

## MISSION STATEMENT

Orange City Christian School is a biblically-based community, partnering with parents to educate hearts and minds for service in Christ's kingdom.

### THIS WE BELIEVE - FOUNDATION STATEMENT

Orange City Christian School was established by Christian believers who subscribe to the teachings of the Bible as expressed in the Reformed confessions -- specifically the Belgic confession, the Heidelberg Catechism, and the Canons of Dordt. We believe the following Biblical teachings have direct application for the way in which schools are organized and children are educated.

**Parents.** We believe that parents have the primary responsibility to educate their children. Parents carry out part of that duty by establishing Christian schools and hiring Christian teachers who have been trained to set goals and establish curricula that will best prepare pupils to live the Christian life. Because parents and their children are part of a broader Christian community, the entire Christian community helps the parents in this task by supporting the school with their generous gifts of time, money, and prayer.

*These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Deuteronomy 6:6-7a*

*Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it. Proverbs 22:6*

*So in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. Romans 12:5*

**Children.** We believe that because each child was made in the image of God, a child's complete education requires a school which nurtures that child in understanding his or her own privilege and responsibility as a disciple of Jesus Christ.

*Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God---this is your spiritual act of worship. Romans 12:1*

*Therefore go and make disciples . . . and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. Matthew 28: 19-2*

**Marriage and Family.** We believe that God created the family as an example of His love and the structure within which to raise children. God has wonderfully and immutably created two distinct and complementary genders, male and female. Marriage is the uniting of one man and one woman in a single, exclusive union. Sexual immorality (including, but not limited to, adultery, fornication, cohabitation, homosexual behavior, bisexual conduct, bestiality, incest, and pornography use) are realities of our world even though they are not God's intention for His world or His people. We reject any teaching that encourages those practices and lifestyles as not in accordance with our beliefs or God's desires.

*So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. Genesis 1:27*

*The man said, "This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called 'woman,' for she was taken out of man." That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh. Genesis 2:23-24*

*But since sexual immorality is occurring, each man should have sexual relations with his own wife, and each woman with her own husband. The husband should fulfill his marital duty to his wife, and likewise the wife to her husband. The wife does not have authority over her own body but yields it to her husband. In the same way, the husband does not have authority over his own body but yields it to his wife. 1 Cor. 7:2-4*

*Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral. Heb. 13:4*

**Sanctity of Life.** We believe that life begins at conception. We hold that all human life is sacred and all humans are image bearers of God. Therefore we believe we are called to protect in love, from conception on, all human life physically, mentally, and emotionally.

*"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; Jeremiah 1:5a*

*"For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place, when I was woven together in the depths of the earth. Your eyes saw my unformed body; all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be." Psalm 139:13-16*

*"Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves." Romans 12:10*

**Sin.** We believe that sin distorts all knowledge and understanding of God, self, our fellow human beings, and creation itself. An effective education acknowledges our sinful disobedience, reveals the effects of that sin, and seeks to redirect thoughts and lives in obedience and service to God.

*For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. Romans 1:21*

*They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts. Ephesians 4:18*

*Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Romans 12:2a*

**God.** We believe that because God created all things and sent his Son to redeem all things, we cannot properly study this world without acknowledging Jesus Christ as the Lord of all creation and his Holy Spirit as the source of all wisdom.

*In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Genesis 1:1*

*For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son. John 3:16a*

*He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. Colossians 1:17*

*We have not received the spirit of the world but the Spirit who is from God, that we may understand what God has freely given us. I Corinthians 2:12*

**Revelation.** We believe that only God's perfect Word, the Bible, provides a reliable point of view from which we can learn to see God and His world clearly, to understand our place in His world properly, and to begin to follow His guidance faithfully in every part of our lives.

*All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. II Timothy 3: 16-17*

*The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, all who follow his precepts have good understanding. To him belongs eternal praise. Psalm 111:10*

*But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere. James 3:17*

**Covenant.** We believe that children of Christian parents are included in God's covenant with his people. Therefore, these children of God deserve an educational environment which treats them with the love, care, and respect due members of God's family.

*I will establish my covenant as an everlasting covenant between me and you and your descendants after you for the generations to come, to be your God and the God of your descendants after you. Genesis 17:7*

*The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off--for all whom the Lord our God will call. Acts 2:39*

*And he took the children in his arms, put his hands on them and blessed them. Mark 10:16*

**Kingdom.** We believe that Jesus Christ has been raised from the dead and placed at God's right hand as Lord of lords and King of kings. Therefore, all education must be dedicated to Jesus Christ as Lord and committed to training children as citizens of his everlasting kingdom.

*They will make war against the Lamb, but the Lamb will overcome them because he is Lord of lords and King of kings. Revelation 17:14*

*But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. I Peter 2:9*

*Then the end will come, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father . . . For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. I Corinthians 15:24-25*

Because of these beliefs, we seek to transform all activities and studies into an expression of biblical wisdom. True wisdom comes only through Christ, God's Son. Christians see and acknowledge the comprehensive principle for life given in Colossians 2:3 where it is said about our Lord, "In Him are all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge hidden." Therefore,

the Living Word is the integrating factor for all of our lives as we train children to walk as disciples of Jesus Christ.

### **GENERAL EDUCATIONAL GOALS**

Fulfilling the mission of Orange City Christian School is an all encompassing goal involving every aspect of school life and the entire school community. The board, as representatives of the school society, formulates and adopts policies that are reflective of the Foundation Statement and Mission Statement of the school. They also hire staff members who are equipped and called to teach in accordance with our Foundation Statement and make the school's Mission Statement a living reality in the lives of the students. The most important avenue for accomplishing this Mission Statement is through the development and implementation of our curriculum.

General educational goals are adopted in order to provide the framework by which all curricular activities are measured. Each discipline, unit, and lesson, as part of the curriculum, is developed and organized so that children may come to know God more deeply and live for him more faithfully. Therefore, as our children are nurtured through our dynamic plan for teaching and learning, we affirm the following general educational goals that have direct application for each lesson taught.

1. To teach children through modeling and direct instruction to view all of life through the "glasses" of God's Word, the Bible.
2. To provide instruction in essential skills in order to enable students to fulfill their common calling as they serve in the body of Christ.
3. To prepare students to uphold and strengthen the community of believers and to answer Christ's call to permeate all of society by working for Biblical alternatives in every part of life.
4. To teach students in a loving and joyful setting the fundamental processes of learning and the active pursuit of intellectual, spiritual, and personal development throughout their lives.
5. To uncover and develop the unique talents and abilities of children so that they can use those skills for service in all of God's creation.
6. To encourage students in partnership with the home and church to commit themselves to Jesus Christ and to a Christian way of life, and to be willing to follow God's Word and the Holy Spirit's leading so that they are committed to making a difference for Christ in the world.
7. To develop and increase in students the knowledge, understanding, and creativity that will promote a sense of wonder and awe at the beauty, variety, interrelatedness, and completeness of God's creation, even in its fallen state.
8. To enable students to discern the past, present, and future in the light of Christ's fulfillment of His Kingdom.

9. To promote a Biblical view of stewardship of time, money, and resources.
10. To develop in students an appreciation for the unity and diversity of cultures and individuals in the light of God's Word.
11. To promote an atmosphere of community in school life.
12. To develop in students a godly character reflecting the image of Christ in their thoughts, words, and deeds.

### **TIGER Traits**

- Trustworthy--truthful, honest, loyal, just, fair and impartial
- Imitators of Christ--showing kindness, sharing, caring, service and love
- Grateful--thankful to God and showing gratefulness in word and actions
- Encouragers--building others up with kind words and actions
- Respectful--acceptance for authority and respect for God and creation
- Self-controlled--having emotions, actions and words under control.

### **Board Policy 610.3 PUPILS--ELIGIBILITY**

1. That this school exists to educate primarily the children of Christian parents.
2. We believe in the importance of the school, church, and home partnership. Therefore, we require that families enrolling their children prove membership/commitment "in good standing" of a Christian church.

### **Parental Statement of Permission for Instruction at ORANGE CITY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL**

1. We, the undersigned, have read the Foundation Statement, Mission and Goals of Orange City Christian School.
2. As Christians, desiring to have our children receive a Christian education, we declare that we will not object to or interfere with the instructional program of our children. We further declare that we are willing to support the school with our prayers and consistent financial aid both in tuition payments and additional gifts as the Lord prospers us.
3. We are members in good and active standing in a Christian church.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_