

Smithville Christian High School Educational Creed

We believe that the Lord God, by graciously giving us the Scriptures, has revealed to his people ordering principles intensely relevant to education, and demands that the whole Word of God direct the education of our children. The following Biblical principles form the foundation for learning at Smithville Christian High School:

1. **LIFE:** Human life in its entirety is religious, since God created men and women to serve him everywhere. This requires us to educate our children for his service.
2. **BIBLE:** The Bible, the written Word of God, is the truth by which the Holy Spirit enlightens our understanding of God, ourselves and the world. It is the infallible authority by which he directs and governs all our activities, including the education of our children.
3. **CREATION:** We can understand the world rightly only in its relation to God, because the world, in its origin, gracious preservation and ultimate restoration is the work of the triune God, and since the glorification of his name is its purpose.
4. **HUMANITY:** We were created in the image of God to enjoy covenantal fellowship with our Creator and to reflect the excellencies of our Maker, and we were instructed to exercise dominion over the world in loving obedience to God and to interpret all reality in accordance with his design and law.
5. **SIN:** Sin is disobedience of God's law through which humankind has become estranged from God and neighbour and has brought God's curse upon the creation. As a result, we have become corrupt in heart and blind to the true meaning of life, and we repress and misuse the knowledge of God which confronts us in creation and in Scripture.
6. **JESUS CHRIST:** Through our Saviour, Jesus Christ, there is renewal of our educational enterprise because he is the Redeemer of, and the Light and the Way for, our human life in all its range and variety. Only through him and the work of his Spirit are we guided in the truth and recommitted to our original calling.
7. **THE KINGDOM OF GOD:** The Kingdom of God is God's righteous and universal reign through Jesus Christ, whose reign of grace and power makes education possible and meaningful. In obedience to Christ we submit in every area of life to his commandment to love the Lord with all our heart and mind.
8. **PURPOSE OF EDUCATION:** The purpose of Christian education is to direct and guide students to commit their hearts to Christ, to grow in understanding, wisdom and righteousness, and to serve the Lord capably in church, state, and society.
9. **PARENTS:** God has given parents the responsibility to nurture and educate their children. The Christian school is a vital mechanism of support for Christian parents as they carry this through.

10. **THE STUDENT:** Students are entrusted by God to parents and need ordering, correction and instruction. Children of Christian homes share in the promises and demands of the Gospel. Hence they ought to receive Christian Education.
11. **THE TEACHER:** Christian teachers, both in obedience to God and in cooperation with parents, have a unique pedagogical responsibility while educating the child in the school.
12. **THE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL:** The Christian School is established and controlled by a society of Christian believers in accordance with legitimate standards and provisions. It possesses the freedom to function in education in total and voluntary submission to Christ the King.

(Adapted from OACS Principal Guidelines, 1966)

Adopted by the Smithville Christian High School Board January 22, 2007