

PHILOSOPHY OF EDUCATION

1. General Objectives

- To assist parents in providing for the spiritual, social, emotional, physical, and intellectual needs of their children (Luke 2:52)
- To provide a program of formal education to meet the needs of the children of Christian families in a manner that is relevant to the present society as well as that in which they will eventually live
- To provide this education at a moderate cost

2. Biblical Principles (Proverbs 2:1-6)

All instruction is to be permeated with God's Word (Deuteronomy 6:4-9), which is the standard for all spiritual, ethical, intellectual, and social training, as well as the guideline for a disciplined life.

Biblically-based education reflects the glory of God. His glory should be revealed through the Christian teacher who leads the student to interpret and integrate God's truth in his/her study through carefully selected materials and methods.

3. Description of the Teacher

- Committed Christian who reflects the spirit of Christ (Hebrews 13:7)
- Models Christ-like character and so demonstrates the reality of God's truth
- Academically competent
- Guides the student in the study of God's truth as revealed in His creation, His incarnate Word, and His written Word
- Incorporates teaching methods that adapt to each student's learning style (1 Thessalonians 2:11)
- Ever-learning and ever-growing in his/her academic disciplines, skills, and knowledge through personal study (2 Timothy 2:15)
- Committed to help each student incorporate God's truth into his/her life

4. Qualities of Instruction

- Integration of biblical principles into all academic disciplines and into all relationships (2 Timothy 3:16)
- Correlation of theoretical knowledge to fundamental life experiences (Proverbs 14:18)
- Acquisition of information through available resources, with training in critical analysis based on biblical principles (Proverbs 18:15)
- Cultivation of interest in and appreciation of vocations associated with his/her academic strengths, so the student may be better able to implement God's plan for his/her present and future ministry (2 Timothy 1:6)

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

It must be kept in mind that the child is a whole being rather than several parts; therefore, his/her spiritual, emotional, social, physical, and intellectual needs must be considered in the formulation of goals, objectives, and curriculum. The goal of ECA is to help each student meet the following objectives in the five major areas listed:

1. Spiritual (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

- Realize that God is active in all aspects of life (Isaiah 42:1-5)
- Realize he/she is a sinner in need of grace and forgiveness (Romans 3:23)

- Encounter Jesus Christ in a personal way as Savior and Lord (John 20:28-29)
 - Acknowledge that God is not only a loving Father concerned with all aspects of his/her life, but also that God's holiness requires his/her reverence and awe (1 Peter 1:15-16)
 - Believe the Bible is the Word of God and is divinely inspired, without error in the original manuscripts, and authoritative in matters of fact, faith, and practice (2 Timothy 3:16)
 - Gain biblical knowledge that will support spiritual experience and allow for spiritual growth (2 Timothy 2:15)
 - Apply biblical knowledge to life experiences (1 Timothy 4:11-16)
 - Realize the lost condition of people without Jesus Christ, and be involved in opportunities to share God's love because of faith in Jesus Christ (Matthew 9:36-38)
2. Emotional (Psalm 100:3)
 - Have a biblical basis for a realistic self-image that includes recognition and acceptance of weaknesses as well as strengths
 - Develop the capacity to give and receive love
 - Recognize, understand, and express emotions in appropriate ways
 - Develop the ability to choose proper responses, and to demonstrate the fruit of the Spirit in life situations
 3. Social (Romans 12:10)
 - Accept who he/she is in Christ Jesus as a basis for relating to other people
 - Choose attitudes and standards of behavior that promote kindness and sensitivity toward others and reflect moral integrity
 - Appreciate and respect Colombia, as well as the country(ies) of his/her cultural origin
 4. Physical (Romans 12:1)
 - Accept his/her physical self as he/she has been created
 - Understand and care for his/her body as the temple of the Holy Spirit
 - Develop his/her physical potential and skills
 - Enjoy a wide range of sports and physical activities
 5. Intellectual (Deuteronomy 6:4-6)
 - Develop intellectual curiosity
 - Primarily, develop the communication skills of listening, reading with understanding, speaking, and writing in English
 - Also, develop the communication skills of listening, reading with understanding, speaking, and writing in Spanish
 - Master basic math computation skills
 - Search for truth in an atmosphere of encouragement and acceptance
 - Identify God-given abilities and develop them
 - Participate in activities that will prepare him/her to live a godly life in a changing world
 - Develop the ability to think critically by interacting with appropriate information and solve problems

(Revised, December 2008)