



# Hope Christian School of Hanover

6450 Hope Way \* Hanover, PA 17331

## Philosophy of Christian Education

**Preface:** The following outline is a general statement of the philosophy of education upon which Hope Christian School of Hanover is established. It is not a statement of faith nor of our doctrinal position. As a ministry of Hope Baptist Church, Hope Christian School operates under its statement of faith. This is a statement of the principles upon which the entire school – including its purposes, curricula, content, methods of instruction, discipline, and all school related activities – is built. These principles are built upon God’s Word as the only foundation of our faith and practice.

### 1. PREMISES OF EDUCATION

#### A. Nature of Man (the student)

1. Man is born spiritually dead, without God, and with a sinful nature. He is incapable in himself to satisfy the requirements of God for eternal life. (Romans 3:10, 23; 1 Cor. 15:21-22)
2. Only with God’s help, salvation, can he become alive spiritually. (1 Tim. 2:5; Acts 4:12)
3. Once a student is saved he continues to battle the sinful nature and is in constant warfare with it. (Romans 7:14-23)
  - a. A student may be saved by faith and yet fail to exercise and grow in that faith resulting in a carnal life.
  - b. The exercise of the faith of one who is saved results in a victorious Christian life that is pleasing to God.

#### B. Nature of Truth

1. God, Jesus Christ, is truth. (John 14:6)
2. God’s written Word, the Bible, is truth. (John 17:17)
3. God truth is revealed in creation (nature), in the written Word, the Bible, and through His Son, Jesus Christ. (John 14:6)
4. God is the beginning of all knowledge and wisdom: all truth is God’s truth. (Proverbs 1:7; Col. 2:3)
5. The Holy Spirit guides the believer into truth and illumines his understanding. (John 16:13)
6. Unbelievers can gain part of His truth, but the understanding of the unbeliever is darkened. (Matt. 5:45; 2 Tim. 3:7; 1 Cor. 2:14; 1 Cor. 8:1-2)

### C. Nature of Education

1. Christian education is the process of teaching truth whereby the whole of man is developed (ie: intellectually, physically, socially, emotionally, and spiritually).
2. Education is the directing of this process toward specific objectives.
3. Christian education incorporates the spiritual nature of man in relation to God and His revelation to man in all areas of thought and study.

## **II. PURPOSES OF EDUCATION**

### A. In relation to God

1. “Man’s chief end is to serve and to glorify God and to enjoy Him forever.” “Westminster Shorter Chatechism;” 1 Cor. 10:31)
2. Christian education should help the student love the Lord God with all his heart, soul, mind and strength. (Matthew 22:37 ; Deut. 6:5) This is accomplished by relating all truth to God’s creative and redemptive work.
3. Christian education is meant to bring every thought into captivity to Christ. (2 Cor. 10:5)
4. Christian education’s goal is to develop the “man” of God to be “thoroughly furnished unto all good works.” (2 Tim. 3:17)
5. Christian education is to help each student think, study, and grow to develop the “mind of Christ.” (Phil. 2:3-5)

### B. In relation to man

1. Christian education must cause the believer to love his neighbor as himself. This is the natural outgrowth of the love of Christ shed abroad in our hearts. (Matt. 22:39; Romans 5:5)
2. Christian education should enable the student to work effectively with other individuals in society, regardless of their race or creed. (1 Cor. 10:32; 2 Cor. 6:3; Gal. 6:10)
3. Christian education should work toward the development of Christian leaders who desire to serve the Lord and His people and who act as the “salt of the earth” to preserve the decency and right of our society.
  - a. This leadership is first in being a servant.
  - b. This leadership will involve the task of proclaiming the Gospel.
  - c. This leadership will involve the task of holding back and overcoming sin.

## **III. PROCESS OF EDUCATION**

### A. Nature of Teaching

1. Christian teaching is the process by which the goals of Christian education are achieved.
2. Christian education requires dedicated Christian teachers. (James 3:1)
3. Teachers should teach in their fields of competency to insure a quality end product. (1 Tim. 2:6; I Tim. 3:2; Col. 3:23-24)
4. Teachers must be students themselves, of their subject fields and of God’s

Word. (Prov. 24:5; 2 Tim. 2:15)

5. Teaching material must conform to the principles of God's Word. (Prov. 8:6-9; Isaiah 8:20)
6. Christian education must involve the whole child. (Luke 2:52)
  - a. Relation to man - intellectual, physical, social, emotional, vocational.
  - b. Relation to God - Spiritual, mind, heart, character.
7. Christian teaching must involve the whole sphere in which the child learns (ie: home, church, school), and will only be as effective as all are working in harmony.
8. Christian education must proceed line upon line, precept upon precept. (Isaiah 28:9-13)
9. Christian education must have love as its heart and truth as its mind. (John 13:34-35; Prov. 23:23)

#### B. Nature of learning

1. Christian education requires Christian students who are willing to be taught and willing to learn that which is taught in a spirit of obedience. (Prov. 14:6; 18:1)
2. The child must desire to learn if he is to perform in this cooperative role of learning. (Prov. 14:16)
3. A student must possess a clean heart and a willing mind in order to apply the learning process. (Prov. 2:3-5)
4. The child must be regenerated and be willing if Christian education is to fulfill it's purposes. (Prov. 13:4)

#### C. Methodology of learning

1. Christian education should pattern teaching processes, tools, materials, and methods after the practices of Christ, the Master Teacher. (Hebrews 12:2-3; Phil. 2:5-8)
2. The methods and materials incorporated should be consistent with the entire Christian philosophy of education and should be designed expressly for accomplishing the purposes of Christian education. (Col. 3:23-24)
3. The goal of developing the student into the image of God will determine the content and means of instruction.
4. The methods and materials proscribed by Scripture include the Word of God, and those things which reveal the best of the talents and abilities given to man. (Prov. 1:9, Phil. 4:8)
5. Included in the methodology must be the principle that the student will actively search for knowledge. (Proverbs 2:4-6) Students who reject knowledge and instruction are called fools in Scripture. (Psalm 14:1; Proverbs 10:8; 12:15; 15:5; 23:9)

#### D. Discipline of learning

1. An ultimate goal of Christian education is the development of self-discipline in the believing student. (Proverbs 16:32; 2 Tim. 2:26; Gal. 3:24-25)
2. In the process of reaching that goal, external discipline must at times be administered when the student fails to exercise discipline over his own

- spirit and actions. (Proverbs 3:24; 19:18; 22:15; 23:13-14)
3. All disciplinary steps should be based on Biblical principles with eventual self-discipline as the desired goal. (Proverbs 16:32) This will necessitate clear communication between the teacher and the student and between the teacher and parents.

#### **IV. PLACE OF EDUCATION**

##### A. Relationship to the Home

1. The education of children is the sole responsibility of the home, and of the father (as head of the home) specifically. (Ex. 18:20; Lev. 10:11; Deut. 4:7-10; 2 Sam. 1:18; 2 Chron. 17:7; Psalm 78:4-9; Prov. 22:6; Isaiah 2:3; 28:9; Ezek. 44:23)
2. The role of the Christian School is to assist the Christian home in the education of their children. (Ex. 18:20; Deut. 4:7-10; Psalm 78:4-9)
  - a. The Christian school accepts the delegated authority to educate the children of the Christian home. (En loco parentis)
  - b. The responsibility for that education remains irrevocably with the home.
3. It is the task of the Christian home to:
  - a. Train their children in Biblical principles and truth at home.
  - b. Maintain a Biblical example before their children.
  - c. Support the Christian school in maintaining truly Christian education.
  - d. Continuously observe and evaluate their child's education.

##### B. Relationship to the Church

1. Christian education is an outgrowth of the command of Christ to the church to "teach them to observe all things." (Matt. 28:19-20, Acts 2:47)
2. The Christian school is an integral and inseparable ministry of the church.
3. The Christian school is designed to assist Christian homes in the training of their children.
4. The programs of the church and school should be in mutual agreement in both doctrine and practice and designed to assist and support each other. The ministry of the Christian school will therefore be in accord with the church's statement of faith and practices. (Phil. 2:3; 1 Cor. 14:4)

##### C. Relationship to society

1. Education is not the responsibility of the state, but of the home.
2. The Christian school is not responsible to the state except in the areas of health, safety, and basic academic requirements.
3. The Christian school should maintain a high standard of health, safety, and education out of love and concern for others, not just out of obedience to state issued regulations. (Matt. 23:9; Acts 24:16; Romans 12:17)
4. The Christian school, being a ministry of the church, should never place itself in a position of receiving any form of state aid lest the role of authority and administration of the school, as a church ministry, be threatened or

questioned. (Romans14:16)

5. The Christian school owes the parents and students of the school a truly Christian education that strives for excellence. (1 Thess. 4:11-12; Rom. 12:17; 2 Cor. 8:21; 1 Pet. 2:12, Phil. 1:10; 4:8).
6. The Christian school in relation to society in general should:
  - a. Be void of offense and above reproach in our testimony and practices.
  - b. Graduate students who will be an asset to our society and witnesses to the grace of God.
  - c. Be careful not to compromise with demands or requests of society that are inconsistent with the Biblical principles upon which it is founded.
  - d. Be a means of evangelizing the individuals of our society for Christ.