



GAPE CHRISTIAN ACADEMY OVERVIEW

Equipping God's children to be a transforming influence.

Our Mission

To work together with the home and church to provide each student with a Christ-centered, quality education that will enable them to be a transforming influence in their world.

Biblical Perspective

We seek to be a Christian school by teaching from a biblical worldview. We believe that the Bible is the written Word of God, the truth by which the Holy Spirit enlightens our understanding of God, our world and ourselves. All of life, including the studies and disciplines in which our students are engaged, are governed and directed by the authority of the Scriptures.

Small Class Size

Each of our classes will ideally have 10-15 students. We believe small classes help us meet the varied needs of children as they grow and develop. With small classes children can be known according to their gifts, abilities, areas of challenge, learning styles and temperament. Small classes also enable the teacher to genuinely care for and be involved with each child and family.

Grade Levels Offered

We provide instruction for Preschool through Eighth Grade. The school day for First through Eighth Grade is 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Kindergarten is held five half days per week from 8:30 a.m. to noon. The Pre-Kindergarten Program for Four/Five year olds is held Monday through Wednesday, 8:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. or 11:45 a.m. to 2:15 p.m. The Preschool Program for Three/Four year olds is held Thursday and Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Professional Affiliation

Agape Christian Academy is a member of the Association of Christian Schools International.

School Classification

Agape Christian Academy is a non-denominational Christian school. It is recognized by The Ohio Department of Education as a Non-Chartered, Non-Tax Supported School. The Preschool and Kindergarten are licensed by the Ohio Department of Job & Family Services.

Curriculum

The Academy utilizes curriculum developed by A Beka and Bob Jones, well-known and respected publishers of Christian school materials. A biblical worldview is integrated throughout all subjects. The Stanford Achievement Test and Ohio Achievement Test are administered each spring.

Our Staff

Hiring Godly, qualified teachers and administrators is crucial to fulfilling our mission as a school. Our staff must exemplify the highest Christian character as they reflect Christ's love and encourage each child's own obedient response to God. Our staff meets the educational requirements as established by the State of Ohio and are licensed to teach in their area.

Chapel Service and Prayer

We believe that having a regular chapel service and integrating prayer as a part of the school day are both important to the spiritual growth of the students. The staff will regularly pray for the needs of the school and each child and his or her family.

Non-Discrimination Policy

Agape Christian Academy recruits and admits students of any sex, race, color or national/ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs and activities of the school. Agape Christian Academy does not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, color or national/ethnic origin in the administration of its educational policies and programs.

2009-2010 Academy Staff

Mrs. Susan Gifford, Academy President

Mrs. Gifford serves as the Administrator for the school and brings more than 20 years of management experience to her position. She holds a Bachelor's Degree from Bowling Green State University, a Master's from Cleveland State University, and has completed coursework in Early Childhood Education at Lakeland Community College. Mrs. Gifford, her husband Russ and daughter Emily reside in Orwell.

Mrs. Bethany Bess, 3rd Grade Teacher

Mrs. Bess holds a Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education from Spring Arbor University in Michigan. She previously served as a substitute teacher for Agape. Mrs. Bess and her husband Brian reside in Chardon.

Mrs. Heidi Curtin, Preschool Teacher

Mrs. Curtin holds a Bachelor of Science in Education from Bowling Green State University and earned her Early Childhood Education license at Hiram College. She served as co-teacher for Burton Congregational Preschool prior to joining Agape. Mrs. Curtin, her husband Tom and children Abby and Brendan reside in Burton.

Mrs. Kristen Elliott, Administrative Asst.

Mrs. Elliott assists the President and holds an Associate's Degree in Human Resource Management from Ashworth College. She resides with her husband Michael in Chardon.

Mrs. Esther Geletka, 1st Grade Teacher

Mrs. Geletka holds a Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education from Indiana Wesleyan University and a Masters in Education with a Reading Specialization from Kent State University. Mrs. Geletka and her husband Brad reside in Concord.

Mr. John Lookabaugh, Social Studies

Teacher holds a Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education from Lee University in Tennessee and a Masters of Education in Middle School Curriculum and Instruction from Kent State University. Before joining Agape he served as a substitute teacher at Valley Christian Academy in Aurora and taught at Sojourn Academy, a missionary school in Costa Rica. He and his wife Katie reside in Kent.

Mrs. Dawn Mighton, Teacher's Aide

Mrs. Mighton assists the teachers in a variety of ways and has served as a volunteer at Agape. She holds a Bachelor's Degree in Public Communications from Ashland University. She resides in Parkman with her husband Alan and children Bryce and Trey.

Mrs. Michelle Miller, 7th/8th Grade Teacher

Mrs. Miller holds a Bachelor's degree in Education from Kent State University. She is a certified Secondary Education teacher with a Math specialization. Mrs. Miller and her husband JR reside in Middlefield with their children Chad, Shelby, Alec and Matthew.

Mrs. Havilah Southern, Kind. Teacher

Mrs. Southern holds a Bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Education from Kent State University. Prior to joining Agape, she was a teacher at Head Start. Mrs. Southern, her husband Mike and sons Elijah, Abram and Aaron reside in West Farmington.

Mrs. Jenelle Stevens, 2nd Grade Teacher

Mrs. Stevens holds a Bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Education from Bluffton University. She and her husband Eric reside in Chardon.

Mrs. Maria Walls, 4th/5th Grade Teacher

Mrs. Walls holds a Bachelors Degree in Elementary Education from Anderson University and a Masters in Counseling from Kent State University. Before joining Agape she taught in the Berkshire School District for eight years. Mrs. Walls and her husband Brian and children Grace, Faith and Joshua reside in Auburn Township.

Academy Board of Trustees

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