

Mission, Vision, Philosophy, Statement of Faith

MISSION STATEMENT

Roy and Dora Whitman Academy exists to provide a quality, Christian education to third culture kids through creative hands-on learning and guided opportunities in servant leadership.

VISION STATEMENT

Whitman Academy aims to produce well-educated, globally-minded disciples transformed by the Gospel with a heart for people's physical and spiritual needs and the ambition to make a difference for the kingdom of God.

CORE VALUES

1. We believe in a Christian philosophy of education.
 - ❖ The Bible is the foundation of all truth.
 - ❖ God has designed people to be in right relationship with Him, through Jesus Christ, and only through this will we achieve meaning in life and right relationships with others.
 - ❖ Teachers are evangelical Christians and have a sense of calling to intentionally disciple TCKs.
 - ❖ The curriculum is designed and taught in light of Biblical principles and values.
 - ❖ Each student is created by God with spiritual, intellectual, emotional, social, and physical needs and is educated holistically by addressing these unique needs.
 - ❖ The God-given responsibility for nurturing, training, and educating a child belongs to the parents.
2. We recognize that TCKs are a unique group of people with diverse cultural experiences who need to develop healthy skills for coping, adapting, and transitioning well in their host culture(s) and home culture.
3. We strive to build growing and maturing disciples of Christ who are equipped to be servant leaders in their school and community.
4. We encourage a caring community of respect that celebrates our unity in Christ while embracing diverse cultural backgrounds.
5. We deem learning the Arabic language and culture key to helping families adjust to life and make an impact for the Kingdom of God in Jordan.
6. We commit to quality instruction, maximized through low student/teacher ratios, stimulating classroom environments, and teaching methods appropriate to the students' learning styles and needs.
7. We practice classroom management that develops responsible behavior and self-discipline.

8. We foster an attitude of life-long learning by modeling this lifestyle inside and outside the classroom.
9. We prioritize the pursuit of excellence in character, in thought, and in action.
10. We emphasize parental involvement as essential to ensuring a quality program.
11. We endeavor to provide a budget-friendly educational option for Christian workers.

Whitman Academy Philosophy of Education

Whitman Academy exists to assist parents in providing a quality, Christian education in English to third culture kids (TCKs) through creative hands-on learning and guided opportunities in servant leadership. While we follow a United States university-preparatory curriculum, we seek to incorporate concepts presented from a global perspective in order to reflect our international student body. We affirm the value of TCKs and the unique nature of their experiences and needs. We address their spiritual, physical, emotional, and mental welfare as well as their educational needs through chapels, small groups, individual mentoring, low teacher-student ratios, physical education programs and extra curricular opportunities. We also recognize the unique opportunities afforded to us by our location in the Middle East, and find ways to incorporate field trips, guest speakers, community involvement, and hands-on activities to supplement our classroom instruction.

Teachers use a variety of teaching strategies and assessment tools to engage diverse learners with multiple learning styles. We accept students with learning disabilities and those with limited English proficiency because we believe that all students are created with the ability to learn. These students contribute to diverse learning environment of our school. By the time our students are ready to enter the secondary department of our school, they must be able to articulate academic concepts in standard written and spoken English.

We intentionally use textbooks from both secular and Christian publishers in our curriculum. This introduces and exposes our students to a variety of perspectives, which fosters a spirit of inquiry and develops the critical thinking skills that will allow our students to articulate and defend their faith in a secular world. We seek to incorporate a Christian worldview which reflects a classical approach to education, recognizing that students' developmental needs and abilities change significantly from their first to twelfth grade years. Our early elementary classes (grades 1-4) reflect the grammar stage of development, emphasizing mastery learning and the basic foundations of Christian belief. Courses in our middle grades (5-8) reflect the logic stage of development, introducing students to a variety of beliefs and providing tools to allow students to explore alternate view points, while still providing a solid Christian foundation. Courses in our high school (grades 9-12) reflect the rhetoric stage of development, and encourage students to engage in the higher levels of critical thinking as they learn to make faith and learning their own.

Philosophy of Early Elementary Education

Our early elementary classes (Grades 1-4) reflect the grammar stage of development, emphasizing mastery learning and the basic foundations of Christian belief. At this stage of development, instruction is primarily teacher-directed. Our highly qualified teachers guide students in the pursuit of greater knowledge and help the students to formulate basic understanding of concepts in the foundational disciplines of language arts, science, math, social studies, and Bible. We address the diverse learning styles and needs of our students through the use of hands-on learning, art, music, physical education, and field trips into the community. We employ a staff member trained in special education and teachers who have English as a second language (ESL) certification. Teachers act as guides in helping young TCKs to develop interpersonal skills rooted in Biblical understanding—conflict management, issues pertaining to personal space, respect for others, appropriate use of language, and positive peer-to-peer interaction.

Philosophy of Middle Grades Education

Courses in our middle grades (5-8) reflect the logic stage of development, introducing students to a variety of beliefs and providing tools to allow students to explore alternate view points, while still providing a solid Christian foundation. During these years, students undergo significant physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual changes which affect their personal identity and how they view the world around them. As a result, the teaching in these grades moves away from a teacher-driven study of concrete facts, and students begin to explore more abstract ideas and concepts. They are guided through the process of dissecting an argument, formulating a personal opinion, and clarifying their own personal and spiritual values. Students are encouraged to develop both behavioral and academic problem-solving skills as they move from co-dependent relationships with their parents beliefs toward mental and spiritual independence. Field trips, guest speakers, laboratory exercises, appropriate use of humor, and active learning opportunities are crucial learning tools that address the changing nature of students in the middle grades.

By the time a student completes these grades, he must be able to articulate academic concepts in standard spoken and written English.

Philosophy of High School Education

Courses in our high school (grades 9-12) reflect the rhetoric stage of development, and encourage students to engage in the higher levels of critical thinking as they learn to make faith and learning their own. Students actively engage with ideas, develop their own beliefs, and articulate and defend these positions. Students confront secular and/or controversial issues and evaluate these issues from a Christian perspective.

Students complete a minimum of 60 hours of community service, further exposing them to a wide variety of people and ideas and instilling in them a desire to impact the world around them in a positive manner. Student leadership programs encourage students to make and implement decisions to benefit the school and local community. Through these programs, students develop an awareness of their place in the greater global community, and discover ways to walk out their faith as they engage this community.

Whitman Academy offers two tracks in our secondary department. Upon graduation, our students qualify for entrance into a standard four year university or into a technical/trade school. A variety of academic, creative, and technical courses are offered allowing students to grow spiritually, academically, emotionally, and creatively into well-rounded, mature individuals. We offer standard and advanced placement course options in a number of our core subjects. Field trips, laboratory exercises, student-led discussions, physical education, and active learning opportunities are integral to our academic program. During grades 11 & 12, students prepare for college entrance exams as offered by the College Board in the United States.

STATEMENT OF EVANGELICAL FAITH:

1. We believe the Bible is inspired by the Holy Spirit and is inerrant in the original manuscripts.
2. We believe there is only one living and true God eternally co-existing in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
3. We believe God the Son became incarnate in the person of Jesus Christ; that He was conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary; that He is truly God and truly man; that He lived a sinless life; and that all His teachings are true.
4. We believe Jesus Christ died for the sins of the whole world as a substitutionary sacrifice.
5. We believe the crucified body of Christ was raised from the dead; that He ascended into heaven; and that He sits on the right hand of God as our high priest and advocate.
6. We believe the Holy Spirit is a person who indwells all believers from the moment of salvation.

7. We believe man was created in the image of God; that he sinned and incurred physical and spiritual death; and that all men are born with a sinful nature which is in enmity against God.
8. We believe salvation is by grace through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. All who put their faith in Christ alone for salvation have eternal life and shall never perish.
9. We believe Jesus Christ shall return personally and bodily to the earth to establish His reign of righteousness and justice.
10. We believe both the just and unjust shall be raised bodily from the dead; that the redeemed shall enjoy eternal blessedness while the accursed shall suffer eternal conscious punishment.
11. We believe Christians possess two natures, with provisions made for the victory of the new nature over the old nature by the power of the Spirit.
12. We believe it is the responsibility of all Christians to share the Gospel with the lost.

I, the undersigned, do agree with and will uphold the above statements during my employment at Roy &Dora Whitman Academy.

Name Printed

Signature

Date