

Frequently Asked Questions About **New City Christian School**

GENERAL QUESTIONS

Why was New City started?

New City Christian School was started to address a specific issue—to give African-American students who are underprepared the opportunity to attend a school which focuses on building a firm foundation for academic success in the basics of reading, writing and arithmetic in a Christ-centered setting. We will never waver from this commitment.

Do I have to be a Christian to send my child to New City?

No. New City Christian School is open to students and families from any faith background or from those with no faith background. We make no religious requirement of our families, but we do want the families who enroll to understand that part of our mission is to show our students the love of Christ and the hope that is only found through repenting and believing in Jesus Christ. We strive to do this in an inviting, non-coercive manner. We want our students to hear of their need for Jesus Christ and see His love demonstrated. At the same time, we do not want to force or manipulate our students to act “religious.” Rather, we want to give space for God to work in their hearts. Students who enroll may not “opt out” of any part of the curriculum for any reason.

What is the school like?

Family-like. Personal. Committed to small classes. Known for dedicated teachers, staff and volunteers. Energetic. Positive. Christ-centered. Focused on the basics. Academically strong.

What are parents saying?

You can read reviews that parents have written at the Great Schools website: www.greatschools.net/cgi-bin/nc/private/3456. We can give you the contact information for some of our parents to learn more.

How can I know that New City is a good school?

We will be happy to share results from our test scores but perhaps this question is best answered with a question: “What do you want in a school?” If you are looking for a school with small class sizes, focused attention on each student, lots of structure, and an emphasis on basics with room for creativity, Christ-centered education, and diversity in the student body, we are probably a good place for your child. We will partner with each family and we will expect each child to work hard and not make excuses. If you want fancy equipment, lots of technology in the classroom, or an emphasis on unstructured learning, we might not be the best fit for your family.

QUESTIONS ABOUT APPLYING AND TUITION

What is your class size?

A small class size is ideal in the early grades. We prefer a class size of about 12 students.

How can I apply?

A parent or guardian can call the school office to get an application or they can download an application from our website. We offer generous scholarships because our mission is to make a private Christian education an affordable option for any family that desires it.

How much is your tuition?

Tuition is determined by a sliding scale which takes into account families' monthly income. Tuition can be adjusted for families whose financial circumstances change during the year.

How soon can parents begin enrolling for next year?

Starting in the Spring usually around March 1st, we begin taking applications for the next school year. Your child may be put on a waiting list for the following year based on how many of our current students are returning.

QUESTIONS ABOUT THE SCHOOL DAY

What is your school calendar?

It is roughly in line with local schools. Our calendar is available on our website.

Do students wear uniforms?

Uniforms are required of all students attending New City. We have found that uniforms enhance the learning environment by decreasing distractions. When we survey our parents, they are extremely pleased that we require uniforms. Most parents say that the uniforms save them money. New City will provide information on where to purchase uniform shirts with the school logo.

Do you provide lunch?

All of our students bring their own lunch and snack. We do not have the ability to provide lunch at this time. We do keep snacks on hand for students who forget their lunch.

Do you provide an after-school care program?

No. Currently the Salvation Army Boys and Girls Club, the YWCA and the Christine Avery Learning Center send buses to our school to pick up students that are enrolled in their after-school programs.

Do you have a playground?

We have a playground for younger students, a ball field and a gym.

Do you offer a structured physical education program?

We are not able to offer a physical education program at this time, but our students get plenty of opportunities for physical activity and play throughout the day.

CURRICULUM QUESTIONS

What curriculum do you use at New City?

We use Saxon math at an accelerated pace and the Core Knowledge Curriculum for phonics, language arts, science and history.

Do you offer Spanish or a foreign language in the early grades?

Broadly speaking, with some exceptions, students need to have a command of their own language and a certain level of fluency before they begin foreign language study. Our teachers do expose our students to simple foreign language concepts such as counting or common phrases.

Do you offer Title I?

Currently, we are running our own reading tutoring program. In the past we have offered a Title I reading program funded by the Asheville City and Buncombe County School systems. We are very pleased that students who need extra help in reading comprehension, vocabulary or fluency can participate in New City's current program, although we may offer Title I services in future years.

TEACHERS AND ACCREDITATION QUESTIONS

Are your teachers certified?

Among our requirements, New City requires its lead teachers to have a four-year college degree and some type of experience in teaching or working with children. We do not require our teachers to have a teaching certificate. Instead we look for teachers who bring special expertise and interests to their classrooms. Studies have shown that teachers who get the best results in the classroom have a good vocabulary and are highly motivated. A recent study in the journal *Education Next* recommended that: "School districts pay less attention to teacher credentials and more attention to monitoring teachers' performance during the first two years of teaching so that effective teachers are retained while ineffective ones are not."

A member of the Asheville City School Board has visited our school on several occasions. He asked us repeatedly where we were able to find such high-quality teachers. We look for teachers who love God, love children and love to learn and are ready to convey what they have learned to our students.

Is New City accredited?

No. We are regulated under the North Carolina Department of Non-Public Instruction and we meet and exceed all their guidelines and requirements. This state agency monitors our records annually and examines the immunization forms, our students' academic progress, and our compliance with health

and fire safety standards. Because we are trying to cover more subjects such as Bible and History, we provide a longer school day than the local public elementary schools. And due to our special focus on underprepared students, we offer a smaller class size than most public and private schools in the area. Although direct comparisons are difficult to make, thus far our students have outperformed the Asheville City Schools in both broad categories of reading and math for every subgroup—white, black, low income, etc. We would be happy to share more data from our test results with interested parents.

QUESTIONS ABOUT SPECIAL NEEDS STUDENTS

If my child has a diagnosed disability, can they attend New City?

New City Christian School has limited resources to help students with special needs. We are not equipped to work with students with severe physical or academic delays. All children are made in God's image and deserve the very best education that is suited to their situation and so we want to help families find a good fit.

TEST RESULT QUESTIONS

What kind of test results have you achieved so far?

To obtain information regarding testing results, please contact our testing coordinator, Portia White at pwhite@newcitychristian.org. General testing information can be viewed on our website.

OTHER QUESTIONS

Why don't you advertise? Why aren't you in the phone book?

We have paid for some advertising in the past but there are two main reasons for the limited advertising. First, we rely on word-of-mouth to find new students. Our parents have done a great job of telling the story about our school. Second, we don't have the staff to handle lots of inquiries about our school if our phone number was more widely publicized.

How can I find out more about New City Christian School?

Parents can call the school at 828-252-8173 to make an appointment with our Principal and to schedule a tour.