

# FOUNDATIONAL PRINCIPLES

## MISSION STATEMENT

Spartanburg Christian Academy students are well-educated, equipped with a biblical worldview, and exhibit a heart for Christ.

## PHILOSOPHY OF KINGDOM EDUCATION

The primary reason for existence of Christ-like schools is to provide an education that is effective in the spiritual development of its students. Understandably, spiritual formation is a deliberate and intentional plan advanced by each believer to stimulate continuous growth throughout one's lifetime. Kingdom Education, the philosophy of Spartanburg Christian Academy, focuses on bringing the home, church and school into a partnership for the purpose of training the next generation. Kingdom Education is defined as the life-long, Bible-based, Christ-centered process of leading a child into a new identity with Christ, developing a child according to his/her specific abilities given to him or her by Christ, so that a child will be empowered to live a life characterized by love, trust and obedience to Christ.

## SCHOOL-WIDE LEARNING RESULTS

### Spiritual

Know and understand the plan of salvation and be able to effectively communicate it  
Model character that demonstrates Christ-like attitudes and traits  
Apply biblical standards in everyday life situations in academic and social life

### Social/Emotional

Demonstrate respect for God, family, authority, peers, community, and self  
Work collaboratively and cooperatively in a group  
Contribute God-given gifts and talents to serve the church, community, and school  
Proactively seek positive solutions to personal problems

### Academic

Be effective oral and written communicators  
Show confidence, poise, and discernment within diverse groups  
Be able to receive and follow directions  
Demonstrate an appreciation and knowledge of literary, historical, and biblical heritage  
Use technology as a tool for productivity, expression, research and communication  
Analyze, interpret, and evaluate significant concepts within various contexts

### Physical

Acknowledge that the body is a temple of God, thus maintaining purity in physical, mental, and spiritual practices  
Establish a healthy lifestyle through diet and exercise  
Abstain from activities that are harmful or destructive to the body

## SCA PHILOSOPHY OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Spartanburg Christian Academy is a ministry of First Baptist Church of North Spartanburg. We join with SCA parents in encouraging our students to be life-long disciples of Christ through evangelism, discipleship, giving and prayer. Our faculty and staff strive to lead each student to a personal saving relationship with Christ. The Bible is God's inerrant Word and is the basis of all instruction and the test of all truth. We promote academic excellence and critical thinking through the teaching of the basic doctrines of the Christian faith, equipping students to live godly lives in a global society. Our school teaches students to honor the body as a temple of God. As basic doctrines of the Christian faith are taught, students are challenged to apply the principles learned to daily living. As God's stewards, each student is encouraged to make wise use of time and to use material things for the glory of God.

This philosophy dictates close communication between the home and the school. If SCA is to be an extension of the home, there must be communication between the two concerning educational objectives, methods of

achieving those objectives, obligations of each party, and the need for unity and harmony between home and school. Therefore, when parents and students seek admission to SCA, it will be assumed that they are in complete accord with the objectives, methods, and obligations that accompany such continued enrollment. The lack thereof will constitute need for separation.

We believe the following *Principles of Education* to be foundational to our philosophy of Christian education:

- Prayer by parents, teachers, and students is a significant factor in affecting the lives of the students. (*Luke 11:9-10*)
- The family, the school, and the church are to be complementary in educating the student for a life of fellowship with God and of service to man. (*Deuteronomy 11:19; Psalm 78:4-5*)
- Moral standards and a value system consistent with the Bible best prepare a student for fulfilling his responsibilities as a member of our democratic society. (*1 Peter 2:13-17*)
- The teacher represents the parents during the school day, but this representation does not relieve parents of their primary responsibility for the total development of the child. (*Ephesians 6:4*)
- God has created each student with his or her unique gifts and particular developmental pattern of growth. The responsibility of the school is to be sensitive to these varied patterns of growth, design teaching strategies, and provide instructional environments that are responsive to them. (*Psalm 139:13-18*)

## **SUBJECT PHILOSOPHIES**

### **Philosophy of Art Education**

Because God is interested in beauty (Genesis 2:9), and has given men creative artistic abilities (II Chronicles 2:13-14), art education at SCA will seek to instill in the students a love for the arts that surround them, acknowledging that God created and gave us these wonderful gifts. Using biblical concepts, we will express God's creation through man's creativity (Psalm 8:3-4; 19:1-6). The students of Spartanburg Christian Academy will have knowledge of and appreciate the importance of self-expression. This self-expression is demonstrated through drawing, painting, sculpting, and special creations that portray the uniqueness of each person. Students of Spartanburg Christian Academy are encouraged to willingly use these skills for the glory of God in all facets of their church and Christian lives because ultimately, the talents we are given should be returned back to Him (Psalm 145:10).

### **Philosophy of Bible Education**

God's inerrant Word, the Bible, is the foundation of all knowledge and truth (II Peter 1:21), and is the source of our worldview (Psalm 119:105). Therefore, it must be taught in a holistic manner. The Bible curriculum will serve as the integrating cornerstone for the entire school program (Deuteronomy 6:6-8). The curriculum will emphasize the scope and sequence of God's progressively unfolding plan for redemption, basic Bible doctrines, worldviews, and apologetics. The curriculum will also afford opportunities for students to respond in faith to the salvation offered in Christ, commit to the life-changing truth of God's Word by applying it personally to life situations and issues (Psalm 119:11), and to be prepared to give a reasonable defense of the Christian faith (1 Peter 3:15).

### **Philosophy of Chapel Activities**

While a Christian education implies integration of biblical truth and of individual worship of God in every subject, a specific time to reflect on the greatness of God and to join in corporate worship of Him must also be promoted. The SCA chapel will provide opportunities for worship, service, and education in a distinct atmosphere of corporate worship (Hebrews 10:25). As a worship experience, chapel will include reading and exposition of scripture, music, and prayer, presented as an expression of gratitude and praise to God as Lord and Master (Psalm 150). As a service experience, chapel will include opportunities for students to lead and to individually express worship. The resulting worship will motivate students to reach out to others in evangelism and charity in obedience to the Great Commission (Acts 1:8). As an educational experience, chapel will deliberately present and model music, drama, public speaking, oral prayers, and service opportunities that are esthetically superior, culturally relevant, and scripturally sound (II Tim. 3:16-17).

### **Philosophy of Computer Science Education**

The philosophy of computer science education derives from the knowledge that computers are merely tools. As tools, they can be used to communicate and explore the world that God has created (Proverbs 2:3-6; I Timothy 4:4). However, we will use biblical guidelines to determine what is pure and moral in the use of this tool and strive to enable students to be computer literate in an ever-changing world of technology.

### **Philosophy of Music Education**

Because we believe that music and the ability to make music is a gift from God (Exodus 4:11), it is the goal of Spartanburg Christian Academy to develop musically literate individuals who have the ability to recognize and appreciate fine music (Isaiah 30:29). With a strong musical foundation, the students will be challenged to develop a lifelong appreciation for music and its use in worship (Psalm 150:3-5), in personal growth (Ephesians 5:19), and recreation (James 5:13). It is our desire for students to understand that using their talents in creative, worshipful expression gives glory to God (I Corinthians 10:31). Further, excellence in performance is an act of obedience to the Word of God (Colossians 3:23).

### **Philosophy of Foreign Language Education**

Foreign language education is based on the truth that man's ability to understand and speak other languages comes from God. Our great God wants us to communicate with Him and with others utilizing this ability (Luke 10:25-37). The act of learning one's language demonstrates the desire to communicate with that person in his native tongue – much as Christ met us at our own level when He came down from heaven to commune with us.

### **Philosophy of Language Arts Education**

Skill in the language arts is essential to functioning as one created in God's image (Genesis 1:27). God literally spoke the universe into existence. Historically, He revealed Himself in "the Word," Jesus Christ, (John 1:1). He inspired men to write the Scriptures (II Timothy 3:16), which include specific guidelines for communication and many styles of literature (Colossians 4:6). Presently, God persistently calls men to dialogue with Himself and each other for the purpose of instruction, edification, and enjoyment. By His mandate, SCA teachers and students pursue the mastery of all the components of language arts as expressed in our culture to the end that we might glorify Him (I Timothy 6:3-5). As students master the multi-faceted aspects of listening and reading, they are trained to examine, evaluate, and analyze all content from a scriptural point of view. As students learn to write and speak effectively in a variety of venues, they are trained to take advantage of every opportunity to be salt and light in their worlds (I Peter 3:15).

### **Philosophy of Mathematics Education**

We acquire imperfect knowledge of our physical world through our senses. Indeed, the major phenomena of our physical world, such as the earth's rotation, or electromagnetic waves, are not perceived at all by the senses. Since man's mandate to "subdue" the world certainly includes the mysteries of the unseen, unperceived world, we are obligated to learn about them through the powerful medium of mathematics. Students at SCA will learn to appreciate God's gift of mathematical principles. These principles will not only provide our students with the practical means of performing daily tasks, but will also equip them to study and understand those natural and spiritual phenomena that transcend man's perception. Our students will learn that mathematics can only be fully understood when illumined by the Word of God. The study of mathematics will provide our students with an opportunity to develop an understanding of the many attributes of Christ – truth, precision, accuracy, order, consistency and stability (Hebrews 13:8), and the student will see that God is a God of order and logic, elements of His character that are apparent in all mathematical arguments and premises (I Corinthians 14:40). Since mathematics is the study of the infinite that mimics who God is (Psalm 147:5), the student will gain an appreciation of God's omnipotence, omnipresence and omniscience. Just as the Bible says, "precept upon precept, line upon line," students will build concepts upon concepts in mathematics. SCA students will be able to use the powerful tool of mathematics to enrich their daily lives and enable them to evaluate the natural world around them in the light of God's truth.

### **Philosophy of Physical Education**

Recognizing that the body is the temple of the Holy Spirit (I Cor. 6:19), the purpose of physical education at SCA is to enable students to understand their unique God-given physical abilities and to be able to combine that knowledge socially, emotionally, mentally, and spiritually in a way that glorifies God. Through sports, physical training, and health instruction, SCA physical education seeks to develop self-discipline (I Cor. 9:24-27), respect for structure and rules (II Tim. 2:5), and an appreciation for biblical values and the Christian lifestyle in every area of living (Phil. 3:12-14). Such positive virtues as patience, perseverance, endurance, humility, courage, cleanliness, and strength are modeled, taught, and reinforced as hallmarks of PE instruction.

### **Philosophy of Science Education**

The study of science enables us to explore the divine purpose of creation (Genesis 1:1; Colossians 1:16). Teaching science from a Christian perspective involves building lessons on the foundation of God's Word. The knowledge of science helps students understand the order of the universe and how it appears (Isaiah 28:10; I Corinthians 14:40). The relationships that exist were established by God at the time of creation (Colossians 1:17). Realizing all creation has been affected by man's sin (Romans 5:12), science involves finding scientific facts and principles which are taught in the Bible and incorporating them where they are relevant (Psalm 89:11).

### **Philosophy of Social Studies Education**

The social studies curriculum of SCA is divided into four main areas – US history, global studies (including world history and geography), economics and government. The study of these four areas gives students the opportunity to see how God has established nations, countries, political leaders, and financial institutions. Our study initially begins with the Bible as God's written record of His plan for mankind (John 1:1-4, Hebrews 4:12-13, II Timothy 3:16-17). The students of SCA will recognize three main principles through their social studies classes. First, God is in sovereign control of all events – past, present, and future (Isaiah 40:21-26). Second, students will see that all nations are responsible to God and will ultimately worship Him (Phil. 2:9-11). Finally, students will learn that God is responsible for the creation, contour, and resources of the earth (Col. 1:16), and that it is our responsibility to be excellent stewards of the land and its resources (Psalm 8:3-8).

### **Philosophy of Theatre Education**

Because we believe that theatre, acting, singing and the ability to tell stories is a gift from God (Ephesians 2:10), it is the goal of Spartanburg Christian Academy to develop theatrically literate individuals who have the ability craft stories and tell stories with excellence. (James 1:17). With a strong theatrical foundation, the students will be challenged to cultivate an appreciation for theatre, and understanding of good storytelling, and to use these skills and talents in worship (I Peter 4:10-11), in personal growth (I Tim 1:6a), and recreation (Colossians 3:17). It is our desire for students to understand that using their talents in creative, worshipful expression gives glory to God (Matthew 5:14-16). Cultivating God given talent to be performed with excellence is an act of obedience to the Word of God (Colossians 3:23).

## **STATEMENT OF FAITH**

### ***We believe . . .***

- the Bible to be the inspired, only infallible, authoritative, inerrant Word of God. (*II Timothy 3:16, II Peter 1:21*)
- there is one God, eternally existent in three persons—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. (*Genesis 1:1, Matthew 28:19, John 10:30*)
- in the deity of Christ, (*John 10:33*); His virgin birth, (*Isaiah 7:14, Matthew 1:23, Luke 1:35*); His sinless life, (*Hebrews 4:15, Hebrews 7:26*); His miracles, (*John 2:11*); His vicarious and atoning death, (*I Corinthians 15:3, Ephesians 1:7, Hebrews 2:9*); His resurrection (*John 11:25, I Corinthians 15:4*); His ascension to the right hand of the Father, (*Mark 16:19*); and His personal return in power and glory. (*Acts 1:11, Revelation 19:11*)
- in the absolute necessity of regeneration by the Holy Spirit for salvation, because of the exceeding sinfulness of human nature; and men are justified on the single ground of faith in the shed blood of Christ; and only by God's grace and through faith alone are we saved. (*John 3:16-19, John 5:24, Romans 3:23, 5:8-9, Ephesians 2:8-10, Titus 3:5*)
- 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 condemnation. (*John 5:28-29*)

- in the spiritual unity of believers in our Lord Jesus Christ. (*Romans 8:9, I Corinthians 12:12-13, Galatians 3:26-28*)
- in the present ministry of the Holy Spirit by whose indwelling the Christian is enabled to live a godly life. (*Romans 8:13-14, I Corinthians 3:16, 6:19-20, Ephesians 4:30, 5:18*)

*As further distinctives of SCA, we add the following to our Statement of Faith.*

*We believe:*

- that water baptism, by immersion, (*Matthew 3:11*), is the biblical mode of baptism and testifies of the believer's faith in, and identification with, the crucified, buried and risen Savior. (*Romans 6:1-4*)
- that the Lord's Supper is an ordinance whereby believers show forth the Lord's death until He comes again. (*I Corinthians 11:23-26*)

### **FAMILY/SCHOOL COVENANT**

According to the Bible, parents are responsible for the training of their children. Spartanburg Christian Academy serves as partners with parents in providing an excellent education consistent with biblical truth. Harmony between home and school provides the best environment for godly training to take place (Deut. 6:1-7; Prov. 22:6; Eph 6:1-4). We seek to nurture development of the following essential character traits in the lives of our students. The following is the covenant that parents and students (grades 7-12) are required to sign when enrolling at SCA.

**INTEGRITY** - *\*Maintaining a lifestyle that is above reproach.* A Christian should be honest, moral, and trustworthy in all dealings (Titus 1:8; Job 27:5; Prov.11:3, 20:11; 1 Kings 9:4; Ps.15).

**RESPECT** - *\*An attitude that highly esteems those in properly placed authority.* Parents, teachers, employers, governmental authority, and church leaders have been placed in our lives by God. God gave us a biblical command to honor them for our own good (Rom. 13:1-7; Heb.13:7; 1 Peter 2:13-21; 1 Thes. 5:12-13). Students will be taught patriotism and respect for our nation and required to participate in pledges to the Christian and American flags by standing and reciting the pledges.

**OBEDIENCE** - *\*The outworking of the attitude of respect.* We are to obey God and all those He has placed over us in our lives. When we obey, we show our love and respect for God and the authorities He has ordained. Our lives then will be long and fruitful as He has promised (John 14:21; Eph. 6:1-4; Rom. 13:1-7; Prov. 6:23).

**SELF-DISCIPLINE** - *\*The ability to control one's thoughts, actions, and words.* The goal is to have a life under control—self-disciplined by the Spirit of God (Gal. 5:22-26; Job 5:17; Prov. 16:32, 25:28; 1 Tim. 4:7-8).

**GODLY LIVING** - *\*A lifestyle that exhibits the fruit of the Spirit and flees from the acts of our sinful nature.* Our standards are found in God's Word and our desire must be one with God and His holiness (Gal. 5:16-26; 2 Tim. 2:22; 1 Peter 1:13-16, 2:9-10; 1 Cor. 6:12-20; Prov. 23:29-35; Phil. 4:8; Rom. 8:6-8).

**WISDOM** - *\*Understanding what is true from God's perspective and doing what is right.* Wisdom comes from God and our respect for Him. It is developed in our lives by our proper response to correction. If we do not respond to correction with a teachable spirit, the Bible calls us fools and unable to attain wisdom (Prov. 1:7,20-33, Prov. 2:1-22; Prov. 4:7).

**RESPONSIBILITY** - *\*Being dependable and accountable in all relationships and tasks.* We are accountable to each other to love, encourage, confront, comfort, and forgive. Furthermore, initiative, intellectual integrity and excellence should be the marks of all tasks we attempt (1 Cor. 13; Matt. 18:15-17; Gal. 6:1-5; Eph. 5:29-32; Eccl. 9:10).

**THANKFULNESS** - *\*Developing an attitude of gratefulness.* We are to be thankful for everything God brings into our lives. Knowing that God's intentions for our lives are intended for "good" will help create an attitude of gratefulness for the things others do for us (Phil. 4:6-7; 1 Thes. 5:18; Col. 2:7; Eph. 5:20).

**SERVICE** - *\*A spirit of humility in focusing on the needs of others.* Christ is our example in living a life that is not self-centered but rather seeks ways to serve, not rule (Eph. 5:21; Phil. 2:3-11; James 4:6,10).



**ETERNAL VALUES** – *\*Our focus should be upward.* The key is to live each day with the realization that only what is done for eternity counts (James 4:14; Matt. 6:33; Matt. 6:19-21).

**FOR THE PARENT:** We are in support of the educational philosophy, objectives, *School Handbook*, standards of conduct and the principles of this covenant. We will cooperate with the teachers in a spirit of partnership in the training of our child(ren). If at any time during the training of our child(ren), we can no longer work together in a spirit of unity, and all reasonable avenues of communication are exhausted, we will withdraw our child(ren) from Spartanburg Christian Academy. We understand that willful disobedience by our child(ren) to these principles and guidelines may result in dismissal from Spartanburg Christian Academy.

**FOR THE STUDENT (Grades 7-12):** I desire to attend Spartanburg Christian Academy or am willing to be under the authority of my parents in submitting and deferring to their wishes concerning enrollment at Spartanburg Christian Academy. I understand that Christian teachers are in partnership with my parents. I will strive to obey them as they seek to train me according to God's Word. With the help of the Holy Spirit, I will seek to live a godly life in and out of school in order that Jesus Christ will be glorified. I understand that willful disobedience of these principles and the guidelines of the *School Handbook* may result in my dismissal from Spartanburg Christian Academy.

**FOR THE SCHOOL:** The faculty and staff of Spartanburg Christian Academy pledge by God's grace to uphold the principles of this covenant and guidelines as we together train your child(ren).

### **TRANSGENDER AND HOMOSEXUAL POLICY**

The standards of student conduct have been developed to ensure that a Christ-centered environment permeates the learning atmosphere of Spartanburg Christian Academy. In keeping with our mission statement and guiding principles, the board of directors, students, faculty, and administration alike will:

Conduct oneself in accordance within his/her God created gender as stated on the state certified birth certificate by: (a) dressing in conformance with one's biological sex and (b) using the restrooms, locker rooms, and changing facilities conforming with one's biological sex.

Spartanburg Christian Academy believes that God wonderfully and immutably creates each person male and female and these distinct, complementary genders together reflect the image and nature of God (Genesis 1:26 – 27).

The Administration reserves the right to dismiss a student who, in their judgment, does not conform either to the stated regulations of student conduct or to the expressed philosophy, mission and policies of Spartanburg Christian Academy.

Furthermore...

1. We will not admit any student who is in a same-sex relationship or allow students already enrolled to remain in attendance if they are also involved in the same type of union.
2. We will base ALL decisions for attendance, enrollment, admissions and hiring on the Biblical standard stated in God's Word regarding sexual morality.
3. We oppose effort to alter one's bodily identity to refashion it to its perceived gender identity.

### **SCA ALMA MATER**

**written by Ray Andrews, former SCA Administrator, music by Calvin Bolton**

Dear SCA, our loyalty we bring, For Christ, truth, and love within your halls do ring.  
Your children of this heritage we sing. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Like arrows true, we speed upon our way, To reach out and touch a world that's gone astray.  
Dear SCA, God's Word you taught us well. Alleluia! Alleluia!