

Frequently Asked Questions

About Kings Christian School, Lemoore, Ca

This is a list of common questions that come up when first looking at a Christian School, and some things that even established families do not know about KCS. This will be added to over time so feel free to check periodically for additions.

1. Is Kings Christian School Accredited?

Yes, KCS was initially accredited in 1996 by two organizations. First, most importantly to us we are accredited by the Association of Christian Schools, International. This is the largest world wide affiliation of Christian Schools. Secondly, we are accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges. This is the secular accrediting agency for all schools, public and private in our region. While the latter may give us more credibility to the education community at large, we are only willing to continue our affiliation with them as long as it does not interfere with us accomplishing our mission.

2. What is Kings Christian School's church or denomination affiliation?

Kings Christian School is an independent non-profit corporation, which has no affiliation with any particular church or denomination. Our staff and student body represents a wide body of believers ranging from charismatic to covenantal/reformed backgrounds. A good number of our students (about 25%) are at least nominally Catholic.

3. Since KCS is not affiliated with any other organization, what is the governing structure of the school?

Private schools generally fall under one of three governing structures; church governed, parent directed or board governed. KCS is the latter. The net result is that the board has the final decision making powers in terms of its own membership, policy, staff selection and student retention. Parental input is solicited on major items and board member candidates, but the ultimate decision lies with the actual board. The founders of the school decided that the board governing structure would best assure the KCS maintained its original mission over time.

4. Some Christian schools require their students and/or parents to be professing Christians. Does KCS have such a requirement?

The short answer is no. Part of the KCS mission is evangelism and therefore it is a "whomsoever will" school. However, students and families have to agree to abide by minimum rule and morality standards to attend. They also have to recognize and not object to the schools evangelistic efforts. Lastly, if over an extended period of time it is clear that a student has consciously determined not to become a Christian (and therefore has become a negative spiritual influence on others, or a "mockers"), then they will be subject to not being invited to return the next school year.

5. I have heard that often Christian School Teachers do not have college degrees; do KCS teachers have teaching credentials/certificates?

While it is true that early in the Christian School movement in the seventies schools were being started quickly and not all their teachers had degrees, such is not very common today. Accreditation requires proof of staff member competency by having state credentials or teaching certificates from a recognized organization like ACSI (which require a minimum of a Bachelor's Degree and additional professional training). All of KCS full-time teachers have at least teaching certificates except two whom have been granted waivers by our accrediting agencies in part because of their vast experience and successful teaching record. Many KCS teachers have both a certificate and state credential and an increasing number also have their Master's Degree. A few part-time elective teachers may not have certificates, but have experience that makes them qualified to teach their particular topic.

6. What is the KCS API rating? How does KCS compare to other schools in terms of education?

The API (Academic Performance Index) rating is established based upon various assessments given at California public schools. Unfortunately, the state will not allow private schools

to participate in those particular assessments and therefore an API rating cannot be generated for KCS or other private schools. However, all schools public and private can take standardized tests, which allow for comparison. Typically, over the history of KCS our elementary students have scored a year to a year and a half ahead of their grade level when compared to state and national public schools and in the upper percentile level of all schools taking the tests, public and private. While our high school students do not consistently score that far ahead of public schools (there is much more variation from year to year), they generally do score above the state and national norms. We annually compare our senior student's college entrance test scores with the public schools in the county, state and nation. While KCS mean scores have consistently been higher than all the public schools in Kings County, and higher than the state and nation mean scores in reading and writing, we have typically been between one and eighteen points lower than the state and nation in math. However, this is in part due to a large number of seniors who are not majoring in math-oriented subjects, not taking algebra based math courses their senior year and therefore have diminished math skills at the time they take their college entrance tests their senior year. Additionally, though it varies from year to year, we consistently have a higher AP exam-passing rate than all the schools who take the exam according to the College Board publications (our overall average is 67% but is sometimes as high as 100%, the College Board published average passing rate of everyone who takes the exam is just below 50%).

7. Other high schools offer honors courses, AP courses and mention UC a-g list approved courses; does the high school at KCS offer these?

The short answer is yes to all three, but some explanation might be in order.

Honors Courses: Ultimately there is no regulating body concerning honors courses other than the school offering them. Therefore some schools can and do declare all kinds and levels of courses as "honors" courses as it can be used for marketing purposes. However, the UC (University of California) system does have requirements for courses that they accept as the "honors" classification, which KCHS chooses to use as a guideline for courses assigned the "honors" designation. Some of the UC requirements that KCHS follows include: must be only junior and senior level classes, must be college level work and have a similar non-honors class available on the same topic and UC approval. Because of their increased rigor, honors courses have increased weighting on GPA calculations.

Advanced Placement Courses: These courses are very rigorous and intended to prepare students for the Advanced Placement exams and must be submitted to the College Board for approval to have the AP designation. Students who pass the AP exams after taking to these courses receive college credit as well as high school credit, thus saving time and college tuition costs. KCHS currently offers two CB approved AP courses (literature and calculus), though our honors physics and honors chemistry classes adequately cover the material necessary for students to pass those particular exams. AP classes receive the same weighting as "honors" classes on GPA calculations.

UC a-g List: Though originally intended to help the UC admittance committee determine who would be accepted into the top tier schools of the California University system, the influence of this list has expanded into other areas like qualifying for CSF (California Scholarship Federation) membership. All KCHS core classes have been submitted and received approval and designation on this list. KCHS can be found on the UC site when/if a student is applying to attend one of the state UC schools. While AP and honors designations are indicated on the UC list, just being on the list does not affect grade weighting. Lastly, it is not necessary for a student to have taken UC list approved courses to be accepted to UC schools as home school students can be admitted, but having UC listed courses does facilitate acceptance.

8. Other schools seem to identify "critical thinking" as a sought after goal, but is not mentioned on KCS literature or the web site, why is that?

Though not always meant that way, the term "critical thinking" implies branding all presented information as wrong until proven true. We prefer communicating and teaching our students "analytical" thinking, which seeks to discern if the information presented is actual fact or ideas and conclusions extrapolated by the presenter through his/her own worldview from the facts, and what the presenter's worldview is.

9. I have a fundraising idea to help the school, how do I proceed?

From our own experience and the recommendations of “experts” we have purposely chosen to eliminate the many general fund fundraisers we once had (carnival/auction, hit-a-thon, etc.). We try to leave fundraisers for the individual grades and groups of the school. Currently, our “annual fund” money not covered by tuition is coming from our Thrift Stores and does so without placing further financial burden on our constituency. We have a procedure for fundraisers, anyone who wants to sponsor one can ask the receptionist in the front office for the application form. Again, the form assumes that the event will be for a specific group/grade(s). The procedure is to make sure that not too many similar activities are taking place at the same time nor hitting up the same group of people at the same time.