

## Basic Beliefs and Parental Enrollment Agreement

(This form must be read and signed by the parent(s) and will be placed in the student's file)

### CONSTITUTIONAL STATEMENT OF BASIC BELIEFS, PURPOSES, AND EDUCATIONAL PHILOSOPHY

1. The basis of our Association shall be the inspired and infallible Word of God.
2. The purpose of our Association shall be to establish and maintain educational facilities, dedicated to the proposition that all covenant children shall be instructed in the light of the Bible and the Reformed standards. A Christian emphasis shall permeate the entire curriculum and all phases of school activity.
3. The objective of our Association shall be to develop Christian citizens who will be spiritually mature and morally strong.

### STATEMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

We believe that all teaching and learning occurs within the context of fundamental views of life and society. Starting with the belief that God is the source of all truth, education becomes the exciting adventure of seeking to appropriate knowledge in all its various facets under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Christian education at South Christian High School takes for its perspective the Biblical view of God, humanity and the universe in their relationships.

From the Bible we derive the following principles which provide the framework for education at South Christian High School:

1. **GOD:** That the Triune God who has revealed Himself in the Bible and in creation is sovereign as creator and sustainer of the universe and as redeemer and sanctifier of His people. All studies in school must acknowledge God, and He must be given primary allegiance in all of life.
2. **THE BIBLE:** That the Bible is the infallible, authoritative, written Word of God, through which God enlightens our understanding of Himself, of ourselves, of our fellow human beings, and of the world. Through His Word God also directs humanity in all relationships and activities and thus guides His people in the education of their children.
3. **CREATION:** That God by the Word, that is, His Son, has created the heavens, the earth and all creatures, giving to every creature its being, shape, form and office, to serve its creator. God's children must come to learn that humanity and the entire world can be rightly understood only in relation to God who directs all things to the coming of His Kingdom and the glory of His name by His creation, restoration, and providence. We recognize that we are to be stewards of this creation, holding it in trust for our Lord.
4. **HUMAN LIFE:** That human beings are created in the image of God. All of life is in service to the God of the Scripture or to a god of human invention. For the Christian, life is an opportunity to bring praise and glory to God.
5. **SIN:** That outside of Christ, human sin is radical and pervasive. Human sin distorts our view of the true meaning and purpose of life, and it misdirects human culture, thereby bringing God's curse on creation.
6. **REDEMPTION:** That Christ, the only begotten son of God, is the Word incarnate and Lord of creation. Christ, as Redeemer, restores the relationship between God and His creation and renews human life through His Holy Spirit.
7. **THE GOSPEL:** That the gospel is the good news that salvation is the free gift of God, through faith, not by our own works. The gospel is revealed as a single Covenant of Grace, which binds together the Old and New Testaments. Although the preaching of the gospel is primarily the task of the church, the Christian school must teach these truths as well.
8. **KNOWLEDGE:** That true knowledge is made possible by knowledge of the true God and arises from the knowing activity of the human heart enlightened through the Word of God by the Holy Spirit. Thus religion plays a decisive role in the understanding of our everyday experience and of all educational activity.
9. **GOD'S KINGDOM:** That the Kingdom of God embraces all of creation, and thus it transcends all political and temporal boundaries. The ultimate purpose of our teaching and learning is to broaden and increase the scope of God's Kingdom.
10. **CALLING:** That God's people may be called to work in a broad spectrum of occupations in God's Kingdom. The calling of believers is to know God's Word and His creation, to consecrate the whole of their lives to the establishment of God's Kingdom, to love their fellow human beings, to be stewards of all that God entrusts to their care, and to transform culture, bringing it into subjection to Christ.

Based on the above mentioned principles from God's Word, we further affirm:

1. **SCHOOLS:** That the purpose of Christian schools is to educate God's children for lives of obedience in their calling in this world as image-bearers of God and thus to enable God's people to be effective servants and stewards in God's Kingdom.
2. **PARENTS:** That the primary responsibility for education rests upon parents to whom children are entrusted by God, and Christian parents should accept this responsibility in view of the covenantal relationship which God has established with believers and their children. We believe that Christian schools staffed by Christian teachers provide the most effective means for parents to carry out the responsibility for educating their children.
3. **TEACHERS:** That Christian teachers have a unique pedagogical (educational) responsibility to educate the students under their care in obedience to God.
4. **STUDENTS:** That the Christian school must recognize that each student is created in the image of God, taking into account the variety of abilities, needs and responsibilities of young persons. The school must treat all students fairly, regardless of intelligence, athletic ability, race, sex, wealth, nationality, or any other human distinction.
5. **COMMUNITY:** That because God's covenant embraces the whole Christian community and because Christian education contributes directly to the advancement of God's Kingdom, it is the obligation of the entire Christian community to support Christian education, to pray for it, to work for it, and to give generously for its support.
6. **RELATIONSHIP OF THE GOVERNMENT:** That government is an instrument of God to promote righteousness and justice and to curb evil. As such it is to be obeyed insofar as its laws do not contradict the laws of God. Although we recognize the responsibility of the government to ensure that education is provided for our children, it is the responsibility of parents to determine the nature of the education. In view of the fact that the government has taken over the regulation of education, parents and the school must continually make sure that such regulation by the government does not interfere with the Christian education of the children.

7. **RELATIONSHIP TO THE LARGER SOCIETY:** The school exists in a larger society, or community, which consists of believers and unbelievers. The school owes to that society the duty of educating its students to be responsible citizens of that society as well as of God's all-embracing Kingdom.

**PARENT OR GUARDIAN AGREEMENT**

1. I agree that I am enrolling my child in South Christian High School primarily because of my earnest desire that my child receive a Christ-centered academic training and be educated in a manner consistent with the above stated principles.
2. I understand that enrollment is subject to the governing authorities of South Christian High School who reserve the right to reject any student.
3. I agree, as a parent, to support the school in its efforts to provide education that is distinctively Christian and to uphold and maintain the fundamental unity of the school and the home.
4. I understand that I must conduct myself in a Christian manner in all of my interactions with community members and school personnel that involves any school activity. I understand that if this standard is not upheld:
  - a. the School Board has the authority to limit or forbid participation by a parent or student in any school activity.
  - b. the School Board has the authority to deny enrollment or expel the children of the offending parent.
5. I understand that South Christian High School admits students of any race, color, or national and ethnic origin to all rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students of the school. I further understand that South Christian High School does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, or national ethnic origin in the administration of educational policies and admission.
6. I agree to pay the tuition required and to support South Christian High School with our prayers and with gifts as God prospers us.

**ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP:** Status and Rights of membership (as stated in the Constitution)

Any persons 18 years of age or older are eligible for full membership if they —

1. Express sincere and firm commitment to Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior of their life.
2. Affirm agreement with the Basis, Purpose and Educational Philosophy (Creed) as stated in this Constitution.
3. If they are —
  - a. parents or guardians of students attending the Association's school, or
  - b. parents or guardians of students attending one of the feeder schools of South Christian High School, or
  - c. persons who support South Christian High School with an annual recorded contribution of not less than 1% of the tuition for that year.

Full membership includes the right to vote at the meetings of the Association and eligibility to serve on the Board of Directors and on its standing committees. Only full members in good standing are entitled to these rights. Any member may withdraw from membership in the Association by notifying the secretary of the board.

I hereby certify that I have read this form and I **affirm agreement** with the principles and conditions stated above. I furthermore accept the conditions and requirements of all other official policies and procedures of South Christian High School including the payment of all fees and charges according to the published schedule of the school. This affirmation entitles me to full membership of the South Christian High School Association.

Clearly Print Student's Name \_\_\_\_\_

(Check one) Parent  Guardian  Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

(Check one) Parent  Guardian  Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

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I hereby certify that I have read this form and I **do NOT affirm agreement** with the beliefs and principles of the Constitution as stated above. **However, I do agree** to have my child taught according to the beliefs and principles of South Christian High School as stated above. I furthermore accept the conditions and requirements of all other official policies and procedures of South Christian High School including the payment of all fees and charges according to the published schedule of the school. This affirmation does not entitle me to full membership of the South Christian High School Association, though I may be entitled to Associate membership.

Clearly Print Student's Name \_\_\_\_\_

(Check one) Parent  Guardian  Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

(Check one) Parent  Guardian  Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_