



23 October 2015

Upcoming Events

- 29-30 October – Spiritual Life Days for upper school, Bro. Moses Sanchez, Evergreen Bible Chapel
- 5 November – Picture Day, 9:30 a.m.
- 11 November – Veteran's Day, FJS **HAS** school.
- 13 November – Last day of 1st quarter
- 19-20 November – Parent-Teacher Conferences.
- 25 November – Thanksgiving Feast
- 26-27 November – Thanksgiving Vacation, **NO SCHOOL.**
- 17 December – Christmas Program. **NOTE: This is a change of date from the original calendar!**

What Makes an Education "Christian"? (part 2)

Two weeks ago I began discussing why FJS is a Christian school – not because of chapel, Bible classes, or Christian teachers, even though they are all an essential part of our school. But, more than that, God and his Word are central to all of the curriculum. At FJS, Christian teachers teach from the viewpoint that the Bible is the true Word of God for us today and affects how we teach math, science, history, English, Bible, and the arts.

In the last essay, I noted how the Bible informs our study of science – viewing the world and all of life as specially planned and formed by our incredibly creative God.

In social studies, as well, our view of history starts with the author of history, God himself. In the beginning, Adam and Eve were created and people began to make history. Students learn that, in the world before the Great Flood of Genesis 7, people lived much longer and were not cavemen, but had developed highly functioning societies. People were skilled in the arts, were metal smiths, architects and urban planners, and farmers (Genesis 4:17, 20-22).

In the years following the flood, through the time of Abraham, Moses, and the kings of Israel, biblical history is integrated with world history. In grades 1-4 through the "Living History Threads" curriculum, students study world history, biblical history, government, and their own history as threads of the same story – God at work in his world. As part of our Anabaptist heritage as a Mennonite church, students in junior high and high school U. S. History study the response of the Anabaptists in the Revolutionary War, the Civil War, and the World Wars. The rise and fall of nations can be studied in light of their lifestyle choices as a society and lessons drawn for our American society today.

The narrative of history is His-story, the work of God through people and nations throughout the ages. So the social studies taught at FJS is a more complete and more accurate view of the world than is taught in public school.

Partnering with you to raise kids to be part of His-story,
James E. Gochnauer, Principal