



September 2016



Neutral Curriculum

Dear Parents

Students are highly influenced by today's culture of relative morality. The curriculum void created by a series of Supreme Court rulings in the 1950s that removed the use of the Bible from public schools has been replaced with the teaching of concepts like key virtues and ethical norms, which are more concerned about political correctness than teaching moral absolutes.

So, what is "neutral curriculum?" I will start by telling you it is something we do NOT teach at

Prince! The prevalence of neutral curriculum in our nation's schools has increased exponentially over the past 60 years in response to the rapid alterations to American society's moral fabric. The explosion of affordable micro-technology (SMART phones in particular), has promoted pluralism within American youth on a scale not before seen due to the ability of content to bypass previous moral gatekeepers such as parents, teachers, and churches. The vast majority of public education systems have responded to cultural pluralism by embracing neutral curriculum, which is in a constant state of change in response to societal

norms brought to bear by external influences that include federal and state departments of education, local public school boards, textbook publishers' agendas, and student demographic migratory patterns, to name just a few.

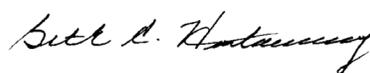
While American youths' sustained, long-term exposure to the fluctuating and confusing standards of relative morality (and thus neutral curriculum) remain uncertain, what is clear is the growing chasm between the unchanging biblical standards regarding moral and ethical conduct and society's secular "norms." As a result, Christians are now, more than ever, being perceived as intolerant, out of touch with reality, and yes, even vilified in the secular media based upon their belief in biblical principles that have stood the test of time for millennia.

Unbridled and unchecked by Christian education leaders, neutral curriculum can introduce external influences that have the ability to create a chaotic, unstable environment which sends conflicting messages to students and teachers alike. It is incumbent upon Christian educators to encourage students to reason and think critically from a biblical worldview, and to resist accepting society's dominant materialistic, self-centered values. This is not to say Christian educators should shelter students from neutral curriculum; on the contrary, a critical component to a holistic biblical world-

view is understanding and knowing how to respond to secular society's positions on moral and ethical issues that oppose biblical mandates, and yes, even other religious faith groups whose teachings directly contradict those of Jesus Christ. In such cases Christian educators must intelligently articulate, both in a passionate and compassionate manner, their opposing position as directed by Colossians 4: 5-6 which states, "Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone."

As a school it is not enough that we partner with you to ensure your student is educated in a "safe" Christ-centered environment. We must also guide your student into the taxonomy of critical thinking and nurture their ability for discernment. Together, as family and school, we must remain steadfast in our efforts to carefully sow and cultivate the seeds of our Christian faith with a strategic focus and understanding that with God's blessing, our students will lead to a life of service to God and those around them. Thank you for your continued investment in Christian education.

With warm regards and in His service,



Col Seth Hathaway
Head of School