



DOCTRINAL FOUNDATION

Statement of Faith, Philosophy, and Policy

- We believe in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments as verbally inspired by God and inerrant in the original writing, and that they are of supreme and final authority in faith and life.
- We believe in one God, eternally existing in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- We believe that Jesus Christ was begotten by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, and is true God and true man.
- We believe that man was created in the image of God; that he sinned and thereby incurred not only physical death, but also that spiritual death which is separation from God, and that all beings are born with a sinful nature.
- We believe in the Biblical teaching that man was created by a direct act of God and not from previously existing forms of life; and that all men are descended from the historical Adam and Eve, first parents of the entire human race.
- We believe God created every human from their creation as male or female. "So God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them" – Genesis 1:27. "On the day when God created man, He made him in the likeness of God. He created them male and female, and He blessed them and named them "mankind" on the day when they were created." – Genesis 5:1b-2
- We believe marriage is between one man and one woman. "And He answered and said, "Have you not read that He who created them from the beginning made them male and female, and said, 'for this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'? So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore, what God has joined together, no person is to separate." – Matt 19:4-6.
- We believe that "same sex marriage" or "same sex relations" is viewed as an abomination to God (Leviticus 18:22). "Therefore, God gave them up to vile

impurity in the lusts of their hearts, so that their bodies would be dishonored among them. For they exchanged the truth of God for falsehood, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen. For this reason God gave them over to degrading passions; for their women exchanged natural relations for that which is contrary to nature, and likewise the men, too, abandoned natural relations with women and burned in their desire toward one another, males with males committing shameful acts and receiving in their own persons the due penalty of their error.”
– Romans 1:24-27

- We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ died for our sins, according to the scriptures, as a representative and substitutionary sacrifice; and that all who believe in Him are justified on the grounds of His shed blood.
- We believe in the resurrection of the crucified body of our Lord, in His ascension into Heaven, and in His present life there for us, as High Priest and Advocate.
- We believe in "that blessed hope", the personal and imminent return of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.
- We believe that all who receive by faith the Lord Jesus Christ are born again of the Holy Spirit, and thereby become children of God, and are eternally secure in Him.
- We believe in the bodily resurrection of the just and the unjust, the everlasting blessedness of the saved, and the everlasting punishment of the lost.

When students ask about issues or doctrines that are not in the statement of faith or are not part of the curriculum, they may be referred to parents or pastors for additional teaching or clarification. Such doctrines may be those that are unique to specific denominations or movements in Christianity.

HISTORICAL FOUNDATION

In 1982, Betty Kight and a small group of people from Bulverde Baptist Church were inspired to establish a school where students could be equipped to impact the world for Jesus Christ. Though not affiliated with Bulverde Baptist Church, they named the school Bulverde Baptist Christian School. As the school's reputation grew, so did enrollment.

It was through the generosity of Mr. Sam Bracken that the school gained a new location and a new name. In 1984, Bracken Christian School moved to its present beautiful setting on land and in buildings, some of which were donated by Mr. Bracken. Located on 20 acres of land atop a hill overlooking a tree-filled residential valley below, the presence of the Holy Spirit is evident when one first sets foot on campus. Our school is located in the rapidly growing community of Bulverde. Sheltered in the midst of tall oak trees, the campus retains the cozy feel of a country school. Our families have the convenience of a single campus for grades Kindergarten through twelfth grade. Many students find it comforting to know that a sibling is not far away and that there is frequent opportunity for contact. Older students support and encourage the younger children, who are delighted with the attention.

Class sizes are structured to allow the best opportunities for teachers and students to work together to achieve learning. Our faculty's goal is to display a love for each child and for the Lord Jesus Christ.

Looking forward, we are expectant that the Lord will continue to bless Bracken, as He has done so faithfully in the past. For its part, Bracken will remain focused on the provision of an education through the lens of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

POSITIONAL FOUNDATION

Purpose

We believe the process of educating is not neutral. Some schools would suggest that academic learning can be separated from moral and spiritual teachings. In truth, all schools teach academics from some moral and spiritual position. In many secular schools, that position is moral and spiritual relativism, a position that has done much to destroy the moral infrastructure on which our country was built. At our school, we openly acknowledge that the fundamental position from which our school teaches is that the Bible is the inerrant Word of God and that the Bible declares and defines both moral and spiritual absolutes necessary for a life that is honoring to God. This means that students need to understand God's principles in every facet of life, whether it be academic, social, or personal well-being. With that understanding, we are able to formulate our purposes, goals, and objectives.

Mission Statement

Bracken Christian School partners with Christian families through the leadership and guidance of the Holy Spirit to provide an excellent education within the context of a biblical worldview, equipping students to impact their communities for Christ.

Vision Statement

We champion students to thrive in the classroom and to come alive in Christ

Core Values

Christ-centered, Community, Discipleship, Compassion, and Service

Philosophy of Education

Bracken Christian School believes in ministering to the total person and seeks to offer parents a positive alternative to secular education. It recognizes the need to provide a high-quality education, both spiritually and academically, to the children of Bulverde and the surrounding areas. The school seeks to provide a sound academic education, integrated with a Christian view of God and the world. We believe children should be educated at home and at school with the consciousness that Jesus Christ is to be central in all learning and living. All knowledge is to be judged in light of God's Word, including knowledge gained from the study of history, geography, language, mathematics, science, music, and the arts. We consider character training and the teaching of obedience, which will eventually cultivate an inner self-discipline, to be essential to the emotional, physical, social, and spiritual well-being of the student. At Bracken Christian School, the teacher is expected to be the authority in the classroom, administering discipline firmly but fairly. To obey, to do right, and to love God and country are attitudes we strive to instill in all students, thus equipping them for their role in God's plan for their lives and for their proper place in society.

Bracken Christian School is a non-denominational school in its teachings and offers an educational alternative to parents from a wide range of Christian experiences and church involvement. As parents of students in our school, be aware of the position we take in the four areas mentioned below.

Bracken Christian School takes the following stance in these specific areas:

- We interpret Scripture to teach CREATION. Genesis 1:1, Romans 1:19-25, Psalm 100:3
- We interpret Scripture to be PRO-LIFE. Psalm 139:13, Jeremiah 1:5, Luke 1:15, 44
- We interpret Scripture to approve of sexual relationships ONLY IN A MARRIAGE between a male and a female. Exodus 20:14, Galatians 5, Galatians 5:19, I Corinthians 6:18, Leviticus 18:22, Romans 1:27
- We interpret Scripture to be in opposition to the philosophies and forms of teaching that is presently called Secularism, Postmodernism, Secular Humanism, or the New Age movement. At its heart, secularism seeks to marginalize the impact that faith plays in society, and postmodernism rejects the idea of absolutes, especially moral absolutes as revealed in the Bible. Secular humanism is a religion and a philosophy of life that views man as the supreme being of the universe. By New Age, we mean any of the recent state of teachings that instructs people to obtain special revelations, insights, or knowledge through the use of spirits, séances, horoscopes, Ouija boards, prisms, crystal balls, metaphysical techniques, imaging, and other similar means. Lev. 19:31, Col 2:8, I John 4:1, Rev. 22:18

GOALS

These are the desired goals or outcomes stated or implied by our positional foundation.

- To develop in each student a distinctively Christian intellect and heart.
- To teach the basic biblical doctrines and principles given in our school's Statement of Faith.
- To function as a partner with the Christian home, aiding parents in their biblical responsibility of training a child to know, love, and obey God.
- To purposefully and effectively integrate subject matter and all learning experiences with a biblical worldview.
- To teach toward academic excellence in Math, English, Science, Social Studies, and other areas.
- To offer students the opportunity to develop and excel in other non-academic areas such as sports, arts, music, and speech.