

Arlington Christian School Philosophy of Ministry

"Helping Children grow as Jesus did, in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man" is the driving force in everything we do at Arlington Christian School. In addition to equipping our students with academic excellence, ACS strives to provide spiritual support to students and families, helping to build stronger relationships with our Heavenly Father.

Arlington Christian School welcomes students of all faiths and religious backgrounds. As a school whose heritage is with the Church of Christ, we do not teach Church of Christ doctrine as such. Our goal is to teach only the Bible. We will teach what we believe about the Bible, but we understand the religious diversity represented in our student body. We are very sensitive to this because, at this point in time, there are 18 different denominational groups represented among our families at Arlington and over 88% of our student body comes from non-Church of Christ homes.

However, in the event that anyone feels that a teacher or administrator is being unreasonable or intolerant, we abide by the following policy:

1. Parents who feel there is a problem over doctrinal issues should begin by contacting the teacher personally to be sure the area or incident of concern is not simply a matter of miscommunication or misunderstanding. For most effectiveness, concerns need to be dealt with as quickly as possible.
2. If the concern is not resolved in this conference, then the matter must be brought to the attention of the Head of School for resolution.

As a point of clarification, Arlington Christian School is not owned or operated by the Churches of Christ and does not speak for the Churches of Christ. Another point to be considered concerns the structure, organization and governance of the Churches of Christ. There is no organizational bureaucracy. There are no governing boards and no headquarters. Each congregation is autonomous and is independent of every other congregation and led by elders specific to that location. No person or group issues or makes decisions for other congregations. The tie that binds the Churches of Christ together is the desire to emulate the character and practices of the church as described in the New Testament.

Because there is no central organization, the process of Arlington Christian School is guided by a Board of Trustees composed of members from a number of area Church of Christ congregations. As a result, there is much diversity even within the Arlington family. That helps explain Arlington's tenacious insistence that its religious emphasis be a "Biblical" emphasis. We will always teach what we believe the Bible says; and in the spirit of Romans 14:13, we have no desire to pass judgment on one another.

Our desire is to be only Christians; that does not mean we believe we are "the only Christians." Regarding baptism, we believe its practice is part of the process of coming

to Christ, but only a part. We see it as a response to God's grace; however, we do not see baptism as the sole criteria upon which one's relationship with God hinges. In the event that baptism comes up as a topic of discussion (typically through a student's question in response to a Biblical study in class), this is what we will teach. Once again, diversity on this topic is not an item of scorn or ridicule at Arlington.

Regarding the use of A Capella singing in chapel/ worship, there is a broad difference of emphasis on this topic among our family at Arlington. Arlington's view on this matter is that worship can be meaningful with A Capella singing. Our practice is not to use instrumental music and for it not to be an issue over which we should offend people.

At Arlington, both the Old and New Testaments are taught as the divinely inspired word of God. We believe that when Paul wrote Timothy that "All scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness," he was first and foremost referring to the Old Testament because much of the New Testament had not even been written at that time.

It is the sincere commitment of Arlington Christian School to provide a "Quality Education in a Christian Environment." Our commitment to your child is to create a conducive environment for spiritual formation. With that in mind, our greatest testimony is the hundreds of students from a variety of religious backgrounds who have been loved, who have held leadership positions, and who have been treated fairly within these walls. We thank you for the opportunity to partner with you in making a positive impact on the development of your child.