

## THE MISSION

Equipping students to be leaders through an exceptional education within a culture emphasizing Christ-like love, peacemaking, and service.

## PURPOSE

Quakertown Christian School is in existence to provide a sound academic education, integrated with a Christian view of God and the world in a setting characterized by Christian love and concern. The parents of the attending students want their children to be educated at home, church, and school with awareness of the truth of God's Word and its application to life, and that Jesus Christ is central to all knowledge. Jesus said, "I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life". This school strives to teach that claim and the ultimate purpose for man -- to follow and glorify Jesus Christ.

## STATEMENT OF FAITH

We believe in the full inspiration, authority, and inerrancy of the Bible.

We believe in God as Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

We believe in the Father: That He is the ordainer, creator and ruler of all that is.

We believe in Jesus: that He was virgin conceived and born, that He is fully God and fully man, that He is sinless, that He voluntarily died for our sins, that He was physically raised from the dead and that He is presently at God's right hand interceding for believers.

We believe in the Holy Spirit: that He is fully God and that He is in the world convicting people of sin, providing new life to those who believe in the gospel, and giving gifts, guidance and power to believers for life and ministry.

We believe in the sinfulness of all human beings.

We believe in the forgiveness of sin only by God's grace through faith in Jesus Christ.

We believe in faith that is displayed in the daily walk of life and is characterized by love, peace and nonresistance.

We believe in the church as the community of those who have been forgiven in Christ and which is separate from the world.

We believe in the soon return of Jesus Christ to establish His kingdom and rule upon the earth.

## VISION STATEMENT

Equipping students to impact their world for Jesus.

## VALUES

### Jesus Christ

The model and teachings of Jesus are the foundation on which our ministry is built. Jesus, at work in individual lives and in all our relationships, ceates a cultue of grace, hope, and love evidenced by peacemaking and service.

**Each Child**

We believe each child is created in the image of God, gifted with unique talents and abilities; we offer them a safe place to explore those gifts. By helping them to understand their value in Jesus Christ, we encourage them to use their gifts and abilities to uniquely further God's Kingdom work, both here and around the world.

**Excellence**

We provide a Biblically-integrated education with a curriculum that includes academics, arts, and athletics, as well as character building and conflict mediation. We expect and encourage everyone within our school community to always do their very best.

**Servant-Leadership**

We develop leaders who follow Christ's example of serving others first by providing opportunities for students to come alongside other students in mentoring programs community outreach, and missions trips. These experiences strengthen our capacity for humility, empathy, and compassion while also nurturing confidence and awareness.

**Accessibility**

It is our intention that any family who values Christian education should not be excluded from our school due to financial or physical limitations. Additionally, we recognize the importance of communication between teachers, students, parents, faculty, administration, and the Board. Communication happens through weekly newsletters, class emails, parent-teacher conferences, town meetings, and various other methods.

**PHILOSOPHY OF EDUCATION**

We believe that God's unconditional love is a major theme of the Christian faith story. To manifest this love and restore a fallen creation, God became human, entering the world as an infant. As an adult, Jesus rejected temporal power and chose instead a life of servant leadership. He defied social barriers and labels of discrimination by eating with outcasts and embracing sinners. He radically changed the status of children by presenting them as "the greatest in the kingdom of heaven" and encouraging adults to learn from them. In his life, death, and resurrection, Jesus demonstrated the redemptive, transforming power of love.

We believe that the Church is a voluntary alternative community of believers who have responded in repentance and faith to God's love. We seek to be faithful followers of Jesus in all aspects of life. We are called to live together in mutual love and respect, cherishing the worth of each individual. Children are "safe in the care of God," to be lovingly and non-coercively nurtured and made ready by the faith community for a personal, voluntary commitment to Jesus and the Church. We believe that the Church has a responsibility to teach believers what it means to follow Jesus.

Mennonite schools have been established to fill a servant role by assisting congregations and families in this ministry. Effective discipleship requires strong communities of learning in which the faith is embodied and fulfilled through the ways our children and young people are educated.

Educators in Mennonite schools use life experiences and sound educational principles, old and new, that are in harmony with Scriptures. These principles establish that humans are born with a need to make sense of the world and to communicate with others. All of life is a classroom; persons learn in and out of school and throughout their lives. The uniquely human abilities to acquire a language, to pose and solve problems, and to imagine and create, are God-given gifts. Before starting school, children have already accomplished enormously complex tasks such as motor, social, and language skills. Young children's accomplishments reveal that learning is natural, social, constructive, purposeful, experimental, creative, and playful. All learning and human performance are, in varying degrees, physical, mental, social and spiritual. Separation of mind from heart or from body, dividing "intellectual" from "non-intellectual," is false and misleading. All talents and knowledge required for living purposefully as God's people are to be valued equally.

The classroom is a community of learners whose varied gifts and needs are best nurtured through active participation and collaboration. Each teacher and student's prior knowledge, experience, and interests become resources available to the whole group. Overemphasis on competition and comparison of persons should be avoided. Participatory learning, peer tutoring, and cooperative group activities provide opportunities for students to learn from each other as well as from the teacher and to learn the value of differences. Students and teachers alike benefit from use of the storytelling and questioning methods of Jesus, the Master Teacher. In an atmosphere of trust and mutual respect, learners explore problems and questions, select from a wide range of resources, learn new concepts and skills, and are permitted to take risks, to try new ideas, and to make mistakes. Students are thus prepared for life and service in an information age which requires competence in using available resources in team problem-solving and decision-making with women and men of differing backgrounds, experiences, and skills.

Our Western society and its emphasis on facts and reasoning can lead to an arrogant view of the world as an object to be manipulated, leading to disrespect for life and its many mysteries, an abuse of power and a misapplication of knowledge. In Mennonite schools, faith and learning are inseparable. In these settings, learners accumulate and use information, facts, and theories to reason, pose and explore problems. This leads to reflection on how knowledge fits God's purposes for the world, along with the need for personal transformation in order to accomplish God's purposes. The motivation to learn and the ultimate goal of education are found in Jesus who offered himself and his life to those who wished to know the Truth. Education is thus far more than just preparation for job skills that satisfy the needs of production, consumption, and technology. When faith and learning are unified, persons are called to an ethic of care and love whereby they seek truth, find their identity in God's story of humanity, develop interest in maintaining God's creation, and grow in love of God and each other.

Educators are expected to affirm God's unconditional love which transforms the knowledge they teach, the methods they use to teach, and their relationships with the students they teach. They model discipleship, speak confidently yet humbly about their faith, and value each student's spiritual journey. Finally, they promote responsible discipleship, peacemaking, and service in a global society.

Mennonite schools are privileged to be in a supportive relationship with families, congregations, and conferences. This relationship is essential to the life of the school and will be strengthened as

individuals from these various settings dialogue together in an ongoing search for a harmonious integration of faith, learning, and life.

*Reaffirmed by the Quakertown Christian School Board of Directors, July 2015*

*Approved by the boards of Christopher Dock Mennonite High School, Penn View Christian School, and Quakertown Christian School, November 2007*

## **Statement of Faith**

We believe in the full inspiration and authority of the Bible.

We believe in God as Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

We believe in the Father: That He is the ordainer, creator and ruler of all that is.

We believe in Jesus: that He was virgin conceived and born, that He is fully God and fully man, that He is sinless, that He voluntarily died for our sins, that He was physically raised from the dead and that He is presently at God's right hand interceding for believers.

We believe in the Holy Spirit: that He is fully God and that He is in the world convicting people of sin, providing new life to those who believe in the gospel, and giving gifts, guidance and power to believers for life and ministry.

We believe in the sinfulness of all human beings.

We believe in the forgiveness of sin only by God's grace through faith in Jesus Christ.

We believe in faith that is displayed in the daily walk of life and is characterized by love, peace and nonresistance.

We believe in the church as the community of those who have been forgiven in Christ and which is separate from the world.

We believe in the soon return of Jesus Christ to establish His kingdom and rule upon the earth.

**I agree with the Statement of Faith as printed above.**

**Signature** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date** \_\_\_\_\_