

A LETTER FROM PASTOR OLEG BUELLER

Dear parents,

Welcome to the web page of Hope Christian Academy. As you scroll throughout this site, I hope you will be Blessed to learn about our Church Nadezhda's Christian Academy Education with a strong Academic focus where children are nurtured to know, love, serve, and honor God.

As a pastor, I can rejoice in the fact that our Christian Academy has been newly opened to be used by God to educate young people from a God-centered perspective, cultivate Christ-like character, guide children towards an understanding that God is at the center of every pursuit of knowledge, train the next generation of leaders for our churches, and help in building Godly families.

It has not been without challenges, and we are far from perfect. But together with our local church, school administrator, teachers, parents, and volunteers, we believe that Christian education will play a vital role in the training of our children, and I believe it is absolutely essential. When it comes to the future of our children, we must make Christian education a priority.

As Martin Luther once said: "I advise no one to place his child where the Scriptures do not reign paramount. Every institution in which men are not increasingly occupied with the Word of God must become corrupt...I am much afraid that schools will prove to be the great gates of hell unless they diligently labor in explaining the Holy Scriptures, engraving them in the hearts of youth."

If we look in to Early American history, education was primarily centered in the home and church, with the Bible being the focal point of all education. Schools were started to provide a Christian education to those who were not able to receive such training at home and to supplement home education. The first schools were started by the Church in 1647. America founders recognized that Satan wants to keep people ignorant. If he can keep them ignorant, he can keep them in bondage. This motivated them to not only start schools but also colleges.

Colleges and universities were started as seminaries to train a godly and literate clergy. In fact, 106 of the first 108 colleges were founded on the Christian faith. One of the original rules and precepts of Harvard College stated:

“Let every student be plainly instructed, and earnestly pressed to consider well, the main end of his life and studies is, to know God and Jesus Christ which is eternal life (John 17:3), and therefore to lay Christ in the bottom, as the only foundation of all sound knowledge and learning.” (1643, in *Teaching and Learning America’s Christian History*, by Rosalie Slater, San Francisco, Foundation for American Christian Education, 1980, p. vii.)

America’s moral decline rapidly accelerated following one event – the U.S. Supreme Court’s removal of prayer from schools. On June 25, 1962, students were forbidden to do what they and their predecessors had been doing since the founding of America – publicly calling upon the name of the Lord at the beginning of each school day.

Any school that denies God, teaches things contrary to the truth of Scripture, or diminishes His importance misses the very purpose of education and presents a faulty and destructive worldview. You cannot separate education from God, since knowing God, loving Him and serving others is the end of education. To remove God from the education process is to present a worldview that is faulty and without purpose or hope.

Knowledge apart from God and His truth has led this culture to degeneration of moral standards particularly among young adults made in the public school system that teaches of Atheism, evolutionism, relativism, materialism and hedonism along with the false belief in the intrinsic inner “goodness” of mankind. A toleration, acceptance and promotion of unbiblical values is promoted, while the tenets of Christianity often ridiculed.

As Christians, we want our children to make Christ the very center of their lives and to align every other area to Him and the principles in His Word. Secular institutions cannot, without God, direct a child’s heart toward true wisdom. Psalm 111:10 says, “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom....” Only Christian education will point children to an awareness of God’s presence and of our accountability to Him as we assimilate and use knowledge.

Through a Christian education, our Academy can disciple young hearts and teach Christ-centered academics, where every facet of learning comes back to understanding and knowing Jesus Christ. Through teaching children to read, study, and learn, a Christian school equips young people with the tools they need to carry out God’s will for their lives.

We are commanded from Scripture to “have no fellowship with the evil works of darkness” (Eph. 5:11). As caring and enthusiastic as some teachers can be in Public School education, they still cannot lead our children into a proper biblical worldview and exalt Jesus as Lord. Furthermore, we must realize that education is never neutral. It is based on the worldview or beliefs of those writing the curriculum. In the education process, ideals and values are being communicated to the children. Colossians 2:8: “Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ.”

The Scripture-based atmosphere of a Hope Christian Academy reaches far beyond the mind of a child and touches his heart. It directs students to personally follow God’s recipe for success:

“Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the Lord; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.”—Psalm 1:1–3

This promise is for the person who avoids saturation from ungodly influences and learns to delight in the very Word of God. And that goal is the purpose and heartbeat of our Christian Academy.

Surrounded by godly teachers and taught Christ-centered academics, students will learn to love the Lord and His Word. They will learn to filter their thinking through the Word of God and to build their lives on the solid, unchanging principles of God’s Word. In this environment they are taught to make their lives count for eternity by doing the will of God from the heart.

I praise the Lord for staff and volunteers of Hope Christian Academy, equipped with a solid Christian education, who are doing the will of God from the heart. And I’m excited today to invest another year in cultivating hearts for God through the ministry of this Christian School.

Episcope and Senior Pastor of Church “Nadezhda”

Oleg Bueller