**Evangel Christian School Back to School Newsletter**

**Evangel Christian School is a multi-cultural Christ-centered community where moral integrity, academic excellence and the full potential of each student is nurtured for leadership and service.**

**Principal – Mrs. Carolyn Marko Vice Principal – Mrs. Carmen Perez**



**September 2011**

**Curriculum Incentives**

**Evangel Christian School has realigned its curriculum with the New - New York State Common Core Standards.**

**Core Virtue (Biblical Principles)**

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Consistent with the mission of Evangel Christian School, each month a Core Virtue is emphasized to all grade levels. Students become familiar with the meaning of the virtue and its place in their personal life choices. The Core Virtue topics are integrated into the language arts program through a story book read aloud for Elem. School and daily classroom discussions which are aligned with Bible readings for Middle and High School.

* **Monthly Core Virtues:**
* **September** - **Respect**: Treating others politely and kindly with high regard, regardless of their culture, race,
* and their place in life.
* **October – Forgiveness:** Finding it in your heart to pardon or excuse and freeing yourself from anger and the other from guilt.
* **November – Generosity:** Giving fully, sharing freely. Trust that there is plenty for everyone. Giving or ready to give freely, free from meanness or prejudice.
* **December – Faith:** Having ultimate loyalty and trust directed to God through Christ. In every case, such faith is a gift of God's grace.
* **January – Perseverance:** Working your very hardest and staying with a task until it is completed, even when it is unpleasant or difficult.
* **February – Courage:** Doing what is right in the face of fear.
* **March – Cooperation:** Working together for a common goal, calling on the different gifts each of us has to offer.
* **April – Wisdom:** understanding how to live well and how the world works, so that the means we select are in fact conducive to biblical principles
* **May – Honesty:** Learning what is right and wrong and choosing to do what is right while exhibiting truth in character.
* **June – Integrity:** Standing on moral high ground. Keeping faith with our ideals and our agreements.

**Writer’s Workshop – Elementary school**

The Writing Workshop, similar to the Reading Workshop, is a method of teaching writing using a workshop method.  Students are given opportunities to write in a variety of genres and helps foster a love of writing.  The Writing Workshop allows teachers to meet the needs of their students by differentiating their instruction and gearing instruction based on information gathered throughout the workshop.

Children will be celebrating their published pieces monthly. Parents are invited to attend the monthly writer’s workshop celebrations in the classrooms.

**1st Grade Writer’s Workshop**

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| **Unit** | **Writing Workshop** | **Celebration** |
| 1 | A Story About Me | Monday,  October 31st |
| 2 | How-To Report | Wednesday,  December 21st |
| 3 | Description | Wednesday,  February 29th |
| 4 | A Letter to Persuade | Monday,  April 30th |
| 5 | Group Research Report | Friday,  June 22nd |

**2nd to 5th Grade Writer’s Workshop**

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| **Month** | **Units of Study** | **Celebration** |
| September | Bio-Poems | Friday,  September 30th |
| October | All About Me Memoir | Monday,  October 31st |
| November | Literary Criticism/  Book Review | Wednesday,  November 30th |
| December | Expository Non-Fiction | Wednesday,  December 21st |
| January | How To | Tuesday,  January 31st |
| February | Short Story/ Fiction | Wednesday,  February 29th |
| March | Realistic Fiction | Friday,  March 30th |
| April | Dialogue | Monday,  April 30th |
| May | Poetry | Thursday,  May 31st |
| June | Free Choice | Friday,  June 22nd |

**Reader’s Workshop – elementary school**

The Reader’s workshop is an instructional model for reading that marries explicit instruction in reading strategies with opportunities for students to practice each reading strategy independently, with a peer and in small groups. It emphasizes the importance of student engagement and the interaction between readers and text. It provides differentiated instruction in reading. The purpose of Reader’s Workshop is to foster independence among readers.

**Core Knowledge**

The Core Knowledge Curriculum *Sequence* offers a planned progression of specific content knowledge. Evangel School is currently implementing history, geography, and science, where state or school district curricula provide general guidelines concerning skills to be learned at each grade level, the Core Knowledge Sequence recommends specific content. In addition, the *Sequence* is a plan that builds from year to year, which its supporters say helps to prevent repetitions and gaps in instruction. This curriculum raises expectations. It is a rigorous and comprehensive curriculum; schools that have implemented the core knowledge curriculum have experienced positive student academic achievement.

**Portfolio Assessments:**

Generally speaking, a portfolio is a systematic collection of a variety of teacher observations and student products, collected over time, that reflect a student's developmental status and progress made in the academic content areas, such as, literacy, writing, science. social studies and math.

**Project, Problem +Inquiry Based Learning:**

* [Supports Multiple Intelligences](http://www.4teachers.org/projectbased/intell.shtml) Differentiated Instruction, Cooperative and Collaborative Learning.

A project-based learning method is a comprehensive approach to instruction. Students participate in projects and practice an interdisciplinary array of skills from math, language arts, fine arts, geography, science, and technology. The collaborative and cooperative nature of the investigation enhances all of these valuable experiences ... as well as promotes a greater appreciation for social responsibility.

* **Cooperative Learning:** is a successful teaching strategy in which small teams, each with students of different levels of ability, use a variety of learning activities to improve their understanding of a subject. Each member of a team is responsible not only for learning what is taught but also for helping teammates learn, thus creating an atmosphere of achievement. Students work through the assignment until all group members successfully understand and complete it.
* **Collaborative Learning:** is an umbrella term for a variety of educational approaches involving joint intellectual effort by students, or students and teachers together. Usually, students are working in groups of two or more, mutually searching for understanding, solutions, or meanings, or creating a product. Collaborative learning activities vary widely, but most center on students’ exploration or application of the course material, not simply the teacher’s presentation

**New NC Policy:**

Every Monday parents and students can check ED Line by 3:30pm, student work missing must be made up by the following Monday. Student work not turned in will be graded as a zero.

**Student Academic Support:**

Teachers will be available for free Academic Intervention from 3:10-3:40pm on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.