



History

Southwest Florida Christian Academy was started in 1994 with 75 students in grades K-3. In our second year, we nearly tripled in size with 200 students in grades K-6. For the 1996 school year, we added grades 7-9 and another 100 students. Tenth grade was added in 1997, 11th grade in 1998, and 12th grade in 1999. We proudly graduated our first class of students on May 26, 2000.

Vision

Southwest Florida Christian Academy is a ministry of McGregor Baptist Church, dedicated to excellence in education, empowering students to reach their educational goals and to exemplify Christ through a lifestyle of leadership, service, stewardship and worship.

Mission

Southwest Florida Christian Academy, a ministry of McGregor Baptist Church, will partner with Christian parents to provide their children with a distinctively biblical and academically excellent education that will equip students to be godly leaders and to successfully engage the culture for Christ.

Philosophy of Christian Education

We live in a world with two views of life. It is from these two opposing world views man contemplates his existence and finds value and purpose in life. We believe God is the center of His creation.

God the Father is our loving creator. Out of nothing He created all that we know and all that we are yet to discover. God is active in His creation, having plans and directions for each of His children. Jesus is man's bridge to God. The Holy Spirit is God's gift to us as Christians. He is our helper and our guide as we live the adventure of our spiritual pilgrimage.

Man can only be understood in context of a God-centered world view. Our potential, our reason and our purpose is enveloped in the fact that man is the centerpiece of God's creation.

Education must address the needs of the "whole man." A Christian approach to education will insure sensitivity to the unique needs of each individual. The imparting of God's knowledge and wisdom is the goal of Christian education. The desire to be a life-long learner of His truth is the mark of a maturing disciple. Truth and reality are found only in a world view focused on God.

God's Word, the Bible, is His revelation to man. The daily lives of God's people will be changed as a result of knowing and studying God's Word.

The education of a child or young person must be a cooperative effort with the family. It is the parental responsibility to see that children are taught a proper understanding of the world. Thus, Christian education becomes a partnership between parents, the church and the school in this important task of exploring and discovering a God-centered world view.

Education itself is not the answer to man's problems. It is only as we start with the knowledge of an all-knowing and loving creator that we can successfully educate. In this process of education, we will not only impart wisdom and knowledge for this world, but we will prepare man for eternity!

Core Values

In order to fulfill its mission, SFCA will honor the following core values:

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| The Bible | The Christian Family |
| Quality, Bible-based Education | The Church |
| Qualified, Christian Staff | Stewardship |
| Discipleship of Students | |

OPERATING PRINCIPLES

SFCA's daily operation will be guided by the following operating principles in an effort to fulfill its mission in accordance with its core values:

Core Value #1 – The Bible (2 Timothy 3:15-17)

The Bible is the inspired, inerrant, and infallible Word of God that is the authority for all that is done at SFCA.

SFCA will:

- Teach the Bible as the source of absolute truth.
- Integrate the Bible into all aspects of SFCA life.
- Form the basis of its philosophy of education on the principles of God's Word.
- Develop and implement policies and procedures that are consistent with God's Word.
- Expect all faculty, board, and staff to study the Bible and apply its principles to everyday life.
- Implement a comprehensive Bible curriculum (K-12) that will lead students to study, memorize and apply God's Word to their lives.

Core Value #2 – The Christian Family (Ephesians 5; Genesis 1)

The Christian family is the foundational unit for society that is based on the biblical pattern for marriage and family in accordance with God's will.

SFCA will:

- Develop policies and procedures that honor the Christian family.
- Develop strong home-school relationships through clear and effective communication with parents.
- Develop and maintain unity between home and school by encouraging mutual respect between home and school authorities.
- Teach all students God's ideal for the marriage relationship and the family.
- Pray for and with SFCA's families.
- Help parents understand and fulfill their biblical responsibilities as presented in *Kingdom Education*.

Core Value #3 – Quality, Bible-based Education (Proverbs 9:10)

A quality education encompasses the total educational program based upon the foundation that all knowledge and wisdom are from God.

SFCA will:

Design an educational program that will meet the spiritual, mental, physical and social needs of each student.

Design and use curriculum and teaching methods that are grounded in God's absolute truth.

Challenge all students to reach their full potential in all aspects of their school life.

Employ, develop and retain godly teachers who strive for excellence in all areas of their lives.

Develop a comprehensive K-12 Bible curriculum that will effectively lead the students in a thorough study and application of God's Word.

Provide teachers with the training necessary for them to effectively plan and implement biblical worldview integration in the classroom instruction.

Provide teachers with the necessary training on the biblical philosophy of education found in *Kingdom Education*.

Teach all students that man is born with a sin nature and in need of Christ.

Encourage students to seek God's plan for their life.

Develop an educational program that will equip students to engage all areas of the culture for Christ by utilizing the gifts and talents they have received from God.

Core Value #4 – The Church (1 Corinthians 12:12-14; Ephesians 4:12-13)

The church is the body of believers whose purpose is to fulfill the Great Commission.

SFCA will:

Develop policies and procedures that will honor the purpose of the local church.

Recognize that it is a ministry of McGregor Baptist Church and submit to the church's spiritual authority.

Require all board members, administration, faculty and staff to be active members of a local, Bible-believing church.

Encourage all school families to become active members of a local, Bible-believing church.

Teach all students God's purpose for the church so that students will understand the importance of being an active member of and serving in a local church.

Continually work at developing strong relationships with local churches in the Ft. Myers area.

Core Value #5 – Qualified, Christian Staff (Luke 6:40; 1 Timothy 3:1)

A qualified, Christian staff is comprised of born again Christians who have a calling to Christian education and the training necessary to fulfill their responsibilities.

SFCA will:

Develop a staff selection process that will ensure that all staff have a calling to Christian education, possess the skills necessary to fulfill their responsibilities and can effectively communicate the plan of salvation to others.

Hire staff that have a personal relationship with Christ and live a life in support of the school's statement of faith.

Provide all staff with a continuing staff development program that will enable them to develop professionally and meet certification requirements.

Provide all faculty with training in the principles of *Kingdom Education* and effective biblical worldview integration. Select, develop and retain board members, administration, faculty and staff who exhibit Christ-like attitudes and behaviors.

Encourage administration, faculty, staff and students to model Christ by serving others in the school and community.

Core Value #6 – Stewardship (James 1:17)

Stewardship is the awareness that everything one has belongs to God and must be effectively managed for His glory.

SFCA will:

See, appreciate, and effectively manage everything, everyone, and every day as a stewardship responsibility from God.

Model and train students to appreciate and effectively manage all that God provides.

Establish policies and procedures that reflect biblical principles of stewardship.

Implement and manage a budget based on biblical principles of stewardship.

Hold the board, administration, faculty and staff accountable to fulfill their duties in a way that will honor the Lord and assist the school in achieving its mission.

Core Value #7 – Discipleship (John 8:31; 1 John 2:6)

Discipleship is demonstrated by a commitment to a consistent application of the Word of God to all of life.

SFCA will:

Encourage staff and students to exemplify the fruit of the Spirit.

Strive to instill godly character in all students through all of the school's educational programs.

Develop and enforce the school's discipline policies that will emphasize the importance of Christ-like behavior.

Commit itself to the absolute authority of the Bible.

Train students in daily Bible study, prayer, devotion and application of biblical principles in every area of life.

Encourage discipleship relationships across all levels of the school.

Integrate the Bible into all subjects and areas of the school.

Prepare the students for a lifelong commitment to the discipleship process.

Statement of Faith

1. We believe God is the Creator and Ruler of the universe. He has eternally existed in three personalities: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. These three are coequal and are one God. (See Genesis 1:1, 26-27; 3:22; Psalm 90:2; Matthew 28:19; I Peter 1:2; II Corinthians 13:14.)

2. We believe Jesus Christ is the Son of God. He is coequal with the Father. Jesus lived a sinless human life and offered Himself as the perfect sacrifice for the sins of all people by dying on a cross. He arose from the dead after three days to demonstrate His power over sin and death. He ascended to Heaven's glory and will return again someday to earth to reign as King of Kings, and Lord of Lords. (See Matthew 1:22, 23; Isaiah 9:6; John 1:1-5, 14:10-30; Hebrews 4:14-15; I Corinthians 15:3-4, Romans 1:3-4, I Timothy 6:14-15; Titus 2:13.)

3. We believe the Holy Spirit is coequal with the Father and the Son of God. He is present in the world to make men aware of their need for Jesus Christ. He also lives in every Christian from the moment of salvation. He provides the Christian with power for living and understanding of spiritual truth and guidance in doing what is right. He gives every believer a spiritual gift when they are saved. As Christians we seek to live under His control daily. (See II Corinthians 3:17; John 14:16-17, 16:7-13; Acts 1:8; I Corinthians 2:12, 3:16; Ephesians 1:13; Galatians 5:25; Ephesians 5:18.)

4. We believe the Bible is God's Word to us. It was written by human authors, under the supernatural guidance of the Holy Spirit. It is the supreme source of truth for Christian beliefs and living. Because it is inspired by God, it is the truth without any mixture of error. (See II Timothy 3:16; II Peter 1:20-21; II Timothy 1:13; Psalm 12:6, 119:105, 160; Proverbs 30:5.)

5. We believe people are made in the spiritual image of God, to be like Him in character. People are the supreme object of God's creation. Although every person has tremendous potential for good, all of us are marred by an attitude of disobedience toward God called "sin." This attitude separates people from God and causes many problems in life. (See Genesis 1:27; Psalm 8:3-6; Isaiah 53:6a; Romans 3:23; Isaiah 59:1-2.)

6. We believe salvation is God's free gift to us, but we must accept it. We can never make up for our sin by self-improvement or good works. Only by trusting in Jesus Christ as God's offer of forgiveness can anyone be saved from sin's penalty. When we turn from our self-ruled life and turn to Jesus in faith, we are saved. Eternal life begins the moment one receives Jesus Christ into his life by faith. (See Romans 6:23; Ephesians 2:8-9; John 1:12, 14:6; Titus 3:5; Galatians 3:26; Romans 5:1.)

7. We believe because God gives us eternal life through Jesus Christ, the true believer is secure in that salvation for eternity. If you have been genuinely saved, you cannot "lose" it. Salvation is maintained by the grace and power of God, not by the self-effort of the Christian. It is the grace and keeping power of God that gives us this security. (See John 10:29; II Timothy 1:12; Hebrews 7:25, 10:10-14; I Peter 1:3-5.)

8. We believe people were created to exist forever. We will either exist eternally separated from God by sin, or eternally with God through forgiveness and salvation. To be eternally separated from God is eternal existence in Hell. To be eternally in union with Him is eternal life in Heaven. Heaven and Hell are real places of eternal existence. (See John 3:16, 14:17; Romans 6:23, 8:17-18; Revelation 20:15, I Corinthians 2:7-9.)

Parents/Guardians Statement of Support

- I/We have received and read the Core Values of the School and are willing to have the Student educated in accordance with them.

- I/We will regularly and earnestly pray for Southwest Florida Christian Academy.
- I/We will regularly attend a Bible believing Church.
- I/We will fully cooperate in the educational activities of Southwest Florida Christian Academy by doing my/our best to make Christian education effective in the life of the Student.
- I/We will require the Student to support the spiritual activities of the School (Chapel, Bible classes, Scripture memory, etc.)
- I/We agree to provide a home environment that does not conflict with the biblical understanding of sexuality. I/We support the principle and practice of purity in singleness and fidelity in marriage, which is the union of one man and one woman. Specifically, our home will affirm the biblical teaching that sexual conduct outside the sanctity of marriage, including both hetero and homosexuality, is a sin, a turning away from God's ideal as outlined in Scripture.
- I/We understand that the School regards sex at birth as the identification of the given biological sex of each member of our constituency. The school will not affirm attempted alterations by medical intervention of one's sex at birth. The School views the actions or intentions of those seeking fundamental changes of any kind from one's sex at birth as a rejection of the biblical and theological understandings to which the institution is committed, and hence as grounds for removal from consideration for attendance.
- I/We hereby attest that I/We have legal physical custody of my/our child and that no other person has legal physical custody of the student. I/We acknowledge and agree that the School may release the child to the custody of any person possessing legal physical custody of the student and to any person authorized in writing by any person possessing legal physical custody of the student. I/We will notify the School immediately in writing of any change regarding which persons have legal physical custody of the student and any change regarding the authority of the School to release the student to the persons designated in the custody agreement. Additionally, I/We promise to notify the School immediately in writing of the existence of any custody dispute involving the child, including any custody dispute existing at the time of this Agreement.
- I/We agree to maintain updated medical information in FACTS Family Online.
- I/We understand that the School has full discretion in the discipline of the Student in accordance with the discipline policy as published.
- I/We understand that the School reserves the right to place the Student at the appropriate grade level and designate the appropriate teacher(s). I/We understand that the School reserves the right to dismiss the Student when either the parents/guardians or the Student does not cooperate with the policies of the School.
- I/We will do our best to volunteer for duties and responsibilities of Southwest Florida Christian Academy as opportunities arise and God provides the time and strength.
- I/We will be faithful to attend all parent functions at Southwest Florida Christian Academy as best we can.
- If I/we become dissatisfied with Southwest Florida Christian Academy in any way, I/we will strive to resolve the matter with the person(s) involved as privately and lovingly as possible, rather than spreading criticism and negativity. (Matthew 18:15-17; 5:23-24)
- I/We will pay all our financial obligations to Southwest Florida Christian Academy on or before the due date. If I/we are ever unable to do so, I/we will notify the School immediately.
- I/We will seek to support and advance Southwest Florida Christian Academy in every area possible-spiritually, academically, physically and financially.

The School covenants to provide the best it can for the Student in the way of facilities, curriculum, athletics, social functions and instruction. The School further pledges to do all possible to support your home in growing every student in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. As the legal parents or guardians of the Student, I/we covenant to support the School in its efforts at Christian education. I/We agree that it is my/our responsibility to strive diligently toward the observance of the "Parent/Guardian Statement of Support" as God enables me/us by the power of the Holy Spirit. If for some reason I/we become dissatisfied, I/we promise to handle the matter as privately and lovingly as possible. If support or resolution cannot be reached, I/we recognize it is my/our responsibility to leave the School and seek a school in alignment with our personal convictions. Together, as a school and as parents/guardians, I/we pledge to submit our lives to one another and the final authority of the Word of God.

As it is imperative that the School know the backgrounds of parents/guardians who volunteer to work with our students, I/we understand and agree that the School shall have the right to perform a background check review on me/us at any time.