



SCA SOCIETY PROGRAM HANDBOOK

January 2019

A Ministry of Sherwood Park Alliance Church
An Alternative Program of Elk Island Public Schools



Table of Contents

Introduction 3
Mission Statement 4
Philosophy of Christian Education 5
Statement of Faith 7

Introduction

This document contains a mission statement, philosophy of education, and statement of faith for Strathcona Christian Academy. Parents are required to affirm their support of these statements via their signature in their SCA Society enrollment package.

Mission Statement

**To challenge students, through Christ-centered education, to know
Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord
in order to pursue a life of godly character,
personal and academic excellence and
service to others.**

Elk Island Public Schools operates the Strathcona Christian Academy (SCA) as a religious alternative program under the authority of and in accordance with the School Act and other pertinent legislation such as the Alberta Human Rights and the Freedom of information and protection of Privacy Act. As well, the SCA operates in accordance with the following principles:

- students are God's unique creation, deserving of a respectful, loving and nurturing environment which prepares them for life now and eternally;
- Christian education develops the total person spiritually, intellectually, socially and physically;
- a commitment to teaching the Alberta curriculum from the perspective of what the Bible says about God, ourselves and the world;
- staff will be qualified and committed to supporting a Christian education teaching staff and providing a supportive environment for their professional development;
- staff will respect, value and honour the role and responsibility of parents as partners in education;
- staff will be supportive of government, the Christian religion, and our community.

Philosophy of Christian Education

The educational philosophy of SCA is based on a God-centered view of mankind and truth as presented in the Bible. This philosophy posits the following:

Since God created and sustains all things through His Son, Jesus Christ, the universe and all life are dynamically related to God and have the purpose of glorifying Him. This is pointedly true of mankind who was made in God's image - different in kind from all other creatures - with the unique capacity to know and respond to God personally and voluntarily. Because mankind is sinful by nature and choice, he/she cannot, in this condition, know or honour God in his/her life. Only by being born again and filled with His Spirit can she/he do God's will. This should be the ultimate purpose of their life.

The authority for such an education comes both from God's command that children be taught to love God and place Him first in their lives, and from the fact that parents are responsible for the total education and training of their children. The Christian School, along with the Church, becomes a partner in giving this education.

From this philosophy stem certain aims and objectives for the education offered at SCA:

For the Spiritual and moral growth of the student, the school seeks:

- to teach the Bible as God's inspired Word and to develop attitudes of love and respect toward it,
- to teach the basic doctrines of the Bible,
- to develop a desire to know the will of God as revealed in the Scriptures,
- to equip the student to understand the will of God daily,
- to impart an understanding of Christianity's belief in a worldwide task of witnessing, evangelism and discipline and to stimulate the student's involvement in this task,
- to develop the "mind and heart of Christ" toward godliness and sin, and to teach the student how to live an overcoming life through exercising self-restraint and consideration of others,
- to encourage the development of self-discipline and responsibility in the student based on respect for and submission to God and God-ordained authority, and
- to help the student develop for themselves a Christian worldview by integrating life and studies with the Bible.

For the student's personal and social development, the school aims:

- to help students develop their personality based both on a proper understanding and acceptance of themselves as unique individuals created in the image of God and on the fullest possible development of their own capabilities,
- to teach students to treat everyone with love and respect since others too are made in God's image,
- to make students contributing members of society who realize their dependence on others and others dependence them,

- to promote an understanding of time as a God-given commodity, and the individual responsibility for effective use of time,
- to show a biblical view of life and work, and to provide skills for personal relationships and future endeavours,
- to develop good and proper attitudes toward marriage and the family and also the understanding and skills needed to establish God-honouring homes,
- to promote physical fitness, good health habits, and wise use of the body as the temple of God, and
- to impart biblical attitudes toward material things, and to encourage individual responsibility of using them for God's glory.

For the student's academic advancement, the school endeavours:

- to promote high academic standards within the potential of the individual as uniquely created by God and to help the student realize their full academic potential,
- to help each student gain a thorough comprehension and command of the fundamental processes,
- used in communicating and dealing with others, such as reading, speaking, and listening,
- to teach and encourage the use of good study habits,
- to teach the student how to do independent research and to reason logically,
- to motivate the student to pursue independent study in the areas of personal interest,
- to develop creative and critical thinking and the proper use of biblical criteria for evaluation, to promote good citizenship through developing and understanding an appreciation of our Christian and Canadian heritage of responsible freedom, human dignity, and acceptance of authority,
- to discuss current affairs in all fields and to relate them to God's plan for man,
- to produce an understanding and appreciation for God's world, an awareness of man's role in their environment, and their God-given responsibilities to use and preserve it properly,
- to promote an appreciation of the fine arts through the development of the student's understanding and personal expression, and
- to adapt the curriculum to real-life situations in the community.

In keeping with the school's commitment to and support of the homes from which the students come, the school desires:

- to cooperate closely with parents in every phase of the student's development, especially as it relates to the school program,
- to help parents understand the school's purpose and programs, and vision through a process identified by the Society.
- to assist parents in keeping up with the changing culture and its effects on the home and the implications for their children, and
- the Society shall determine what fees it will charge parents to cover its costs for the extra components it provides to SCA and for the benefit of the parents and students of SCA.

Statement of Faith

The educational philosophy of the SCA posits the following:

1. There is one God, who is infinitely perfect, existing eternally in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
2. Jesus Christ is true God and true man. He was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He died upon the cross, the Just for the unjust, as a substitutionary sacrifice, and all who believe in him are justified on the ground of his shed blood. He arose from the dead according to the Scriptures. He is now at the right hand of the Majesty on high as our great High Priest. He will come again to establish his Kingdom of righteousness and peace.
3. The Holy Spirit is a divine Person, sent to indwell, guide, teach and empower the believer, and to convince the world of sin, of righteousness and of judgment.
4. The Old and New Testaments, inerrant as originally given, were verbally inspired by God and are a complete revelation of his will for the salvation of people. They constitute the divine and only rule of Christian faith and practice.
5. Humankind, originally created in the image and likeness of God, fell through disobedience, incurring thereby both physical and spiritual death. All people are born with a sinful nature, are separated from the life of God, and can be saved only through the atoning work of the Lord Jesus Christ. The destiny of the impenitent and unbelieving is existence forever in conscious torment, but that of the believer is everlasting joy and bliss.
6. Salvation has been provided only through Jesus Christ. Those who repent and believe in him are united with Christ through the Holy Spirit and are thereby regenerated (born again), justified, sanctified and granted the gift of eternal life as adopted children of God.
7. It is the will of God that in union with Christ each believer should be sanctified thoroughly thereby being separated from sin and the world and fully dedicated to God, receiving power for holy living and sacrificial and effective service toward the completion of Christ's commission.

This is accomplished through being filled with the Holy Spirit which is both a distinct event and progressive experience in the life of the believer.

8. Provision is made in the redemptive work of the Lord Jesus Christ for the healing of the mortal body. Prayer for the sick and anointing with oil as taught in the Scriptures are privileges for the Church in this present age.
9. The universal Church, of which Christ is the Head, consists of all those who believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, are redeemed through His blood, regenerated by the Holy Spirit, and commissioned by Christ to go into all the world as a witness, preaching the Gospel to all nations.

The local church, the visible expression of the universal Church, is a body of believers in Christ who are joined together to worship God, to observe the ordinances of Baptism and the Lord's Supper, to pray, to be edified through the Word of God, to fellowship, and to testify in word and deed to the good news of salvation both locally and globally. The local church enters into relationships with other like-minded churches for accountability, encouragement and mission.

10. There shall be a bodily resurrection of the just and of the unjust; for the former, a resurrection unto life; for the latter, a resurrection unto judgment.
11. The second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ is imminent and will be personal and visible. As the believer's blessed hope, this vital truth is an incentive for holy living and sacrificial service toward the completion of Christ's commission.