

# YOUNG AMERICANS CHRISTIAN SCHOOL



**Building on Traditions**  
*Continuous Improvement Plan*  
2020-2025

Dear YACS families,

From a small classroom with 12 students in 1988 to now a 26-acre campus with 400 students, an educational building, gymnasium, fine arts building, and athletic fields, the school has been immeasurably blessed by our God. In a society that is ever-changing and where uprooting is the norm and no longer the exception, the school has been blessed to be an established and integral part of the local community for over 30 years. As religious, cultural, societal, and moral norms continue to erode within our current society, the school has remained steadfast in its commitment to providing students with the highest quality education framed within a Christian worldview that has not waived over the past 30 years.

With the tireless work and commitment of so many, including school staff, students, parents, and members of the school's constituency, the school has grown to become an educational entity that offers programs and activities that promote and encourage sound spiritual, academic, and social growth through quality academics, fine arts, and athletic opportunities for all students. Because of the school's commitment to providing a Christian worldview in all programs and activities, the school has seen former students enter into full-time ministry, enter the mission fields, and enter other professions that seek to serve people. This has been the mission and vision of the school and continues to remain the mission and vision going forward.

The Continuous Improvement Plan builds upon the accomplishments of the school's past while addressing opportunities for enhanced student achievement and development in the coming years. The Continuous Improvement Plan has been developed to fulfill the school's mission, vision, and philosophy and promote achievement of the school's expected student outcomes. The Continuous Improvement Plan includes initiatives that members of the school's community deemed appropriate to continue to enrich student learning for all students. The initiatives and goals reflect the mission of the school as 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.

A very special thank you to all that have been so instrumental in the success of the school for so many years and for those that contributed to this Continuous Improvement Plan to help develop a generation of spiritually and academically grounded students.

In His service,

Mr. Perry Acuff  
Chairman of the Board

Dr. David Taylor  
Administrator

## **THE MISSION**

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.

## **THE VISION**

Young Americans Christian School desires for all students to come to a saving relationship with Christ and for that relationship to be genuine and vibrant. The school seeks to teach students to serve God with a whole heart and to be a light to an unsaved world. Young Americans Christian School embraces the opportunity for the family and school to come together in shaping each student spiritually, academically, emotionally, and morally.

## **THE CORE VALUES**

Young Americans Christian School seeks to create a sound educational environment, based on Biblical principles, where students can freely become everything God has designed them to be. Luke 2:52: “And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and man.”

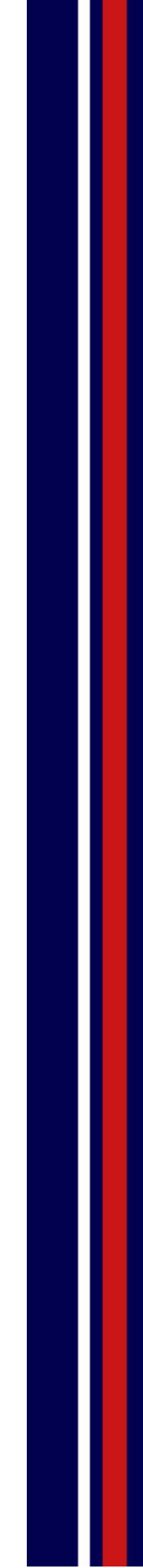
Young Americans Christian School seeks to encourage, promote, and practice the principles stated in the Great Commission within the school community and among the school’s constituency. Matthew 28:19-20: “Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.”

Young Americans Christian School seeks to instill principles of servitude to others for the sake of Christ. Matthew 7:12: “So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets.”

Young Americans Christian School seeks to partner with parents in laying a spiritual foundation, including morals and ethics that result in a sound Biblical worldview: Proverbs 22:6: “Train up a child in the way he should go; and when he is old, he will not depart from it.”

## **THE PHILOSOPHY OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**

Young Americans Christian School believes that a Christian education begins in the home and is the primary responsibility of the family. The school is to assist the parent (Deuteronomy 6:6-7) in providing our students with educational and spiritual opportunities that develop the whole person (Luke 2:52) and lead them to be what God has truly intended. We want our students to grow spiritually, academically, and socially, through serving mankind (Ephesians 2:10) while reflecting the character of God and impacting society with His truth. Students are encouraged to deepen their understanding of God’s Word, and how it relates to every aspect of their life (II Timothy 2:15).



Young Americans Christian School believes in providing an educational environment where students are encouraged to do what is right. It is a place where students realize what a valuable creation they are to God. It is a place where students grow spiritually, academically, and socially while being encouraged to always strive to do their best for the glory of God (Colossians 3:23). 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. (I Timothy 3:16-17).

Young Americans Christian School believes the mind and the spirit must continually interact to affirm the glory of God. Educators must instill the knowledge that there is one God over all and in all (Ephesians 4:6). It is through God that our mind and spirit come together. Mankind can only be free to reach its greatest potential when we understand that God is the means for our existence, and that our life has a higher purpose. Our happiness in life and our eternal security is the end result.

# BUILDING THE FUTURE

Prior to the development of the school's 2020-2025 Continuous Improvement Plan, the school had identified and developed four major goals for continuous school improvement intended to promote student achievement and development for all students.

The following initiatives were part of the school's previous continuous school improvement plan:

*The integration of STEM into the school's curriculum.*

Specific Objectives:

1. To introduce science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) as an integrated philosophy within the school community.
2. To integrate STEM curriculum into the elementary and middle school curriculum.
3. To offer STEM classes at the high school level.

*To increase students' total SAT/ACT scores.*

Specific Objectives:

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

*To increase diversity among instructional and non-instructional staff.*

Specific Objectives:

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

*The establishment of a consistent means of assessing the delivery of biblical integration in the classroom.*

Specific Objective:

1. 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.

With the support from faculty, staff, and members of the school's community over the past five years in addressing each of the school's prior initiatives, the school is now positioned to move forward with new strategies and initiatives to continue to promote student achievement and development for all students.

# BUILDING ON SPIRITUAL FORMATION

## *Area of Improvement #1*

An area for continuous school improvement is to formalize spiritual assessment within the school community.

### ***Rationale:***

Though students participate in daily Bible classes, devotions, chapels, journaling, and spiritual retreats the school does not have a formal assessment to measure spiritual formation and growth.

### ***Goal:***

To develop or adopt and implement a formal assessment to measure student spiritual formation.

### ***Time Frame:***

Year one: To develop or adopt a formal spiritual assessment for students.

Years two and forward: Implementation of a formal spiritual assessment at the beginning and end of each school year.

### ***Actions:***

To implement a formal assessment of student spiritual formation and growth.

### ***Person/s Responsible:***

Head of School, School Principals, Bible Faculty

### ***Resources:***

Self-developed assessments

Developed Spiritual Gifts Tests

Developed Spiritual Growth Assessments

### ***Action Due Date/s:***

Administrated at the beginning and ending of each school year.

### ***Evidence of Progress:***

To have a formal assessment tool developed or selected and to begin the assessment process.

### ***Communications to Constituents:***

The Head of School will be responsible for providing communications to the school's faculty and staff of the formal assessment process and year ending results.

***Expected Schoolwide Learning Result(s) Addressed:***

To reinforce areas within the school culture that strengthen student spiritual formation, and to identify areas for continuous school improvement to enhance spiritual formation. In addition, ending year assessments should serve as a barometer of spiritual growth.

# BUILDING ON BEST PRACTICE

## *Area of Improvement # 2*

An area for continuous school improvement is additional professional development training for faculty and staff to enhance and deepen their understanding of current technology resources to improve best practices.

### ***Rationale:***

Improvement in instructional best practices can often be made through additional faculty and staff professional development training.

### ***Goal:***

For faculty and staff to become more proficient in implementing and utilizing technology in the classroom.

### ***Time Frame:***

Year one: To identify areas of needed professional development to improve and enhance faculty proficiency in utilizing technology. Based upon findings, identify resources to provide professional development training.

Years two and forward: Provide faculty and staff professional development training in technology each year.

### ***Actions:***

To utilize both internal and external resources for faculty and staff professional development training in technology, technology resources, and technology practices to promote student learning.

### ***Person/s Responsible:***

Head of School, School Principals, IT Director,

### ***Resources:***

IT Director

Technology vendor(s)

Training Programs

### ***Action Due Date/s***

Professional development training for faculty and staff of current technology resources and technology practices will be conducted annually during pre-planning or during a staff development work day.

### ***Evidence of Progress:***

The implementation and documentation of annual professional development training in technology and follow up assessment of faculty development.



***Communications to Constituents:***

The Head of School, High School Principal, or Elementary Principal will be responsible for providing communications to the school's faculty and staff of additional and ongoing professional development training to enrich their understanding of current technology resources to improve student achievement.

***Expected Schoolwide Learning Result(s) Addressed:***

For faculty and staff to become more proficient in implementing and utilizing technology in the classroom to enhance best practice for student learning.

# BUILDING ON ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

## *Area of Improvement #3*

An area for continuous school improvement is to provide higher academic learning opportunities through additional Advanced Placement and Dual Enrollment classes.

### ***Rationale:***

Advanced Placement and Dual Enrollment classes promote higher order thinking skills and better equips the students as they transition into college.

### ***Goal:***

To increase the number of Advanced Placement and Dual Enrollment classes.

### ***Time Frame:***

Annually

### ***Actions:***

1. Survey student interest each year for Advanced Placement and Dual Enrollment classes.
2. Collaborate with appropriate colleges providing Dual Enrollment opportunities.
3. Identify instructional staff for both options of Advanced Placement and Dual Enrollment classes.
4. Based upon student interest and faculty availability, the school will increase the number of Advanced Placement and Dual Enrollment classes each year to offer additional learning opportunities for students.

### ***Person/s Responsible:***

Head of School, High School Principal, Academic Advisor

### ***Resources:***

AP certified faculty  
Dual Enrollment partnership(s)  
Academic Advisor

### ***Action Due Date/s:***

The administration will collaborate each year with interested colleges to provide additional Dual Enrollment classes each year.

### ***Evidence of Progress:***

Evidence of progress will be with the increase of Advanced Placement and Dual Enrollment class offerings.

***Communications to Constituents:***

The Head of School, High School Principal, or Academic Advisor will be responsible for providing communications to constituents regarding Advanced Placement and Dual Enrollment opportunities.

***Expected Schoolwide Learning Result(s) Addressed:***

The addition of Advanced Placement and Dual Enrollment classes will provide students additional classes to promote higher order thinking skills and better prepare the student as they transition into college. Furthermore, the additional Advanced Placement and Dual Enrollment classes will provide additional college credit opportunities with instruction from a biblical worldview.

# BUILDING ON THE FACILITIES

## *Area of Improvement #4*

An area for continuous school improvement is to implement a strategy to sustain a campus that supports opportunities for the development of the whole student and is a viable school environment for current and future students.

### ***Rationale:***

The gymnasium is utilized for numerous and various activities, events, and programs to enhance the students educational experience.

### ***Goal:***

To remodel the gymnasium to enhance athletic programs, physical education opportunities, and better utilization of the gymnasium to support school functions, events, and activities.

### ***Time Frame:***

June 2020– July 2022

### ***Actions:***

1. Formation of a committee
2. Determination of goals and objectives for a remodel
3. Feasibility study
4. Contractor(s)
5. Cost analysis
6. Funding
7. Board approval
8. Remodel

### ***Person/s Responsible:***

Head of School, School Administration, Athletic Director, Operations Director, Physical Education faculty.

### ***Resources:***

School Constituency

Rockdale County

Contractor(s)

Financial resources

***Action Due Date/s:***

Once a determination of goals and objectives has been decided, a feasibility study has been conducted, and financing is approved, due dates will be determined by the county and contractor.

***Evidence of Progress:***

Evidence of progress will be with the progression of each stated action step as indicated.

***Communications to Constituents:***

The Head of School will be responsible for providing communications to constituents regarding all aspects of the project.

***Expected Schoolwide Learning Result(s) Addressed:***

To enhance athletic and physical education opportunities for students to include: learning the skills necessary to participate in a variety of physical activities, knowing the implications and the benefits of involvement in various types of physical activities, participating regularly in physical activity, remain physically fit, and valuing physical activity and its contributions to a healthful lifestyle.