

# PIONEER VALLEY CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

## THE PHILOSOPHY OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

A Christian philosophy of education comprises a comprehensive world view of God, man, and the universe. God, Who is immutable, has revealed Himself in nature, in the Person of Jesus Christ, and in the Bible which is authoritative in all matters of faith, truth, and practice. Jesus Christ alone provides that "unique point of reference" which gives to education an authoritative voice (II Timothy 3:16-17). Key components of the school's educational philosophy are:

### KNOWLEDGE OF GOD'S WORD

The Lordship of Christ and the sovereignty of God are all-inclusive; therefore, all areas of life and learning are regarded as sacred. Thus, knowledge of the Bible and of Jesus Christ, integrated with other subject matters, is essential to the development and growth of the child physically, mentally, socially, and spiritually. Godly behavior is based upon the proper concept and understanding of the origin and purpose of all things: namely, that whatever we do in word or deed should be done to the glory of God. (Colossians 3:17)

### MAN IS CREATED IN GOD'S IMAGE

God created man in his own image, thus setting man apart from any so-called evolutionary process. Being made in God's image, man has a sense of purpose, a sense of fulfillment, and a sense of destiny. He is a rational and moral being, capable of understanding and communicating ideas. "God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female, He created them." (Genesis 1:27)

### MAN IS A SINNER SAVED BY GRACE

The image of God in man is marred by sin; thus, man's understanding is obscured and his morality debased. Though fallen from his original position through Adam's disobedience and his own sin, man may be restored to full relationship with God through his acceptance of the redemptive work of Christ, applied by the Holy Spirit. "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." (Romans 3:23) "Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all have sinned." (Romans 5:12) "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Romans 6:23)

### TRUE EDUCATION IS TESTED AGAINST GOD'S WORD

The goal of Christian education is to develop students who will serve God and make an impact on their community and the world by thinking and acting Biblically in all areas of life. Christian education begins with the knowledge of God through Jesus Christ "in Whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge." (Colossians 2:3) No one is truly educated who does not know God. Man is dependent upon God for the ability to learn truth and to interpret information. "But man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned". (I Corinthians 2:14) Christian education is the result of all knowledge being tested against and integrated with a Biblically based view of God and the world.

### CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Christian education occurs as the Holy Spirit works effectively in the hearts and minds of the students. Through general revelation (God's creation) students learn of God and His world. Special revelation (the Bible and Jesus Christ) and regeneration, however, are regarded as essential components of Christian education because a personal relationship with Jesus Christ provides students with the ability to view life from a Biblical perspective.

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATORS

Christian teachers must be committed to knowing and understanding the basic principles of Christian education and be effective in their ability to communicate those principles. The Christian teacher, empowered by the Holy Spirit, guides and nurtures students through instruction, admonition, and personal example, seeking to encourage the spiritual development of the students, as it is the foundation for their academic, social, and personal growth.

## PARTNERSHIP OF SCHOOL, HOME, AND CHURCH

Christian education promotes a Biblical relationship within the family, the church, and the Christian school. According to the scriptures, parents are responsible to God for the education of their children. The effort of the church coupled with that of the Christian school is needed to fulfill that responsibility. “Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it.” (Proverbs 22:6)