

## The Significance of a Christian Education

We believe that providing an education for children is a responsibility that God has given to the parents of children. It is not a task that is given to government or any agency of government. Parents will be held accountable for the nature of the school experience provided for their children. As parents make decisions about schooling, it is necessary to understand the positive, lasting significance of a Christian education.

Enrollment in a Christian school cannot be a substitute for substantial parental involvement. Although schools are mostly responsible for whether or not students achieve academic success, the parents' support of the school's goals is crucial in determining whether or not students will *thrive* in school. The Christian school's role is to come alongside parents and partner with them to enhance the learning experiences of their child.

Deuteronomy 11:18-19 states, "Therefore, you shall lay up these words of mine in your heart and in your soul...You shall teach them to your children, speaking of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up." God expects Christian parents to plant and cultivate His Word in the hearts and minds of their children. This is best accomplished in settings where home, church, and school all send the same message, teaching God's truth with clarity, conviction, and consistency.

At SRCA, we firmly believe that in addition to educating the mind, it is of equal importance to educate the soul and spirit of a child. We must ask the question, "What is the purpose of a Christian school?" We believe that a school's supreme purpose should be to train children to understand the absolute truths about life, the world, and their purpose. The curriculum of public education cannot guide students through the deeper questions of life, and it cannot use the Word of God as its standard of truth. Government programs are created to mirror the philosophic thinking of secular world views.

Christian schools, on the other hand, seek to teach students absolute truths that equip them to recognize the authority of Christ in all subject areas of learning, respond to His truth and calling on their lives, and to be transforming influences in their society. Our mission to educate students to honor God's word above the ever changing influences of their culture.

Christian schools shape *both* the child's mind and heart. Using God's Word as the heart of the curriculum, we strive to teach not only academics, but also to educate the emotions, actions, and ultimately, the character of a child, as well.

Furthermore, because of smaller class sizes, Christian schools can offer more individualized attention and foster a stronger relationship between students and teachers. Therefore, teachers are better equipped to build rapport with students, determine students' learning styles, more accurately accelerate and remediate instruction as necessary, and hold them accountable for reaching their highest potential.

As we work together to help your child achieve success, our goal is to continually be an extension of your family and merge the traditional values that are taught both at home and school.