

AGAPE CHRISTIAN ACADEMY
Foundational Beliefs and Statement of Faith

Please read carefully, check the appropriate box on pages 3 and/or 4 as applicable and sign.

Preamble and Articles II, III and IV excerpted from the Constitution and By-Laws of Agape Christian Academy

PREAMBLE

Believing that the Bible gives Christian parents the responsibility and privilege of providing education for our children which is uniquely Christian, and believing that this can best be accomplished by the concerned action of a community of Believers, we, the members of the Agape Christian Academy, hereby make and adopt the following articles of association, namely:

ARTICLE II – FOUNDATION

The foundation of the Agape Christian Academy is the Lord Jesus Christ as testified to in the Word of God: the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments. On this basis we affirm the following principles:

Bible: That as the written Word of God, the Bible is the truth by which the Holy Spirit enlightens our understanding of God, ourselves and the world; and is the absolutely trustworthy authority by which all faith and practice are governed and directed, including the education of our children.

Creation: That the universe and all things in it are the good work of the triune God in origin, gracious preservation and ultimate restoration.

People: That all people are created in the image of God to enjoy covenantal fellowship with their Creator, and to reflect in character and works the excellencies of their Maker. True fulfillment is found in living under God's commands, which lead us to exercise loving dominion, responsible stewardship, and faithful reconciliation.

Purpose of education: That the purpose of the education of our children is to prepare them for a life of joyful discovery and wholehearted obedience to their calling as God's representatives in the world by assisting them in attaining knowledge and wisdom. This calling is to know God and the integrity of creation, to bring all of life into submission under the authority of the Creator, to love all people as Christ has instructed, and to be responsible stewards in their God given cultural tasks.

Parent: That God has given parents the gift and responsibility to nurture and educate their children. Parental support and involvement in the educational process is essential, as is the freedom to choose both where and how such education is pursued.

Child: That children are by nature inquisitive and creative. They are entrusted by God to parents and need loving nurture, careful guidance, faithful correction, engaging instruction, and focused exploration of the world as God's creation.

Teacher: That the teacher, as a servant of God, exercises responsible authority in assisting parents and the community in the education of children, and exemplifies a model that reflects Christ's love and encourages the child's own obedient response to God.

Community: That God's purpose for our lives is best known and understood in the context of a faithful community of believers. While the education of children is primarily the responsibility of parents, all believers have an obligation to uphold education through their persistent prayer, faithful work and generous support.

Curriculum: That the integrity of all things under a sovereign Lord may be expressed in the interconnectedness of the academic disciplines, and that the God who created and sustains all things be made known. That our pedagogy and activities address children's varied learning styles and provide concrete, purposeful and real life experiences.

Educational Freedom: That Christian schools, organized and administered in accordance with legitimate standards and provisions for day schools, should be fully recognized in society as free to function according to these principles.

ARTICLE III – PURPOSE

The Association is organized exclusively for charitable and educational purposes within the meaning of section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Constitution and By-laws, the Association shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on (a) by an association exempt from Federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law) or (b) by an association contributions to which are deductible under 170(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law).

The purpose of this Association is to establish, maintain and operate a school or schools for the daily instruction of our children. This instruction must be in accordance with Article II of this Constitution and the Academy's Statement of Faith, and its academic standards must at least meet the requirements set forth by the Department of Education of the State of Ohio.

Our Mission Statement

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.

STATEMENT OF FAITH

The Agape Christian Academy is a Christ-centered, non-denominational school that is organized and operated in accordance with our fundamental beliefs:

1. We believe the Bible, both Old and New Testament, to be the inspired Word of God, inerrant and infallible and the supreme and final authority for faith and life (II Timothy 3:16, II Peter 1:21).
2. We believe in the Triune God, creator of all things, infinitely perfect and eternally existing in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit, equal in essence and having the same attributes, while distinct in personality and function (Genesis 1:1, Hebrews 11:3, I Corinthians 8:6).

3. We believe in Jesus Christ the eternal Son of God, equal with the Father and Holy Spirit, conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary, shed His blood as atonement for sin. (John 1:14, 18, Isaiah 7:14, Hebrews 1: 2,8). We believe that in Christ only is salvation (Ephesians 2: 8-9).
4. We believe in the Holy Spirit a Divine Person equal to the Father and the Son, who convicts the world of sin, righteousness and judgment. He bears witness to the truth and by Him the believer is born again into God's Kingdom, indwelt, empowered and gifted for the work of ministry within the church (Ephesians 1:13, John 16:18, 13, I Corinthians 12:4-7).
5. We believe that God created man, in His image and likeness yet by nature and choice all mankind has sinned and is alienated from God (Genesis 1:26-27, Romans 5:12, 19, 3:32).
6. We believe that a Christian is one who acknowledges and turns away from sin, trusts Christ for forgiveness, and by faith receives Christ as personal savior and Lord (John 1:12-13, Ephesians 1:13-14, I John 1:9, 5:11-12).
7. We believe that Satan is the eternal enemy of God, His work and His people. He is the cause of all evil and is destined to judgment of an eternal justice (Colossians 2:15, I Peter 5:8-9, Revelation 20:10).
8. We believe in the personal, visible and imminent return of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ (Titus 2:13, II Thessalonians 2:8, Acts 1:11).
9. We believe in eternal judgment, the bodily resurrection of the Christian and non-Christian, the eternal conscious suffering of the lost in hell and eternal fellowship of the saved in heaven (I Corinthians 15:50-53, I Thessalonians 4:13-17, Hebrews 9:27, Revelation 20:4-6, 11-15).
10. We believe in the Church, the Body of Christ that is made up of all who have believed in Jesus Christ and the Great Commission to the Church to make disciples (Ephesians 1:22-23, Romans 12:5, Matthew 28:18-20).

ARTICLE IV – Membership

1. All parents and guardians of children attending the school maintained by the Association, who are in agreement with Articles II and III and the Statement of Faith, are eligible for membership in this organization.

Please place a check next to the statement below which applies to you. Please check only one.

I have read and **agree** with the principles set forth in Articles II and III of the Constitution and By-Laws of the Agape Christian Academy Association and The Statement of Faith and understand that if my child's application is accepted, and tuition is paid in a timely manner, I will become a voting member of the Agape Christian Academy Association.

I have read Articles II and III of the Constitution and By-Laws of the Agape Christian Academy Association and the Statement of Faith and **do not agree** with the principles set forth. Having read these articles, I still choose to send my child to Agape Christian Academy and understand that these principles will be fully integrated into the curriculum used for his/her education. I also understand that I will not be a member of the Agape Christian Academy Association and will have no voting privileges in the Association.

Father Signature _____ Date _____

Please place a check next to the statement below which applies to you. Please check only one.

I have read and **agree** with the principles set forth in Articles II and III of the Constitution and By-Laws of the Agape Christian Academy Association and The Statement of Faith and understand that if my child's application is accepted, and tuition is paid in a timely manner, I will become a voting member of the Agape Christian Academy Association.

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Mother Signature _____ Date _____