

Philosophy of Education

The primary purpose of Westside Christian Academy is to fulfill the scriptural commands of: ***“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.”*** Deuteronomy 6:5-7

“Train up a child in the way he should to, and when he is old he will not depart from it.” Proverbs 22:6

“Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to observe all things I have commanded you.”

Matthew 28:19-20

Wisdom and knowledge come from God, therefore, man’s education is complete only when God and His Word are at the center of all learning.

“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge.” Proverbs 1:7

The Student:

- 1) Created by God and in His image, he is of inestimable worth, possessing an eternal soul that shall inherit either everlasting life or everlasting damnation.
- 2) Because of sin, he is unable to reach God. His nature is totally depraved and foolishness is bound in his heart. (Proverbs 22:15)
- 3) Faith in Christ Jesus is the only way of establishing a right relationship with God. Reality in life’s purposes and values can be ascertained in and through Christ alone.

The Curriculum:

- 1) God is the source of all wisdom, and He has revealed Himself specifically in the Bible. Thus God’s Word is the basis of all our studies and should be correlated with all experiences that the child has under the auspices of the school.
- 2) Christian education should aspire to train a child in such a way that he will have a sound, practical working knowledge of the Word of God and be able to evaluate every circumstance of life from a Christian viewpoint.
- 3) The home and church, being ordained by God and being charged with the responsibility of training and teaching (Deut. 6:6; Matthew 28:20), should work together with the Christian Academy in promoting the student’s growth.

The Teacher:

- 1) The teacher in the Christian Academy must give evidence of knowing Christ as their personal Savior.
- 2) He/She must be wholly committed to following and obeying Christ, thus being wholly committed to a life of service for Christ’s sake.
- 3) He/She should possess the academic and professional knowledge necessary to perform his/her task.
- 4) He/she should be a member of Westside Baptist Church, or a member of a church of like faith and order. They should read and agree with the Biblical tenants found in the Baptist Faith and Message.
- 5) He/she should regularly attend church. A person is considered a regular attendee if they attend Sunday School and church at least 75% of the time.

Conceptual Framework

- 1) **Vision:** The Vision of Westside Christian Academy is to raise up Godly generations of young people:
 - **Who love** the Lord with all their heart, mind, soul and strength
 - **Who serve** Christ in their vocation and through their local church
 - **Who share** the Gospel of Christ in order to make disciples and further His Kingdom
 - **Who worship** the Lord in the beauty of holiness

- 2) **Mission:** The Mission of Westside Christian Academy is:
 - **To partner** with parents in preparing their children for life
 - **To provide** quality Christian education
 - **To prepare** students for a lifetime of following Christ

- 3) **Rationale:** "...that you may with one mind and one mouth glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ." (Romans 15:6)

- 4) **Philosophy:** Founded on the inerrant, inspired, and infallible Word of God with a Christ-centered Biblical world view.

- 5) **Instructional Goals:** The broad instructional goals of Westside Christian Academy are twofold:
 1. The development of Godly Christian character in a loving Christian environment
 2. To provide excellence in academics, arts, athletics, and Christian apologetics

Affiliation:

WCA is a ministry of Westside Baptist Church; however students come from a variety of church denominations. WCA teachers also come from a variety of backgrounds and denominations and are qualified as Christian leaders of our students – academically, spiritually, and morally. WCA is accredited through the South Carolina Association of Christian Schools (SCACS).

a. Commitment

WCA is accountable to God, our church, and to our parents to provide quality academic education, guidance for spiritual growth, and opportunities for ministry and leadership training for each student.

WCA admits students of any race, color, national or ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs and activities, generally accorded or made available to students at the Academy. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin in the administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, athletics, or other school-administrated programs.

b. Biblical Integration

Because all truth is God's Truth, every area of our academic study lends itself to discovery of the vast truths and knowledge of God. As Christian school teachers, we are to attempt, through prayer and study, to teach children in the ways of God. The Holy Spirit will be our teacher as we become open to the insights that the Word holds for us.