

## **High School English: The Instructional Program Washtenaw Christian Academy      Grades 7-12**

### **General Characteristics**

1. English is taught from a distinctively Christian viewpoint by including Biblical integration in our lesson plans. We teach students to evaluate the truth of communication by the Bible, since it alone is true. We instruct students to speak and write clearly to emulate our God. We encourage our students to speak appropriately according to God's standards and for the good of others. We teach our students to have a ready defense for everyone who asks them about their hope in life. We encourage students to understand the world around them, people cultures, and differing philosophies looking for opportunities to share Christ. We teach students to make responsible choices about what they read, watch and about what concepts they fill their minds to discern distortion and errors.

Spiritual growth will happen as students are making defenses for their faith, listening actively to others, making choices that may be different than others, and evaluating readings, media, writings, and speeches.

2. This curriculum had individualized teacher Biblical integration before. It was included in lessons upon occasion. Some teachers were better at it than others. The new dimension for us as a school is a unified approach, definite goals and objectives to share with our students about God and His standards. We will list the Biblical integrations in our lesson plans by number(matching each number with a specific goal) , making definite steps to include all goals in a semester.

One way we will know if we are meeting this objective is to see if teachers are listing the goals in the weekly lesson plan and scanning for what numbers are being used in a marking period. The lead teacher will connect with teachers and ask about Biblical integration once a semester, asking for examples, and upon occasion, asking teachers to share at staff meetings what they have done and what worked well as an encouragement to the rest of the staff.

Student progress in skills will be evaluated on writings, through class discussions, through research projects, speeches, literature choices. Students will be graded on content and intentional steps will be taken by the teacher(s) to foster Biblical integration.

3. Our staff will utilize computers for research. We have hopes to introduce power point type presentations in the future. We spent a recent professional day learning about templates useful for education, as well as learning how to use our computers in a greater variety of ways for

- educational purposes. We hope to access movie clips into our system weaving appropriate topics into our lessons.
4. We are offering a variety of new school clubs, extra curricular activities, student chapel involvement, student retreat planning, and enrichments during lunch hours and after hours so that students can engage in a greater variety of high-level learning experiences. Students are being trained to run media and sound equipment. Students are working on the Rake 'n Run event – contacting needy people in the community to rake their leaves, putting in newspaper advertisements, assigning groups, finding drivers, arranging for photo opportunities, and making submissions to our school newsletter.
  5. Staff is kept current on English research by attending ACSI and CSI Conventions. Magazine articles are shared among the staff in the staff lounge and on occasion copies of good articles are put in mailboxes. Computers have been networked with the internet and staff are encouraged to seek ideas from it. Teachers may apply for a professional day to attend special forums in the area on their subject area.