



# KALAMAZOO CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS

Undeniably Christian. Academically Excellent.

---

## Educational Philosophy Statement

For by Him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by Him and for Him, and in Him all things hold together.

Colossians 1:16-17

Kalamazoo Christian Schools (KCS) is a Christian school rooted in the Reformed, Christian theological traditions. Historically, Reformed theology dates back to the 16th century and has its origins in the teachings of John Calvin. The framework of Reformed theological thought is summarized in several confessions and creeds, most importantly the Heidelberg Catechism, the Belgic Confession, and the Canons of Dort. In short, the Reformed, Christian faith emphasizes five fundamental concepts: Sola Scriptura (Scripture Alone), Solus Christus (Christ Alone), Sola Gratia (Grace Alone), Sola Fide (Faith Alone) and Soli Deo Gloria (To the Glory of God Alone). It is from these historic and theological foundations that Kalamazoo Christian Schools builds its educational philosophy and practices.

The primary responsibility for education rests upon parents/guardians to whom children are entrusted by God, and that Christian parents/guardians should accept this obligation in view of the covenantal relationship which God established with believers and their children. As such, KCS parents/guardians partner with the school by entrusting their children to the teachers, administration and school board as they carry out the articulated mission and vision of KCS.

Serving as the most important resources for carrying out the KCS' mission, KCS teachers provide their students with an academically excellent and undeniably Christian school experience. The art of Christian teaching requires mastery of a specific skill set. Teachers are constantly discerning the needs of their students by implementing thoughtful curriculum standards and expectations; choosing age-appropriate and meaningful curriculum resources; adopting the best instructional practices for optimal learning; and taking special care to guide students in the critical thinking process from a Reformed, Christian perspective as they discern the values in and of all curricular resources that support and inform their learning.

Since KCS is concerned with developing the whole child—body, mind, and spirit—the school provides a rigorous curriculum intent on meeting the needs of all students. At times, the curriculum and instruction will include real-world, challenging topics, and students will be asked to examine them from a variety of perspectives—those that glorify God and those that

illustrate the brokenness of a sinful world. The Reformed vision for Christian education emphasizes the idea that all the world—every square inch—belongs to God. Curriculum and instruction at Kalamazoo Christian School is in harmony with God's truth in all academic disciplines and is consistent with the spirit, goal, and teaching of the Bible as interpreted and expressed through the Reformed, Christian worldview. For those reasons, KCS does not insulate or isolate students from the world; instead, teachers invite students to engage with and develop a deeper understanding of the world with a purpose of becoming fully committed disciples of Jesus Christ living a life of Christian service by restoring the brokenness in God's creation.

---

### Sources

1. *A Biblical Case for Christian Schooling: A Contextual View.* (Christian Schools International; 2017)
2. *The Craft of Christian Teaching: A Classroom Journey.* (VanDyk; 2000)
3. *Christian Education in a Changing and Challenging World.* (The Christian School Herald, No. 1; 1962)
4. *The Christian Story and the Christian School.* (Bolt; 1993)
5. *Engaging God's World: A Reformed Vision of Faith, Learning, and Living.* (Plantinga; 2002)
6. *Flourishing Together.* (Swaner & Wolfe; 2021)
7. *From Vision to Action.* (Christian Schools International; 1993)
8. *Growing in the Life of Faith: Education and Christian Practices.* (Dykstra; 1999)
9. *Learning Under the Lamp of God.* (The Christian School Herald, No. 3; August, 1965)
10. *Let the Children Come.* (Beverluis; 2001)
11. *Toward a Theology of Education.* (Beverluis; February, 1981)
12. *The Waters: Christian Schooling as a City of Refuge.* (Seerveld; 1998)
13. *What It Means To Be Reformed: An Identity Statement.* (Christian Reformed Church; 2002)