

CURRICULUM POLICY

Gahanna Christian Academy recognizes the importance of quality curriculum and reading materials to achieve academic excellence in an educational program. In the context of a Christian school, it is vitally important that the selection criteria include provisions to ensure that materials selected will complement the mission and philosophy of the school, and will not promote outcomes that are inconsistent with Biblical principles and Godly character. Materials selected for the school's educational program, whether printed, video, audio, personal narrative, or any other media, based upon the following criteria:

- Consistency with Biblical precept and principle
- Godly character development
- Age-appropriateness
- Fulfillment of sound educational objectives
- Social/cultural value of the material
- Meet and/or surpass the academic standards for the state of Ohio.

Texts and Other Resources

Textbooks and other materials are chosen after careful review by teachers, the curriculum coordinator and other consultants or parents as deemed appropriate for the course being reviewed. However, textbooks are only one part of the curriculum. The teacher plays a vital role in implementation of the curriculum. The curriculum will also include the teacher's knowledge, instructional tools, supplementary materials, field trips, discussions, and resource people invited to the classroom, etc. Within each class involving secular curriculum the teacher has the important task of Biblical integration linking Christian philosophy, character, and Scriptural truth to the lessons presented. All textbooks and supplemental material shall be approved by the administration before use in the classroom.

INDEPENDENT READING LISTS

Independent books to be read by students without teacher guidance must be scrutinized carefully as we place our "stamp of approval" on books to be read for book reports or other projects

- a) Nothing questionable should be in these books.
- b) There is not to be any words of profanity or vulgarity.
- c) There should be no titles emphasizing other religious spirits.
- d) There is to be nothing dealing with the occult, magic spells or curses.
- e) There is to be nothing of a sexual nature.
- f) There is to be nothing emphasizing or glorifying violence (i.e. gangs)
- g) There should not be rebellion without consequences.

LITERATURE SELECTION

K – 5: No material will be used, endorsed, or recommended that does not promote Biblical principles and godly character, or that ultimately shows that un-Christian belief, behavior, and/or attitude is wrong. (Note: Limited exceptions may be made for early childhood stories that are obviously fantasy such as *Snow White*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *Jack and the Beanstalk*, etc. Though these books may contain material that could be objectionable in other settings, they promote the principle that good is superior to evil.)

CLASSROOM NOVELS- TEACHER DIRECTED

Materials used in a classroom are naturally more easily controlled as to its impact on the students. Students should be exposed to a wide variety of genre throughout their schooling such as: biography, classical fiction, nonfiction, prejudices, realism, fantasy, poetry, drama, comedy, and Christian teachings. Older students should read and learn about various literature selections which have some points of controversy regarding right and wrong based on Biblical values. They should know how to debate or challenge the worlds' standard against Biblical truth. When a controversial book is read, it will be teacher-directed using a Christian-based study guide or planned and approved method for sharing with the class. Parents will be notified at the start of a class or book if controversial literature will be presented. In **grades 6-12:** Limited use of material may be used that is not consistent with Biblical principle and godly character if there is adequate social/cultural value to the material and it promotes greater intellectual development in ways consistent with the mission of Gahanna Christian Academy. We desire that our older students be prepared to stand against worldly philosophies. Students must be trained to be spiritually wise as they analyze secular texts, author's points of view and grow as critical thinkers. The teacher must submit, in writing, his/her plan for proper Biblical integration and appropriate discussion from a Christian worldview of the questionable parts of the material.