STUDENT DISCIPLESHIP PLAN

Mansfield Christian School is committed to training future generations to live a life consistent with a Biblical worldview. To achieve this vision, we prioritize the process by which Christian students grow in their faith, especially with regard to maturity of life and calling. This idea is called discipleship or spiritual formation and it is a core value for MCS.

Producing the Christian leaders of tomorrow requires more than just placing children from Christian homes into Christian schools and feeding them a diet of Scripture memory, Bible classes, and chapels. Raising Godly children in today's culture is a deep and complex endeavor, yet the Scriptures call us to this challenge.

The Student Discipleship Plan moves from salvation to discipleship at the appropriate grade levels. Areas of focus begin with a knowledge of who God is [**Respect & Wisdom**], move to an understanding who we are before Him [**Grace**], and conclude with an awareness and discernment as to His purpose for our lives [**Trust & Perspective**].

Clearly the school alone cannot carry out this role. Successful Christian schools have engaged parents that assist in the spiritual formation of each child. Through regular church attendance and involvement, daily times of prayer, devotions, and conversations, families provide the critical foundations for the growth that takes place at school. The patterns that we establish both in our families and at our Christian school will make a statement either for or against the productive spiritual formation of our children.

We want each child to become more fully conformed and united to Christ so that when they leave our school, they have a mature personal relationship with the Savior and they are fully capable of living a successful life for God's glory and according to His purposes.

Respect **Early Childhood** (PreK, K)

By learning to respect God and His authority, *students demonstrate the character of Christ in all areas of everyday life. (ESO)*

To instill respect, we focus on these truths:

- God is all-powerful and can do anything.
- God always keeps His promises.
- God and those placed in authority give us rules that we must obey.
- Even if no one sees or hears us; God always sees and hears us.
- We guide and discipline because of love.

We celebrate growth in respect when:

- Students recognize God's authority.
- Students see that obeying God's rules results in order, respect, and a positive contribution to society. Ephesians 6:2-3
- Students know that obedience is a reflection of our love and respect for God and each other. 1 Thessalonians 5:11; Luke 6:31

Curriculum Links:

- Bob Jones Bible curriculum:
  - Ex: Unit 2: God's World: Creation: God made me. We respect God because He made us and all of creation. Genesis 1:1
  - Ex: Unit 4: God's Friend: Abraham: I Love God. Abraham respected God by trusting and loving Him. Psalm 25:4
  - Ex: Unit 5: God's Care: Joseph: I Trust God. Joseph trusted God's plan for his life and showed us how to respect God through obedience and contentment. 1 Thess. 5:13
  - Ex: Unit 6: God's Leader: Moses: I Obey God's Word. Moses respected God through obedience, even when God asked him to do things he was not comfortable doing.
- Youtube.com links (praise songs and Bible stories)
- Flannel graph
- Dramatic re-enactments
- Pearson: My World Social Studies: Chp. 1: Respect for our country, flag, community, leaders (and all adults, regardless of class or position), and peers.

We teach respect through:

- Weekly Bible verses that reinforce truths mentioned above. Example: *Children, obey your parents in the Lord. Eph. 6:1; If you love me you will obey what I command. John 1:15; Love your neighbor as yourself Galatians 5:14*
- Classroom management: Praise points/Bucket filler stamps awarded for showing evidence of respect and reinforcing positive behaviors.
  - Stop, listen and give attention to someone who is speaking.
  - Do not interrupt someone else when they are talking.
  - Look at the person who is speaking.
  - Realize there are consequences for disobedience.
  - Learning to take turns.
- Weekly Chapel services including praise and worship, offering, and Bible lessons.
- Music: Showing respect to God, the conductor and other performers during the Christmas musical and other performances.
- Respect is shown during morning announcements and prayer.
- Respect for the flags and Bible during circle time.
- Show respect and obedience to God's Word by caring for others. Students collect food weekly according to the letter of the week to be given to local food pantries. Students sing Christmas songs at a local nursing home. Weekly offering is given to Asia's Hope (a Christian orphanage in Cambodia). Collectively, students donate and help pack shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child.
- Pre-K and K- Bucket-filling Unit. (Treating others the way they want to be treated.)
  Books - How Full is Your Bucket? By, Tom Rath and Mary Reckmeyer
  Have You Filled a Bucket Today? By, Carol McCloud
- Creation Unit - Respect for God's Creation
- Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego, Jonah, Noah, David, Isaac, Moses….Heroes of the Bible obeyed and trusted God for their care.

Wisdom **Early Elementary** (1st - 3rd)

By applying God's Word to life situations, *students develop a Christian worldview that helps them share and defend their faith and enables them to make wise choices in life. (ESO)*

To instill wisdom, we focus on these truths:

- God is the righteous, powerful and loving Creator
- God's laws are based on His Character.
- Truth and wisdom come from the Bible.
- Man was created by God to reflect his image yet because of sin/the fall we are in need of a Savior.
- Jesus is part of the trinity and the only way to be reconciled to God. He restores what was broken by sin/the fall. Jesus, as the living word gives, the example to apply wisdom to our lives.
- The Holy Spirit is part of the trinity that is provided to comfort, guide and assist in discernment.

We celebrate growth in wisdom when:

- Students understand that our actions affect others and can have good or bad consequences.
- Students apply God's word to everyday situations (rules, relationships, school work, behavior, recess, home)
- Students understand sanctification as a process of growing spiritually to become more like God each day- to exhibit His characteristics in their thoughts, actions, speech, and world view.
- Students are able to acknowledge what and why it is wrong and to empathize with the one they have wronged.

Curriculum links:

ELA

- 2nd Grade Spelling --there are only two ways to spell words, correctly and incorrectly, there are only two choices for eternity--saved by grace eternally in heaven, deny God and spend eternity apart from Him. A relationship with Jesus is the only way to live in eternity with God.
- 3rd Grade Writing/Application - Once a week students spend personal time in God's word writing, reflecting, and praying. Students work on learning how to apply God's word using sections of scripture through written answers.
- All Grades Reading - We read to learn and gather information. Students learn that reading has a purpose more than the words on a page. We make the connection from applying God's word to applying what we learn when we read.
- All Grades Reading/Writing - Application of fruits of the spirit and other Biblical characteristics.

Math

- All Grades Math - The consistency of mathematical truths demonstrates the character of God - orderliness, precision and consistency.
- All Grades Math - The existence of absolute truth.

Science

- All Grades Science -each animal's unique characteristics linked to God the Creator.
- All Grades Science - God's purposeful design is shown in life cycles.
- All Grades Science - the needs of each animal/person/plant are met and put in a specific environment that supports their needs.
- All Grades Science - matter behaves in a certain manner aligning what is real with truth (for every action there is an equal and opposite reaction). Truths can be proven.

Social Studies

- All Grades History - connecting man and their sinful nature to cultures
- All Grades History - past affects the present (i.e. constitution, civil rights) - God cares about the past as He uses his word to show us the history of his people. Students learn how to apply what we have learned from past mistakes and victories in history to what we can learn from his word from the past to today
- All Grades Economics - understanding how to make wise choices in regards to our needs and wants

Bible

- All Grades (Deep Roots) Biblical Principles & Root of Knowledge - students understand the importance of seeking God for wisdom and knowledge through his word

We teach wisdom when:

- Students participate in science experiments that prove truth in reactions of force and motion
- Students send letters to veterans thanking them for their service and asking God to bless them.
- Students secretly SPread Acts of Random Kindness around the school secretly following the example of Matthew 6:3 (But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing)
- Students make Godly choices in music, art and media.
    - Using art and music to show God's redemptive story and the results of our sin.
- Through the Little House unit for guided reading- understanding the importance of labor and hard work while giving glory to God,and having wisdom to see HIM throughout their life.
- Students participate in field trip to Nature's Classroom in Mohican and Miller's Tilapia Farm
- 3rd Grade Living History Museum
- 3rd Grade Economics project
- Field Trip: 3rd grade to Sanitation Department.
- 3rd Grade Ministering through music to the residents at the Apostolic home.
- 1st Grade - Luke 2:1-20 KJV

- 1st Grade - Animal projects and first grade field trip to the Columbus Zoo
- 1st Grade - Family culture projects

Grace **Late Elementary** (4th - 6th)

By receiving God's grace and learning how to give grace to others, *students consistently love and serve others. (ESO)*

To instill grace, we focus on these truths:

- God is a God of grace, but He is also a just God and there are consequences for sin. (Hebrews 12:6)
- Salvation is a free gift from God; it is undeserved and it can't be earned.

We celebrate growth in grace when:

- Students understand how to treat others and how to respond during times of conflict.
- Teachers model grace daily and walk with students as they practice repentance.
- Teachers model grace and repentance.
- Students extend grace and forgiveness during classroom instruction, collaborative projects, hands-on activities, and free time/recess (Eph. 4:32).
- Student action after repentance demonstrates a change in heart and ask for forgiveness and follow-up.
- Students understand grace and demonstrate an attitude of gratitude for that grace.

Curriculum links:

- 6th Grade Bible and History study with Mesopotamia, Egypt, Israel - Study of men of the Bible (specifically Abraham, Joseph, Moses, David as well as others). Learning their strengths and areas of growth and how they responded to God as well as men.
- 6th Grade Bible and History study of Jesus and his example as we learn character traits and how to put them in practice.
- 5th Grade Bible--God is a God of justice and of grace. Study of OT characters and demonstrations of God's grace and judgement in their lives.
- Grades 4-6 History: worldly intentions of man (Example--Revolutionary War: discussing the worldly intentions of man and how that conflicts with the biblical foundations of the country.)
- 4th Grade: We discuss how we extend grace to those who are unlike us as we look at examples in the New Testament.
- 4th Grade Bible: Learning how to defend our faith in a Christ-like manner.
- Grades 4-6 ELA: Choosing literature that includes characters demonstrating grace and discussing how the grace is demonstrated and what we can learn from it.
- Grades 4-6: Extending grace during collaborative projects and hands-on activities
- Grades 4-6 Math: Allowing students to correct homework for partial credit.
- Grades 4-6: Playground behavior--discussing how to extend grace and forgiveness to one another.

We teach grace when:

- Students support classmates that need extra assistance.
- Students take advantage of opportunities to share testimony and impact of student's relationship with God during art and music classes and through projects.
- Chapel: Discussing the concept of grace and how to demonstrate and extend grace in our lives
- Field Day/PE: exploring how to demonstrate grace during competitive activities
- Field Trips: 6th grade fall retreat, 5th grade trip to Beulah Beach, 6th grade Michigan trip
- Students participate in Christ-centered service projects, including:
    - Student Council leading Food Drive collection from entire elementary
    - Service project: Students creating hygiene kits to send with Ashland University nurses to take to the Dominican Republic
    - Students packing boxes for Operation Christmas Child

Trust **Middle School** *(7th – 8th)*

By learning to trust God with their future, *students possess and exhibit the critical thinking skills, creativity, and confidence to handle both opportunity and adversity. (ESO)*

To instill trust, we focus on these truths:

- God can be trusted for both past events and future events.
- God is sovereign over everything.
- God can be depended on times of trouble.
- God is faithful, and He calls His children to be faithful.
- Scripture is reliable and relevant to human experience.
- The promise of God is to prosper, not to harm; to give hope and future. (Jeremiah 29:11)
- God is available to us personally.
- God's wonderful plan for us is actualized in the context of obedience.
- Trust is the foundation of faithful prayer.
- Trust is the glue that holds all relationships together.
- Trust is necessary for wholehearted obedience to God's calling.
- Biblical perspective of our experiences builds trust.
- Trust is built through intentional choices.

We celebrate growth in trust when:

- Students have confessed a personal faith in Christ
- Students respect authority figures God has placed in their lives.
- Students willingly take counsel from Godly mentors.
- Students show humility in searching for God's truth by asking questions in faith.
- Students are trustworthy as a reflection of God's trustworthiness
- Students keep promises and don't let circumstances determine their level of trust in God.

- Students express desire to follow God's way over the pressure of others
- Time in the Word, and knowledge of the Word that results in clear application of the Word
- Reflection time; weighing choices and examining decisions made

Curriculum Links:

- Social Studies: Examples of past generations who did not complain in the midst of horrific circumstances because of their trust in God.
- Social Studies: Students research present and past Christians who have been persecuted and/or martyred for their faith in Christ
- Language arts: Students write personal narratives about God's working in their lives.
- Language Arts: reading biographies of Christians who describe God's working in their lives.
- Visual Art: Students trusting one another with their personal work; the investment of emotion, self in their work for their peers to objectively critique and find value in it.
- Math: consistency of the mathematical system that coincides with Creation

We teach trust when:

- Students demonstrate responsibility and ownership of their assignments.
- Showing God's trustworthiness in providing seasons.
- Chapel or classroom speakers testify of God's provision and protection
- Teachers adjust discipline plans to promote trust (instead of saying "don't do this," say "if you do this, this will happen")
- Classes share prayer requests, pray together, and following up with answers to prayer.

High School *(9th -12th)*

Perspective

By understanding the world from God's perspective, *students are academically prepared for college and/or career, and are engaged in impacting the world through their unique talents and abilities. (ESO)*

To instill perspective, we focus on these truths:

- God is sovereign, just, and holy (Revelation 1:8)
- Apart from Christ, humankind is innately evil (total depravity)
- Satan is real and actively seeks to steal, kill, and destroy
- Sin wages war against our souls and destroys our relationship with God (Romans 6:23)
- By grace through faith, Christ's sacrifice on the cross secured our redemption from hell (Romans 6:23).
- A redeemed person confesses sins, asks for forgiveness, and is made alive in Christ. They are given a new identity and clothed in righteousness (I John 1:5-9).
- We have the authority to overcome sin through the power of the Holy Spirit

We celebrate growth in perspective when:

- Students live cheerful, holy, and blameless lives, fleeing from sin and rejoicing in truth. The fruits of the Spirit are manifested daily in their actions, thoughts, and words (I Thess. 3:13, Gal. 5:22-23).
- Students submit to and obey authority out of respect and love for God (Titus 3:1-2, Ex. 20:12)
- Because of Christ's work, students humbly love others over themselves, hold peers accountable, and speak words of life, wisdom, and truth (Phil. 2:3-5).

Curriculum Links:

- Math -Moby Max (recognizing weakness, willingness to work on weaknesses), logic and reasoning(proofs, processes in solving equations and inequalities), order(number sense), exactness (functions), completeness (interpretation, problem solving, answering the question asked)
- English - Juniors read the *Screwtape Letters.* All grade levels discuss plagiarism and being truthful in your writing and speaking.
- Science
- Social Studies
- STEM - We were created to be creative, having dominion over the earth. Circuit boards, coding, robotics, and other projects. https://campinfinity.com/blog/ - this link shows a link between technology and apologetics. How career choices are a matter of using God's gifts and talents and being a good steward.
- World Languages - The Great Commission, Tower of Babel, understanding of the culture of the regions where the language is spoken (Cultural Competence)
- Bible - Wheaton Press Curriculum,
- Arts - sacred choral repertoire, listening & journaling activities on students' favorite secular songs with supporting worldview questions for discussion

We teach perspective when:

- Students participate in local and global missions trips and service projects.
- Students plan and execute ministry from a Christian perspective.
- Students are connected to and influenced by guest speakers and local professionals.
- Students demonstrate an understanding of other worldviews and are able to articulate a Biblical response.
- Students readily identify false assumptions made by worldviews that do not recognize Jesus as Lord and Savior.
- Students realize their own position before God and actively seek His direction and purposes for their life.