

# PELLA CHRISTIAN GRADE SCHOOL FAITH STATEMENT

## MISSION STATEMENT:

Proclaiming Lordship of Jesus Christ in all spheres of life and learning, Pella Christian Grade School, together with the parents, provides excellent academic training rooted in God's infallible Word, challenging students to develop their individual God-given gifts for a life of service in God's kingdom.

## WHAT WE BELIEVE

*God created the world and all that is in it.*

The Triune God created, graciously preserves, and will ultimately restore the world.

The purpose of the world is to glorify God.

To understand the world we must see it in its relationship to God.

Creation is God's first revelation of Himself to us.

We have the special task of being stewards of God's creation.

*God is sovereign.*

All authority in heaven and earth belong to Jesus Christ.

God's commandment to love Him with all our hearts and minds applies to every area of our lives.

The diversity, complexity, and richness of God's world is reflected in the school curriculum.

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*The Bible is God's infallible word.*

The Bible is the source of all truth and wisdom.

In it, the Holy Spirit reveals us to who God is, who we are, how Jesus redeemed us, and how we must live for Him by serving others.

Our entire curriculum is permeated with biblically-based truths.

*Humankind is sinful by nature.*

God created humankind without sin to walk daily with Him.

Humankind rejected God when Adam and Eve sinned. Since then, humankind has been estranged from God and each other. This sin brought a curse on all of creation.

Because of our sin, we are blind to the truth revealed to us in creation.

We must be redeemed through Jesus Christ because we are incapable of saving ourselves.

*Jesus Christ is our savior.*

Jesus Christ is the only begotten Son of God, both truly God and truly man.

By His life, death, resurrection, and ascension Jesus reconciles us and all of creation to God.

Jesus Christ is the only way of salvation.

*The Holy Spirit is here among us.*

Since Jesus Christ's ascension, the Holy Spirit has been working to build God's kingdom in preparation for Christ's triumphant return on Judgment Day.

The Holy Spirit sanctifies the hearts, minds, ideas, and actions of believers.

Our Christian school is an instrument of grace used by God to cultivate in our students an obedient response to God by serving His kingdom in all aspects of their lives.

## **INTEGRATING OUR FAITH INTO OUR EDUCATION**

*"Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it."* (Proverbs 22:6)

*"These commandments I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children."* (Deuteronomy 6:6-7a).

God gives parents the responsibility to nurture and educate their children.

The Christian day-school environment is an extension of the home.

*Each child "has different gifts, according to the grace given us."* (Romans 12:6)

Each child is a unique individual blessed by God with specific abilities and potential as a servant in God's kingdom.

The Christian school addresses the gifts and abilities, limitations and deficiencies of all enrolled children.

Children are encouraged to enjoy a covenantal fellowship with God and those around them.

Children learn to be stewards where God has called them to serve.

*The purpose of a Christian school is to assist parents in fulfilling their Biblical mandate of raising their children in the way of the Lord.*

Churches exist to build up the faith of believers through doctrinal teaching and to equip them to spread the gospel.

At home, children learn about God on a daily basis and begin to understand their role in God's kingdom.

Christian schools provide a community where true believers, regardless of church affiliation, can share the parents' task of raising their children to love the Lord above all else.

*Christians who teach are in a highly valued and respected profession.*

Christian teachers are mentors to our children, *"Not many of you should presume to be teachers, my brothers, because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly."* (James 3:1).

Teachers, in obedience to God and in partnership with parents, have a unique responsibility while educating children in the school.

Teachers must understand their role in children's lives and skillfully integrate faith and learning.

*Students will learn to view the world through the eye-glasses of God-given faith.*

Although living in a culture that is confused by a lack of moral absolutes, our children can discover the truth of all things if they are taught to look with eyes of faith.

Parents and teachers will nurture children so they learn with their heads, hearts, and hands.

It will be evident that the facts and concepts of subject matter are fully learned when children can incorporate them into behaviors and activities.

Faith and learning that is transformed into faith and actions changes culture.

The content of this document does not take the place of the Constitution or the Forms of Unity. It is a clear, concise, easily-read statement of our basis for existence as a Christian educational institution.

Teachers agree with and will teach according to the Forms of Unity (the Belgic Confession, The Heidelberg Catechism, and the Canons of Dort) as summarized in the Pella Christian Grade School Statement of Faith.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

*This statement is based on the Forms of Unity of the Reformed churches: The Belgic Confession, The Heidelberg Catechism, and The Canons of Dort.*

(1-22-18)