



Character Values Philosophy

The Foundation of our Character Values

Our program is decidedly Christian. Everything we hope to do is rooted in the teachings in the Bible – God’s perfect Word. The Bible has the authority to dictate every facet of life because it was written by the One Who created us and designed the purpose of our lives.

(taken from our Student Handbook, pg 2)

- We believe that the Bible provides all that is pertinent to life and godliness (2 Peter 1).
- We believe that the character lessons and commands in Scripture are the “guardian” that points us to Christ and reveals our need for Him (Galatians 3:24–25).

The Goals of our Character Values

- The student will be invited to know Christ personally.
- The student will be encouraged to submit to God wholly.

We believe that lessons and guidance on character teaching and development are valuable, applicable, and appropriate for any person, regardless of their relationship to God, choice of religious faith, or affiliation. This concept is widely accepted and used by secular and religious institutions worldwide. However, our approach in teaching these character values is rooted in Scripture and provokes our students to consider Christ. While we acknowledge the angst of presenting truth to those who don’t desire genuine change, we commit ourselves to faithfully share these life-giving truths from Scripture. As Paul said in 1 Corinthians 3:6–7, “*I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth.*” We are responsible for sharing the truth, whether it is an initial planting of God’s Word or a cultivation of truth that the student has already known. Ultimately, the student has to choose to accept or reject God’s truth.

Through the course of our spiritual curriculum, we will provide ample opportunities for the student to make these truths his own. We desire for these lessons on character to be more than just moral guidance. We want each student to recognize and accept his own personal need for the Savior, Jesus Christ. If that step is taken, the character lessons further develop and encourage the student to submit his life, with all of its decisions, to God. Our use of the following listed Behavioral Targets and accompanying disciplinary system demonstrates to the student that there are consequences for his actions (both positive and negative). As we call him to this standard of living, and ultimately submission to God’s Word, we strive to provide a strong and biblical example with our own lives. We desire to provide a healthy and safe atmosphere where these truths of Scripture can be viewed and practiced.

Our Character Values

This forms the foundation for our spiritual curriculum.

■ **Respect** – CORE

Definition: To have high regard for God and the people, places, things, and ideas that He highly regards.

Reference Verse: **1 Peter 2:17**

■ **Obedience** – CORE

Definition: To listen attentively to the rules, laws, and instructions of God and his appointed authorities with the intent to joyfully do them and to not forget them.

Reference Verse: **Deut. 6:3a**

■ **Responsibility** – CORE

Definition: To fulfill the duties required by God and his appointed authorities through his empowering grace.

Reference Verse: **Eccles. 12:13**

■ **Humility**

Definition: Having a proper view of yourself resulting in the attitude of putting God and others first.

Reference Verse: **Phil. 2:3**

■ **Gratitude**

Definition: The inward feeling of kindness received and the expression of that feeling to others.

Reference Verse: **1 Thess. 5:18**

■ **Honesty**

Definition: Being truthful with God, yourself, and others through your thoughts, words, and actions.

Reference Verse: **Hebrews 13:18**

■ **Teachability**

Definition: Possessing the humility, zeal, and patience to hear, learn, comprehend, and apply truth.

Reference Verse: **Deut. 31:12b**

■ **Self-Control**

Definition: A Spirit empowered mastery of natural desires and passions.

Reference Verse: **Romans 8:13**

■ **Love**

Definition: A patient, kind, humble, selfless, forgiving, unconditional, and enduring desire to meet the needs and desires of God and man.

Reference Verse: **1 Cor. 13:4-7**

Our Behavioral Targets

This forms the foundation for our disciplinary system.

■ **Diligence in School (S)**

■ **Diligence in Work (W)**

■ **Attentiveness (A)**

■ **Edifying Behavior (EB)**

■ **Peaceful Behavior (PB) — Cardinal**

■ **Edifying Speech (ES)**

■ **Peaceful Speech (PS) — Cardinal**

■ **Gentleness (G)**

■ **Honesty (H) — Cardinal**

■ **Obedience I (O1)**

■ **Obedience II (O2) — Cardinal**

■ **Positive Attitude (PA)**

■ **Positive Influence (PI)**

■ **Prepared (P)**

■ **Respect to Authority (RA)**

■ **Respect to Others (RO)**

■ **Respect to Property (RP)**

■ **Chaste Behavior (CB) — Cardinal**

■ **Chaste Speech (CS) — Cardinal**