

Board, Staff, and Parent Commitment to Southwest MN Christian High School

Southwest MN Christian High School recognizes that our children are image-bearers of God. We are committed to develop each student's spiritual, intellectual, emotional, social, physical, and academic potential in a caring Christian community where all activities seek to be motivated by our commitment to the Lordship of Jesus Christ. We help students learn to study the world in the light of the Bible. We strive to help students understand how each area of life fits into God's great plan and how God's will is important in all of life. Biblically based education guides children toward their commitment to serve God and neighbor in all aspects of life. In light of this, Southwest Christian welcomes families from a variety of social, cultural, and church traditions who seek to benefit from this rich educational perspective, where we challenge students to grow in knowing, loving, and serving God and others.

- I. As parents, staff, and board members, we agree that the staff of Southwest MN Christian High School will teach students from a Reformed Christian perspective.* We desire this for our students and understand that this involves biblical perspectives that are central to our educational philosophy.
- II. In that the basis of the Southwest Minnesota Christian High School is the Word of God, we affirm the following principles for Christian Education:

The Bible: That God reveals Himself by His Holy and inerrant Word, the final authority for all matters of faith and life, directing man's relationships and activities, and guiding His people in the education of their children.

Creation: That in their education, children can rightly understand the world only in relation to the Triune God who created, restores, and directs all things to the coming of His kingdom and the glory of His name. Southwest MN Christian High School has the position, contrary to the evolutionary worldview, that God created the world in 6 days, as is stated in the biblical creation account. We believe that the biblical account of the special creation of man in God's image on the 6th day rules out any teaching that man evolved from lower forms of life. While families and churches may define this in greater detail, we confess that God created the world and all that is in it.

Sin: Man is alienated by his sin from his Creator, his neighbor, and the world. Sin distorts the true meaning and purpose of life and misdirects all human activities including education.

Jesus Christ: Through our Savior, Jesus Christ, there is renewal of our reformational education because He is the Redeemer of all facets of human life. Only through Him and the work of His Spirit are we guided in the truth and recommitted to our original calling: to glorify God the Father.

Schools: The purpose of Christian schools is to educate children as image-bearers of God for a life of obedience and service to His calling in this world; that calling is to know God's Word and His creation, to consecrate the whole of human life to God, to love their fellow man, and to be stewards in their God-given tasks.

Parents: The primary responsibility for education rests upon parents to whom God entrusts children. Christian parents should accept this obligation in view of the covenantal relationship, which God established with believers and their children.

Christian Teachers: Christian teachers, both in obedience to God and in cooperation with parents, have academic and educational responsibility to children in school.

The Commitment:

1. It is understood that we are enrolling and/or supporting Southwest MN Christian High School primarily because of our earnest desire that our students receive a God-centered education.
2. It is understood that our students will be educated from a Christian perspective, consistent with the beliefs and objectives of Southwest MN Christian High School, which recognizes, with thanksgiving, that this educational perspective is shared and appreciated by Christians in many church bodies and traditions and is not limited to members of one denomination.
3. It is understood that the board, staff, and parents will support the school in its efforts to provide an education that is distinctively Christian. We will seek to uphold and maintain the fundamental unity of the Church, the school, and the home.
4. It is understood that the personal conduct of all students must conform to the standards of the school. If disagreement exists, parents have opportunity and obligation to discuss such matters with the faculty, administration, and board of trustees.

As a board member responsible to God for the supervision of Southwest, I hereby pledge and agree to use every effort to aid Southwest MN Christian High School in its endeavors and objectives and to create a Christian environment to the best of my ability, as explained in the above statements.

As staff responsible to God for the children under my supervision, I hereby pledge and agree to use every effort to aid Southwest MN Christian High School in its endeavors and objectives, and to create a Christian environment in our school to the best of my ability, as explained in the above statements.

As parents responsible to God for my children, I hereby pledge and agree to use every effort to aid Southwest MN Christian High School in its endeavors and objectives, and to create a Christian environment in our home, to the best of my ability, as explained in the above statements.

BOARD, STAFF, or PARENT SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

*The Southwest Minnesota Christian High School Constitution, Article III states: "The object and purpose of the corporation shall be to establish, conduct, and maintain a school for Christian education for instruction in accordance with the Word of God as set forth in the three forms of unity of the Reformed Churches. The three forms of unity are the Heidelberg Catechism, the Belgic Confession and the Canons of Dort."