

# FOUNDATIONAL PRINCIPLES

## MISSION STATEMENT

Spartanburg Christian Academy students are well-educated, equipped with a biblical worldview, and exhibit a heart for Christ.

## PHILOSOPHY OF KINGDOM EDUCATION

The primary reason for existence of Christ-like schools is to provide an education that is effective in the spiritual development of its students. Understandably, spiritual formation is a deliberate and intentional plan advanced by each believer to stimulate continuous growth throughout one's lifetime. Kingdom Education, the philosophy of Spartanburg Christian Academy, focuses on bringing the home, church and school into a partnership for the purpose of training the next generation. Kingdom Education is defined as the life-long, Bible-based, Christ-centered process of leading a child into a new identity with Christ, developing a child according to his/her specific abilities given to him or her by Christ, so that a child will be empowered to live a life characterized by love, trust and obedience to Christ.

## SCA PHILOSOPHY OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Spartanburg Christian Academy is a ministry of First Baptist Church of North Spartanburg. We join with SCA parents in encouraging our students to be life-long disciples of Christ through evangelism, discipleship, giving and prayer. Our faculty and staff strive to lead each student to a personal saving relationship with Christ. The Bible is God's inerrant Word and is the basis of all instruction and the test of all truth. We promote academic excellence and critical thinking through the teaching of the basic doctrines of the Christian faith, equipping students to live godly lives in a global society. Our school teaches students to honor the body as the temple of God. As basic doctrines of the Christian faith are taught, students are challenged to apply the principles learned to daily living. As God's stewards, each student is encouraged to make wise use of time and to use material things for the glory of God.

This philosophy dictates close communication between the home and the school. If SCA is to be an extension of the home, there must be communication between the two concerning educational objectives, methods of achieving those objectives, obligations of each party, and the need for unity and harmony between home and school. Therefore, when parents and students seek admission to SCA, it will be assumed that they are in complete accord with the objectives, methods, and obligations that accompany such continued enrollment. The lack thereof will constitute need for separation.

We believe the following *Principles of Education* to be foundational to our philosophy of Christian education:

- Prayer by parents, teachers, and students is a significant factor in affecting the lives of the students. (*Luke 11:9-10*)
- The family, the school, and the church are to be complementary in educating the student for a life of fellowship with God and of service to man. (*Deuteronomy 11:19; Psalm 78:4-5*)
- Moral standards and a value system consistent with the Bible best prepare a student for fulfilling his responsibilities as a member of our democratic society. (*1 Peter 2:13-17*)
- The teacher represents the parents during the school day, but this representation does not relieve parents of their primary responsibility for the total development of the child. (*Ephesians 6:4*)
- God has created each student with his or her unique gifts and particular developmental pattern of growth. The responsibility of the school is to be sensitive to these varied patterns of growth, design teaching strategies, and provide instructional environments that are responsive to them. (*Psalm 139:13-18*)

## STATEMENT OF FAITH

### *We believe . . .*

- the Bible to be the inspired, only infallible, authoritative, inerrant Word of God. (*II Timothy 3:16, II Peter 1:21*)
- there is one God, eternally existent in three persons—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. (*Genesis 1:1, Matthew 28:19, John 10:30*)
- in the deity of Christ, (*John 10:33*); His virgin birth, (*Isaiah 7:14, Matthew 1:23, Luke 1:35*); His sinless life, (*Hebrews 4:15, Hebrews 7:26*); His miracles, (*John 2:11*); His vicarious and atoning death, (*I Corinthians 15:3, Ephesians 1:7, Hebrews 2:9*); His resurrection (*John 11:25, I Corinthians 15:4*); His ascension to the right hand of the Father, (*Mark 16:19*); and His personal return in power and glory. (*Acts 1:11, Revelation 19:11*)
- in the absolute necessity of regeneration by the Holy Spirit for salvation, because of the exceeding sinfulness of human nature; and men are justified on the single ground of faith in the shed blood of Christ; and only by God's grace and through faith alone are we saved. (*John 3:16-19, John 5:24, Romans 3:23, 5:8-9, Ephesians 2:8-10, Titus 3:5*)
- in the resurrection of both the saved and the lost; they that are saved unto the resurrection of life and they that are lost unto the resurrection of condemnation. (*John 5:28-29*)
- in the spiritual unity of believers in our Lord Jesus Christ. (*Romans 8:9, I Corinthians 12:12-13, Galatians 3:26-28*)
- in the present ministry of the Holy Spirit by whose indwelling the Christian is enabled to live a godly life. (*Romans 8:13-14, I Corinthians 3:16, 6:19-20, Ephesians 4:30, 5:18*)

*As further distinctives of SCA, we add the following to our Statement of Faith.*

### *We believe:*

- that water baptism, by immersion, (*Matthew 3:11*), is the biblical mode of baptism and testifies of the believer's faith in, and identification with, the crucified, buried and risen Savior. (*Romans 6:1-4*)
- that the Lord's Supper is an ordinance whereby believers show forth the Lord's death until He comes again. (*I Corinthians 11:23-26*)

## FAMILY/SCHOOL COVENANT

According to the Bible, parents are responsible for the training of their children. Spartanburg Christian Academy serves as partners with parents in providing an excellent education consistent with biblical truth. Harmony between home and school provides the best environment for godly training to take place (*Deut. 6:1-7; Prov. 22:6; Eph 6:1-4*). We seek to nurture development of the following essential character traits in the lives of our students. The following is the covenant that parents and students (grades 7-12) are required to sign when enrolling at SCA.

**INTEGRITY** - *\*Maintaining a lifestyle that is above reproach.* A Christian should be honest, moral, and trustworthy in all dealings (*Titus 1:8; Job 27:5; Prov.11:3, 20:11; 1 Kings 9:4; Ps.15*).

**RESPECT** - *\*An attitude that highly esteems those in properly placed authority.* Parents, teachers, employers, governmental authority, and church leaders have been placed in our lives by God. God gave us a biblical command to honor them for our own good (*Rom. 13:1-7; Heb.13:7; 1 Peter 2:13-21; 1 Thes. 5:12-13*). Students will be taught patriotism and respect for our nation and required to participate in pledges to the Christian and American flags by standing and reciting the pledges.

**OBEDIENCE** - *\*The outworking of the attitude of respect.* We are to obey God and all those He has placed over us in our lives. When we obey, we show our love and respect for God and the authorities He has ordained. Our lives then will be long and fruitful as He has promised (*John 14:21; Eph. 6:1-4; Rom. 13:1-7; Prov. 6:23*).

**SELF-DISCIPLINE** - *\*The ability to control one's thoughts, actions, and words.* The goal is to have a life under control—self-disciplined by the Spirit of God (*Gal. 5:22-26; Job 5:17; Prov. 16:32, 25:28; 1 Tim. 4:7-8*).

**GODLY LIVING** - *\*A lifestyle that exhibits the fruit of the Spirit and flees from the acts of our sinful nature.* Our standards are found in God’s Word and our desire must be one with God and His holiness (Gal. 5:16-26; 2 Tim. 2:22; 1 Peter 1:13-16, 2:9-10; 1 Cor. 6:12-20; Prov. 23:29-35; Phil. 4:8; Rom. 8:6-8).

**WISDOM** - *\*Understanding what is true from God’s perspective and doing what is right.* Wisdom comes from God and our respect for Him. It is developed in our lives by our proper response to correction. If we do not respond to correction with a teachable spirit, the Bible calls us fools and unable to attain wisdom (Prov. 1:7, 20-33, Prov. 2:1-22; Prov. 4:7).

**RESPONSIBILITY** - *\*Being dependable and accountable in all relationships and tasks.* We are accountable to each other to love, encourage, confront, comfort, and forgive. Furthermore, initiative, intellectual integrity and excellence should be the marks of all tasks we attempt (1 Cor. 13; Matt. 18:15-17; Gal. 6:1-5; Eph. 5:29-32; Eccl. 9:10).

**THANKFULNESS** - *\*Developing an attitude of gratefulness.* We are to be thankful for everything God brings into our lives. Knowing that God’s intentions for our lives are intended for “good” will help create an attitude of gratefulness for the things others do for us (Phil. 4:6-7; 1 Thes. 5:18; Col. 2:7; Eph. 5:20).

**SERVICE** - *\*A spirit of humility in focusing on the needs of others.* Christ is our example in living a life that is not self-centered but rather seeks ways to serve, not rule (Eph. 5:21; Phil. 2:3-11; James 4:6,10).

**ETERNAL VALUES** – *\*Our focus should be upward.* The key is to live each day with the realization that only what is done for eternity counts (James 4:14; Matt. 6:33; Matt. 6:19-21).

***FOR THE PARENT:*** We are in support of the educational philosophy, objectives, *School Handbook*, standards of conduct and the principles of this covenant. We will cooperate with the teachers in a spirit of partnership in the training of our child(ren). If at any time during the training of our child(ren), we can no longer work together in a spirit of unity, and all reasonable avenues of communication are exhausted, we will withdraw our child(ren) from Spartanburg Christian Academy. We understand that willful disobedience by our child(ren) to these principles and guidelines may result in dismissal from Spartanburg Christian Academy.

***FOR THE STUDENT (Grades 7-12):*** I desire to attend Spartanburg Christian Academy or am willing to be under the authority of my parents in submitting and deferring to their wishes concerning enrollment at Spartanburg Christian Academy. I understand that Christian teachers are in partnership with my parents. I will strive to obey them as they seek to train me according to God’s Word. With the help of the Holy Spirit, I will seek to live a godly life in and out of school in order that Jesus Christ will be glorified. I understand that willful disobedience of these principles and the guidelines of the *School Handbook* may result in my dismissal from Spartanburg Christian Academy.

***FOR THE SCHOOL:*** The faculty and staff of Spartanburg Christian Academy pledge by God’s grace to uphold the principles of this covenant and guidelines as we together train your child(ren).

## **TRANSGENDER AND HOMOSEXUAL POLICY**

The standards of student conduct have been developed to ensure that a Christ-centered environment permeates the learning atmosphere of Spartanburg Christian Academy. In keeping with our mission statement and guiding principles, the board of directors, students, faculty, and administration alike will:

Conduct oneself in accordance within his/her God created gender as stated on the state certified birth certificate by: (a) dressing in conformance with one’s biological sex or (b) using the restrooms, locker rooms, and changing facilities conforming with one’s biological sex.

Spartanburg Christian Academy believes that God wonderfully and immutably creates each person male and female and these distinct, complementary genders together reflect the image and nature of God (Genesis 1:26 – 27).

The Administration reserves the right to dismiss a student who, in their judgment, does not conform either to the stated regulations of student conduct or to the expressed philosophy, mission and policies of Spartanburg Christian Academy.

Furthermore...

1. We will not admit any student who is in a same-sex relationship or allow students already enrolled to remain in attendance if they are also involved in the same type of union.
2. We will base ALL decisions for attendance, enrollment, admissions and hiring on the Biblical standard stated in God's Word regarding sexual morality.
3. We oppose effort to alter one's bodily identity to refashion it to its perceived gender identity.

### **SCA ALMA MATER**

**written by Ray Andrews, former SCA Administrator**

**music by Calvin Bolton**

Dear SCA, our loyalty we bring, For Christ, truth, and love within your halls do ring.  
Your children of this heritage we sing. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Like arrows true, we speed upon our way, To reach out and touch a world that's gone astray.  
Dear SCA, God's Word you taught us well. Alleluia! Alleluia!