



EDUCATIONAL PHILOSOPHY

Maryville Christian School's educational philosophy is based upon our school's mission statement. Analyzing this statement, the following are the chief components of our school's philosophy.

- Partner with Christian parents.* MCS recognizes that educating children is a biblical mandate for parents (Deuteronomy 6:4-9, Proverbs 22:6). As such we seek to be an extension of the Christian home. Christian education succeeds only when there is a true partnership between home and school. Both institutions must work in concert to produce a consistent world and life view for the students. Applications of this philosophy:
 - Clear and consistent communication is absolutely imperative between home and school.
 - Build a partnership between MCS and home based upon trust. Both sides recognize that Satan desires to create distrust and disharmony that impacts everyone in a negative way. Parents and school officials have to be willing to trust each other, eschew unwarranted suspicions, scrupulously follow the Matthew 18 principle, give one another the benefit of the doubt and forgive easily.
 - Honesty is another critical component of this relationship. Parents and school officials should be willing to speak the truth in love for the sake of the child. In addition, it is imperative that we always recognize that we are all striving toward the same goal.
- Providing (an education which is) academically excellent.* MCS recognizes that we have the responsibility as a ministry of God to provide an exemplary educational program preparing the student academically for success in higher education and adulthood. Beyond ministering to the student body, we strive to have an excellent educational program that reflects the almighty and excellent God. This program must include all of the academic disciplines while utilizing the latest forms of technology. Applications of this philosophy:
 - Teachers are degreed and certified in their respective fields.
 - Faculty members are evaluated on a regular basis to improve their effectiveness in the classroom.
 - Training opportunities for the teachers are an important priority so that they have the most current information and methodologies available.
 - MCS will undergo annual curriculum revision of specific disciplines on a rotating basis.
 - MCS maintains current curriculum guides that meet or exceed Tennessee state standards.
 - The faculty and administration employ methods of assessing students that inform them of the strengths and weaknesses of the educational program.
 - Students are expected to prioritize academics above extracurricular activities.
 - Students will acquire discipline and study habits which allow them to be successful beyond their MCS experience.
 - Students will be proficient in the use of technology for academic purposes.
 - Students will learn to adhere to strict policies of academic integrity.
- (Provide a) Biblically based education.* Recognizing that God's Word is the source of all truth, MCS is committed to having an educational program based upon the Bible. The Bible is not only a source of information in Bible class, but is also used in the other disciplines. To quote Christian educator David Hocking,

“The Christian begins with God as the creator and source of all true education. He believes that the God who made us has not left man alone in his pursuit of knowledge but in loving kindness has given to man a revelation of Himself and His plans in the person of Jesus Christ and in the Bible. All other forms of revelation (material universe, animal world, and oral communication, etc.) are inadequate and insufficient in describing the totality of God’s truth. God’s knowledge, of course, exceeds that of any man or group of men. His revelation in Jesus Christ and in the Bible is complete and final, and a lifetime of study will not plumb its depths!”

Applications of this philosophy:

- We believe the Bible is the inspired Word of God and the standard by which all knowledge is judged and taught. (II Timothy 3:16-17)
- All academic subjects are to be Biblically integrated. Curriculum guides and lesson plans should specifically integrate this component of the educational program.
- MCS strives to instill a biblical worldview in its students that results in a lifestyle driven by the eternal truths of God as revealed in the scriptures.
- MCS faculty members will be students of God’s Word so that they may effectively integrate their classes.
- Biblical principles are also applied in such areas as student conduct and interpersonal relationships.

4. *Producing students with distinctive Christian character.* Beyond the academic portion of the school, Maryville Christian School is dedicated first and foremost to the spiritual life of its students. We are committed to working with the home and the church to specifically ensure: 1.) that all of our students experience salvation through Jesus Christ, 2.) that all students develop a growing relationship with Him, 3.) that the students utilize a Christian world and life view in all aspects of their lives, and 4.) that all students live a life of godly distinction for Christ wherever they go as adults once they leave our campus. Applications of this philosophy:

- Christian education at MCS is viewed as a total education. We seek to not only nurture our students in their academic, physical and social growth, but we also foster to promote their spiritual life in Jesus Christ.
- Christian education at MCS teaches children that their world view cannot be “compartmentalized.” The entire world and all of life are in the hands of God. There is no learning or truth apart from Him. (Colossians 2:3) Hence, their Christian life is not restricted to Sundays or at church activities. Rather, the Christian faith is totally integrated into the daily lives of the students resulting in a lifestyle and consistent testimony that is “distinctively” Christian. To quote Chuck Colson:
“Christianity must be a world-view; a view of the entire world, an intellectual grid through which we can interpret everything we see or read or do. God created the world, and everything in the world relates in some way to Him.”
- All MCS faculty and staff members will be born again Christians growing in their faith and serving as role models for the students.
- MCS will, in a deliberate fashion, oversee and plan activities that will enhance the spiritual lives of the students. This includes having a spiritual life committee that meets consistently throughout the school year to keep a pulse on the spiritual life of the school. From there this committee plans activities such as chapel services, spiritual retreats, small group ministries, and service projects such as the Mercy Matters program.
- Students are expected to honor God in their daily behavior and will be held accountable to Biblical standards in the actions, words, and attitudes.

Beyond the classroom, biblical values are also promoted through extracurricular activities such as class trips and athletics.