

Mountain Christian School

Mission and Expected Student Outcomes

MISSION

Mountain Christian School's Mission is to partner with parents who desire their children to know Biblical truths and receive quality academic education integrated with a Biblical worldview.

Boiled down, we focus on parent partnership, quality academics, and Biblical worldview training.

STUDENT OUTCOMES

Our student outcomes, derived from our mission, are that students at MCS are developing into faithful Christians who are

- KINGDOM MINDED
- BIBLICALLY GROUNDED
- GROWING LEARNERS
- CAPABLE COMMUNICATORS

KINGDOM MINDED

Mountain Christian School plans and organizes opportunities for partnership with local ministries and Christian organizations to involve students in practical ways of furthering Christ's kingdom both local and abroad. MCS uses these opportunities to cultivate hearts of service, teach students how to practically show Christ's love, and pray for the growth of Christ's kingdom.

Methods Used to Build KINGDOM MINDED Students

- Volunteering with local food pantries and soup kitchens. This includes doing a yearly "Thanksgiving Turkey Drive" to raise money to help families in need during the holiday season. It also includes other projects like canned food drives and classes volunteering.
- Partnering with the local chapter of Operation Christmas Child to pack boxes and pray for children around the world.
- Hosting a yearly "Pastor Appreciation" chapel service and meal to bless local pastors and facilitate student relationships with their leaders.
- Welcoming spiritual leaders and missionaries to speak at the weekly chapel services, both from our local community and abroad.
- Facilitating a yearly "Voice of the Martyrs" chapel and leading students in prayer for persecuted believers in foreign countries.
- Partnering with the city to do regular community service projects.

Methods & Instruments used to Measure Student Achievement

- Eighth grade students complete an "exit interview" with an administrative staff member. At this meeting, the administrator asks questions about the student's personal worldview, seeks feedback about their experiences doing community service, and requests ideas for future projects and service. Student questionnaires and

administrative notes from this meeting are shared with the school board and the feedback is used to help set schoolwide goals for the upcoming school year.

- Parents of current MCS students are given a yearly survey looking for feedback concerning how students serve their class, their school, and their community. The survey seeks not only their feedback about school organized outreach events, but looks for their thoughts and ideas for future projects and events. Parent surveys are shared with the school board and the feedback is used to help set schoolwide goals for the upcoming school year.
- MCS staff and teachers are given a yearly survey, looking for their feedback about school service projects and kingdom-oriented events. Teacher surveys are shared with the school board and the feedback is used to help set schoolwide goals for the upcoming school year.

BIBLICALLY GROUNDED

Mountain Christian School's mission statement states that the school aims to integrate a Biblical worldview into the education. This integration means far more than a perfunctory inclusion of Bible verses in curriculum or a simple head knowledge of Biblical events. Mountain Christian School believes that every subject, every interaction, and every piece of discipline should be grounded and infused with Biblical truth. Students will gain a strong understanding of the overarching events and meaning of scripture centered around the person and gospel of Jesus Christ. Students will not only have an intellectual understanding of the Bible, but will be trained on how the Bible can be practically applied to every aspect of life and culture. By the time students leave MCS, they should have a strong understanding of the Bible that they can use as a foundation for building their own worldview.

Methods Used to Build BIBLICALLY GROUNDED Students

- Mountain Christian School hires educators who are devoted believers who support the school's statement of faith and are committed to sharing the gospel and discipling students.
- As part of the regular curriculum, MCS incorporates a daily Bible class focusing on training Biblical knowledge and worldview.
- MCS teachers incorporate daily prayer into classroom procedure, modeling and teaching students how to talk to God.
- All MCS students attend a weekly chapel service where students are led in worship, recite Bible verses, and listen to short devotion about God's Word.
- Students memorize weekly Bible verses and recite their memorized passages corporately as the weekly chapel service.
- Pastors and other church leaders are invited to share with students at weekly chapel services, helping to give more depth and application to the weekly devotions.

Methods & Instruments used to Measure Student Achievement

- Eighth grade students complete an "exit interview" with an administrative staff member. At this meeting, the administrator asks questions about the student's personal worldview, Biblical knowledge, and testimony. Student questionnaires and administrative notes from this meeting are shared with the school board and the feedback is used to help set schoolwide goals for the upcoming school year.
- As part of the daily curriculum, students are tested on their learning and growth of Biblical knowledge. Students are also tested on their scripture memorization. Every week in our chapel service, students corporately recite their scripture passage.
- Parents of current MCS students are given a yearly survey looking for feedback concerning how they perceive their student's spiritual

growth. The survey seeks to understand a bit more about if student spiritual growth and learning is evident and witnessed at home. Parent surveys are shared with the school board and the feedback is used to help set schoolwide goals for the upcoming school year.

GROWING LEARNERS

Mountain Christian School's mission statement states that the school aims to provide a quality academic education. To this end, students are expected to be learning and growing academically as measured by curriculum goals, state standards, benchmark testing, and yearly standardized assessments. By the end of the year, a discernable and measurable growth in each of these areas should be easily seen. Students are encouraged to develop learning resiliency by grappling with academic challenges and developing stamina and persistence. Teachers help students explore their own learning styles and develop strategies to better grow and succeed. Teachers also strive to encourage and reward diligence, innovative thinking, community support, and other factors that cultivate resilience and consistent academic growth.

Methods & Instruments used to Measure Student Achievement

- Students in Kindergarten through 2nd grade take regular benchmark tests to track and monitor their growth in reading and math. The benchmark tests correlate with the classroom curriculum and are specifically designed to measure phonics development, reading fluency, and math fact practice. Student benchmarking progress is used by school administration and teachers to guide curriculum pacing, instructional development, and monitor student growth.
- All students in Kindergarten through 8th grade take an end of the year standardized assessment to measure yearly growth and

compare student achievement with similar students across the nation. The results of this assessment are communicated to parents and guardians. The results are also used by school administration and teachers to guide curriculum pacing, instructional development, and monitor class growth.

- As part of the daily curriculum in all subject areas, students are assessed on their learning and knowledge. This curriculum assessment is used by teachers to identify gaps in understanding and plan upcoming instruction. Student achievement in everyday classroom curriculum is communicated to parents and guardians through the school's online grading platform, which is updated on a weekly basis. It is also communicated on a quarterly basis through progress reports and report cards which are sent home to parents and guardians and filed by the school's front office.
- Classroom teachers participate in a yearly curriculum summit, which is focused on staff professional development and continued curriculum development. Classroom teachers gain an understanding of not only the intricacies of their own curriculum, but also how their grade level's curriculum functions as one link in a much larger growth ladder.
- Parents of current MCS students are given a yearly survey looking for feedback concerning how they perceive their student's academic growth. The survey seeks to understand a bit more about if student spiritual growth and learning is evident and witnessed at home. Parent surveys are shared with the school board and the feedback is used to help set schoolwide goals for the upcoming school year.

CAPABLE COMMUNICATORS

By the time students leave Mountain Christian School, their ability to capably and confidently communicate is an essential skill. Academically,

students should be able to communicate what they have learned in order to succeed in high school and beyond. Socially, students should be able to communicate their thoughts, feelings, and beliefs with both peers and adults. Spiritually, students should be able to articulate their worldview and confidently communicate their faith to those around them. There are many methods of communication, but our school focuses on training students to communicate through their speech and their writing. Both writing and speech are taught, developed, and trained starting in Kindergarten all the way through when students graduate from 8th grade.

Methods & Instruments used to Measure Student Achievement

- Students in Kindergarten through 8th grade engage in a scheduled daily English Language Arts curriculum. Writing is a key component of the curriculum, one that builds on a yearly basis as detailed in our school's Curriculum Progression document. Not only do students receive regular writing instruction, they are given many opportunities to put their writing skills to the test in practical ways. Throughout the year, students in every grade level complete focused writing projects. These projects are facilitated, guided, and ultimately graded by the classroom teacher, helping students polish a rough draft into a piece of effective communication. Students are graded using a detailed rubric and these writing pieces are sent home for parents to see and evaluate. Parents are also able to track students' writing grades and growth by checking their grades on our online grading platform.
- Students are also given many opportunities throughout the school year to practice their writing in real-life practical ways. Some examples of these projects include students writing friendly letters to pen-pals at other schools, writing thank you cards to school staff or community members, and writing letters to famous authors. These projects are incorporated as often as possible into our program and carefully guided by teachers and staff members.

- Students are trained to communicate orally, not only to express their thoughts and feelings, but to communicate thoughts and ideas clearly. Beginning as early as Kindergarten, students share “show-and-tell” items with the class and practice describing the item for the class. Students practice getting up on stage on a regular basis, corporately reciting their memory verses in our weekly chapel services. By the time students reach Jr. High, they are required to write their testimony and practice giving it, not only to their class, but also to the lower elementary chapel. Finally, graduating 8th grade students are required to write a speech with the help of their Jr. High teacher, delivering it in front of many people at their graduation ceremony.