



PHILOSOPHY OF EDUCATION AS FORMATION

THE PURPOSE

All education is inherently formative - explicitly, implicitly, and even in what is left unsaid. We aim to embrace that formative responsibility by educating the whole child - head, heart, and hands - shaping future citizens and leaders who can stand on God's unchanging truth in an ever-changing world.

THE FOUNDATION

At Immanuel Christian School, we offer a counter-narrative to what secular education provides: a biblical foundation for our formative environment.

We believe there is one God (*Deuteronomy 6:4; 1 Timothy 2:5*) in three persons—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit (*Matthew 28:19; John 6:27; John 10:30; 1 Corinthians 3:16*); one in nature, attributes, and glory.

God created mankind in His image (*Genesis 1:26-27*).

We believe that we are given salvation from sin and its penalty as a free gift from God (*Romans 6:23*) through faith and trust in Jesus Christ alone, unaided by human effort (*John 3:16; Ephesians 2:8-9; Titus 3:5-7*). The death of Christ is the full payment for our sins (*1 Corinthians 15:3; Hebrews 9:11-15; 1 Peter 1:18-21*) and satisfies the just requirement of God (*Romans 3:23-26; Hebrews 10:1-10*).

We believe that God created and blessed the family as the foundation of society. Children are a gift from God and are fully human from conception (*Psalms 127:3; Psalm 139:13-16*). Parents are to train their children by modeling a godly life, teaching them the Scriptures, disciplining them in love, and providing them with wisdom and counsel (*Deuteronomy 6:4-7; Proverbs 1:8-9; Proverbs 13:24; Proverbs 22:6*).

These beliefs provide the foundation for a narrative that stands against the rise of the autonomous self and the nihilism of modern American culture. Education must point students to truth, goodness, and beauty, and form them in community toward a life of worship and service to the one true King.

Additional Resource: [Immanuel Bible Church Statement of Faith](#)

THE KNOWER

INFORMED AND TRANSFORMED

Education begins with recognizing who God is. What students know of mankind and of themselves flows from a knowledge of God and their uniqueness as image bearers of God, created with an eternal purpose. No educational pursuit is value-neutral, and it always seeks to nurture an identity. Our work at Immanuel Christian School is focused on cultivating a deep and abiding faith, grounded in truth that leads to a transformed life through the acceptance of the truth of the gospel of Jesus Christ, and through the renewing of our students' minds (*Romans 12:2*). The foundation of our calling is rooted in the biblical call to love the Lord our God with all our heart, soul, and might (*Deuteronomy 6:4-9*).



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We desire that this understanding be deeply impressed on the heart, taught diligently to the children in our care, and woven into the rhythms of daily life. First, within the family, the God-ordained starting point for education. Love for God is the beginning, the focus, the primary aim of an Immanuel education. As an outflow of our recognition of our love for God, we seek to partner with families to elevate and model this expression of love for neighbor (*Luke 10:27*).

By infusing biblical truth throughout the educational program, we pray that students' minds, hearts, and practices are transformed by the power of the Holy Spirit, shaping their understanding of the world and their place in it. The exploration of biblical truth is not limited to a specific subject but is the lens through which all learning is viewed, guiding students to live with hope, purpose, and a love for God and others.

THE KNOWING

FORMATION AND REFLECTION

A proper education must point students beyond themselves to God. Christian education must model virtue and provide standards rooted in Scripture. Students are formed by looking to Christ and faithful mentors. Learning to live with integrity, humility, and compassion, through an internal-to-external transformation that develops maturity that only reaches its fullness in Christ (*Ephesians 4:13*).

Knowing is inherently relational. Therefore, at ICS, we aim to cultivate a deeper love for God and others in students. We train toward transformational knowing, built on a relationship with God through Christ. That training comes through Christ-centered mentors who recognize the value of facts and reason without elevating them above the formation of the heart, who see the head and the heart not as a binary but as an integrated unity. Our teachers serve as the living curriculum and recognize their responsibility to intentionally model a life of discipleship shaped by their love for God, his word, and his work in the world (*Luke 6:40*).

All knowing is grounded in faith (belief). We desire that an Immanuel Christian School education will cultivate in our students a growing faith as they recognize the truth with their minds, embrace the truth with their hearts, and live out the truth with their hands. We desire that this faith-grounded formation will lead students to serve others as they embrace a life of worship and dependence on the Lord.

Our identity at Immanuel Christian School calls students to courageous reflection—a bold posture of engaging with truth in ways that shape both the development and expression of understanding:

To Reflect on Truth — *Knowledge*: Students engage deeply with Scripture and the world, seeking understanding that is rooted in God's general and special revelation.

To Reflect through Truth — *Thinking*: Students apply their thinking, analyzing, and synthesizing to discern and reason, using truth as the foundation for thought and decision making.

To Reflect the Truth — *Communication*: Students express truth through words, actions, service, and various modes of communication, bearing witness to the Truth. This is a twofold reflection: both internal, through a recognition that out of the abundance of our hearts we speak (*Luke 6:45*), and external, in our desire for intentional reflection of Jesus Christ, both in how we communicate and in how we receive communication (*Colossians 4:6*).



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THE KNOWN

A HOLISTIC EDUCATION GROUNDED IN TRUTH

At Immanuel Christian School, the narrative and primary purpose are clear: we are called and committed to a coherent education that aligns our pursuits by grounding them in the Truth, elevating God's word in all areas of life. This pursuit of coherence, grounded in the Truth, acknowledges that true discernment is developed through the power of the Holy Spirit and that this demands synthesis through the lens of Truth.

Psalm 1 reminds us that the blessed one delights in the law of the Lord and meditates on it day and night. Our prayer is that this intentional process of practiced reflection on, though, and of the Truth results in students who develop rightly ordered loves and, like Jesus, grow in wisdom, stature, and favor with God and man (*Luke 2:52*).

We aim to cultivate character that reflects Jesus Christ through humility, integrity, and service. Jesus, as the image of the invisible God, declared, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." (*John 14:6*). We desire that students are formed to be faithful contributors to their communities, demonstrating responsibility, discernment, and joyfulness in their actions. Character development is woven into the fabric of school life, encouraging students to serve others, lead with grace, and pursue justice and mercy.

We seek to use the platform of Christian schooling to shepherd children to the gospel of Jesus Christ through the mission field of education and inspire students to live purposeful lives of learning, godliness, and service.