
Ends of ZCA

Policy 1.0 Zion Christian Academy trains students to become flourishing followers of Jesus who glorify God and are prepared to leave a visible, lasting difference on his world.

We exist to train students academically and shape them biblically – these are not mutually exclusive. Our end goal is not information download, but whole-life transformation under the reign of Jesus.

“Education is not primarily . . . concerned with providing information; rather, education most fundamentally is a matter of formation, a task of shaping and creating a certain kind of people. These people are distinct because of what they love and desire – the kingdom of God.” (James K.A. Smith)

1.1. Christ-Centered (Driven by God’s compelling story)

- 1.1.1. Students understand the Bible as one story that culminates in Jesus. A story of creation, fall, and new creation. This story then develops into a worldview.*
- 1.1.2. Students are taught to see their need for Jesus Christ and are set on a journey of following him in all areas of life.*
- 1.1.3. Students can articulate and defend a Christian worldview and understand how this defines their values, beliefs, and personal choices.*
- 1.1.4. Students understand man as God’s image-bearer and practice love of their neighbor.*
- 1.1.5. We will maintain a robust and deep Bible curriculum that is gospel centered and not moralistic. This bible curriculum will teach both the narratives and the meta-narrative of the Bible. It will be age appropriate, but always Christ centered.*
- 1.1.6. Students learn to love the local church as Jesus’ bride, and we do not attempt to be a substitute for the local church.*
- 1.1.7. Students will be taught to think theologically. Theological integration only follows theological instruction. Our curriculum development will reflect this pedagogical reality.*

1.2. Prepared for College (College Prep)

- 1.2.1. Students demonstrate knowledge and are measurably proficient in all academic disciplines.*
- 1.2.2. Students are prepared for acceptance to the college or university of their choice.*
- 1.2.3. Students are prepared to be life-long learners. They are taught the skills of learning, studying, and critical thinking.*
- 1.2.4. We will strive to maintain the top school-averaged ACT/SAT scores in the county as one measure of academic preparedness. This is not an end in itself, but a tool to measure our effectiveness in academic training.*
- 1.2.5. Students are prepared to understand the opposing worldviews and the challenges of the college campus and are ready to engage them with a biblical worldview.*
- 1.2.6. Teachers will be continually trained in pedagogy that reflects a biblical anthropology. We strive to hire the best teachers who are continually equipped.*
- 1.2.7. Because education is our primary goal, classroom discipline will be geared toward student development instead of classroom management.*

1.3. Equipped for Purpose (Beginning the process of discovering your calling in the story)

1.3.1. A Christian is a servant both of Jesus, and of his mission. Students are encouraged and equipped to discern and develop their God-given abilities and aptitudes. We will provide arts, athletics, and electives to give the students opportunities to test their gifts and callings.

1.3.2. Students recognize and demonstrate servant leadership at home, at work, and in their communities. Athletics helps serve this end of creating disciples of Jesus.

1.3.3. Students are equipped and encouraged to engage the culture for God's glory. They will recognize the importance of thinking small – gearing their service to their neighbor, their family, and their local community.

1.3.4. Each student will be treated as an individual, created in the image of God. Our educational choices, discipline, policies will reflect this commitment.