



Christian Curriculum Distinctives

We define curriculum as the set of programs designed for the students of a particular school. This limited focus does not negate the importance of the role of the teacher, the school atmosphere, or the many subtle influences that permeate the educational process. Rather, the specified curriculum dimension permits the expression of a number of distinctive characteristics.

1. The course of studies will include a number of overtly-stated starting points that direct the students to the central message of the Scriptures. All the parts flow together into one confession: Jesus is Saviour and Lord and the child may serve Him in obedience and joy. The instruction has a purpose: nudging, encouraging, practising, convincing, and preparing the student for a competent Christian service.
2. The course of studies will promote a spiritual-emotional response that leads to a sense of wonder and amazement, culminating in "this is my Father's world, I am part of the fantastic universe, intricately made and cared for." At the same time, the student is led to experience some of the sadness of broken relationships, a longing for renewal, and a "waiting upon the Lord." The student will also come face to face with the mystery that not everything can be comprehended. The human mind is limited.
3. General criteria for selecting programs at the school are: First, the content of the course of studies is carefully selected to present a Reformed world and life view, and to develop the knowledge, skills, and attitudes necessary for competent Christian service. Second, the emphasis is on the structure and functions of created things, plants, animals and people. Third, the programs will emphasize the study of the normative (positive) development of human culture.
4. Another distinctive characteristic of Christian curriculum relates to its organization of the learning process. The students are led through five stages of learning in a way that stresses personal meaning and a holistic perception of reality. The five stages are:
 - a. Introducing the new learning to the student's experience and previous learning;
 - b. Abstracting specific learning activities for analysis, conceptualization and precision learning;
 - c. Reformulating the new knowledge, skills and understandings to verify the student's personal achievement and insight;
 - d. Leading the student to discern and to incorporate the new learning into an expanded, richer understanding of the world and purpose for living;
 - e. Teaching of skills in context of meaningful activities.



Program of Studies Goal Statements

The TBCS Program of Studies, as taught within the context of a supportive Christian classroom community, should enable each student:

1. to gain Bible knowledge, and to develop and promote a Bible based perspective for the various subjects and skills;
2. to discover, explore and develop particular knowledge, skills, and talents that God has given;
3. to mature as an image bearer of God in relation to self, others and the environment for responsible Christian citizenship;
4. to develop a deeper commitment to love and serve God in work and play;
5. to develop competency, sensitivity, and skills necessary for effective learning, thinking and communication;
6. to learn about and acquire an appreciation for the customs, habits, and beliefs of the local community, of the country, and of our faith communities, ethnic groups and cultures.

Curriculum

Believing that a child is a gift of God, all training that a child receives must be in accordance with God's Word. The school's instructional programme is designed to guide and direct each student towards Christian maturity. The curriculum is constructed in such a manner that the student in his/her school experience develops:

1. Spiritually - the responsibility to study, think, work, play and live to the glory of God.
2. Socially - as a social being, learning to live in harmony with his/her neighbour.
3. Emotionally - as a unique emotional being is taught to express his/her emotions in an appropriate manner.
4. Academically - as a citizen of this world, the student is exposed to all areas of God's creation to promote understanding of and involvement in that creation.
5. Physically - the student is taught to properly care for and develop his/her body as the temple of the Holy Spirit.

The total integration of these aspects strives to develop the full range of God-given abilities.