

Gaarde Christian School

Mission / Affirmation

2009/2010 School Year



Mission Statement

Gaarde Christian School (GCS) strives to create a loving, Christian environment in which children are educated at a standard of excellence above reproach.

Affirmation

1. GCS is founded on a firm commitment to God and faith in Christ. Students learn that the content of the Bible is related to all areas of human understanding. They are taught to discover the significance of His Word in their daily lives.
2. The academic emphasis is to create an excitement for learning in an atmosphere where there is a conscientious search for truth and excellence.
3. GCS is committed to the Christian faith and our world. We see our role as a Christian school, not as a shelter from the world in which we live, but as a companion with the student as he/she encounters the world.
4. GCS students are encouraged to uphold the spiritual and moral values of the Christian faith that uphold and support the family, church, and nation.
5. GCS endeavors to help each student realize his/her full potential. High standards of discipline are expected. In return, we listen and respond to each student in an attitude of love.

Sponsorship

GCS is a ministry of Faith Journey Church. As a ministry of Faith Journey Church, the Deacon board and Senior Pastor govern the school. The church sponsors the school. Faith Journey Church is a voluntary cooperative fellowship with the Assemblies of God. If anyone wishes to have a copy of the doctrinal statement, it is available in the front office.

No attempt to teach Assemblies of God doctrinal distinctives to GCS students is made. We do not require our teachers to subscribe to the beliefs of the church. We strive to maintain an inter-denominational atmosphere in the classroom and with the teaching staff.

Statement of Faith

1. We **believe** that every person is a sinner, but Jesus died and rose again to provide salvation for all who believe in Him and receive Him as their Lord and Savior (Jn. 1:1-3, Matt. 1:23, II Cor. 5:21, Jn. 2:11, Heb. 9:11-14, Col. 3:1, Matt. 16:27-28, Jn. 10:30, Jn. 3:3, Titus 3:5-8, I Jn. 2:3-6).
2. We **affirm** the deity of Christ together with God the Father and the Holy Spirit. Not three Gods, but one God, triune in nature (Matt. 3:16, Eph 4:6, Ex. 20:3).
3. We **believe** the Holy Scriptures of both the Old and New Testaments to be inspired of God and entirely trustworthy. We **affirm** the relevance of the Scriptures (The Bible) for instruction in Christian living for those of today and of all time (Heb. 4:12, I Peter 1:25, Jn. 17:17).
4. We **believe** that the Holy Spirit of God is given to each true Christian to enable one to live a life pleasing to God, increasingly so as one grows in the Lord over time (Eph. 3:17-18, Rom. 8:9).
5. We **believe** in the resurrection of both the saved and the lost; they that are saved unto the resurrection of life and they that are lost unto the resurrection of damnation (Jn. 3:36).
6. We **believe** in the spiritual unity of believers in our Lord Jesus Christ (Eph. 4:3).

Principles of Education

In addition to the preceding doctrines, we adhere to the following principles of Christian education demanded by the Word of God:

1. **GOD AND EDUCATION:** God is the one – of whom, through whom, and unto whom are all things (Romans 11:36).
2. **GOD AND MAN:** God is the one in whose image and after whose likeness mankind is made. Accordingly life must begin and end with being true to the image of God. Mankind being created in the likeness of God—must think God’s thoughts after Him; must ever will to do God’s will; and must love God because God requires it. (Gen. 1:26, I Cor. 2:16, Rom. 12:2, Lk. 10:27).
3. **MAN AND CREATION:** God has made mankind to have dominion over His creation, and therefore holds him responsible for it. He must love, sustain, and use it for the glory of God. The highest self-revelation of God in creation is mankind, made in His own image – an image in which all humanity shares. Therefore, God requires that mankind must love others as much as he loves himself. (Gen. 1:26-30).
4. **A WORLD IN SIN:** “With Adam’s fall we sinned all.” Because of sin, mankind (the pupil) by nature lives apart from God. For the image bearer of God to live apart from God is death—mankind is “dead in trespasses and sins.” Through the fall of mankind, creation (the object of school study) is “groaning” under the curse of sin (Ephesians 2:1; Romans 8:22).

5. BELIEVERS IN A SINFUL WORLD: Whosoever is in Christ is a “new creation”, but we still live in fleshly bodies as we travel the road of sanctification throughout life. Because of the conflict that exists between the old nature and the new nature, as stated in Romans 7, there exists the necessity for Christian training.
6. CHILDREN OF BELIEVERS IN A SINFUL WORLD: The fact that a child is born into a Christian home does not secure salvation. However, there are blessings to be received as children of Christian parents, one of them being given adequate knowledge of God through His word. This can be enhanced through a Christian education.
7. EDUCATION IN A SINFUL WORLD: In view of sin, all is in a state of disintegration. Education fundamentally is an integrating process, making for a God-centered life. (In and through this integrating process the students are being adjusted to their peers, to their environment, and to the times in which their lot is subjection to God what has been redeemed in and through Christ.)
8. THE HOME AND EDUCATION: God’s Word places upon Christian parents the responsibility for the type of education described above. But because in most instances parents have neither the time nor the training to do this, churches and Christian schools exist to assist parents in fulfilling this responsibility. The Christian school is thus an extension of the Christian home. This necessitates the closest cooperation between the school and the home. (Deut. 6:5-9).