



WHY CHOOSE A CHRISTIAN SCHOOL?



First, a disclaimer is needed. Any thoughts shared here are not intended to disparage the public school system. It is widely acknowledged that many outstanding students, parents, and teachers exist within the public school system. Moreover, many parents are emotionally attached to their own public education background or their local public school system. These thoughts are not meant to discourage those feelings. The intent is to encourage people to consider, on a more equal footing, the benefits of a faith-based education.

Scripturally speaking, the message, or worldview, espoused by any school CANNOT be neutral. A worldview is either Christian or non-Christian. Our Lord, Jesus Christ, put it this way, *“He who is not with me is against me, and he who does not gather with me, scatters.”* (Matthew 12:30) Is it realistic to believe that when Christianity is removed from a school that it leaves ‘nothing?’ If the worldview of a school is not centered in Christ, then something else must assume that role. That something is most definitely a religion or ideology of sorts – secular humanism. In today’s public schools, students are often told in some fashion that Biblical principles are irrelevant, that absolute right and wrong does not exist, and/or human existence is due to evolution. Secular education, officially and deliberately, excludes God from the classroom. By doing so, public schools will inevitably promote, intentionally or not, a non-Christian worldview.

What does this mean? At best, a Christian student in this environment will fight the constant battle of discernment – dissecting what is being presented and avoiding the influence of the humanistic worldview. At worst, a Christian student will entertain non-Christian ideals; mixing them with his or her Christianity resulting in potential strain on their relationship with God.

Granted, much of the life of a Christian is spent in environments that are non-Christian in nature. Discernment of right and wrong while in the world is indeed an important spiritual discipline. However, many children and teens are not ready for 35-50 hours a week of a message that says that his or her worldview is wrong, intolerant, and/or outdated. Christian parents can help shape the worldview of their children for Christ. Christian schools serve as a great partner in this important goal.

The average student attends school for eight hours a day including athletics and other activities. That’s 1440 hours per school year and approximately 40% of his or her weekly awake time. That’s a big number! The question is where might that time be best spent? Current scientific research tells us that a child’s brain is not fully developed until the late teens. An underdeveloped frontal lobe explains certain behaviors like recklessness, emotional outbursts, and poor decision making. Simply put, school climate plays a pivotal role in the development of the brain and there is no doubt that it can influence how the brain of a child is hard-wired.

The truth is that Christian schools have the one thing that public schools can never have – the intentional presence of Jesus through His living Word, the Bible, which forms the basis for our Christian worldview.

In our school, we use the Holy Scriptures for:

- Salvation – Our students do, with the help of the Holy Spirit, develop a close personal relationship with their Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.
- Training – Our students not only learn daily about God’s grace, but also gain the academic skills necessary for success, how to defend their Christian faith, and discover what it takes to thrive as a Christian in today’s world.
- Giving Praise – Our students learn more deeply of God’s goodness for us in life and faith and are moved to reflect a sense of joy and thanksgiving in all that they do.

At St. John Lutheran School, God’s Word is incorporated in the following areas:

- ✓ Daily religious instruction
- ✓ Weekly chapel services
- ✓ Academic courses
- ✓ Athletic & extra-curricular activities

There are many reasons to consider a Christian education. There are even more reasons to consider St. John Lutheran School for your child. We encourage you to contact us to learn more or to set up an appointment to visit our school to learn what other benefits exist.

Thanks for taking the time to read these thoughts.

Blessings on your day!



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