

The Academic Philosophy of Ascension Christian School

There are so many influences that have routinely shaped the evolution of American education through history. The list includes the changing American culture, the political landscape, and the demands of the work environment. Even more than any of the aforementioned influences, Technology has single-handedly caused a literal revolution in the American education system. It can be said that technology demands change in education, faster, than any other influence in history.

In light of the demands of technological advances, societal changes, federal regulations, and the opinions of various education factions, the continuous changes in education often confuse the basic concepts. Therefore, it is imperative that a statement of clarification be issued on the approach to education at Ascension Christian Schools.

Generally, the basic focus of all education is to prepare a student for right-living and to positively influence and contribute to the improvement of society. In the context of educators, education continuously builds on general knowledge progressing toward a more specialized body of knowledge, all in an effort to develop skilled thinking. At Ascension Christian School the overall scope of education can be seen as similar but the processes and motivation are quite different.

Teaching students about God is the first priority at Ascension Christian Schools. The basic concept of learning is to gain knowledge. Proverbs 1:7 states, "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge." The basic concept from which teaching begins at Ascension Christian Schools is to understand that we live in a fallen world that is filled with sin and desperate for Jesus. Students learn about God, creation, and the salvation of Jesus Christ as a foundation for living and a framework by which everything else functions. The overriding goal is to have a student understand God's plan for his life as defined by his God-given gifts and talents and interests. Education takes shape over the course of years where God's world is revealed through a comprehensive approach to teaching and learning about His world. The educational process at Ascension Christian School is managed by Christian educators who understand God's world and our place in it. The heart of the student is a priority while the education of the student is relational, relevant, and rigorous framed within the confines of four basic areas as defined and required by the state of Louisiana; Math, English, Social Studies, and Science.

In the United States, the approach to teaching and learning has been as varied as the number of schools. The newest advance from the U.S. Department of Education is to create unity in teaching and learning where every school follows the same standards. The approach being adopted across the U.S. is called, "Common Core." Louisiana has adopted these reformed standards, and they are being implemented in stages in all public schools. As for non-public schools in Louisiana, there is no demand to comply with the new standards.

Truth be known, the basis of the “Common Core” is nothing more than an attempt to have teachers of the four, core subject areas (Math, English, Social Studies, and Science) to use a collaborative approach to teaching, learning, and thinking. Collaboration among teachers is a proven strategy that delivers a more effective learning environment. Project-based Learning is another proven method of advanced level learning and thinking. All across America teachers are beginning to work together to strengthen the learning experience in the classroom. S.T.E.M. Schools (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) are some of the more advanced education centers that provide high quality, advanced concepts of the Common Core-having students doing and experiencing academic content rather than just reading and writing about it.

At Ascension Christian Schools the goal is to be a leader in academic excellence. As a non-public school, Ascension Christian is required by the state to work within a logistical framework, but the concepts of teaching and learning are managed by the school’s leadership. Therefore, the school has adopted the Daggett System Model of Educational Excellence as a guide to teaching and learning. This model of excellence has proven successful in schools across the country. The basic concept of the Daggett Model is student-centered. Teaching and learning are focused on addressing the learning needs of every student. The Daggett Model coupled with the priority to be a Christ-centered environment, strengthens our system to educational excellence where every student has the opportunity to become the person God has intended for him to be.

Considering the demand for improving the American education system, the leadership of Ascension Christian Schools will remain informed of the national data to assure a continued focus on educational excellence. However, the foundation from which the schools operate will always be on the word of God which is the foundation for living and learning.