



## **Mount Pisgah Philosophy of Christian Education**

Mount Pisgah Christian School's mission statement is to "provide outstanding college preparatory academics grounded in Christian faith and values." We work together with parents, who are the primary educators of their children, to assist students in the development of their Christian faith. We strive to provide a culture where students are actively engaged in the process of integrating faith and life. As a result, Christian faith and values permeate all that we do at Pisgah.

### *Personnel*

Upon hire, each of the members of the faculty and staff faithfully review and sign a statement of Christian faith. This ecumenical statement assures our community that our leaders and persons of authority share a common base of Christian belief. The school intentionally hires professionals who share a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and who desire to foster such a relationship in others.

### *Admissions*

Pisgah is considered a "mission" school. Therefore, we do not discriminate based on religious affiliation in our admissions process. As a result, we admit students of a wide range of faith traditions. We strive to provide a climate that respects each student's point along their faith development, and focus on the commonalities of Christian Orthodoxy, rather than on the specific theologies of particular Christian denominations.

### *Academics*

Throughout K-12, students are required to participate in developmentally appropriate Christian Education courses and programming. Being a school whose families come from a wide range of Christian faith traditions, we acknowledge there may be doctrinal tension around issues that arise in the academic curriculum. This tension is considered a natural and welcome consequence of our ecumenical Christian culture. Particular tension may arise in the disciplines of science and history, and therefore deserve further clarification below.

#### Science

Mount Pisgah Christian School assumes a worldview that God created the world. However, we do not believe that this view of creation is in conflict with science; rather, it is in conflict with any worldview that starts without a creator. We acknowledge that some families at Pisgah will have widely varied views on the place of evolution in our curriculum. We believe that to be a fully educated student in the biological sciences, our curriculum must contain lessons on the process of evolution.

However, we make a clear distinction between the *process* of creation and the *origin* of creation. The Pisgah science curriculum, including evolution, will spark discussions both in class and at home that will allow for parents to participate in the dialogue with their children while helping to create informed Christian thinkers. Within the Christian community, equally committed and sincere Christians have struggled with the subject of beginnings and come to differing conclusions. Given the vast array of different Christian faith traditions represented at Pisgah, it is expected that this would be true among school families as well. Students of the Bible and of sciences should avoid polarizations and be careful not to make the Bible say what it does not say, and students of science must not make science say what it does not say. Again, the most important aspect of the continuing discussion is not the process of creation, but the origin of creation. The world is not a product of blind chance and probability; God created it.

#### History

Pisgah acknowledges and celebrates the Birth of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ as the most important historical event in human history. This serves as the basis point for the numeration of the modern calendar, and is the lens



through which we view all human events. Students of ancient historical and pre-Christian civilizations examine the historical events in the context in which they lived. Central to the historical dialectic that shaped these pre-Christian civilizations is the absence of the salvific Grace that was introduced to the world in the Body of Christ.

Students study non-Christian civilizations with the understanding that our great scriptural commission to spread the Good News of the gospel in an attempt to shape history not yet written and build His Kingdom on earth.

### *Christian Leadership*

The Christian Leadership component of Pisgah's curriculum combines a biblical worldview with college preparatory academics; a unique opportunity that meets the primary objective to inspire the next generation of great Christian thinkers. It is the aim of the Christian leadership programs to maintain and enhance an intentional Christian ethos and help students along their walk with Christ.

Our curriculum includes required courses throughout Pisgah's academic program, as well as weekly chapel services. Preschool introduces students to God's love. In Lower School, students focus on Character Development through the study of life and people living in biblical times. In Middle School, students study the Old and New Testaments. Lessons of faith and character are revealed as students begin to apply biblical truths in their own journeys of discovery. Upper School students take this growth one step further by contrasting the Christian faith to other major religion and cults and continuing to live and present the message of Jesus Christ while living in a secular society. Spiritual Life knowledge is put into practice daily through classroom devotions and prayers.

Recognizing that an academic curriculum alone is insufficient to encourage students engagement in their Christian faith and to build an attitude of servant leadership, we offer many opportunities to engage in service to others at Pisgah. These include:

#### Service Hours

Throughout their matriculation, students have the chance to serve others. Students in the Upper School are required to complete a minimum number of hours of service per year and are also given the opportunity to strive towards earning a Christian Service honor on their diploma. This honor is achieved by engaging in service opportunities well above and beyond the minimum. Specific details are noted in the student handbook.

#### Peer Leadership Program

The Pisgah Peer Leadership Program develops leaders through a ministry of teaching, mentoring and intentional experiences that impact our school, community and the world. Realizing that peer influence predominates during the teen years, this program encourages students to reach out and care about one another. The concept of "youth helping youth" is one that benefits *the leaders* by developing their self-esteem and confidence, and benefits *the students* by providing them support and the opportunity to trust and care about one another.

#### Missions

As they matriculate to the Prep School Campus, students are afforded many opportunities to participate in mission trips, at both domestic and international (e.g., Kenya, Costa Rica) locales. These trips allow students to advance of the Kingdom of God. They also help students gain an understanding of people and their universal needs, act compassionately, and to serve others. Mission experiences are important to build strong character and deepen faith.