

GCCS Statement of Faith

Grandville Calvin Christian Schools (GCCS) partners with families and churches to guide God's children into responsible Christian discipleship as they carry out the Great Commission. We seek to enable our students to know God as revealed in His Word, the Bible, and in the Creation. We want our students to become aware of God's presence in their lives, through the work of the Holy Spirit, as they are equipped to serve and glorify God by developing the gifts and talents that He has given them for Kingdom service.

Grandville Calvin Christian Schools is rooted in the firm belief that the Bible is God's Holy and inspired Word. In addition to Scripture and a foundation in the historic Reformed tradition of Protestant faith, we believe that the Heidelberg Catechism, the Canons of Dort, and the Belgic Confession are a clear and accurate summary of the Bible's teaching. The contemporary testimony, "Our World Belongs to God," also provides a helpful summary of Reformed beliefs: <https://www.crcna.org/welcome/beliefs/contemporary-testimony/our-world-belongs-god>.

Grandville Calvin Christian Schools is founded on a world- and lifeview that acknowledges the trinitarian God as Lord of life and learning. We believe in one God in three persons: God, the Father; His Son, Jesus Christ; and the Holy Spirit. This triune God is present today and is active in our world as the sovereign Lord of all.

God, the Father

- We believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth. (Genesis 1)
- God continues to care for His world, sustaining it by His Fatherly hand. (Matthew 10:29, Psalm 104:27-29)
- God reveals Himself through all He has made - for God has made everything. (Psalm 19, Romans 1:19-20)
- Despite human sin, our Father did not give up on His world; He so loved this world that He gave His Son to redeem it. (John 3:16, Romans 8)

Jesus Christ, the Son

- God reveals Himself most fully through His Son, Jesus Christ. Christ was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of His virgin mother, Mary (Luke 1:26-38). In His life, Jesus showed us how human beings should live (Luke 9:23-26, John 13:34-35). In His suffering, death and resurrection, Jesus conquered the power of sin and the curse of death under which all humans lived after the fall. (Romans 3:21-26)
- Jesus Christ was with God in the beginning and it was through Him that the world was created. (John 1: 1-5)

- Jesus Christ is now the Lord of all things, both in the created world and in His Church, the body of Christ living and fellowshiping in the redemption brought by Christ. (Colossians 1:15-23)
- Jesus Christ is now gathering and preserving His church so that her members may be His servants in this world. (Matthew 28:16-20)
- Jesus Christ shall return on the day of the Father's choosing to judge all humanity, the living and the dead. (Matthew 25, Revelation 20)

Holy Spirit

- God has given us His Holy Spirit as His eternal presence in the lives of believers. (Acts 2: 38-39)
- The Holy Spirit inspired people to write the words of the Bible. The Bible is God's trustworthy and infallible Word. It shows us the way of salvation through Jesus Christ. (2 Timothy 3:16, 2 Peter 1:21)
- The Holy Spirit gathers and gifts the church, uniting all its members in a body to which all Christians belong. (1 Corinthians 12, Ephesians 4:1-3)
- The Spirit guides the church and its members. (John 14:15-31, Acts 16:6-10)
- The Holy Spirit cultivates Christian character, transforming His people more and more into the likeness of Christ, helping us uproot evil from our lives (Romans 8:12-13) and planting His fruit in us (Galatians 5).

Creation - Fall - Redemption - Restoration

The Biblical narrative of "Creation - Fall - Redemption - Restoration" is clearly revealed in Scripture and is helpful in understanding God's original intention for the good creation, humankind's fall into sin, the need for redemption that comes exclusively through Jesus Christ, and the restoration of all things that began with Christ's resurrection and will be consummated when He returns (Revelation 21).

Creation

- God created all things good. (Genesis 1 and 2)
- Humans are created in the image of God ("*imago Dei*"). (Genesis 1: 26-27)

Fall

- Because of humankind's fall into sin (Genesis 3), all things have fallen from their original goodness.
- Sin has distorted God's creation and society. The impact of humanity's fall into sin (Genesis 3) has been pervasive; we see evidence of this in ourselves and throughout the creation. Not only humanity but the entire creation is in need of redemption and restoration.

Redemption

- God shows himself most fully in his Son Jesus Christ who, by His miraculous birth, became a human being for our sake. He suffered, died, and was raised to conquer the power of sin and the curse of death under which we all live.
- Christ died to redeem all of creation—people, relationships, culture, *etc.*—from sin and gives salvation to all who believe in Him.

Restoration

- Jesus Christ, who has redeemed all things, will restore the creation in full when His Kingdom fully comes. (Revelation 21)
- All of life should be a loving, grateful response of redeemed people for the saving work of Jesus Christ. We ought to live our lives in gratitude and service to God for what Christ has done.
- Until Christ returns, God calls us to bear witness to the Spirit's work of restoration and to share His love and the good news of the coming Kingdom with all of His creation.

The Bible is God's trustworthy and infallible Word; it shows us the way of salvation through Jesus Christ. Scripture helps us understand the Creation-Fall-Redemption-Restoration arc of the biblical narrative. The combination of Scripture and our historic roots in the Reformed tradition have implications for the church and the Christian home. It also has implications for those involved in Christian schools, which exist in concert with the home and the church for the nurturing of Christian teaching and life. A few of these implications can be summarized as follows:

- **Gospel Message** - Our students will be presented with the basic message of Scripture and the redemption that has been given in Christ. Students will be encouraged to grow in a personal relationship with God and to respond obediently to Christ's call on their lives.
- **Revelation** - God reveals Himself to humanity. He does this through the Bible ("special revelation") and His creation ("general revelation"). Our students study His Word and the Creation to learn more about Him.
- **God's Sovereignty** - Our students will be encouraged to recognize the greatness and the mercy of our Lord in every area of life and the creation. They will see evidence of God's hand in His world, its history, and its culture.
- **Image of God** - Each one of our students is God's creation and is made in His image. Each child has inherent worth as a child of God. (Genesis 1: 26-27)
- **Gender** - God created us male and female. (Genesis 1: 27, Genesis 2)
- **Community** - God has called us to live in community, to love and care for our neighbors, and to bear witness to His grace in the lives of those around us. (Micah 6:8, Romans 12: 4-5)
- **Life** - All life has inherent value. We value all human life from conception to the grave.
- **Marriage** - God instituted marriage, as biblically defined and historically interpreted, to be the union between a man and a woman.

- **Stewardship** - The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof (Psalm 24: 1-2). Students will learn to appreciate His creation and practice responsible stewardship (Genesis 1: 28-30).

All this we profess and declare in the sure and certain hope that as we nurture our children in the knowledge and love of the Lord, God himself will guide, preserve, and bless these efforts through the work of the Holy Spirit.