

Young Americans Christian School Continuous Improvement Plan



MISSION STATEMENT

Young Americans Christian School is a college preparatory school working hand in hand with the family to cultivate students who will be academically successful and will grow to be a light in the world for Christ.

Young Americans Christian School Continuous Improvement Plan

Introductory

This Continuous Improvement Plan has been developed by Young Americans Christian School to provide a formalized plan of goals and objectives to enhance student achievement opportunities over the next five school years. Young Americans Christian School was founded to provide an educational environment that will promote and foster sound spiritual, intellectual, and social growth within the school community.

History of Young Americans Christian School

Young Americans Christian School was founded in 1988 by families who desired a quality Christian education for their children. The school began with twenty-four preschool students who met in a local church facility. With continued support from the school community, additional grade levels were soon added. In keeping with the founders' desire to provide exceptional education within a Christian framework, the school became a member of the Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI) in 1991.

In 1998 the school and Old Salem Christian Church partnered together to build a new facility that provided church facilities for Old Salem Christian Church and elementary and middle school facilities for Young Americans Christian School. Though the school and church are independent of each other, both entities utilize the facility. The school soon outgrew the facility, and by God's blessing the school received a substantial donation to purchase nineteen acres to build a facility that would include an educational building, a gymnasium, and athletic fields. In 2010 the school purchased additional acres and completed a fine arts center and football/soccer complex in 2012.

The school accommodates students K4 through 12th grade. Through God's blessing, the school has grown from twenty-four students to five hundred and thirty five students. Young Americans Christian School still remains a non-denominational, non-profit, independent Christian school providing educational excellence within a Christian worldview.

Accreditation

Young Americans Christian School is accredited by the Association of Christian Schools International and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Council on Accreditation and School Improvement, and offers both a college preparatory and a college preparatory with distinction diploma.

Tenets of Young Americans Christian School

Philosophy of Education:

The educational philosophy of Young Americans Christian School is based on the infallible word of God, which is the final authority in everything we do.

The educational philosophy of Young Americans Christian School is the mind and the spirit must continually interact to affirm the glory of God. Educators must instill the knowledge that there is one God overall and in all.

The educational philosophy of Young Americans Christian School is to assist the parent in providing our students with educational, spiritual and social opportunities that develop the whole person and lead them to be what God has truly intended.

The educational philosophy of Young Americans Christian School is to cultivate students that will be spiritually, academically, and socially successful.

The educational philosophy of Young Americans Christian School is to encourage students to deepen their understanding of God's word, and how it relates to every aspect of their life.

Mission Statement:

Young Americans Christian School is a college preparatory school working hand in hand with the family to cultivate students who will be academically successful and will grow to be a light in the world for Christ.

Governance

Young Americans Christian School has a seven member school board that provides oversight and direction for the school administrator. The school administrator provides oversight and direction to the two principals, which supervise grade level instructional faculty and staff.

Background to the Continuous Improvement Plan

Young Americans Christian School was founded to provide students with the highest quality academic education within a Christian worldview. Prior to the formalization of the school's current Continuous Improvement Plan, Young Americans Christian School developed five initiatives for school improvement during the prior five year accreditation cycle consisting of:

1. The development and implementation of a strategy to enhance the Fine Arts program within the school community.
2. The development and implementation of a strategy to enhance technology opportunities for students and staff.
3. The development and implementation of a strategy to review curriculum on a cycle basis.
4. The development and implementation of a strategy for funding teacher and staff professional development and training.
5. The development and implementation of a formalized five year Continuous Improvement Plan to enhance student academic achievement and enrich the school community.

Since the last accreditation cycle the school has completed each of the strategies including the development of a formalized five year Continuous Improvement Plan to enhance students learning opportunities.

Major Goals and Objectives

According to Marx (2006), “The plan should not represent the end of a process. It should be the beginning of an adventure aimed at preparing our education system and our students for a fast-changing environment. The plan should, at best, be a window on the future, not a wall that holds us back from possibility” (p. 3).

The school has identified and developed four major goals intended to promote student achievement and development. The goals include the integration of STEM into the school’s curriculum, the increase in students’ total SAT/ACT scores, the increase in diversity among instructional and non-instructional staff, and the establishment of a consistent means of assessing the delivery of biblical integration in the classroom to support the achievement of Board Ends Policy 1.0.

Major Goal: The integration of STEM within the school community.

Rationale: Knowledge of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics has become critical with real world issues and can be paramount for student academic growth and achievement. The skills and knowledge in each discipline are essential for student success and may assist students in developing the skills needed to compete in the global economy.

Specific Objectives:

To introduce science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) as an integrated philosophy within the school community.

To integrate STEM curriculum into the elementary and middle school curriculum.

To offer STEM class(s) at the high school level.

STEM

Strategy	Person/s	School Year	Completion	Evaluation
Preliminary research into the benefits of a STEM program	STEM Committee	2014-2015	Yes	
Collaboration with Project Lead the Way (PLTW)	Administrator HS Principal Elem Principal	2014-2015	Yes, but not used	
Integration into the Elem. curriculum	Elementary instructional staff	2015-2016	Yes	
STEM course offering Middle/ High School	Middle/High School instructional staff	2015-2016	Integrated	
Fund STEM Classroom	Administration/Staff	2015- 2016	Yes	

Major Goal: Increasing total SAT/ACT scores.

Rationale: SAT/ACT scores are significant criteria for student admissions by most colleges and universities. Students with above average SAT/ACT scores will improve the student’s chances of getting into a more selective school and can also help the student in becoming eligible for scholarship money.

Specific Objectives:

- To increase total SAT/ACT scores.
- To increase Math scores on both SAT/ACT tests.
- To increase total SAT scores to equal or above GISA total SAT score.

SAT/ACT

Strategy	Person/s	School Year	Completion	Evaluation
Review of SAT/ACT results identifying gaps in scoring	Administration Academic Advisor	2013-2014	Yes	Opportunity for improvement
Mandated two consecutive semesters of SAT/ACT prep courses	Administration	2014-2015	Yes	
Formal collaboration with Elementary/Middle school faculty in areas of math	Academic Advisor Instructional staff	2015-2016	Yes	
Creation of an Elementary Math Department Head	Elementary School Principal	2015-2016	Yes	
Specific targeting of areas of weakness from January test results	Academic Advisor Instructional staff	2015-2016 2016-2017	Yes	
Smaller SAT Prep Class with dual instruction Math/Lit	Administration Instructional staff	2018-2019		

Major Goal: Increase diversity within the instructional and non-instructional staff.

Rationale: The surrounding counties that the school serves have become more diversified and the school’s student population is increasing in diversity.

Specific Objectives:

- To pursue diversity opportunities in instructional staff.
- To pursue diversity opportunities in non-instructional staff.

Increase diversity in instructional and non-instructional staff

Strategy	Person/s	School Year	Completion	Evaluation
Identifying the need for diversity within the school community	School Administration	2013-2014	Yes	
Identifying the need for diversity within the school community	Parent survey	2014-2015	Yes	
To seek qualified minority applicants to fill instructional and non-instructional positions	School Administration	2015-2018	Addition of 3 Minority Instructional Staff members	

Major Goal: To establish a consistent means of assessing the delivery of biblical integration in the classroom.

Rationale: The Board Ends Policy 1.0 contains the Mission statement as well as goals for the academic and spiritual development of YACS students. In addition, the Philosophy of Education is clearly Christian in its content. Therefore, the learning expectation of a biblically integrated curriculum is readily identified. When administrators consistently communicate to faculty and assess expectations for instructional strategies, student success is enhanced.

Specific Objective:

To establish a consistent means of assessing the delivery of biblical integration in the classroom to support the achievement of Board Ends Policy 1.0.

Assessing the delivery of biblical integration in the classroom

Strategy	Person/s	School Year	Completion	Evaluation
Research strategies to ensure the assessment of delivery of biblical integration into the classroom.	School Administration	2016-2017	Yes	
Ensure instructional faculty is properly assessing and documenting the delivery of biblical integration into the classroom.	Grade level Principals	2016-2017	YES	
		2017-2018	YES	
		2018-2019	YES	

Evaluation

The school will utilize formative and summative evaluation to assess each goal of the strategic plan.

Conclusion

Young Americans Christian School has been providing quality education within a Christian worldview for over twenty five years. The overarching goal of Young Americans Christian School is to partner with the family and school community to cultivate an educational environment that will promote and enhance sound spiritual, academic, and social growth through quality academics, fine arts, and athletic opportunities for all students. Young Americans Christian School has identified four major goals that the school believes is critical for student success and achievement, within this school community, and is committed to ensuring that each of these goals are met.