



K-12 BIBLICAL STUDIES RATIONALE

Know God.

Love Others.

Live Purposefully.

It is our belief that our Christian educational efforts reflect the following aims:

Growth in Godly Learner Attributes: We teach virtues as a reflection of godly character. As we learn to imitate God and his character and nature and we are participating in the Kingdom that Jesus brought down to us so earth might better reflect his peace. The six attributes we aim to encourage in all students are Purposefully Disciplined, Grace-Filled Integrity, Engaged & Faithful, Hopeful & Thriving, Servant Stewardship, and Faith-Informed Discernment.



Gospel & Kingdom-Centric Truths: That ideas about love, and mercy, grace, and truth point us back to Jesus who was each of these and so much more. The message of the Gospel is the hope of the world that invites our participation in the Kingdom-building work of the Holy Spirit.

Preparation for life: There will always be a need to seek the good of our society, to function using skills, to build, to replace, to study, to preserve, to work, to do our part and contribute to the social architecture of the world.

Engagement with the real-world: That the world is, in fact, broken because of the effects of sin; like a virus, the symptoms need to be addressed but the sickness needs proper healing; we've been invited into the work of a great physician to come out from theoretical spaces in order to do real redemptive work in the world.

Discipleship and formation of identity and relationship in Christ: Who we were created to be- might we be fully alive and encourage others to truly be themselves. The role of the community is to build relationships and offer a lifespan development view of learners to grow to become more like Christ and recognize their identity in Christ. When the world may offer competing narratives, Christ reveals his truth about who we are as we have caring mentors who help refine us to be like Jesus.

Transformative learning experiences: That the basic activity of being a human is to interpret- that is to see order, laws, the fingerprints of a creator; to make sense of hiddenness and mystery, to discover, to pose questions, and to seek to know more when we may not fully have grasp of perspectives of certainty, we hang onto faith, the last hope that there is order in the enigma of the world.

Justice, Freedom, and Shalom: That the world is governed by false idols, structures, and people who represent brokenness, injustice, and oppression- and the way to freedom is to partner with those who are unable, on their own, to dismantle the powers of the world that leave us enslaved; there is a rightful King who has dismantled those structures, but the task is to equip students to be able to think about the presence of the structures and how to create a more equitable society for all. We need the rightful King to bring in real Kingdom-peace.

Holistic Formation, Wholeness, and Reconciliation: That God himself became flesh to live amongst us and has made it possible to bring people together into his multi-ethnic, multi-generational family. The seeds of healing are sown in Jesus who offered his own life so that communities impacted by the effects of sin might be able to speak about the truth that may have been suppressed and that each chain link in the belt of truth might encourage deep conversation about the pain, need for forgiveness, and journey of becoming whole again.

Lifelong faith formation and learning: Drawing from the richness of the Christian tradition and spiritually formative practices that have shaped people and communities, we invite students to take an active role to develop new rhythms and practices in their own lives, in partnership with the Spirit, to grow to be like Christ.

Reaching Back & Future focused: We are always presently preparing students for a world that we do not see, but perhaps in some way still know is out there- the world that is, is not what it ought to be. We imagine technology as something to be understood, explored ethically, and used as part of making the world a better place. What we do has implications for generations upon generations and that the present moment is what we are most responsible for because it creates new possible futures for peace and partnership in God's reconciliation and restoration.

Excerpts from Mirchandani. 2020. "Aims of K-12 Christian education." Unpublished paper.