

GRANVILLE CHRISTIAN ACADEMY



2023-2024

FOUNDATIONAL DOCUMENTS

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INTRODUCTION TO FOUNDATIONAL DOCUMENTS

R6/12/2023

Granville Christian Academy is committed to the principles established in our foundational documents. While each document is unique in its purpose, these documents collectively align with one another to guide the school in accomplishing its mission. The foundational documents establish the parameters within which the school pledges to operate and the expected results of these efforts, allowing GCA to focus on its purpose and providing a means for making decisions and assessing outcomes of all programs and operations. These documents are critically reviewed by GCA's board on a regular basis and can only be changed through an official vote by the board. The content of these documents constitutes the foundation for the expectations of all board members, employees, students, and families as applicably referenced in each.

STATEMENT OF FAITH

R1/3/2023

IN ESSENTIAL BELIEFS – WE HAVE UNITY:

*“There is one Body and one Spirit...one Lord, one faith one baptism, one God and Father of all...”
Ephesians 4:4-6 NIV 1984*

- About God: We believe that God exists eternally and that He manifests Himself in three persons...God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:19; I Peter 2:2; 2 Corinthians 13:14; Psalm 90:2; Genesis 1:1, 26, 27, 3:22).
- About Jesus Christ (Son of God): We believe that Jesus Christ was born of a virgin, was crucified, buried, and rose bodily from the grave and will come again to this world to reign in righteousness (Luke 1:30-35; John 14:6; I Thessalonians 4:16-17).
- About the Holy Spirit: We believe that a person is baptized by the Holy Spirit into the Body of Christ at the time of conversion; this baptism results in a believer being filled and supernaturally empowered for service through spiritual gifts (I Corinthians 12:13; Romans 8:9-17; John 16:7-13; Ephesians 5:18; Galatians 5:25; John 14:16-17).
- About the Bible: We believe that the Bible is our supreme authority, and it is sufficient as our only rule of faith and practice. The Bible is God's Word to us. It was written by human authors under the supernatural guidance of the Holy Spirit and it is truth without any mixture of error (I Timothy 3:16; Hebrews 4:12; Revelation 22:19; Proverbs 30:5; Psalm 119:105, 160; 2 Peter 1:20-21).
- About Salvation: We believe that forgiveness of sin, salvation, and new life is made possible by the death of Jesus Christ on the cross. This salvation is by grace, through faith, and by the appropriation of the shed blood of Jesus Christ (Romans 6:23; Ephesians 2:8-9; John 14:6; John 1:12; Titus 3:5; Galatians 3:26; Romans 5:2).
- About Eternity: We believe there shall be a resurrection of the saved to eternal life and a resurrection of the unsaved to eternal punishment in hell. Because God gives us eternal life through Jesus Christ, the true believer is secure in that salvation for eternity (John 3:16; John 5:11-13; John 10:29; Romans 6:23).

IN NON-ESSENTIAL BELIEFS – WE HAVE LIBERTY:

“Accept him whose faith is weak, without passing judgment on disputable matters. Who are you to judge someone else's servant? To his own master he stands or falls...So then, each of us will give an account of himself to God. So whatever you believe about these things keep between yourself and God...” Romans 14:1, 4, 12, 22 NIV 1984

IN ALL OUR BELIEFS – WE SHOW LOVE:

“If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and I have faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing.” 1 Corinthians 13:2 NIV 1984

VISION STATEMENT

R7/1/2014

The vision of Granville Christian Academy is to prepare servant-leaders for Christ.

MISSION STATEMENT

R7/1/2014

The mission of Granville Christian Academy is to partner with Christian families and local churches by creating a Christ-centered nurturing environment with biblically based academic excellence and character development, resulting in students who are becoming Christ-like and impacting their culture through servant leadership.

PORTRAIT OF A GRADUATE

R6/12/2023

THE GCA GRADUATE IS A SERVANT LEADER WHO IS:

1. A Devoted Follower of Jesus Christ

- Engages in authentic worship and fellowship with a body of believers, has committed to a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, and actively participates in a Biblically based church. (Acts 2:42, 47)
- Regularly participates in the spiritual disciplines of prayer, Bible study, scripture memorization, worship, and service. (Ps. 119:11,105, Heb. 4:12, Rom. 12:1, 11-12)
- Experiences transformation by the pursuit of Biblical truth. (Eph. 4:13-15, 2 Cor. 3:18, Rom. 12:2)
- Committed to a life-long process of becoming Christlike, patient in affliction, willing to endure persecution for His sake, comforting others as we have been comforted, interceding for others in prayer, trusting God and His provision, all to the glory of God. (Luke 9:23, 2 Cor. 1:3-5, John 16:33, Matt. 5:11)
- Demonstrates the fruit of the Spirit. (Gal. 5:22-23)
- Knows, loves, and serves God, making Him known to others. (Heb. 9:14, 2 Pet. 3:9)
- Articulates and defends his/her Biblical worldview with an understanding of opposing worldviews. (Acts 5:42, Acts 9:20-22, 1 Pet. 3:15)

2. A Compassionate Neighbor

- Delights in and cares for God's creation. (Gen. 1:28, Gen. 2:15, Ps. 89:11)
- Seeks to understand perspectives that differ from his/her own, respecting all people as individuals created in God's image. (Prov. 18:2, Prov. 3:13-14, James 2:1-8, Gen. 1:26-27)
- Loves and prays for others as a response to God's love for us. (1 John 4:19, Matt. 22:37-40, James 5:16)
- Serves the community with a missionary mindset and heart of compassion. (Matt. 28:19, Col. 3:12, 1 Pet. 4:10-11)
- Gives generously of his/her time, talents, and finances to glorify God. (Matt. 5:16, 2 Cor. 8:1-7, 2 Cor. 9:6)

3. A Courageous Learner

- Humbly receives his/her solid foundation from scripture. (Col. 1:10, 2 Tim. 3:16, Col. 2:8)
- Vigorously pursues wisdom, knowledge, and understanding which come from God. (Prov. 2:6, Prov. 24:3-4, 2 Cor. 10:5)
- Perseveres and overcomes obstacles through the learning process. (Col. 2:6-7, Phil. 3:12, James 1:25, Phil. 4:6)
- Discovers joy in learning. (Ps. 16:11, Prov. 1:5,7)
- Develops his/her intellect to the fullest ability in order to think analytically, employ problem-solving skills and evaluate all he or she studies through the lens of God's Word. (Eph. 5:8-16, James 1:5, Prov. 18:13,15)
- Demonstrates evidence of an education equal to or exceeding state and national academic standards. (Luke 2:52)

4. Prepared for the Future

- Recognizes, develops, and utilizes God-given abilities to the fullest extent. (James 1:17, Ex. 31:2-5, Dan. 1:17)
- Demonstrates college, career, and life ready competencies while exhibiting the attitudes of gratitude and hope. (Eph. 6:13-18, 1 Thess. 5:18, Rom. 5:3-5)
- Pursues his/her unique passions, seeking to influence the culture for Christ through excellence in all endeavors. (Eph. 4:11-12, Col. 3:17)
- Understands work has dignity as an expression of the nature of God, and any work done as unto the Lord is an act of worship. (Eph. 2:10, Col. 3:23-24, Rom. 15:17)
- Works with self-motivation and diligence to heartily fulfill his/her role in the family, church, community, workplace, and world. (Rom. 12:9-18, 1 Cor. 12:4-7)

CORE VALUES

R5/4/2020

Jesus Christ: Our Center
Truth Taught: Our Foundation
Community Spirit: Our GCA Family
Partnership with Parents & Churches: Our Strength
Academic Excellence: Our Endeavor
Servant Leadership: Our Method
Exemplary Mentors: Our Faculty & Staff

Jesus Christ: OUR CENTER

Col. 1:18 He is also head of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the first-born from the dead; so that He Himself might come to have first place in everything.

We seek to bring glory to Jesus Christ in every aspect of Granville Christian Academy life.

Truth Taught: OUR FOUNDATION

John 8:32 and you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.
All truth is God's truth, and His truth is couched in a Biblical world view.

Community Spirit: OUR GCA FAMILY

Rom. 12:10 Be devoted to one another in brotherly love;
give preference to one another in honor.

We desire to experience Christian fellowship, looking out for one another in sincere love.

Partnership with Parents & Churches: OUR STRENGTH

Deut. 6:6-7 These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. 7 Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.

We commit to partnering with parents and churches in this crucial endeavor of education.

Academic Excellence: OUR ENDEAVOR

Col. 3:17 And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.

We pursue the highest attainment, and all for God's glory.

Servant Leadership: OUR METHOD

Luke 22:26 But not so with you, but let him who is the greatest among you become as the youngest, and the leader as the servant.

Board members, administration, faculty, staff, coaches, and students, follow Christ's example as servant leaders.

Exemplary Mentors: OUR FACULTY & STAFF

Phil 4:9 The things you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, practice these things; and the God of peace shall be with you.

Our prayer is for each child to be drawn to and influenced by faculty & staff who are exhibiting Christlikeness in and out of the classroom.

PHILOSOPHY OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

R3/7/2023

Granville Christian Academy desires, intends, and plans for this philosophy of Christian education to be the foundation upon which all GCA curricular, co-curricular, and extra-curricular programs and activities are built. GCA is grounded in a philosophy of education that is based on biblical truth reflected in the life and teachings of Jesus Christ. Our academic excellence is based on a Christ-centered view that all truth is God's truth, and that the Bible is the inspired, infallible, authoritative Word of God. The Word of God is to permeate all areas of the GCA experience—our curriculum, culture, relationships, extracurricular activities, attitudes—instead of simply being a separate subject taught on a purely intellectual basis. Jesus Christ is our foundation, and all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge are found in Him. We believe that God is the Creator and Sustainer of all things and that mankind's greatest need is to be in a right relationship with Him. It is from this view of the spiritual needs of the student that we approach the intellectual, social, emotional, and physical aspects of the whole child. A Christian philosophy of education requires both a proper understanding and demonstration of the nature and role of the teacher, which is to impart knowledge and to be an example, and the learner, which is to pursue and receive truth, becoming a Christ-like servant leader. We believe that God has created and designed the family as the major institution to teach children. GCA partners with families to assist them with a biblically driven education consistent with the Christian home and church.

THE PURPOSE OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

"We will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord, his power, and the wonders he has done. He decreed statutes from Jacob and established the law in Israel, which he commanded our forefathers to teach their children, so the next generation would know them, even the children yet to be born, and they in turn would tell their children. Then they would put their trust in God and would not forget his deeds but would keep His commands."

Psalms 78:4-7 NIV

We believe Christian education should be a planned and purposeful activity that leads not only to learning but also to the transforming of the student's identity into a child of God. We train children to know God and to glorify Him throughout life. We guide students to develop knowledge that leads to true wisdom, skills and godly character. We challenge and encourage students to take their proper position in creation as those who bear the image of God, living in His will (Genesis 1:26-28, Psalm 8, Ephesians 2:10).

THE CENTRALITY OF JESUS AND THE BIBLE

"For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities--all things have been created through Him and for Him. He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. He is also head of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that He Himself will come to have first place in everything."

Colossians 1:16-18 NASB

Granville Christian Academy functions on the belief that Jesus and the Bible are to be at the center of all learning and expects the student to evaluate all he or she studies through the lens of God's Word. Our philosophy is rooted in biblical truth reflected in the life and teachings of Jesus Christ, who said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life" (John 14:6) and "Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth" (John 17:17), and Who gave His life to pay for our sins because of His

great love for us (John 3:16; Romans 5:8). Based on these beliefs we intend that every aspect of academic study, spiritual formation, and all school activity is to be based upon biblical truth.

ALL TRUTH IS GOD'S TRUTH

“All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work.”
2 Timothy 3:16-17 ESV

“But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.”
2 Peter 1:20-21 NASB

Christian education recognizes no division between spiritual and secular truth. All areas of study at GCA are to be taught as part of the total truth of God and lead us to a greater understanding of God's creative power, order, providential work in man and the world, man's nature, and God's attributes. Every endeavor is to be for the glory of God, and every truth learned is from God, whether it is scientific, historical, spiritual, or other.

Woven within the truths of each area of study is God's general revelation of Himself (Psalm 19:1-2; Romans 1:19-20). God has given mankind the ability to gain knowledge through empirical observation, critical reason, intuitive insight, and scientific observation. When these truths are brought into the light of God's special revelation (the Bible), with the help of the Holy Spirit, we are able to see that all truth points to and brings glory to the Lord Jesus Christ. Ultimate truth is a Person. Our response to Him is the ultimate test of whether or not we are aligned with truth or error. God is referred to as the God of truth, Jesus spoke of Himself as the Truth, and the Holy Spirit guides us into all truth. Therefore, to be fully educated, a person must come into a living, saving relationship with Jesus Christ...

“that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation.”
Romans 10:9-10 NASB

NATURE AND ROLE OF THE CURRICULUM

“See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception, according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary principles of the world, rather than according to Christ.”
Colossians 2:8 NASB

“We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ.”
2 Corinthians 10:5 NASB

We educate not only to impart skills and information about how our world and culture work, but also to teach a worldview that includes God in everything with no divide between secular and spiritual. GCA will not teach anything or incorporate any content into the curriculum as truth that we deem to be inconsistent with our Biblical worldview. However, examples of contrasts to the truth may be used in order to teach students discernment. The goals are to help students to know God, to develop a growing relationship with Him, and to think biblically and critically about every subject.

NATURE AND ROLE OF THE EDUCATOR

“A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone when fully trained will be like his teacher.”

Luke 6:40 ESV

“In everything set them an example by doing what is good. In your teaching show integrity, seriousness and soundness of speech that cannot be condemned.”

Titus 2:7-8a NIV

Granville Christian Academy adheres to the belief that academic excellence cannot be achieved without excellence in the quality of the administration, teaching, coaching and support staff it employs. Our teachers know God, follow His direction and believe they have been called into the spiritual ministry of teaching to glorify God with passion and purpose (Ephesians 4:11-12). The teacher’s primary roles at GCA are to advance the kingdom of God as the academic leader, shepherd, servant-leader, and biblical role model.

As academic leaders, GCA educators are to teach by coming to know the students as individuals (including how they learn best), knowing the subject matter and how it should be taught, and by uniting the two for effective learning. GCA teachers, empowered by the Holy Spirit, seek to guide and nurture students through instruction, admonition and personal example. This includes challenging students to develop critical thinking skills and their unique gifts from God, as well as ensuring that all students are cherished, respected, encouraged and motivated to become all that God created them to be. All of us are made in the image of God (Genesis 1:26) but differ in how we are fashioned and gifted by Him (Isaiah 64:8). We recognize that each child has varying strengths, challenges, and speeds of development; different life experiences and perspectives; different styles of learning and expressing knowledge; and unique gifts to be discovered. Our educators seek to provide instruction that is differentiated when possible, to bring out the talents, gifts, and callings in each child for God’s glory and to the advancement of His kingdom (Proverbs 22:6).

Understanding that learning and sanctification are life-long processes, our educators are challenged to, and aspire to, committing themselves to ongoing study and the application of God’s Word, remaining active in a local church, and pursuing further knowledge within their own fields of study. In this way, our teachers exemplify the lifelong love of learning which they hope to cultivate in their students.

As **shepherds**, GCA educators are to serve the students by mentoring and discipling them, thus equipping them to follow in God’s ways. Through prayer and insight, GCA teachers seek to continually grow in their understanding of the students’ needs and the issues that impact their lives (Psalm 23).

GCA educators are to model Jesus as **servant leaders** (Luke 22:25-26) who humble themselves and sacrifice for the student’s progress and their joy in faith (Philippians 1:25, 2:3-7). As Jesus did, they are to teach with authority, endeavor to embody what they teach and to be sensitive to the individual needs of each student. Our teachers instruct, disciple, and discipline to edify, nurture, encourage, and correct the child, not to demean or dominate. GCA teachers will help each student to recognize the sinful state of his heart and point him to the grace that is freely offered in Jesus, seeking the transforming of the child’s heart, not just their behavior (Matthew 7:29; Matthew 20:28; Hebrews 12:5-6; Mark 6:34; 1 Peter 5:2-3).

As **biblical role models**, GCA educators are to reflect Christ, manifesting the glory of the Lord in their lives. The teacher-student relationship is based in Christian love and is crowned with mutual respect. GCA teachers, by the power of

the Holy Spirit, model Christ as the Apostle Paul wrote, “Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ” (1 Corinthians 11:1). Their lives should display Christ’s characteristics, visible to the disciples as He walked the earth and served as their teacher. In the classroom and in one-on-one relationship with their students, teachers seek opportunity to demonstrate the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23).

NATURE AND ROLE OF THE STUDENT

“Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.” Romans 12:2 NIV

At GCA, we view each student as a spiritual and physical being, created in the image of God (Genesis 1:27); able to think, feel, choose, and create; designed and created to reflect the God of the universe; a special creation of incredible worth, yet marred by a flawed nature because of the Fall of mankind. Each student is also regarded as a social being, standing in relation to his/her peers, having moral, intellectual, and social needs. GCA views each student as one who can experience the love, grace, and mercy of a personal, relational God, who offers redemption in Christ and restoration for all. A student’s learning experience at GCA aims to help them identify and develop their unique set of gifts and talents, propelling them toward their full potential in Christ.

GCA students should desire knowledge and wisdom and seek to attain them (Proverbs 2:1-8). Students should also strive to honor and glorify God (1 Corinthians 6:20), seeking to be properly qualified and motivated for lives of service presently and in the future (Ephesians 2:10). Students should not conform to the world, but rather be like Christ, following His footsteps in every area of life. In the classroom, students are encouraged to be active participants, honing their God-given abilities, pursuing their interests, developing their strengths, and strengthening their weaknesses as servants for Christ. They are challenged to be inquisitive and to investigate, working with others in the mission God has for His Church, and are equipped with tools for life-long learning.

PARTNERSHIP WITH PARENTS AND CHURCH

*“Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.”
Ephesians 6:4 ESV*

“And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.” Deuteronomy 6:6-7 ESV

God’s Word places the task and responsibility of educating children with the parents. Parents are to oversee each facet of training, with the goal of nurturing righteousness and faith from one generation to the next (Genesis 18:19, Proverbs 22:6).

GCA recognizes the authority of the parents and does not seek to replace them in authority, but rather to assist. We believe that a proper relationship between family, church, and school is essential to Christian education. GCA is an extension of the educational process of the home, partnering with families as they raise their children in a counter-cultural manner that honors and glorifies God and encourages a personal and growing relationship with Christ (Joshua 24:15, 1 Samuel 1:27-28). Together, parents, church, and GCA educate the complete individual resulting in godly character in action as a student becomes a disciple, impacting their families, community, work force, and world. We count it a privilege to be able to partner with parents to train children biblically, academically, morally, spiritually, and relationally.

The family, church, and school have the same goal:

“This will continue until we all come to such unity in our faith and knowledge of God’s Son that we will be mature in the Lord, measuring up to the full and complete standard of Christ. Then we will no longer be immature like children. We won’t be tossed and blown about by every wind of new teaching. We will not be influenced when people try to trick us with lies so clever they sound like the truth. Instead, we will speak the truth in love, growing in every way more and more like Christ, who is the head of his body, the church.” Ephesians 4:13-15 NLT