Mark 12:31).
- To disciple students so they may develop a characteristic lifestyle that confirms to the image of Jesus Christ (Romans 8:29).
- To help the Christian student organize and articulate an account for the hope that lies within him or her with gentleness and reverence (I Peter 3:15).
To formulate a distinctively Christian mind that is able to think and act according to Biblical principles (Philippians 2:3-8; 4:8, 9).

To provide a knowledge of the universe, man’s place in it, and God’s perspective on man and human history in such a way that each student will weigh the value of his or her relationship to Jesus Christ and accept the challenge of lifelong commitment to knowing Biblical principles and obeying His commandments.

To guide the students in knowing, comprehending and applying the fundamental doctrines of the Christian faith and their practical implications for life in the new age ahead.

To provide a clear perception of truth and the motivation to act in a morally and socially responsible way; to obey God in the fulfillment of His mandates for His people.

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**Nondiscrimination Policy**

First Baptist Christian School admits students of any race, color, national or ethnic origin, or religious affiliation, to all rights, privileges, programs and activities available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of gender, race, creed, color, national or ethnic origin in administration of its education policies, scholarships, or other school-administered programs.

**History**

First Baptist Christian School began as a Child Development Center (CDC) in 1987. In the fall of 2003, a Kindergarten began for 5 year olds, and the school now is through Fifth Grade. FBCS will add Sixth grade next year and will continue to add a grade each school year until it reaches Twelfth Grade. First Baptist Christian School elementary is currently working towards becoming fully accredited by the Texas Education Agency which will be completed in April, 2011.

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2010 First Baptist Christian School Christmas Pageant
Child Development Center

Academic Program

First Baptist Christian School Child Development Center has developed curriculum goals and objectives for Infants through Pre-Kindergarten. The Headmaster, Director, and professional staff are evaluating the curriculum for each department in the CDC and are seeking accreditation in the 3 Year Old Preschool and 4 Year Old Preschool departments. Other departments include Infant, Toddler and 2 Year Old Preschool. The FBCS Child Development Center is licensed by the state of Texas Department of Child and Protective Services.

The philosophy of education in FBCS weekday early education program is based on God’s plan for educating children, and His design for human growth. “A child unfolds like a rose,” stated the late Dr. Kathryn Chapman, associate Professor of Childhood Education, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. Just as a rose unfolds according to God’s orderly design, so does God’s highest creation, a human. Human beings “unfold” after birth from the head down and from the center out.

The First Baptist Christian School CDC curriculum includes Christian Weekday Early Education (WEE Learn) and A Beka Publishing Company. These programs involve a child’s total experience from the time he/she arrives at the FBCS Child Development Center until he/she enters Kindergarten at FBCS Elementary School. The learning experiences carry over into the child’s home and family. The curriculum provides opportunities for children to think, solve problems, and to communicate effectively with their parents and teachers. It provides daily opportunities for growth, development and enjoyment of success for each child.

Infant and Toddler

The WEE Learn curriculum includes age-appropriate experiences for spiritual development. It seeks to develop the whole child according to Luke 2:52: “And Jesus increased in wisdom (mental), and in stature (physical), and in favor with God (spiritual), and man (social and emotional).” This biblically based curriculum provides an opportunity to begin learning how to live as God’s creation in God’s world according to God’s creative design.

Comfort is the major concern of infants. When a baby is comfortable and secure, he/she develops the use of eyes, head, neck and shoulders. Infants enrolled in FBCS learn to reach for objects, to grasp and hold objects, to drop objects, and finally learn to transfer objects from one hand to the other. Infants show interest in human faces, eyes, bright objects and their own image in a mirror. Infants smile, wiggle with excitement when talked to, played with, or smiled at. Our infants get a lot of attention and cuddling because of the low FBCS staff-infant ratio. Spiritual characteristics of infants include responding to soft music, a quiet voice, and loving care. They are learning to trust and respond with
contentment and to delight to happy times. Toddlerhood is the stage during which a child is learning competence in many skills, particularly in walking, climbing and running. Toddlers develop the use of their large muscles in their arms and legs. They walk and climb clumsily, run stiffly, jump with both feet, and fall often. The FBCS curriculum helps the students begin to show interest in simple Bible truths in songs, stories, pictures and books. They learn to respond with pleasure to the names of God and Jesus.

2 Year Old Preschool

The WEE Learn curriculum provides a framework that our teachers use to help their students grow and develop as Jesus did—in “wisdom and stature” and “in favor with God and man” (Luke 2:52). A child’s growth and development is viewed as a process, not an event. Physical, mental, emotional, social, and spiritual development is interrelated. WEE Learn curriculum is developed around themes which provide opportunities for two-year old children to learn about God, Jesus, the Bible, the church, self, family, others, and the natural world. Experiences which encourage physical, mental, social, emotional, and spiritual development are included under each theme topic.

Learning Centers

Learning Centers include experiences that are designed to meet the child’s physical, social, mental and spiritual needs. The child is immersed in purposeful learning experiences. For example, a child develops visual concepts by seeing print. Labels and pictures are used throughout the day in all centers. The teachers at First Baptist Christian School view themselves as facilitators who model and demonstrate learning skills to the children. Numerous opportunities are provided for practicing skills within authentic, real-life experiences. A child determines the aspects of a task that he/she will practice, the length of practice, and the pace of the activity. Our teachers model essential aspects of the task until the child feels comfortable in pursuing the task independently. Learning Centers allow for variation in rate of progress and learning style for each child. The

children are given opportunities to share and perform what they have learned in an environment that is safe, secure and supportive. Every child succeeds through individual and group guidance and assistance.

3 Year Old Preschool

Knowing each child is an essential part of First Baptist Christian School having a successful early childhood learning program. Understanding three-year olds includes knowing their needs, characteristics, and stages of development. Other factors that affect a child’s growth are culture, family background, disabilities and illness. The most important need that is met through the FBCS program is unconditional love. Every child is lifted up as a valuable, worthwhile child of God and accepted as a unique, lovable person even when behavior is unacceptable. Every child receives guidance in developing the ability to behave appropriately and is protected from the hazards of the environment and from their lack of knowledge of the hazards around them. The children are encouraged to demonstrate independence and freedom to do for themselves. FBCS believes that FAITH comes from loving each other, loving God and respecting Biblical truths.

Every 3-year old is issued consumable curriculum, A Beka “Letters and Sounds N” and “Numbers and Skills with Button Bear.” The A Beka curriculum contains complete lesson plans for each subject. Developmental goals are given at the beginning of each week’s lessons, and the teachers decide which specific methods to use to achieve these goals.
**Bible Time**

Bible time is the most important part of the school day. It is the first subject that is taught each day, and by its nature, it is the most interesting subject. Bible time includes pledges to the American and Christian flags, patriotic songs, hymns and choruses, memory verses, prayer time, and Bible lessons. The curriculum features traditional hymns and choruses the children enjoy learning.

**Phonics**

Through the A Beka curriculum, three-year olds learn the shapes and sounds of each letter of the alphabet. “Letters and Sounds N” is a beginner ABC book for young students. Each new letter is introduced by an animal alphabet friend. The animal friend helps the child recognize the letter as well as the letter’s sound. Each animal has a song that help to reinforce the sound learned. “Letters and Sounds N” also teaches early writing skills. Children learn letter formation and practice eye-hand coordination as they glue items to and trace over the letters.

**Numbers**

A Beka curriculum “Numbers and Skills with Button Bear” teaches recognition of new numbers as well as matching, tracing and listening skills. Button Bear helps students sharpen their listening skills, following directions and practice eye-hand coordination as they learn number concepts 1-15.

**Learning Games**

Learning games are used during phonics and numbers lessons to motivate the children and to make learning enjoyable and fun. An appropriate learning game is played each day.

**Poetry, Music, and Finger Plays**

Poetry, music, and finger plays are a valuable part of the preschool curriculum. Fun songs go along with the themes being taught. Many of the songs reinforce the letters and sounds being taught. For example, while learning about the letter B, children will hear about bees, bunnies, butterflies and birds.

**4 Year Preschool (Pre-K)**

The children in the 4 Year Preschool (Pre-K) class will turn five years old during the year. Pre-K students are bundles of energy and overflow with chatter and activity. They are busy practicing self-confidence and have a growing need for independence. The FBCS learning environment is made enjoyable by integrating sights, sounds, touch, taste, and smells into the classroom. Children develop visual acuity during their early years. Their perception of objects, movements and print is expanded as they have opportunities to experience visual images. Interesting visual stimulation draws a young child to examine a painting on the wall or recognize a drawing he/she has completed. Music and sound patterns stimulate parts of the brain as they listen to the auditory environment. Music has a positive influence on the moods and emotions of children. Smell can influence mood as the brain can distinguish tiny variations in odors. Scents in the classroom keep children alert and boost memory.

**Bible Time**

Bible time is the most important part of the school day. It is the first subject that is taught each day at FBCS and is the most interesting subject. The A Beka Bible curriculum provides a successful method for presenting the Bible through the story telling of the Old and New Testaments. The Bible lesson flows from the Word of God through the heart, soul and mind of the children. Bible time includes pledges to the American and Christian flags, patriotic songs, hymns and choruses, memory verses, prayer time, and Bible lessons. The curriculum features traditional hymns and choruses the children enjoy learning.

**Phonics and Reading**

Phonics refers to correspondence between letters and sounds or how letters represent sounds. Phonics tasks involve print. Phonological and phonemic awareness tasks are oral. Phonological awareness activities are woven into regular classroom activities. Using the simple logical phonics system, children in Pre-K 4 can learn to read. Using the phonics
pages in the A Beka curriculum book ABC-123, they begin mastering the vowels and consonants and their sounds through enjoyable classroom teaching. Forming blends and reading simple words begin to come naturally. During second semester, the children continue learning phonics and start reading aloud in reading circles. Small colorful books give them incentive to work hard in reading. The phonics and reading learned in Pre-K help FBCS children in the following years as they expand their knowledge in many areas.

**Writing**

Pre-K students at First Baptist Christian School are excited to learn to write. First, they learn to write each of the small letters of the alphabet. Then, they find that it is easy to join most of the letters and that they can write blends and words. Later, many of the major capital letters are introduced along with other tall letters. Sample letters help children see the formation of the letters. Letter houses in curriculum workbooks help aid the children in letter placement.

**Numbers**

In Pre-K at FBCS, students learn to recognize and understand the concepts of numbers. By the end of the academic year, they will be able to count from 1 to 100, recognize 1-20, distinguish before and after numbers, and answer simple combinations. As they begin to learn arithmetic, Pre-K students need to see as well as hear what is being taught so that they can move from concrete ideas to more abstract arithmetic concepts taught in the upper grades at FBCS Elementary School. The various A Beka materials and textbooks provide strong visual support for these concepts. Students receive additional practice with the ABC-123 numbers and phonics workbook.

**Skills Development, Activity Time, Language Enrichment**

During Skills Development, FBCS Pre-K students learn visual perception skills, motor coordination, and listening/thinking skills. During Activity Time, they enjoy music, art, and unit studies. During Language Enrichment, they learn about positional words and opposites, rhyming words, drama, and poetry. They also have the opportunity to share their experiences and ideas.

**Primary Child Development Center Curriculum Publishers**

A Beka Book Publishing

WEE Learn Curriculum
First Baptist Christian School Symbols
Crest and Mascot

BLUE
The color signifies Heaven, wisdom and charity.

GOLD
The color symbolizes worth, wealth, kingliness and splendor.

DOVE
The dove is a reminder that God keeps His promises, and symbolizes the Holy Spirit.

It is time for me to die. You know and fully believe that the Lord has done great things for you. You know that he has not failed in any of his promises. He has kept every promise He has given. Joshua 23:14

OLIVE
The olive tree and its fruit symbolize peace. The story of the dove returning to the ark with an olive leaf in its beak (Genesis 8:11) shows God’s peace towards humankind.

BOOK
A single book represents the Holy Word of God.

Teach them well to your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and walk along the road. Talk about them when you get up. Deuteronomy 11:19

FISH
The fish is a very early Christian symbol.

Jesus said, “Come, follow Me, and I will make you fishermen of men.” Matthew 4:19

ALPHA AND OMEGA
This monogram is based on Revelation 1:8 where Jesus declares that He is the “first and the last, the beginning and the end.”

LION
The Lion represents the strength of our Lord Jesus Christ.
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