



THE BUILDER

Building Tomorrow Leaders Today.



Volume 31, Number 1

December 13, 2023

IN THIS ISSUE

On behalf of the Cornerstone Christian School Administration and Executive Board, we pray that all of our school families have a blessed Christmas holiday season, full of the love and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ.

In this issue, you will read about the following exceptional aspects of a Cornerstone education:

- Our unique approach to how we teach the Bible at Cornerstone.
- Our gifted high school teacher, Mr. Tim French.
- Our expected student outcomes.
- Our annual Poetry Contest.

Serving as Headmaster,

J. Richard Batista

MISSION To work with like-minded Christian parents to educate our children with love and mercy in a godly environment that emphasizes a rigorously biblical curriculum, Christian character training, and college preparatory academics.

OUR EXCEPTIONAL WAY OF TEACHING BIBLE

*"Here we actually open the Bible and get to read what God says to us! I love it!"
-A new CCS student*

The single greatest blessing I have had in teaching at Cornerstone for the past 25 years has been the way we teach Bible. Five days per week. Forty minutes per day. It has changed my life.

At Cornerstone, we believe that the Bible is ONE unified story about Jesus Christ---from Genesis to Revelation, and so we teach the continuous story from Genesis to Esther one year, and then from the Silent years through the four Gospels and the beginning of Acts the next year. The curriculum we use, Shadow and Substance, was written by Mr. Uttinger, and was designed to help teachers, over time and with consistent in-depth study, to become master teachers. Each morning while you wait patiently in your cars until 8:10, Mr. Uttinger is mentoring and instructing us teachers; then we in turn teach your children.



Students who attend Cornerstone from Kindergarten will hear the entire Biblical narrative from Genesis through the Gospels taught four times before high school. In high school they will survey it again as well as study it ethically and systematically. Did you know that about 40% of the Bible is narrative (story) and about 30% is poetry? That it has a setting, plot, and characters? That it is full of metaphor and imagery? As our students learn to read and understand excellent literature, they also use those skills to read and understand the Bible! If all we can find in Scripture is moral instruction, we have perverted Scripture. If we miss Jesus, we miss everything.

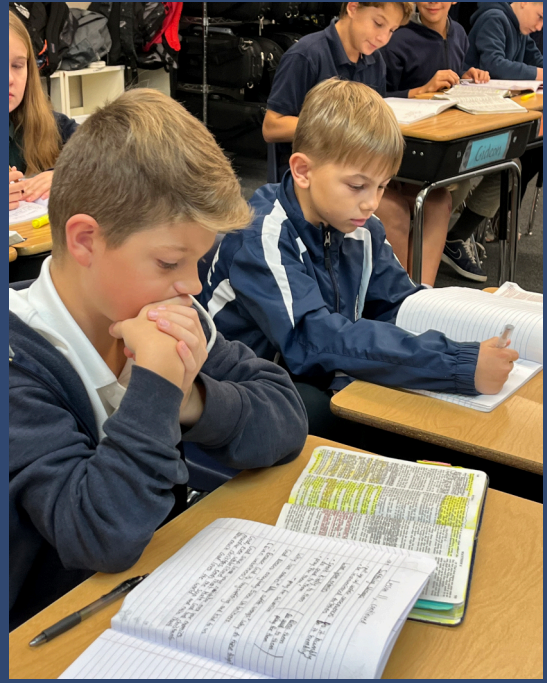
It is our sincere hope and prayer, that through reading the Bible in this way, our students will in fact see Jesus each and every day in the pages of Scripture and come to know Him and follow Him. Just a few weeks ago in 5th grade, they were talking about the Father and Son putting the plan of salvation into action even before time began, and one student exclaimed with tears in his eyes, "I am so overwhelmed with the love of God for me!" (Eph.1:4)

Please read carefully and prayerfully these words from the introduction to the curriculum:

The Old Testament is a book about Jesus Christ.

The Bible comes to us as a single book from a single Author. It has one central theme and plot. It tells about one Savior and one way of salvation. It is a book about Jesus Christ.

“Search the Scriptures,” Jesus told the Pharisees, “For in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me” (John 5:39). He was talking about the Old Testament.



The Bible is Life-Giving

But the Bible is more than a book about Jesus. The Bible is Jesus speaking to us today. Holy Scripture is “Spirit and life” (John 6:63). It is “quick and powerful” (Heb. 4:12). It is what Jesus uses to bring us to Himself and to make us more like Himself. And so we need to approach the Bible with humility, prayer, and faith.

Each of our Bible teachers live, believe, and approach our Bible classes in this manner. It is truly the most important and BEST class of the day. Please take time to come visit. Parents are always welcome, and you will be blessed beyond words.

-Mrs. Andrews



VISION To produce well-rounded, self-governed leaders who apply the Word of God to every area of thought and life.

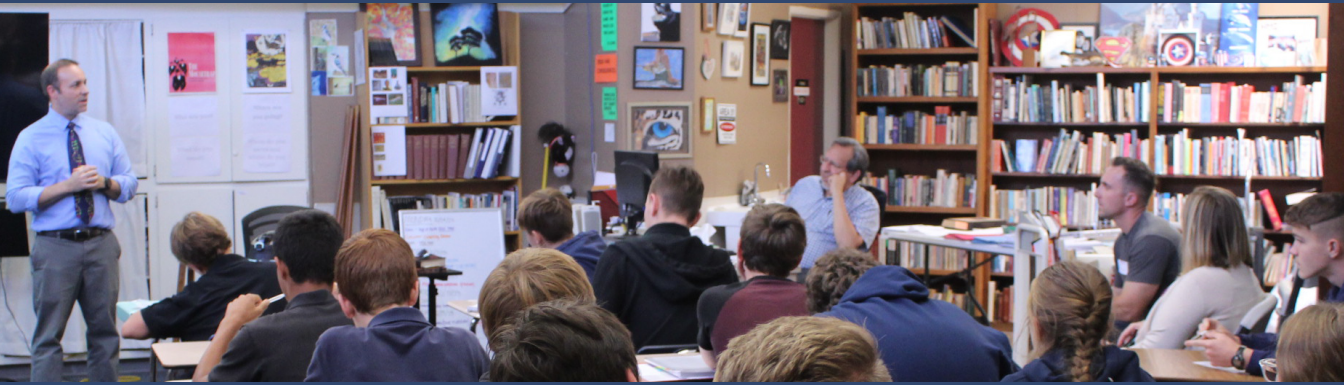
TIM FRENCH: AN EXCEPTIONALLY GIFTED TEACHER

Another thing that makes Cornerstone unusual is our exceptionally gifted high school homeroom teachers. While you see Mr. French directing all of our concerts, you may be surprised to learn that he was not a music major. While he took a few music classes and sang in a few choirs, he learned to conduct choir by reading a couple books on conducting, attending some workshops, and observing other conductors. Like choir directing, throughout his life as he was pursuing various areas of interest, God was truly “establishing his steps” (Prov. 16:9) and preparing him for a career in teaching.

Mr. French grew up in a Christian home and was homeschooled until he attended a small Christian high school. Toward the end of college, he had his eye on biomedical engineering. Meanwhile, he was making use of his time in college by filling his schedule with extra classes and experiences whenever he could. Little did he know how God was preparing him to become a multi-subject teacher! On Christmas break his senior year of college, his former high school asked if he could teach there the following school year. Mr. French had never considered teaching, but when he stopped and thought about it, he realized how often his friends would ask him to help explain things that they were learning in their classes and how much he enjoyed helping them understand things better. He agreed to teach, and he fell in love with it!

Health struggles only allowed him to teach for one year. During the next few years he worked other jobs while his health stabilized. He missed teaching more and more and through a friend at church found out that Cornerstone was looking for a biology teacher. Mr. French has now been at Cornerstone since 2005.





Throughout high school and college, Mr. French helped earn his tuition doing a number of very unique and varied kinds of jobs:

- Selling candy bars door-to-door
- Doing welding (hard facing disc blades)
- Being a cook in the university cafeteria
- Doing janitorial work in the university performing arts building
- Refurbishing wood office furniture in business complexes and banks
- Packaging butterflies on a butterfly farm
- Working for a residential tile contractor

In the gap between teaching, Mr. French did other jobs that further prepared him:

- Writing teacher's guides and advising on science content
- Setting up databases for an educational videos company
- Being the business manager for an NBA-licensed sports art company that his sister started

Speaking to our High School Leadership class earlier this year, Mr. French shared this journey through high school and college. He exhorted the students to pursue every opportunity and do every task God gives them to the best of their ability and for His glory, trusting God to direct their paths into the calling He has for them.

In 2020 Mr. French completed his Master's degree in Mathematical Sciences in 2020. He now oversees our CCS math program as well as High School Leadership, senior projects, Field Day, and praise band. He is our Technology Director as well as Music and Concert Director. Additionally, he teaches Pre-Calculus, Algebra I, U.S. History, Biology or Physics, and Choir. Over the years he also taught High School American and British Literature, Church History, Pre-Algebra, Junior High Bible, Junior High Grammar, Junior High Latin, Yearbook, and Junior and Senior High P.E. He served as the High School girls and boys volleyball coach and the junior and senior high basketball coach. He also taught a computer coding club after school.

There are very, very few people with the skills to teach this many subjects. You can see that as a small school, we are incredibly blessed to have a teacher with Mr. French's diverse experience and expertise on our teaching staff. Thank you, Mr. French, for the many ways you have served and are investing in the next generation!



EXPECTED STUDENT OUTCOMES

A Cornerstone Builder is a well-rounded image bearer of Christ who as a:

PROPHET

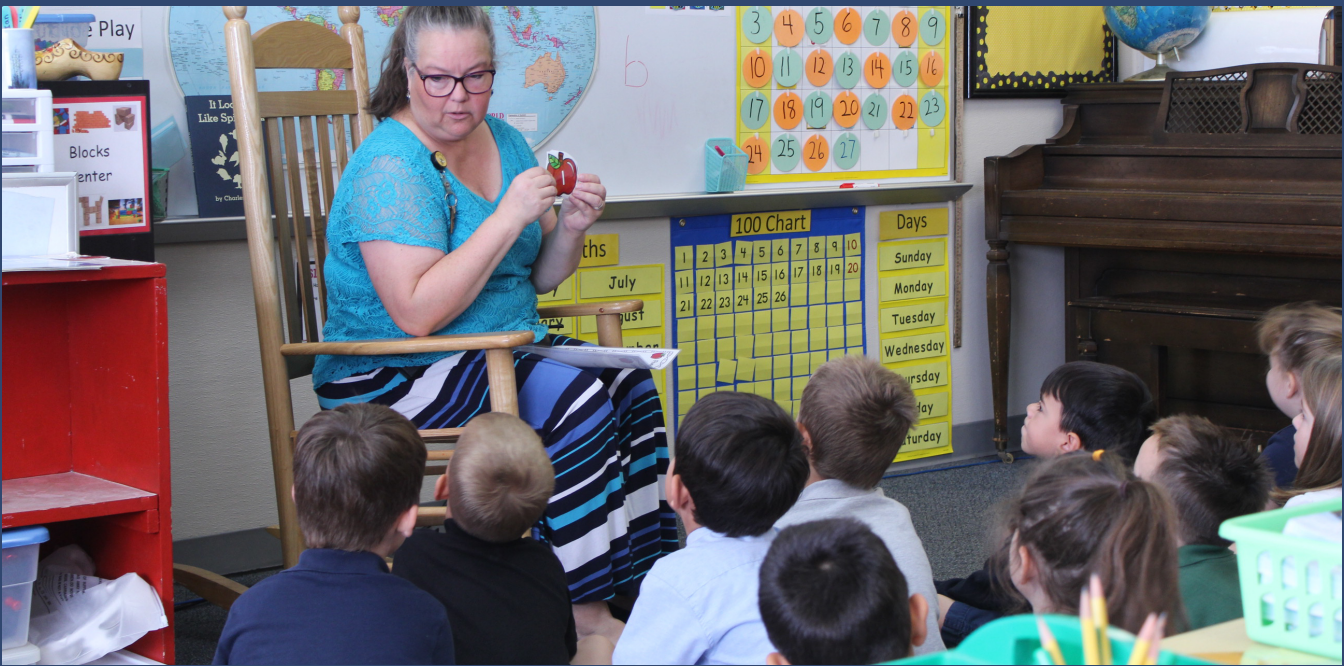
- Confesses evangelical orthodoxy
- Pursues academic excellence
- Applies the Word of God to every area of thought and life

PRIEST

- Makes peace and resolves conflict
- Seeks opportunities to serve others
- Speaks the truth in love

KING

- Leads others with graciousness and humility
- Initiates and completes tasks with self-government
- Applies learning in practical ways





WHY DO WE HAVE AN ANNUAL POETRY CONTEST?

Cornerstone's motto is "Building tomorrow's leaders today." Key to leadership is the ability to command an audience, to face a crowd, to communicate effectively. One way we strive to achieve this goal is through the annual CCS Poetry Contest. Every student from Kindergarten through 12th grade selects, memorizes, and presents a classic poem. After a preliminary poetry contest round in their classrooms, finalists present their poetry to a watching crowd of peers, parents, and poetry judges. Contestants are judged in three categories: clarity, poise, and interpretation. Contestants must accurately communicate the message of their poems with appropriate volume and clarity, all the while appearing comfortable on stage. We believe this time-honored tradition builds our students' public speaking skills, poise, and love of beautiful words, so that when they eventually find themselves in opportunities to lead, they will be ready.

We thank God for His faithfulness to our contestants this year. They brought glory to Him as they also edified and entertained those who come. A special congratulations to our winners in each grade!

Kindergarten	Xaria Lang
First	Adele Brodovinskiy
Second	Rylee Conder
Third	Evelyn Batista
Fourth	Titus Morrow
Fifth	Addie Batista
Sixth	Thomas Cifor
Seventh	Victoria Drozd
Eighth	Leilani Sawyer
Ninth	Calvin Sonke
Tenth	Paul Lowery
Eleventh	William Sonke
Twelfth	Trinity Keller



CALENDAR LOOK AHEAD

JANUARY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 No School	2	3	4	5	6
7	8 Minimum Day 1 st -6 th Classroom Meetings	9	10	11	12 Last Day of the Quarter	13
14	15 No School	16 Minimum Day	17	18	19	20
21	22 Kinder Classroom Meeting 8 th & 12 th Grad Meetings	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31 2:00 pm - 3 rd Field Day Meeting			

FEBRUARY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4	5 Preview Day	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15 High School Musicale	16 No School High School Musicale	17
18	19 No School	20 High School Spirit Week	21 High School Spirit Week	22 High School Spirit Week	23 High School Spirit Week	24
25	26	27	28	29		