



Karen Mabry, Academic Dean

EXCITED ABOUT HISTORY

We are excited about history at Unity. Mr. Poston likes to refer to it as “His-story”. Our history curriculum from K-3 – 12th grade is an intentional plan. We intertwine history with literature and Bible to make learning more meaningful. Students are immersed in the culture. When our students study a particular time period, we read literature written during that time period.

If you will notice, we spend a large amount of time studying ancient civilizations. The reason we do this is because the greatest piece of literature we study was written during these ancient civilizations. To understand the authors of the Bible, we must understand the culture in which they lived. To understand the words of Jesus, we have to understand the people He was speaking to.

Studying the “worldviews” of past civilizations helps us to better understand the “worldviews” of the civilizations of today. Yes, there is a “current event” thread that runs throughout our program but always analyzed with the past in mind.

When our students study American History (K, 1st, 5th, 6th, 11th, and 12th grades) they see the beauty of our government and the foundation on which our country was founded.

To continue highlighting our high school, Mr. Poston, our History Department Head and worldview expert, gives a description of our high school history program and school wide philosophy of history. Enjoy!

About High School History

by Brad Poston

Have you ever wondered what history was really about? Is it just dates and names and dead people? Does it include the fact that I ate a sausage and egg biscuit for breakfast this morning? What is history anyway?

The word history comes from the Greek "historia" which means "to learn by asking questions." The Greeks wanted to know why things are the way they are and whether or not our present experience could be meaningfully explained or interpreted. Just across the Mediterranean, the people of God were given answers to these questions through the Scriptures. The Bible reveals that the events of the world are determined by God in order to reveal His glory to the nations. Thus, history is *His* story-the glory of God revealed in the story of the world.

History is not just an endless sea of facts and dates. Historians have two tasks: to use textual analysis to determine what happened in the past and then to create interpretations and analysis of those past events. A person's worldview will determine what facts they consider significant and how they interpret those facts. At Unity, students are taught Redemptive History: an interpretative framework revealed by Scriptures that interprets all past and present events in light of God's eternal purposes.

Redemptive History teaches our students that history has both purpose and direction. The purpose of history is the revelation of God's glory. Since the highest revelation of the glory of God is the person and work of Jesus Christ, Christ is the central character in the story of the world, and His life is the hinge upon which all of history revolves. This truth is even implicitly acknowledged in our dating system which organizes all events in relation to the incarnation of Christ. Because the person and work of Christ is at the center of history, the expansion of the kingdom of God is the primary activity of history. This is why Eusebius, in one of the first Christian histories of Western Civilization, spent more time focusing on the accomplishments of martyrs and church leaders than Roman emperors who will be forgotten once we are in eternity.

Not only does Redemptive History reveal the purpose of the story, it also informs us that history is moving in a direction. The Biblical story of the world can be summarized by the following themes: Creation, Fall, and Redemption. Each theme highlights different aspects of God's character and nature, and each explains different elements of our present experience. Together they show that history is moving toward a conclusion - the final salvation of the people of God and the judgment of those who persist in rebellion. 2 Peter 3:3-7 tells us that in the last days mockers will ask "Where is the promise of [Christ's] coming? For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all continues just as it was from the beginning of creation." The Scriptures go on to inform us that these mockers have forgotten the work of God in the past and do not see history from His eternal perspective.

Ultimately, what we think about the past is a moral issue. Redemptive History isn't merely another option among a variety of other methods. It is the only method which should inform our answer to the questions first posed by the Greeks. One of the most frequent commands God gives His people in His word is to remember His works. At Unity, we seek to actively incorporate these principles into how we interpret history. When we do, our students will not only benefit from the wisdom that comes from living according to the truth, but they will also be obedient to Christ's command to remember. That's the Unity difference.

MEET OUR HISTORY DEPARTMENT HEAD

Brad Poston was born in North Carolina in 1983 but grew up in Chattanooga, Tennessee. He graduated from the Chattanooga Southeast Tennessee Home Education Association (CSTHEA) in 2001 and received a Bachelor of Arts degree in History from Bryan College in 2005. Before coming to Unity, he worked at Summit Ministries where he learned about Christian leadership as well as the ability to explain and defend the Biblical Worldview.

Mr. Poston currently resides in Rome, Georgia. He is now in his sixth year at Unity Christian School where he also serves as the head of the history department. He has been married to the love of his life, Rachel, for a little over two years. On September 9, 2011 Brad and Rachel welcomed a daughter, Makayla Grace, into their family.

THE VISION GROWS FOR FINE ARTS

By Cyndi Ivery
Fine Arts Department Head

God is The Creator. If your kids are like mine, they often ask questions about where things came from...and we, as believers in Jesus and His Word, have the awesome privilege of explaining to them that God is the Creator of the universe. We have had many conversations about how God made the animals, the stars, the planets, and every human. But, how often do we have the opportunity to point to God as the Creator of more abstract pieces of creation such as music, art, and language?

The truth is, music, language, and visual beauty existed in the heavens before the universe was ever created. Mankind didn't invent music, God created it. Mankind didn't invent language, God spoke it first. Colors, physical form, and even the aesthetic quality we call 'beauty' is God's idea, not that of mankind. The Fine Arts Department at Unity Christian School teaches music, art, and drama from a Biblical perspective. Each student hears the truth that God is the Creator of the arts. Only because of his compassion and mercy are we given the joy of 'borrowing' parts of Creation such as music. And of course, just as all of Creation, the arts are subject to corruption because of the Fall of mankind. Our students learn that as stewards of music, art, and language, we must use these things to bring honor and glory to Jesus, not to bring attention to ourselves.

The UCS Fine Arts Department offers elective courses in band, chorus, drama, and art. We also have an after school team of teachers who offer instruction in a variety of the fine arts including drama, art, guitar, voice, piano, percussion, steel band, and pep band. Our mission is to teach students that they are designed by God with the ability to respond emotionally, intellectually, and spiritually to color, form, melody, rhythm, and language; and that they were purposed to reflect attributes of God, whether in music, visual art, or language.

Students are taught the realities of spiritual warfare and corruption of Creation, and armed with Biblical truths that will help them honor God as they observe or perform in the area of the arts. Our ultimate goal is to invite students to worship our Savior through the stewardship of His Creation, which includes the Fine Arts.

WHAT'S NEW FOR 2011/2012

AP Literature and Composition

New electives through the GA Virtual School: Students who have a study hall in their schedule are offered the opportunity to sign up online for a class through the GA Virtual School. These are online courses offered through the GA public education system. Some of our students have signed up for Latin, Spanish, and Forensic Science.

Drama I: for high school students.

Health (9th grade)

Leadership I: for middle school and high school students

After School Academic Opportunities: Fine Arts (piano, voice, art, drama, guitar, band) and, coming soon, Speech.

VOLUNTEER NEEDED! There are several students who have requested to have a Robotics Team (Lego). If you are interested in leading this team please contact Karen Mabry at kmabry@unitychristianschool.org

Study Skills

Studying is a skill students will need throughout their years of school. Help your child study effectively with these tips.

Start a habit: Treat studying as a daily assignment and not just something that is done the evening before a test. After other homework is completed, spend 15 minutes each night studying for up-coming tests.

Stay on top of the text: As your child studies chapters, have her "preview" it to increase her understanding. She should look over headings, graphics, and pictures. Look up boldfaced words. If she is struggling with a section either go over it with her or let her teacher know.

Mix it: If your child reviews information in a variety of ways she will be more likely to remember it. Examples: write it in color, say it out loud...

Remember parents should take the lead in helping their child establish good study habits at home.

Testing 2011

GO LIONS!

<u>Unity</u>	SAT AVERAGES	
	<u>State</u>	<u>National</u>
1588	1445	1500

Our composite score is 1588. All seniors and many UCS juniors make up this total. We do not filter our scores. All students who want to take the test are encouraged to do so.

STANFORD 10 ACHIEVEMENT TEST