

# Foundational Elements of our Christ-Centered Community



The list below is a collaborative and unified declaration of non-negotiable principles held by Whitefield Academy leadership. These principles provide predictability and stability within every situation at Whitefield. The principles do not place parameters around who is and who is not a Christian. They also do not determine one's spiritual maturity. They are a framework which directs the partnership with parents in leading students to know and follow Jesus within a Christ-centered and connected school community.

Mission-Driven Enrollment (MDE) is a framework by which admission decisions are made. Both for initial and continued enrollment, Whitefield Academy fully affirms and professes the following Foundational Elements of our Christ-centered community. Though both Christians and non-Christians are considered for enrollment, families who are unable or unwilling to share in these foundational proclamations will not be considered for enrollment at Whitefield Academy.

## Our Greatest Aim

Our greatest aim is for students and families to know and follow Jesus. Jesus is the cornerstone of our school and the Bible is the foundation for all we do in and out of the classroom. We believe that salvation is only possible through a personal faith in Jesus Christ and that those who reject the Gospel will spend all eternity separated from God (2 Thessalonians 1:5-10). As a ministry of [Highview Baptist Church](#), Whitefield supports the biblical definition of the family as outlined in the [Baptist Faith and Message 2000](#). The Bible is the foundation and guides all of our thinking for all areas of life. We follow God's teaching through His word rather than the wisdom of the world in all things.

## The Church

We believe that God has ordained the Church as His primary method of accomplishing His purposes in the world. The Church is purposed by God as His primary means of leading people to know and follow Jesus (Matthew 28:18-20). All Whitefield employees commit to attend a local church, and it is highly encouraged that every family enrolled attend [Highview Baptist Church](#) or another local Bible-believing church.

## Community Aspirations

Our [Community Aspirations Framework](#) is the articulation of what we strive for within unique constituencies of our school. In short, we strive to see every employee, parent, and student love the Lord with all their heart, mind, soul, and strength (Mark 12:29-30).

## Admissions and Tuition Philosophy

We enroll students from Christian and non-Christian families. We follow our [Mission-Driven Enrollment Framework](#) when reviewing applications. Families who fully support our Christ-centered school, biblical values regarding marriage and family, and commitment to pursuing excellence in all things may be considered for enrollment. The school administration determines which students may be admitted at which grades and at what time of the school year. Admissions and enrollment are the shared responsibility of every Whitefield employee, and yearly tuition is set to provide our faculty and staff with an honorable salary and benefits package. Tuition is set to cover all operating expenses as determined by Whitefield Academy.

# Foundational Elements of our Christ-Centered Community

## Generosity and Gospel Partners

Whitefield has grown for over 50 years due to the gospel partnership and generosity of many current and past donors. Tuition is set to cover all operating expenses, and the financial generosity of our partners secure growth and expedite campus enhancements for all students. Our yearly Annual Fund is the largest community effort to accomplish this. These are undesignated funds that help the school accomplish important projects that impact our students. Financial gifts may be designated and must be collaboratively agreed upon between individual Gospel partner(s) and the Head of School. It is the heart behind the gift that matters - not the size. Each gift plays a meaningful role in impacting the lives of our students for eternity. Proverbs 11:25 says, "A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed."

## Parent Expectations

Mutual trust is the foundation of our positive campus culture. In the event that a parent disrupts our culture by failing to joyfully and fully support the school as outlined in this document and in the handbook(s), they jeopardize their child's continued enrollment. Examples of this include intentionally exposing students to things that the Bible clearly defines as sin, being disrespectful to any school personnel, failing to support student discipline as outlined in the handbook(s), gossiping or spreading negativity within the parent community by criticizing and complaining about the school or its employees, becoming unduly involved in operations of the classroom/school, and refusing to follow our Matthew 18 conflict resolution process. If any parent of a current student files (or threatens to file) a lawsuit against the school, the student will be dismissed from school until the matter is settled. We believe that failure to resolve conflict biblically, demonstrating a divisive spirit, and gossip are the greatest threats to our healthy school culture.

## Conflict Resolution

Whitefield follows Matthew 18 regarding conflict resolution. Complaints or negative comments are only to be shared directly with the teacher, administrator, or person involved. As a community, we refrain from publicly displaying complaints or negative comments on social media, and model biblical conflict resolution by engaging the person directly.

## Church/School Relationship

Whitefield joyfully exists as a ministry of [Highview Baptist Church](#) and fully affirms the [Baptist Faith and Message 2000](#). (The church and school share a passion to spread the Gospel through Christian schooling). The school is led by the Head of School to carry out and advance its mission and vision (of the church and school). The School Board exists to set the mission and protect the mission of the school, provide executive limitations, and focus on strategic planning of the school. The school board does not exist to be involved in the day-to-day operations of the school. If a Whitefield family brings a school issue to the attention of a Highview pastor or Whitefield school board member, they will be directed back to the Head of School.

## Curriculum and Class Size

We curate our curriculum to prepare students for college and adulthood while helping them to know and follow Jesus. It is our teachers who lead and guide our classrooms - not the textbooks. In cases where secular material conflicts with what the Bible teaches, our teachers always teach with a biblical worldview. Quality educators who know, love, and see each student are the key to our students' academic success while experiencing the mission and vision of Whitefield in our classrooms. Class sizes at Whitefield are set based on unique student dynamics and teacher profiles. While striving for "small" class sizes, we set the number based on fostering optimal learning and community - not local public school or national independent school norms.

# Foundational Elements of our Christ-Centered Community

## Student Behavior and Expectations

We want our students to be servant leaders who impact the world for Christ. They are Whitefield students inside and outside of our buildings and are accountable for their behavior 24/7 all year long. Students whose behavior poses a negative threat to the reputation of Whitefield Academy or Highview Baptist church may experience suspension or expulsion. All discipline is done with the ultimate goal of redemption and restoration. Ultimately, this can happen in Christ, and Whitefield will strive for the same within our school wherever it is possible. Discipline issues are confidential and are only discussed with the parent(s) and student(s) involved and pertinent school employees.

## Student Success

The most successful Whitefield students are usually those who embrace responsibility for all areas of their lives. These students typically have parents who resist the urge to protect them from the crucial lessons learned through struggles, challenges, disappointment, and discipline provided in a school environment. Rather than creating an “easy path” in life, parents who model joy, gratitude, kindness, and accountability provide their children with a strong advantage for life over those who consistently try to make things “feel” easy for their children (Hebrews 12:11).

## Social Media

Parents must support the school with their prayers and positive attitude. Complaints or negative comments should be shared only with the teacher, administrator, or person involved and not with students or other people. This includes all social media (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, Snapchat, etc.). This plan follows the biblical principles given to us in Matthew 18. If at any time, the school determines in its sole discretion that a parent/guardian or a student's actions do not support the school's ministry or reflect a lack of cooperation and commitment to the home and school working together, it has the right to dismiss the student/family from the school.

## Campus Expectations

While Christian liberty exists across many areas of life, it is the default position of Whitefield that our school community displays an attitude of considering the interests of others as greater than our own (Philippians 2:3). As such, while on campus or attending Whitefield events, our community is expected to model biblical values and principles in all areas. Some examples are speech (Ephesians 4:29), clothing (1 Corinthians 6:19-20), and social interaction with all others (Romans 12:10).

## Athletics, Arts, and Extracurriculars

In all things, it honors the Lord when students give their best in all things rather than just “getting by” (Colossians 3:23). Students who demonstrate both skill and commitment to excellence have the highest chance of success at Whitefield and in life. Coaches and directors are the first line of conflict resolution when issues arise within these spheres of the school. In accordance with our handbook(s), they maintain authority to exercise conflict resolution and any necessary disciplinary measures. Students of unsupportive parents may lose their privilege to participate.

# Foundational Elements of our Christ-Centered Community

## Common Theology and Values

God has ordained parents as the primary disciple-makers of their children. Whitefield will respect unique family perspectives so long as they are within the realm of Christian orthodoxy as it pertains to secondary and tertiary issues. While respecting these beliefs, Whitefield will always teach in accordance with, and not contrary to, the positions held by [Highview Baptist Church](#) and the [Baptist Faith and Message 2000](#).

## Commitment to Growth

Whitefield is grateful to God for the opportunity to partner with parents in preparing students for God's plan of their life. We are committed to growth in all areas of our school believing that we can abound in all areas with a heart of thanksgiving (Colossians 2:7). With joyful commitment to all God is doing at Whitefield, parents and employees working together can create a bright future for each student rooted in Christ and his purposes.