



Educational Philosophy

Burge Terrace Christian School (BTCS) and Learning Readiness Center (LRC) is a ministry offered to the community under the auspices of Burge Terrace Baptist Church. The doctrinal position of the school is identical to that of the church as expressed in the *Burge Terrace Baptist Church Constitution and By-Laws*. BTCS is traditional in its classroom organization, fundamental in its doctrinal position, conservative in its educational philosophy, and consistent in its stand for kind, but firmly reinforced discipline policies. Sound mathematics principles and applications, traditional English grammar, a phonetic approach to learning reading skills, a Creation-oriented science program featuring discovery learning, a biblical worldview interpretation of history emphasizing hands-on discovery, weekly chapel program, and well-disciplined culture and fine arts program combine to make up a curriculum which is uniquely able to give students a complete and thorough education.

It is the belief of Burge Terrace Christian School and Learning Readiness Center that the “fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom” (Psalm 111:10), and that the “fear of the Lord is to hate evil: pride, arrogancy, and the evil way and the froward mouth” (Proverbs 8:13).

The educational program and methods of instruction at BTCS/LRC are dependent upon a biblical philosophy to provide the general background truth, principles, and viewpoint for interpreting the facts encountered in the study of any subject. We believe that the foundational concepts of a Christian education are these:

- God is the Creator and Sustainer of all things, the Source of all things, the Source of all truth.
- God maintains control over His entire universe.
- Because of sin, man tends to omit God. He fails to relate himself to God, and he fails to relate his knowledge to God, Who is the Source of all wisdom.
- Regeneration comes by faith in Jesus Christ. True meaning and values can be ascertained only in the light of His person, purpose, and work.
- God has revealed Himself in a general way in His world and universe, but in a specific way in the Bible.

- The home, the church, and the school should complement each other in promoting the student's spiritual, academic, social, and physical growth.
- The teacher stands in the place of the parent during the school day.
- God has given differing abilities to each student. It is the teacher's responsibility to challenge each student according to his/her ability.
- Although the Christian is not to be conformed to this world, he/she must recognize and accept his/her responsibilities in our democratic society and in the world.
- The student's home, church, and school experiences are to be a preparation for a life of fellowship with God and of service.

Therefore, the student must be taught:

- That the Lord Jesus Christ is the Son of God Who came to earth to die for his/her sin.
- That it is necessary that he/she be born again by the Spirit of God through receiving the Lord Jesus Christ as personal Lord and Savior.
- That growth in the Christian life depends upon fellowship with God through reading the Bible, prayer, and service.
- That the Bible is the only Word of God. It is inerrant, practical and vitally important.
- The application of biblical ethics and standards of morality to every facet of daily life.
- To demonstrate honesty, courtesy, kindness, and respect for others.
- The urgency of personal soul winning and world missions.
- To get along with non-Christians and Christians of differing viewpoints.
- To relate the various subject matter areas to the truth of biblical statement and principle.
- To apply him/herself to his/her work completely in order that various responsibilities might be fulfilled.
- To work independently and cooperatively.
- To think for him/herself and to stand up for his/her personal convictions in the face of pressure.
- To develop his/her own creative skills.
- To develop appreciation for and competence in the fine arts disciplines.
- To develop excellent communication skills.
- To develop knowledge and skills required for future study or occupational competence.
- To develop wholesome desires and discretion in physical and intellectual recreation.
- To respect our American heritage and to understand the current problems facing our country and its citizens.
- The importance of using this life to prepare for citizenship in Heaven.

Summary of Educational Philosophy

It is the responsibility of education to effectively change lives. Mankind has been created by God with a unique capacity for intellectual attainment, volitional independence, and spiritual sensitivity. Human beings, however, find themselves in a depraved condition with the potential of these areas severely curtailed by the spiritual deadness which is their lot due to Adam's fall. God has provided through the substitutionary death of Jesus Christ a way in which people can be reconciled to their Creator and can be quickened spiritually with all their capacities made alive. The primary purpose of education is to make people aware of their condition and God's provision, i.e., to lead them to reconciliation with God.

The newborn child of God must grow. In spiritual things he/she must be nurtured and made strong in the knowledge of the ways of God and the principles of God's Word. In every area of life the Christian is obligated to be the best he/she can be. Education must provide training that is compatible with the principles outlined in the Bible and with strength of motivation to lead each student to desire to know and to do God's will in his/her own life.

God has given His own all things freely to enjoy and the capacity within the bounds of His purpose to enjoy them. Christians should be the most thoroughly developed, the most productive, the most effective, and the most contented people on the earth. Education must nurture this growth, this productivity, this efficiency, this effectiveness, and this contentment.

Summary of Discipline Philosophy

Improvement is realized only through learning, and learning cannot occur where a definite sense of personal discipline and group discipline does not exist. The child of God experiences constant warfare within him/herself of the "old nature" (fleshly desires and appetites) and the "new nature" (desires of the Spirit of God).

Education is that process whereby a person becomes capable of responding to the factors of his/her life, forming accurate perceptions of his/her environment, and managing the choices open to him/her in such a way as to make him/her productive. To educate is to change a person's mind regarding any area in question, literally to bring personal thinking into conformity with scripture.

Education is persuasion. That person is truly educated who governs his/her life with a clear demonstration of self-discipline and awareness of absolute truth. As a child matures, he/she must develop the capacity to "set his/her mind" in terms of those behavioral and thought considerations which are governed by absolute standards. He/she must learn how to bring consistent practice and constant reinforcement to the implementation of his mental decisions.

The teaching process must be saturated with enthusiasm, fervor, and intensity of purpose. The Christian teacher is responsible to maintain a constructive atmosphere of discipline and control in the classroom by the use of consistent, firm, fair, kind, biblical techniques. The goals of the teacher must be focused on the development of self-discipline in obedience to God's direction because it is only the self-disciplined individual who can grow in the things of God and be responsive to God's leading for an effective, productive life on earth.