

Principle Based Learning Organization Founding Document

*“The consequence of truth is great; therefore the judgment of it must not be negligent.”
-Charlotte Mason*

Mission Statement

Our task as parents is great! ... Great in challenge and great in opportunity.

Why?

Challenge- because whatever we teach must be based in truth; and searching out and living truth takes vigilance of mind with consistent and honest evaluation.

Opportunity- because children raised in truth change the world for good and our current world has never been in greater need of strong and valiant leaders who live in and for the truth.

By making our priority to educate ourselves and our children in truth, we become instruments of positive change.

- Carol Webster

Principles

1. God is the first and best source of truth. We seek His counsel through scriptures, prayer and inspiration.
2. Different ages, stages and individuals have different needs. As parents we see our children as individuals² and accept where they are and honor and strengthen who they are. We lift and support them through the TJEd principle of “inspire not require”.^{3,4}
3. We teach what we are and we are what we teach. Since actions speak louder than words we strive to pursue our own excellent education at all levels. (TJEd “You not them”)
4. Underpinning all teaching (good or bad) is our moral foundation. (what TJEd calls “core”.) We conscientiously nurture good habits (CM “education is a discipline and 7 Habits⁵). As we follow this principle ourselves (or don’t) our children will do the same.
5. Home and family are the first and most influential place of learning. (CM “education is an atmosphere”, MM “community of learners”) We strengthen home and family when we encourage a spirit of kindness, cooperation, and respect in all relationships: adult to child, child to child, parent to child, sibling to sibling, adult to adult etc. 6
6. A main purpose for our time on earth is to learn. Therefore, conflicts, questions, struggles and mistakes are opportunities to teach and learn. When we remember and apply this principle we grow together and can maintain a learning atmosphere. (CM “Education is an atmosphere”)
7. All people are born with a desire to learn. Charlotte Mason explains that “knowledge is to the mind what food is to the body”. We avoid “junk knowledge” as we would “junk food”. We strive to use the best sources from the best minds to feed ourselves (see principle 1. above.) TJEd calls these sources “classics” (also the principle of “Simplicity, not complexity”) and Charlotte Mason calls them “living books and ideas”. We also study the art of mentoring (being a master teacher). These principles help to raise a generation of great thinkers and leaders.

¹ core, love of learning, scholar etc. per *A Thomas Jefferson Education* (TJEd) is a book by Oliver and Rachel DeMille. Also *Leadership Education: The Phases of Learning*

² “Children are born persons” principle by Charlotte Mason (CM) who was an educator in the late 1800’s-early 1900’s in England. She wrote a 7 volume work on education

³ Corresponds with the “Respect for individual differences” principle by Maria Montessori (MM) who was an Italian educator contemporary with CM. “Montessori” schools are based in her ideas.

⁴ Also the “flexibility” principle by John Holt who researched “how children learn” and wrote a book by that title along with many others.

⁵ Steven Covey is the author many books like *The Seven Habits of Highly Effective Individuals*

⁶ “Honor children so they can honor you” principle by Becky Bailey who wrote, among other book, *Easy to Love, Difficult to Discipline: The 7 Basic Skills for Turning conflict into Cooperation*.