

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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## **Are the schools combining, merging or what is happening?**

The Community of Faith West will continue to provide an opportunity for Christian community across a myriad of activities, however, the educational institution that will operate on this campus going forward will be Berean Christian Academy at Faith West. The BCA Board of Directors will oversee the K-12 school located on the Faith West campus and will continue to work alongside the Faith West Ministries leadership team, including Gary Kerr and his team, to maintain operation of the many other ministries on this campus that the Lord has placed under their care over the years. Mrs. Bethany Elston will be the Head of School and will be bringing her strong team of BCA staff and faculty with her, along with members of the Faith West team, to build what we believe will be the strongest team of Christian educators in Katy! Berean Christian Academy at Faith West will maintain an environment that allows for classical, Christian education that reproduces disciples - men and women who walk in wisdom, obey His word and live out their faith for years to come.

## **What is the name of the school that will operate on Faith West's campus beginning with the 2026/2027 school year?**

Berean Christian Academy at Faith West

## **Who is Berean Christian Academy (BCA) and where were they before?**

Berean Christian Academy is a 5-day Christian classical school that began operation in Katy, Texas in 2016. It has been located on the property of Katy's First Baptist Church in Old Katy and has grown from 36 students in its 2016/2017 inaugural school year to its current enrollment of 306 students for 2025/2026 school year. Berean Christian Academy proudly graduates its first senior class in May 2025!

## **Who is Faith West Academy (FWA) and where were they before?**

Faith West Academy has provided educational opportunities in a Christian environment in Katy, Texas since 1982. Their leadership has a passion for providing a foundation for equipping students to fulfill their God-given potential. In early 2024, out of a desire to see classical Christian education take root on campus, the FWA leadership began conversations with BCA about the future of education at the Faith West's beautiful campus at 2225 Porter Rd.

## **Will the Board structure that runs the school change?**

The existing 3 member Faith West, Inc. (FWI) Executive Board will remain with the addition of three of the BCA Board members added to this Executive Board. The FWI Executive Board will maintain governance over Faith West Inc. Ministries, however the school (Berean Christian Academy at Faith West) will continue to operate under the leadership and bylaws of the existing BCA Board and 501(c)(3).

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## **Why are there two Boards?**

Multiple ministries are blessed to have access to the campus of Faith West including renting churches, a preschool, sports associations, and summer camps. An Executive Board (Faith West Inc.) will have the responsibilities of overseeing these ministries. Berean Christian Academy at Faith West will continue to be run and directed by its Board of Directors. These members are all parents in the school. The school board will not be responsible for the oversight of other ministries operating on the campus. However, the school will have priority access to the facilities and grounds.

## **Who will be the Head of School of Berean Christian Academy at Faith West?**

Bethany Elston will be the Head of School at Berean Christian Academy at Faith West beginning with the 2026/2027 school year. She will continue to report to the BCA Board of Directors.

## **Will Jeanna Bickerstaff have a role in the school going forward?**

Jeanna Bickerstaff will continue to lead FWA for the 2025/2026 school year. Starting in 2026/2027, the desire is for her and many other FWA staff and faculty who want to be a part of the classical Christian approach to continue with us in the mission of discipleship of the next generation.

## **What is the timeline of this transition?**

Faith West Academy will continue to operate on the Faith West campus for the 2025/2026 school year under its current leadership. Berean Christian Academy will continue to operate on Katy's First Baptist Campus for the 2025/2026 school year under its current leadership. The physical relocation of Berean Christian Academy to the Faith West Campus will occur over the summer of 2026 and Berean Christian Academy at Faith West will have its first school year on the Faith West campus beginning in the Fall of 2026.

## **What is the timeline of events between now and the beginning of school 2026/2027?**

The Fall of 2025 will allow both schools to continue to operate in their current locations, providing the exact education, location, and model promised to families at the time of their prior enrollment. The fall of 2025 will also allow the Board and administration time to clearly communicate the distinctives of Berean Christian Academy at Faith West to interested families including walking through the enrollment/admissions process. BCA will move to the campus of Faith West over the summer of 2026 with Berean Christian Academy at Faith West commencing at 2225 Porter beginning in the Fall of 2026.

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## **Why change things?**

### **BCA**

- BCA needed a permanent home
- BCA needed to invest in facilities for future growth

### **FWA**

- It was time for the Faith West leaders to create longevity in the organization.
- The heart of Faith West Academy has always been a classical approach to education. Plans were being discussed on how to convert.
- FWA leadership had been discussing whether to set up a separate 501(c)3 organization for the school.
- Talks had begun to beautify or even add/expand buildings.

Everything BCA needed, FWA had...everything FWA needed, BCA had! The Lord is at work!

## **What type of education should I expect at Berean Christian Academy at Faith West?**

Berean Christian Academy will continue to offer a 5-day Christian classical education, but will do so on the Faith West campus. The leadership believes that Biblical Worldview cannot be compartmentalized into a "subject." Therefore, Christian education is not simply adding Bible class or chapel. The approach to every subject is an opportunity to view the character of God and to reflect on our response as individuals made in His image. Whether working in math, music, peer relations, or service to our community, all things should be done to the glory of God and seeking out His will in our lives. If students are trained to view everything through the lens of Scripture, seeking out the true, good, and beautiful in life, they will inevitably find themselves at the foot of Christ.

## **I was content with a Christian education at FWA. What key steps do you suggest I follow before deciding where my child should attend the 2026/2027 school year?**

- Pray about it
- Educate yourself on classical education
- Meet the leaders and tour the school
- Have your child do a "shadow day"
- Go through the "new parent" interview

We believe that families taking these steps will fall in love with Berean Christian Academy at Faith West!

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## **What should I expect if I'm enrolling at Faith West Academy for the 2025/2026 school year?**

Mrs. Bickerstaff and her staff at FWA will continue to lead with no substantial change to the current educational model for the 2025/2026 school year.

## **Will there be one school or two separate schools on the campus?**

Beginning in the 2026/2027 school year, there will only be one school - Berean Christian Academy at Faith West.

## **Why is Berean moving to the Faith West Campus? What are the primary motivations behind this relocation?**

The leadership of BCA has been fervently seeking the Lord's will for what is next as they have quickly outgrown their current space at Katy's First Baptist Church. As conversations surrounding future addition of facilities on the church campus occurred; the reality of the need for a multi-million dollar building campaign was brought into direct view. At the same time that this was being explored, conversations began with the leadership team of Faith West about the future of their campus as a school and the desire to see classical Christian education brought to the campus. As is always true, the Lord is never early, never late - He is always right on time.

## **Will Berean Christian Academy still be on the KFBC campus for the 2025/2026 school year?**

Yes, we have a wonderful relationship with Katy's First Baptist Church and only looked outside our current facility due to our growing need for space. We are looking forward to a wonderful 2025/2026 school year on the KFBC campus.

## **Will the Mission & Vision of BCA be changed or altered?**

No, the team at Faith West desires to see the Mission & Vision of BCA supported and strengthened in this next chapter of education on this campus. Berean Christian Academy's Mission & Vision will remain the same.

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## **What will the enrollment process be like for returning BCA students?**

The admissions and enrollment policy will remain the same, however sibling enrollment and re-enrollment timelines will be moved up to the Fall of 2025 to allow an opportunity to see how many seats are available.

## **What will the admissions process be like for returning FWA students?**

All returning legacy Faith West students will go through the BCA admissions process, and if admitted, will have preference based on availability. The process will begin in the Fall of 2025. Due to the significant differences between how the two schools have previously functioned, families can expect to submit an application, schedule testing and have all eligible students participate in a “shadow day” during the Fall of 2025. BCA administration desires to offer clarity regarding the distinctives of the school.

## **Will my current Faith West Academy high school student have a path to graduation since they have not had classical requirements?**

Current students completing the 9th grade at Faith West Academy (FWA) in 2025/2026 and enrolling at Berean Christian Academy at Faith West for the 2026/2027 school year would have an option to pursue a non-classical track of study with adjustments made to their academic plan through graduation. They will go through the same enrollment process to ensure understanding of the education and culture being offered at Berean Christian Academy at Faith West.

## **Will my tuition increase?**

Berean Christian Academy aims to be an option for mission fit families in the Katy area and does not desire to be only available to the financially elite. We aim to keep costs as low as possible through required parent volunteer hours and intentional budgeting. We desire to continue to increase pay for our teachers in an effort to be competitive with our surrounding area. That said, as the cost of living around us increases, so must tuition. Legacy Faith West students who apply will likely see a decrease in their tuition due to FWA's higher tuition, while Legacy BCA families will see a similar increase to prior years' tuition increases.

## **Will we still have small class sizes?**

Yes. Small class sizes in classical Christian schools offer benefits like more personalized attention, stronger student teacher relationships and enhanced engagement which we believe leads to improved academic performance and a more nurturing and engaging learning environment.

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**Will there be a single set of policies for all students on the Faith West Campus (including dress code & cell phone policies)?**

Yes. The BCA Board of Directors will maintain authority over the hiring and management of the Head of School, the school admissions policy, school dress code, school handbook, campus technology and cell phone policies, event and school calendar, matters affecting accreditation and class size, athletics programs, financial aid process and similar matters.

**Will there be an annual volunteer requirement for all families as has already been the policy at BCA?**

Yes, the volunteer requirement exists for many reasons. First of all, it helps us keep our tuition as low as possible. Secondly, we believe there is great value in our students seeing their parents serve and pour into their education in a tangible way. And third, it allows the community of parents, staff and students to build strong relationships. BCA has seen beautiful fruit from parent involvement on campus over the years.

**Will the school be accredited? If yes, through who?**

Yes, BCA is currently accredited through Cognia and will continue to maintain its accreditation through a nationally recognized accreditation agency.

**Will the same sports and extracurriculars that have been offered in the past be offered in the future?**

The leadership team desires to have a strong athletic and extracurricular program that allows for physical and spiritual growth in a competitive setting. All activities will be reviewed for mission fit matching. If the program is a fit, the administration will first ensure that adequate interest and resources are available in order to do them well. The Upper School will continue to compete in TAPPS.

**Will we have the opportunity to learn more about BCA at Faith West before admissions season or re-enrollment occurs?**

Yes, the administration and board want to be as transparent and informative as possible. There will be opportunities for families to hear presentations on the distinctives of BCA at Faith West in person and live stream, submit questions, and receive regular updates as developments are made. We desire for all families to feel confident in understanding the process before admissions begins.

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### **Will we compete in sports together as one team?**

Yes, there will only be one school so all sports will be played as students of Berean Christian Academy at Faith West.

### **My kids wear expensive uniforms. Will that change or will there be a transition period?**

We know that a change like this comes with some challenges. We desire to work with families to ensure a reasonable transition with regards to uniforms. We also recognize the value of a unified student body to help foster the new community of Berean Christian at Faith West. Uniforms provide unity and an understanding of inclusion and we strive to provide comfortable and affordable options with plenty of time to plan. Logos are recommended, but not a requirement.

### **Will there be a preschool option on the same campus?**

Faith West Inc. currently operates a preschool on the campus. This ministry will continue to operate under the direction of Faith West Inc. Executive Board but is not a part of Berean Christian Academy at Faith West.

### **Will there still be Camp West in the summer? Will BCA run it?**

Faith West Inc. currently operates summer camps on the campus. This ministry will continue to operate under the direction of Faith West Inc. Executive Board but is not a part of Berean Christian Academy at Faith West.

### **Will the school continue to have half day Kindergarten?**

Yes, we plan to continue the half day kindergarten program with an option of After Care that extends to the end of the school day.

### **Will the school continue to have half day Fridays?**

There is no current expectation for a change to the half day Friday schedule.

### **Is this a short-term or a long-term relocation?**

Praise God, the campus at Faith West will be Berean Christian Academy's permanent home!

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## **I graduated from Faith West Academy and now my kids attend. Is my school gone or will there still be alumni?**

The legacy of Christian education at Faith West continues and we look forward to many opportunities of celebrating together; both alumni and current families! What a joy it is to see what God has done and continues to do on this campus! While the school has changed its name and will be run by the BCA school board as a separate 501(c)3, the focus of community remains strong. Previous graduates of both BCA and FWA will together unite as alumni at Berean Christian Academy at Faith West!

## **What will happen to the FFA and vocational program at Faith West?**

All activities will be reviewed for mission fit matching. If the program is a fit, the administration will first ensure that adequate interest and resources are available in order to do them well.

## **What are some resources for learning more about classical Christian education?**

- [The Good Soil Report](#) - A Comparative Study of ACCS Alumni Life Outcomes
- [Classical Approach to Education](#) - The Trivium
- [What is Classical Christian Education?](#) - Association of Classical Christian Schools (ACCS)
- [The Classical Christian Movement](#) - Society of Classical Learning (SCL)

### **Recommended Reading**

- *An Introduction to Classical Education* by Christopher Perrin
- *Battle for the American Mind* by Pete Hegseth
- *Consider This* by Karen Glass

**Subject to change as new information is available**

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