

Statement of Christian Educational Philosophy

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The primary function of education is to teach “truth”. For the Christian all of truth is revealed in a Word of God. God’s word is the ultimate truth. It cannot be separated into “secular” truth and “spiritual” truth. Christian education is the process whereby the student is taught to learn to observe things from God’s perspective and to conduct his life in a manner which is consistent with God’s revealed truth. (Psalms 25: 5; John 1;14-16; II Timothy 2:15).

The Bible clearly teaches that parents bear ultimate responsibility for the education, training, and rearing of their children. The school functions as an extension of the home by reinforcing the Christian values (including standards of behavior, morality, and discipline), and by providing specialized instruction in academic and life-skill disciplines. Because of the interdependent nature of the home’s and school’s educative functions and roles, it is essential that a spirit of cooperation and mutual support be developed and fostered between home and school (Deuteronomy 6:7; Psalms 78:4-7; Ephesians 6:4; Proverbs 22:6).

Preeminence of God and His Word. A God-centered education is derived from the self-revelation of God in nature and in the Holy Scriptures. The Bible is infallible and authoritative in all matters of faith and practice. Without Christ as its center, education is futile.

Learning

Students actively construct their own knowledge, and as a teacher I can support the effective construction of knowledge by teaching students to become aware of their own thinking and learning processes. As students engage in activities that promote the active construction of their learning, they will discover that learning is an enjoyable and rewarding process.

Students have a natural curiosity and desire to learn about the world around them, and as an educator, my goal is to draw out that natural curiosity, nurturing a love for learning. There is a basic level of competence that all students must attain to be successful in society, and I will make every effort to push my students beyond basic competence and toward academic excellence. I strive to be a mentor to students, not only instructing, but also inspiring, exciting, and leading students into full adult lives.

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Teaching

I favor a social justice approach to teaching, based on my belief that education is a profound tool for social change, a means for ending systems of injustice in the world. This kind of systematic change happens slowly, and as a teacher I will continue to hold out a vision of a more just and equitable world, challenging my students to think critically about the world they live in and the power that they have to transform it. Students must acquire the ability to understand complex issues from multiple perspectives, and be encouraged to form their own educated opinions based on this understanding. Education is not solely acquiring knowledge, but finding the strength and courage to take action as the learner sees fit based on that knowledge.

Personal reflection on my own teaching practice is a valuable tool for me to become a better teacher. By increasing my own self-awareness, I bring a spirit of evaluation and improvement that is vital to my strength as an educator.

My colleagues are a valuable resource for me, and there is something to be learned from everyone. My teaching is enhanced through collaboration with colleagues.

Classroom Environment & Curriculum

An effective learning environment must be safe, supportive, respectful, challenging, structured, and well organized for all learners; it's a place where all students are encouraged to take cognitive risks. Student's benefit from being challenged to move beyond their intellectual comfort zone and to think about things in new and different ways. As a supportive teacher, I will push and encourage students in their pursuit of excellence.

The general curriculum for the elementary grades should encompass a wide range of subject matter that will provide students with an understanding of the world around them and their role within that world.

Many of my values and beliefs are inspired by my own classroom experiences, mentor teachers, professors, and educational theorists. Because of these influences, I will encourage my students to reflect on their own learning, and I will endeavor to make learning experiences meaningful, assisting students in actively pursuing and constructing knowledge. I firmly believe that knowledge is empowering, and thus I will model a love of learning in order to create a healthy, supportive learning environment for all of the students in my classroom.