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# BACK TO SCHOOL

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**GRADES 9-12**

PARENTING  
CLASSES

# Approaching Teachers and Administration

- Get to know your Child's Teacher
- Remember that you represent Jesus
- Participate in local education.

# High School Development

## How does your teen learn?

- Have the ability to think through complex concepts that are not tied to anything concrete
- Expanding view of what is right and wrong
- Have an emerging understanding of making decisions based on personal values
- In the process of developing a greater ability for active problem solving and time management

## Emotional Development

- Early Adolescence
  - Struggle to find the balance of mood swings and moral concepts
  - Constantly adapting to the following (and more):
- Hormonal changes that often cause mood fluctuations
- Physical body changes due to puberty
- New awareness of sexuality
- Changing social relationships
- Late Adolescence
  - Experience the same range of emotions, with more ability to regulate them
  - Increase in impulse control with some ability to process costs and benefits of choices

## Social Development

- Early Adolescence
  - Thoughts are more polarized (all-or-nothing thinking)
  - Increased risk-taking behavior and have greater interest in peers
- Late Adolescence
  - Have the ability to balance responsibilities with social freedom
  - Increased understanding of morality for self and others

## Identity Development

- Early Adolescence
  - Establishing emotional separation from parents to gain more independence
  - Strongly influenced by peers and desire for peer acceptance
  - Beginning to think about future career plans
- Late Adolescence
  - Choices are less motivated by peer acceptance and more motivated by personal values.
  - Prepared to expand individual sense of self apart from family in the real world

## Parenting Tips

- Prioritize time together as a family.
- Implement positive communication with your teen and family as a whole.
- Value honesty and openness with your teen.
- Be involved in your teens life by knowing their friends, attending their activities and having conversations with them on a regular basis.
- Encourage independence that is proportionate to trustworthiness.
- Teach your teen to take responsibility for their actions, emotions, and words.
- Teach responsibility as something of value.

## Resources

Arterburn, Stephen, and Fred Stoeker. Every Young Man's Battle: Strategies for Victory in the Real World of Sexual Temptation. Waterbrook, 2010.

Ethridge, Shannon, and Stephen Arterburn. Every Young Woman's Battle: Guarding Your Mind, Heart, and Body in a Sex-Saturated World. Waterbrook, 2010.

Faber, Adele, and Elaine Mazlish. How to Talk So Teens Will Listen & Listen So Teens will Talk. William Morrow Paperbacks, 2016.

Townsend, John. Boundaries with Teens: When to Say Yes, How to Say No. Zondervan, 2006.

Tripp, Paul David. Parenting: 14 Gospel Principles that Can Radically Change Your Family. Crossway, 2016.

# Curriculum

## English

- In RUSD teachers select which books to read, and after talking with them, we determined that the book selection was not an issue.
- 12th grade English does cover a lot of current events.
- Email your teachers.

## Science

- Biology
  - Big Bang
  - Evolution
- Chemistry
- Physics
- Anatomy
  - Human body and how it works

## Social Studies

- World History
  - World Religions (Islam, Buddhism, Christianity, etc.)
  - Comparing governments
- US History
  - Civil Rights movement
  - War (Death)
- Ethnic Studies
  - Race, racism, bigotry, and the experiences of diverse Americans
- Government/ Economics
  - Roe v. Wade (Abortion)
  - Obergefell v. Hodges (Same Sex Marriage)
- Psychology\*
  - Biopsychological Domain (Sensation and Perception)

## How to Find Out What Your Child is Learning

- Back to School Night
- Email Teachers
- Ask to look at the curriculum
- Join Google Classrooms
- Check Aeries Daily/Weekly
- Some curriculum is available online with your student's login.
- Parent nights (Math nights, AVID nights)
- Board Meetings (Links Below)
- College/Career:
  - November 30th is UC/CSU Deadline
  - FAFSA is first come first serve if you qualify.
  - Scholarships can be started as early as 11th grade.
- TALK TO YOUR KIDS (Be specific)

## Resources

History Standards 9-12: An Overview of the New History-Social Science Framework for California Public Schools

English: Common Core ELA Parent Overview: Grades 9-12

Science: NGSS Science Standards

School Board Links for Riverside County:

- Board of Education - Riverside Unified School District
- Board of Education - Val Verde Unified School District
- Board Policies, Minutes & Agendas - Perris Union High ...
- School Board - San Bernardino City Unified School District
- Board of Education Yucaipa-Calimesa School Board

# Biblical Response

## Building Relationship with Kids

- Reach out to kids.
- Meet them on their level.
- Dads, take time to spend time with kids (especially daughters)
- Create memories with kids.
- Ask good questions in your time together.
- Opportunities to have spiritual conversations will come.
- Be a listener — not just a lecturer.

## Prepping for College/Adult Life

- Preparing practically for college
- Responsibility - transitioning that responsibility now
  - Feel weight of responsibility
  - Experience the joy of responsibility
- Finances and Taxes
  - Loans
  - Tithing

## Preparing Spiritually for College

- Making church a priority now
- Helping them find a new church
- Teaching (and modeling) your kids to study the Bible on their own
- Teach them to view the world through the lens of Christ
  - Slowly begin to let them go — help them view secular stuff with a biblical worldview.
  - News, politics, tv shows, life choices

## Technology

- Boundaries with phones, tablets, computers, social media
- Pornography – talking about it with kids
- Teaching your kids discipline
- Parents need to have and model boundaries as well.

## How to Have Healthy Conflict

- Your high school student will know how to push your buttons.
- Be a good listener.
- Remind your child that you are the parent and you are in charge.
- Be consistent.
- When your child shares something big, show love and grace.

## Gender/Sexuality/Dating

- Give kids a biblical view of sexuality
- Genesis 1:27 – Image of God, male and female.
- Genesis 1:31 – “It was VERY GOOD”
- Genesis 2:23-24 – That is why...A man leaves father and mother and united to his wife
- Matthew 19:4-5 – Jesus reinforces this and uses both of these verses to talk about marriage and human sexuality
- Romans 1:18-32 – When we reject God as ruler in our life we turn to things that do not honor him.
- It’s also important that we are raising kids who can love people and have friendship with those who are different from them.
- Talking to you Child about dating/relationships
  - When, who, boundaries, expectations

Play the long game.

- We don’t need to fit all 18 years into last 1-2-3 years.
- You are a broken sinner — model forgiveness for your kids.
- It’s not too late to start.
- Choose your battles.
- Give yourself some grace.

## Resources

Strobel, Lee. The Case for Christ. Zondervan, 2016.

Message from Daniel Bishop on Gender and Culture – <https://thegrove.cc/counterculture-gender>

Sean McDowell on Gender podcast – <https://www.christianparenting.org/podcasts-post/talking-to-your-children-about-sexuality-and-gender-identity-with-dr-sean-mcdowell/>

Sprinkle, Preston. “A Biblical Conversation about Transgender Identities.” (Pastoral Paper on Transgender Identities)

The Social Dilemma (Netflix documentary)

Crouch, Andy, and Amy Crouch. The Tech-Wise Family: Everyday Steps for Putting Technology in Its Proper Place.

Financial Peace University ([ramseysolutions.com](http://ramseysolutions.com))

Right Now Media ([rightnowmedia.org](http://rightnowmedia.org))

Parent Weekly Newsletter ([axis.org/culture-translator](http://axis.org/culture-translator))

The Center for Faith, Sexuality & Gender – <https://www.centerforfaith.com>