

## ATTACHMENT II

# Cornerstone Christian Academy School Vision and Purpose Document

**Vision Statement:** Our students will have a good working knowledge of the Bible as a foundation to their education. They will also experience diversity and variety in courses in order to experience more fully God's creation. An expression of faith in Jesus Christ will be evident in the overall school atmosphere in order to create a positive learning environment where academic achievement is evidenced by meeting or exceeding provincial achievement test averages. No one is excluded from attending Cornerstone, for financial reasons or otherwise, provided that families agree to abide by school policies.

**Mission Statement:** To equip students spiritually, academically, socially and physically in order to be a positive Christian influence serving society.

**Program:** Cornerstone Christian Academy (CCA) offers an Evangelical Christian program of education that integrates faith, life and learning. At its foundation is the Christian Bible, the belief that God is central to our humanity, that Jesus Christ is our personal Saviour and Lord, and God's Holy Spirit is present and at work in the world today. The program is interdenominational and embraces students and staff from a variety of backgrounds and heritages. It is our goal to fulfil the greatest commandments:

**Matthew 22:37-39: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your mind. Love your neighbour as yourself. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: Love your neighbour as yourself." (New International Version)**

As an alternative program within the province of Alberta CCA offers quality educational programming that utilizes the Alberta Education Curriculum, taught from a Christian perspective. CCA seeks to:

- Challenge students through Christ-centred education to know Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord in order to pursue a life of godly character and service to others
- Integrate knowledge of God, the Bible and its relevance into the approved Alberta curriculum. In the classroom purposeful discussion of Christian morals, beliefs and world views are incorporated into each subject
- Have staff focus on God's abundance and the task of Christian Education through regular staff Bible study and prayer
- Focus the student's attention on God by starting each day with brief Bible study and prayer
- Provide opportunities for students to grow in their relationship to God and to one another through involvement in regularly scheduled Bible classes, chapel times, spiritual emphasis retreats and field trips.

All CCA policies and activities are based directly on the CCA "Statement of Faith."

### **Student Development**

CCA seeks to equip students spiritually, academically, socially and physically in

order to be a positive Christian influence serving society:

### **Spiritually**

- Have students confess Christ as Saviour and Lord and express their faith in a relationship with Jesus Christ
- Encourage and teach a passion for prayer, Bible study, and applying Biblical truth in their lives
- Impart an understanding of the Great Commission<sup>1</sup> and its role in witness, evangelism and discipleship
- Encourage self-discipline and responsibility in students based on respect for, and submission to, God and God-ordained authority
- Respect denominational and theological differences, while celebrating the unity we have in Christ
- Help students articulate a reasoned defense of the Christian faith
- Encourage each student to actively participate and contribute in a local church and support the work of missions
- Actively engaging in community service activities.

### **Academically**

- Promote high academic standards within the potential of each student as uniquely created by God and help each student realize his/her academic potential
- Meet or exceed the academic requirements of the Alberta curriculum
- Teach and encourage the use of good study habits and help students assume responsibility for their own academic progress
- Motivate students to pursue independent study in areas of personal interest
- Integrate Biblical perspectives into all academic and intellectual pursuits
- Promote the use of critical thinking, creativity, logic, and common sense to effectively make decisions and solve problems
- Develop students understanding and appreciation of God's world, an awareness of our role in the environment and our God-given responsibilities to use and preserve it properly
- Create an appreciation of the visual and performing arts
- Help students to communicate effectively in both written and oral form
- Develop competency in the use of modern technology
- Ensure students have the tools necessary to succeed in higher education

### **Socially**

- Encourage students to exhibit appropriate emotional maturity and self-confidence
- Prepare students to be contributing members of society who are aware of their dependence on God and on other people
- Develop Biblical understandings of marriage, family, and God-honouring relationships
- Model respect for students, parents, teachers and others in authority

<sup>1</sup> “Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” Matthew 28: 19 & 20

- Promote the choice of friends who will encourage student's Christian faith
- Teach students to assume responsibility for their attitudes, actions and goals and develop a work ethic that honours God
- Promote good citizenship through the understanding and appreciation of Christian and Canadian heritage
- Provide opportunities for students to engage in community service activities

### **Physically**

- Teach students to regard their bodies as God's temple and to use their bodies to glorify Him
- Promote healthy lifestyles
- Teach and demonstrate a healthy approach to food choices and eating
- Provide opportunities to participate in a variety of physical activities to encourage lifelong physical fitness

### **Staff :**

CCA teachers and administrators are professional, knowledgeable Christian educators who hold a valid Alberta Teaching Certificate and that they are familiar with this CCA Vision and Purpose document. They will clearly exhibit their enthusiasm, competence and commitment to personal excellence in education at CCA, upholding the philosophy of the school and supporting the Christian objectives contained therein.

- All staff, teachers, support staff and administrators will have a strong Christian testimony and a meaningful relationship with Christ
- Staff will demonstrate Christian values in the classroom by living with integrity and will uphold high standards of charity, kindness, courtesy and fairness
- Teachers will strive to challenge students to achieve personal excellence and to integrate the Christian faith in life and learning
- Teachers will be purposeful in their discussion of Christian morals and beliefs and integrate these into the learning of different subjects. Lesson plans will show this integration of faith and learning
- Teachers, administrators and support staff will participate in an annual Christian School Teacher's Convention
- Teachers will evaluate student progress using methods appropriate to CCA and within the framework of Alberta Education guidelines
- Staff are expected to be Christian leaders and models for our students, upholding Biblical standards in words and actions as per Ephesians 4:29, "Let everything you say be good and helpful so that your words will be an encouragement to those that hear them." (New International Version)

### **School Community**

CCA seeks to promote a school culture of acceptance, edification, respect and support for one another. No one is excluded from attending Cornerstone, for financial reasons or otherwise, provided that families agree to abide by school policies.

- CCA students and staff will develop appropriate, meaningful relationships with one another
- Student participation and interaction is actively supported and valued

- Teachers will counsel students when called for and provide extra academic help as needed
- Students will grow in friendships with one another and will be challenged to develop strong interpersonal communication and positive conflict resolution skills
- Student success will be acknowledged and celebrated
- Students will speak and behave in a respectful manner that supports Christian values
- Parents, staff and students will pray regularly for one another and for the needs of the school.
- Parents will be encouraged to participate and contribute to the school through volunteering, fundraising, school council, the CCA Board and attendance of school events.

## **Cornerstone Christian Academy Statement of Faith**

We believe:

- That the Bible, consisting of the Old and New Testaments, is the inspired and inerrant Word of God and is the final authority for Christian faith and life.
- That there is but one true and living God who exists in the past, the present, and forever throughout eternity in the Trinity of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.
- That God is the creator, sustainer and governor of all creation.
- That Jesus Christ, the only begotten eternal Son of God, is given to people as the only salvation. He was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. In Him perfect humanity and deity is found in one person. He is the mediator between God and people. He was crucified on the cross for the sins of all people and His blood was shed to fulfil the requirements of God's righteousness. He rose again bodily from the dead, and ascended to Heaven. In the last day, Christ will return personally to earth as He has promised, to judge the living and the dead. There will be a bodily resurrection of the dead, with the believers inheriting eternal life and blessedness, and the non-believers eternal punishment and condemnation.
- That the Holy Spirit convicts men, women and children of their sins, leads them into salvation in Christ, and as their counsellor, He continues to transform their lives by comforting, helping, teaching, enlightening, and equipping them with gifts.
- That people were created in the image of God. Since the first man Adam sinned against God, all people have come short of the glory of God, have lived in sin, and cannot, by their own effort, attain righteousness in the presence of God. We are all in need of God's grace. Salvation of people depends solely on the finished work of Christ who once and for all, poured out His blood on the cross as a vicarious atonement for the sins of all people. Those who confess and repent of their sins and receive Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour shall be saved.
- That education should include instruction about the statements of faith listed above.