

EVERGREEN CHRISTIAN SCHOOL
21336 Evergreen Mills Road
Leesburg, VA 20175

GOVERNING PRINCIPLES

The board of directors (“Board”) of Evergreen Christian School (“School”) has adopted the following governing principles to guide the Board in the development and opening of the School, the hiring of School employees, attracting parents and families for enrollment in the School, expanding the Board, and developing the School’s curriculum and extracurricular activities and programs. Further, these principles are meant to be a constant guide and source of direction for all School employees. Finally, these principles are meant to inform all who inquire about the School, consider admission, and are admitted to the School. May God always be glorified in the School and the greater community of Loudoun County, Virginia.

Mission

Evergreen Christian School partners with Christian families to provide an academically rigorous high school education, fully committed to the application of God’s Word to all aspects of teaching, learning, and living with the goal of preparing leaders who will impact the world for Christ.

Vision

Answering the call to raise up the next generation of faithful Christian leaders, Evergreen Christian School endeavors to ground students in the wisdom of God’s Word, teaching them to integrate the biblical worldview into all aspects of life and study. Our program seeks to develop an authentic faith in Christ, where graduates are equipped with the tools to discern right from wrong and truth from falsity, challenged to think redemptively about the most pressing issues of our day, and inspired to live courageously for Christ wherever He calls them to serve.

Core Values & Objectives

To carry out this mission and vision, teachers and administrators will work together to advance the following values and objectives. A fuller delineation of our institutional values and objectives can be found in the Evergreen Christian School *Curriculum Guide*.

As a Christian School, we seek to partner with Christian parents.

Evergreen Christian School affirms the historic Protestant understanding that the education of children is a responsibility that properly belongs to the sphere of the family, and not to the church or to the state (Deuteronomy 6:4-9). As a covenant-model school seeking to educate the children of Christian parents, our goal is that the home, the school, and the church will be in consonant agreement regarding the truth and authority of Holy Scripture and

the person and work of our Lord Jesus Christ, and thus able to consistently speak the same truth into the lives of our children. As the school partners with parents, it is important that there be a unity of purpose and a shared agreement regarding the authority of the Bible as the foundation for all teaching, learning, and living. A community of like-minded individuals is indispensable to the achievement of this purpose (Psalm 133:1; 1 Corinthians 5:1-13).

As a Christian school, we seek to produce godly leaders.

Evergreen Christian School is a community of believers in Jesus Christ who desire to raise their children in the historic Christian faith, to *“bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord”* (Ephesians 6:4); prepare them *“to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you”* (1 Peter 3:15); enable them *“to contend for the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints”* (Jude 3); lead them to *“be doers of the word, and not hearers only”* (James 1:22-25), rightly applying His word to every area of their life (2 Timothy 2:15); show them what it means *“to act justly and to love mercy”* (Micah 6:8), especially when engaging with our broken world; and inspire them to *“serve the Lord with gladness”* (Psalm 100:2). By God’s grace, through his word and Spirit, Evergreen seeks to transform students by the renewing of their minds after the image of him who created them. We desire to bring into conscious subjection to God what has been redeemed in and through Christ. Our goal at Evergreen is to see God’s image manifested in each of our students so that they walk humbly with God in their minds, love mercy in their hearts, and act justly in their lives. We are committed to preparing Christian leaders who will excel in all areas of work, academia, governance, business, culture, and the arts, standing out as models of excellence (Daniel 1:17-20), being a light and witness for truth, and demonstrating to others that only in Christ is life truly ordered and whole.

Essential to this task is instilling courage, which is the ability to live the truth of God’s Word uncompromisingly in a compromising age (Joshua 1:7). As an academic institution committed to spiritual development, Evergreen purposes to instill, by God’s grace through the power of the Holy Spirit, the courage of character in its students to the end that they may live according to the teaching and example of Jesus Christ and the truth of Holy Scripture. Christ is the One *“in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge”* (Colossians 2:3). Unchanging truth, properly apprehended, leads to a focused and stable character. When the affections are ever turning and ever changing, lasting character is elusive, and personality is ultimately unstable. But as students gaze upon the Lord, they are increasingly transformed into his likeness: *“And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord’s glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit”* (2 Corinthians 3:18).

As a Christian school, we seek to pass-on an authentic and living faith.

Evergreen Christian School seeks to help our students claim their family’s Christian heritage as their own. Authentic faith occurs only when students individually come to terms with the Gospel message and the teaching of Scripture for themselves. Rather than telling students what to think or believe, we teach them how to think – equipping them with the skills to evaluate what the Bible teaches and how it relates to them personally. The end goal is not simply students who know what they believe, but ones who are able to articulate it to others, clearly and winsomely, defending it when challenged, and living it out daily. An authentic faith fuels an active and living faith, one that is focused on learning more about the faith, digging deeper into God’s word, and cultivating a growing love and commitment to Christ.

To do this effectively, we must surround our students with people who are models of authenticity (2 Timothy 1:5), so that our students can *“follow the example of their faith”* (Hebrews 13:7). We provide a community of teachers and school leaders who, in all things, show themselves *“to be an example of good deeds, with purity in doctrine, dignified, sound in speech, which is beyond reproach, so that the opponent will be put to shame, having nothing bad to say about us”* (Titus 2:7-8). Our faculty and staff share a commitment to the Guiding Principles of the school and are actively involved in a local church. They are women and men who love Jesus and are dedicated to living out their faith not simply *“in word or talk but in deed and in truth”* (1 John 3:18).

As a Christian school, we seek to promulgate Christian scholarship.

Evergreen Christian school does not limit biblical discussion to Christian Studies classes. Christian education is designed to integrate the Bible into every facet of the curriculum. We seek to uphold and impart truth, which is first and foremost the Word of God, written and Incarnate (Psalm 119:160; John 14:6). As an academic institution committed to intellectual formation and the biblical truth that *“the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom”* (Psalm 111:10), Evergreen purposes to impart to its students, by God’s grace through the power of the Holy Spirit, the biblical truth concerning God, themselves, and the world in which they live. In God’s world everything has meaning and purpose because everything belongs to Him: *“the world is mine and all that is in it”* (Psalm 50:12). All truth is God’s truth. Any time something is held up in class as true and worthy of belief, be it Math, History, Science, or Literature, we ask students how it fits with the Christian worldview and biblical teaching. The Christian scholar is one who thinks Christianly about whatever they study.

Raising Christian scholars means preparing students to become men and women of public influence. For far too long the Christian worldview has been shut out of the college campus and intellectual discourse. Evergreen seeks to reverse this trend by preparing students who will take their faith with them to college, and ultimately wherever God calls them to serve. When doing the work of science, the Christian does not leave her worldview out of the discussion. When reading literature, the Christian can see the underlying philosophical presuppositions that the author is conveying through the text. When studying history, the Christian clearly understands how worldview and ideology influence society and world events. Christian scholars conduct research, formulate answers, write, and speak, all from a Christian worldview perspective.

At the front of every classroom stands a teacher that is not only a content expert, but a Christian who will integrate Biblical principles into lessons and bring the Christian worldview to bear on the topic of discussion. This means that Math, Science, History and Literature will all be approached from a Christian perspective. Our students will be trained to think “Christianly,” evaluating all ideas in the light of Scripture. We understand that the Bible is not a math or science textbook and that there is much truth outside of it to be discovered. But no truth claim, or philosophical assumptions can be contrary to what Scripture teaches. We take seriously the biblical admonition to *“destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised up against the knowledge of God . . . (2 Cor. 10:5).”*

As a Christian School, we seek to provide a rigorous academic program.

Christian education is not simply spiritually and morally better, but it is academically better. As Christians we are told to *“excel in everything – in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in all earnestness, and in our love . . .”* (2 Cor. 8:7). Christian educators understand this to mean that in addition to teaching God’s word, we are called to provide academic excellence, preparing our students to grow in wisdom and understanding of all truth. This means that Evergreen Christian School holds our students to high academic standards, equipping them with the tools and skills needed to excel in all knowledge. Because every idea being held up as the object of belief is being evaluated in light of God’s word, Christian education necessarily comes with an analytical focus that adds a level of rigor that better prepares students intellectually. Our program is designed to cultivate and engage the students’ higher order thinking skills, where they interrogate texts, dissect arguments, analyze, and critique, compare and contrast, and ultimately construct a defense for what they believe.

Academic rigor does not mean striving to make our program hard or overloading students with excessive amounts of work. A rigorous academic program challenges students personally by getting them to think deeply and creatively, to evaluate assumptions and biases, to wrestle with difficult subjects and issues, to engage in active discussion with their peers, parents, and pastors, and to evaluate primary source readings from both proponents and opponents of Christian faith. Part of preparing the next generation of Christian leaders demands a liberal arts curriculum, where all classes are taught at an advanced level of instruction. Such a program does not sacrifice intellectual tradition, the Western canon, literary historical depth, and erudition on the altar of diversity and inclusion. Instead, it believes that exposing students to classic literature and great thinkers stretches their capabilities, exercises their imaginations, and accelerates their academic growth.

As a Christian school, we seek to push cultural engagement.

Evergreen Christian School seeks to prepare our students to engage with culture as transformational agents of change. Such a commitment does not mean Christians stand opposed to everything about society. As theologian **Aaron J. Kuecker** says, “Society is not so much totally godless...as God-unaware.” In Acts 17, Paul engaged *respectfully* with the Athenians by pointing out elements of truth within their own culture, even quoting a pagan author to do so. However, he also *respectfully* confronted their culture, pointing out where it was fallen and drawing attention to the truth of Christ. While we are to be respectful of other cultures, striving to “*live peaceably with all*” (Romans 12:18), not all culture is to be embraced or celebrated. When culture conflicts with truth, it must be brought under the scrutiny of God’s Word and transformed for his glory. When culture aligns with truth, it must be brought under the authority of God’s Word and understood within its proper context.

We do not shelter our students from culture or shy away from the questions and issues facing our world today. Instead, we lead our students to critically evaluate non-Christian sources and cultural trends, teaching them to look to God’s word in directing them how to respond as “*the salt of the earth*” and “*the light of the world*” (Matthew 5:13-14). We understand that though we are “*not of this world,*” our Savior specifically sends his followers out “*into the world*” (John 17:14-19); to “*take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them*” (Ephesians 5:11); to be “*a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth*” (Acts 13:47); to counter “*every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God*” (2 Corinthians 10:5); to “*speak the truth with his neighbor*” (Ephesians 4:25); to “*render in your gates judgments that are true and make for peace*” (Zechariah 8:16); and to “*do good; seek justice, correct oppression; bring justice to the fatherless, plead the widow’s cause*” (Isaiah 1:17).

As a Christian School, we seek to provoke compassionate service.

Evergreen Christian Schools seeks to inspire service, which is the imitation of Christ, who came “*not to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many*” (Matthew 20:28). Evergreen purposes to encourage its students, by God’s grace through the power of the Holy Spirit, toward an intentional and obedient life of service to their families, classmates, the Church of Jesus Christ, and society. Christian service means letting “*your light shine before others that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven*” (Matthew 5:16); serving “*one another humbly in love*” and loving “*your neighbor as yourself*” (Galatians 5:13-14); carrying “*each other’s burdens*” (Galatians 6:2); being “*kind to the poor*” (Proverbs 19:17); and providing “*help to the weak*” (Acts 20:35); Because we bear God’s image, our service to God extends to every part of our life. “*Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show it by his good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom*” (James 3:13). **John Milton** said that “the end of all learning is to know God, and out of that knowledge to love and imitate Him.” To see God aright makes it impossible not to love Him. Such love binds all the affections of the heart and creates in us the desire to be like Christ. As our character is molded in conformity to Jesus Christ, it will find expression not in mere sentiment but in fruitful service to God, our neighbors, and even those who persecute us.

Theological Statements

The following statements of our common faith, while sufficient, are not meant to be exhaustive concerning the extent of our belief and practice. The Bible itself, as the inspired and infallible Word of God that speaks with final authority concerning truth, morality, and the proper conduct of all individuals, is the sole and final source of all that we think, say, and do. For purposes of clarity in understanding the School’s statement of faith, policies, procedures, and practice, the Head of School represents and speaks for the Board as the final interpretive authority on the Bible’s meaning and application to the School’s students, staff, parents, and families with regard to the School’s statement of faith, policies, procedures, and practice. At least one parent of any family seeking enrollment at the School should be a Christian who regularly attends a local church. The parents of students attending the School should have a clear understanding of the biblical philosophy and purpose of the School. This

understanding includes an express willingness to have their child exposed to the clear, consistent teaching of the School's Statement of Faith within the School's program.

All members of the School's Board of Directors, faculty and staff must be in express agreement with the School's Statement of Faith. As a covenant model school, at least one parent must be a professing Christian in full agreement with each of the following statements.

Statement of Faith

We joyfully affirm, as members of Jesus Christ's body, the truth of God's self-revelation that is found in the 39 books of the Old Testament and the 27 books of the New Testament. We receive the Bible as the only inspired, sufficient, certain, authoritative, and infallible rule of all saving knowledge, faith, and obedience (2 Timothy 3:15-17). The Bible is the ultimate rule and authority for the School's faith, teaching, and practice. We believe that salvation from sin is the gift of God, by grace through faith in Jesus, not a result of works (Ephesians 2:8-9; Titus 3:5). Because a love of truth leads to a love of its expression, the School affirms the historic statements of the Christian faith as found in the Apostles' and Nicene Creeds.

The Apostles' Creed

"I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sits on the right hand of God, the Father Almighty; from there He shall come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic [universal] church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen."

The Nicene Creed

"I believe in one God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds. God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; Who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary, and was made man, and crucified for us under Pontius Pilate; He suffered and was buried, and the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures, and ascended into heaven, and sits on the right hand of the Father; And He shall come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead; Whose kingdom shall have no end.

"And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified; who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy catholic [universal] and apostolic church; I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen."

Statement on the Sanctity of Human Life

We believe that all human life is sacred and created by God in his image. Human life is of inestimable worth in all its dimensions, including pre-born babies, the aged, the physically or mentally challenged, and every other stage or condition from conception through natural death. We are therefore called to defend, protect, and value all human life (Psalm 139:13-16).

Statement on Conduct

We believe that every person must be afforded compassion, love, kindness, respect, and dignity because each of us bears the image of God (Mark 12:28-31; Luke 6:31). All Christians should demonstrate this in our thoughts, speech, and behavior. Demeaning speech and humor has no place in the Christian community. Hateful and harassing behavior or attitudes directed toward any individual are to be repudiated and are not in accord with

Scripture or the principles of the School. That does not change what Scripture declares as right or wrong behavior, however, nor does it alter the fact that conduct in violation of God's standards carries with it consequences.

We believe that in order to preserve the religious mission, religious message, function, and integrity of the School as a Christian institution, and to provide a biblical role model to the community of believers in Jesus Christ and the greater community at large, it is imperative that all persons employed by the School in any capacity, or who serve as volunteers, agree to and abide by these governing principles (Matthew 5:16; Philippians 2:14-16; 1Thessalonians 5:22).

We believe that Christian morality must always find its source in the character and pronouncements of God as revealed in His authoritative Word. The Bible dictates appropriate standards both for belief and conduct. To believe in one's individual desires as the locus of authority and self-definition is contrary to Holy Scripture. We believe that God condemns those things that will bring his human creatures harm. The Bible condemns all forms of sin because our Creator knows what is best for us. The Bible names sins specifically so that each of us will recognize our sinfulness and look to Jesus for salvation and the forgiveness of sins. Love requires telling the truth.

Statement on Gender

We believe that God wonderfully and immutably creates each person as male or female (Psalm 139:14). God has designed each person in His image, purposefully with the biological gender with which he or she was born. These two distinct, complementary genders together reflect the image and nature of God (Genesis 1:26-27; 5:1-3; 9:6; 1 Corinthians 11:7; James 3:9; cf. Romans 8:29; 2 Corinthians 3:18; Ephesians 4:23-24; Colossians 3:10). The rejection of one's biological sex is a rejection of the wisdom of God in creating, and the intent of God in placing, the image of God within that particular gender and person. Recognizing our sex, as male or female, as a gift from God, dictates that conduct designed to redefine the unique, purposeful, God-ordained gender assigned by God to each person violates the Bible and cannot be supported or affirmed by our ministry (Genesis 1:26; Deuteronomy 22:5; John 1:3, Jeremiah 1:4-5; Psalm 139:13-16). Similarly, efforts to adopt an outward identity contrary to a person's gender or attempts to change via medical intervention one's given biological birth sex in favor of the identity of the opposite sex or of an indeterminate identity are similarly viewed by us as contrary to the Bible.

Statement on Marriage

As the creator and author of marriage, God alone has the authority to define it. We therefore believe that the term "marriage" has only one meaning: the uniting of one man and one woman in a single, exclusive union (Genesis 2:18-25). Marriage was created for companionship: "It is not good that the man should be alone" (Genesis 2:18); for unity: "Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh" (Genesis 2:24); and for procreation: "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth" (Genesis 1:28).

We believe that marriage is the union of one man and one woman in an exclusive, monogamous, covenantal union, as declared in the Bible (Genesis 2:18-25; Mark 10:7-8; Ephesians 5:31; 1 Corinthians 7:2; Leviticus 18:22; Leviticus 20:13; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11; Romans 1:26-28; Malachi 2:14-16).

In Scripture, monogamous heterosexual marriage bears a significance which goes beyond the regulation of sexual behavior, the bearing and raising of children, the formation of families, and the recognition of certain economic and legal rights, all of which are important. Marriage between a man and a woman is emphatically declared in Scripture to create a "one flesh" union (Genesis 2:23-24; Matthew 19:5), which in turn signifies the mystery of the union between Jesus Christ and his body, the Church (Ephesians 5:22-33). Thus, we believe that God designed the heterosexual union between a male and a female as husband and wife respectively to reflect the complementary relationship between Jesus and his Church, and this is the model for biblically moral and healthy human sexual relationships (Mark 10:7-8; Ephesians 5:25; Jeremiah 29:23; 1 Corinthians 7:2; Malachi 2:14-16). This means that the foundational understanding of marriage is a covenant grounded in promises

between a man and a woman which finds its divinely intended expression in the “one flesh” union of husband and wife, and between the “one flesh” union of husband and wife and God (1 Corinthians 6:18; 7:2-5; Hebrews 13:4; cf. Proverbs 2:16-17; Malachi 2:14; Ephesians 5:31-32).

Statement on Sexuality

The Scriptures have much to say about sexual behavior, from the beautiful affirmations of the Song of Songs to the clear prohibitions found throughout the Bible (e.g., Romans 13:13-14; 1 Corinthians 5:1-2; 6:9-10, 15-18; Galatians 5:16-21; 1 Thessalonians 4:3-8). The Apostle Paul affirms that among believers that “there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality” (Ephesians 5:3, NIV). We believe that sexual intimacy is only appropriate within the context of a lifelong commitment in a faithful, monogamous, heterosexual marriage between one male and one female, regardless of how society or others seek to define marriage (1 Corinthians 7:2; Hebrews 13:4; Romans 1:26-28; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11, 15). Homosexual behavior is specifically pronounced as violating biblical morality standards in both the Old Testament and the New Testament (Genesis 19:4-11 [cf. 2 Peter 2:6-7; Jude 1:7]; Leviticus 18:22; 20:13; Judges 19:22-25; Romans 1:24-27; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11; 1 Timothy 1:8-11).

As a result, we believe that any form of sexual immorality, including but not limited to sexual intimacy outside of the biblical definition of marriage, which would further include but not be limited to premarital sexual intimacy, adultery, homosexuality, or bisexual conduct, conflicts with scriptural standards for sexuality and purity and, therefore, in accordance with Scripture, is contrary to God’s will (Exodus 20:13; Deuteronomy 5:17; Ephesians 5:31; Romans 1:26- 28; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11; Leviticus 18:22; Leviticus 20:13; Galatians 5:19).

All of human existence, including our sexuality, has been deeply damaged by the Fall into sin (Genesis 3; Romans 3:23; 5:12; 8:22-23). We are all sinners, broken in some measure by this Fall. Everything from our environment to our bodily genetic code has been ravaged by sin and the Fall. Whether the homosexual attractions people experience are the product of their environment, their genetics, or another source, they are not what God intends and so do not render homosexual behavior legitimate.

While we believe that any form of sexual immorality (including adultery, fornication, homosexual behavior, bisexual conduct, and use of pornography) is sinful and offensive to God (Matthew 15:19; Romans 1:26-27; 1 Corinthians 6:9-10, 18-20), we also believe that the gospel is full of grace and truth. It is an offer of grace and forgiveness to sinners as a call to live a holy life. It empowers us in the struggle to resist sin, including the sin of homosexual practice (Romans 1:16; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11; Ephesians 4:20-24; 1 Thessalonians 4:3-8; Titus 2:11-13). Temptation, including sexual attraction, is not sin. Sin is yielding to temptation. Jesus himself was tempted, yet without sin (Matthew 4:1-11; Hebrews 4:15).

We believe that God offers redemption and restoration to all who confess and forsake their sin, seeking his mercy and forgiveness through Jesus Christ (Acts 3:19-21; Romans 10:9-10; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11).

Governing principles of Evergreen Christian School as of April 8, 2023. Subject to change by the Board.