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# CORNERSTONE

CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

*Building Tomorrow's Leaders Today*

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## Our Philosophy of Christian Education

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**OUR MISSION:** *To work with like-minded Christian parents to educate our children with love and mercy in a godly environment that emphasizes a rigorously biblical curriculum, Christian character training, and college preparatory academics.*

Dear Friends and Parents of Prospective Students:

The philosophy of education of any school will determine its curriculum, methods, policies and decision-making practices. To that end, we encourage you to read this brief synopsis of our philosophy.

The mission of Cornerstone Christian School is to help equip parents and students to be Repairers of the Breach. We are committed to the rebuilding process Isaiah describes (Isaiah 58:12); we are committed to our Lord's Great Commission. Our goal is to raise up strong Christian leaders who will proclaim God's word to this generation and apply it faithfully to every sphere of life. We are training Christian young people to be leaders in the home and the church, in civil government, education, business, industry, science, and the arts. We want conquerors and builders who will seek God's glory in all they do.

To these ends, we teach God's word (sound doctrine) and its requirements for righteousness (character training). We presuppose at every point the truth of Scripture and its power to change men's hearts. We try to approach every subject, every issue, from a consistently biblical worldview.

**OUR VISION:** *To produce well-rounded, self-governed leaders who apply the word of God to every area of thought and life.*

Christianity is positive and works at overcoming evil by doing good, by building and doing God's work in God's way and in the power of His might.

Hence, Cornerstone has taken its name from 1 Corinthians 3:11: "For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ."

Cornerstone Christian School is poised to give hope and to answer the question of Psalm 11:3, "If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do?" We are diligently laboring to prepare a generation of students to fight back and reclaim territory that Satan has bluffed his way onto.

We are an equipping and discipling school, not an outreach school. Our primary calling is to equip the children of believers. This doesn't mean we don't value gospel outreach. In fact that's part of what we're equipping our students for. (Ask us about Project Truth, a student outreach ministry of CCS.)

We are interested in more than the acquisition of abstract facts and academic skills. The biblical model of education stresses the mastery of living in terms of God's word. We hope to teach our students the skillful application of the academics they have learned, in light of Scripture, to every situation in life. We also encourage each student to rely on God for growth in both his and her personal character and academic abilities. The end result is that the students are well prepared for their future.

### **A BRIEF HISTORY OF CCS**

Cornerstone Christian School is an independent Christian school located in Sacramento, California. The school began its ministry in Roseville,

California on September 15, 1992 with 35 students in grades first through eighth, and a staff of seven. CCS relocated to its current location on June 18, 2012. Today, we have over 230 students in preschool through twelfth grade, with a staff of thirty-two.

## **OUR CURRICULAR GOALS**

- To raise up the foundations of many generations through training and nurturing the character of our students.
- To effectively reach each student's heart and work with the home and church to produce a self-governed, vibrant, healthy, zealous, and God-fearing Christian.
- To provide our students with a Biblical worldview; that is, the requisite understanding of God's Word so that they can apply it to every area of living, particularly the vocation God calls them to.
- To develop a love of learning that comes from the mastery of a subject.
- To produce in our students the foundational skills necessary for success in life and for a leadership role in whatever calling the Lord has for them.
- To develop and implement a student outreach program, to provide training in personal evangelism and practical ministry, and to give our students the opportunity to make a positive impact in their sphere of influence.

## **OUR EDUCATIONAL DISTINCTIVES**

We believe our program is distinct in a number of important ways:

### **In What We Emphasize:**

- *The sovereignty and providence of God in history.* History isn't shaped by impersonal forces or power-elites, but by the hand of the personal God of Scripture. God makes use of individuals with all their diversity. Life has meaning and purpose, and every individual's choices are significant.

- *Biblical principles of government.* The basic human government is self-government (personal responsibility). But God's Word also establishes family, church, and state and defines and limits the power of each.
- *Biblical principles of stewardship and service.* As the biblical alternative to socialism, we teach Christian morality, self-discipline, hard work, thrift and savings, a responsible use of natural resources, private charity, voluntary cooperation, and an active involvement in God's world.
- *Biblical principles of change and growth.* God works from the internal to the external, from the human heart to the society at large. We stress sound doctrine and the importance of ideas and principles.
- *Our Christian heritage and future hope.* We in the West, and particularly in America, have a wonderfully rich heritage of Christian truth and influence. We need to draw instruction and encouragement from our past, and we need to plan optimistically for the future. We teach our students to think in terms of the long haul (generations, not decades).

### **In How We Teach:**

Of course, we teach a great many facts. This is grist for the intellectual mill. The ignorant cannot think or communicate clearly. Some things need to be memorized: phonograms, times tables, spelling words, Bible verses, and more.

However, we also teach our students *how* to think. Neither mere information nor computational skills constitutes an education. Students need to learn to read carefully and critically, to reason from idea to consequence, to question and analyze everything in terms of God's word.

We teach the essential unity of life and learning. There is more to education than "subjects" and more to man than intellect. The Christian life is an interrelated whole. Intellect and imagination must join hands in the service of God. Our students learn to see this and to express it in word and deed.

### **In What We Teach:**

Our **English** program begins with phonics, reading, and spelling and continues on to research papers and a study of the Western classics: Homer, Dante, Shakespeare, and the King James Bible.

Our **mathematics** program extends through analytical geometry and calculus.

Our **science** program culminates in mathematically oriented courses in physics and chemistry.

Our **history** program covers all of Western history and places a strong emphasis on America's Christian heritage and the godly principles that shaped her beginnings.

Our **music** program includes music theory, music appreciation, and vocal and instrumental instruction for our elementary students, orchestra for our junior high students, and choir and ensembles for our senior high students.

Our **drama** program includes an annual fall poetry recitation contest for students in Kindergarten through twelfth grades and two high school plays or musicals each year.

Our **electives** include Physical Education, Leadership Training, Choir, Praise Band, Spanish I and II, Broadcast Media, Yearbook, Art, Drama A and B, and on and off campus work experience.

## **PARTNERING WITH FAMILIES**

Since our inception, we have been committed to working with parents in the critical task of raising a godly generation. We work hard to maintain a close relationship with our students' parents.

Parents may delegate a portion of their authority to educate their children, but none of the responsibility. Therefore, as a school we cannot take on the task of doing the parenting of your children. However, we will work with you in the process of child training and support the parenting that is going on in the home. We desire to be like-minded, and have found that when we are equally yoked, we see amazing fruit in the lives of our children.

To this end, we require all CCS parents to participate, at their earliest opportunity, in the

parent education opportunities that the school offers. They include: video classes such as *Shepherding a Child's Heart*, *A Case for Kids* and our annual presentation of a Courtship and Virtue seminar.

## **CONCLUSION**

Please do not be intimidated or overwhelmed by our vision. Our school and staff are *not* made up of "spiritual giants" and perfect families. We are in pursuit of godliness, and we want only God's best. We do not expect you to have "arrived," only to be willing to travel with us as we all press toward the goals we have in Christ Jesus.

If you would like to get to know us better, please visit us during any of the special school events listed below; or schedule a classroom visit through our registrar, Kala Manley.

- Courtship & Virtue Seminar
- Poetry Recitation Finals
- High School drama presentations
- Music concerts
- Winter Preview Day
- Open House
- Field Day
- Awards Assembly
- Graduations – Kindergarten, Jr. High and Sr. High

We are looking forward to meeting you and hearing about the vision you have for your child!

For the King,

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Cornerstone Christian School admits students of any race, color, and national or ethnic origin.