

# Faith and Learning Statement

by Ardene Huisman

## Philippians 2:3-7

Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.

These verses have been my favorite scripture for years and it is these verses that I try to model. I believe that God calls me to imitate Christ in all aspects of my life.

In these verses I am told not to be selfish or conceited but instead to be a servant and to be humble. In my teaching I must be a servant for God to the students, parents, and other staff members.

I must make the needs of my students my first priority. It is my desire as a classroom teacher, to figure out each student's areas of strengths and weaknesses and then find methods to help them develop to their greatest potential and use their gifts to serve God and others. This may at times be very time consuming but as a Christian teacher I feel God wants me to do my very best as long as it does not negatively affect my relationship with him or others by requiring too much time. This can be a fine line and I pray for discernment in the area of making those decisions.

I must also serve God through serving parents of the student I teach. I must have contact with them; especially the parents of those students who may have outstanding needs. I also must listen to the concerns of the parents and really evaluate them and not feel that I necessarily always have "the answer".

I believe that God also requires me to be a servant to other staff members. This is done through helping teachers on committees, respecting their opinions even if they are different from mine, encouraging them in their area of teaching, being a resource for them when possible, and by being a Christian example to them in how I live and teach.