

## **Foundational Beliefs of Highland Christian School<sup>1</sup>**

Highland Christian School seeks to educate children of parents who share these basic Biblical beliefs; only when home, church, and school are in agreement can Christian education succeed.

1. The Bible is the divinely inspired, infallible written Word of God (II Timothy 3:16-17; II Peter 1:21), the only rule of faith and life.
2. God reveals Himself in Scripture as undividedly Triune — Father, Son and Holy Spirit. (Matthew 28:19; II Cor. 13:14; Genesis 1:26, 3:22, 11:7; John 10:30; Acts 5:3-4)
3. God is Creator of the heavens and the earth (Genesis 1:1): the entire universe bears His fingerprints (Psalm 19:1; Romans 1:20), and He continues to uphold creation by His eternal power and providence. (Psalm 104)
4. God is eternal, completely sovereign, all-knowing, everywhere present, supremely just, the overflowing fountain of all that is good. (Psalm 90:2, 139:1-12; Job 9:19, 42:2; Matthew 5:45; John 1:16)
5. God created mankind in his own image, reflecting Himself in righteousness and holiness, as well as granting natural endowments such as speech, creativity, knowledge, and authority to rule. (Genesis 1:26-27, 28; James 3:9)
6. Mankind died spiritually by sinning against God, and physical death came into the world as a result. (Genesis 2:17; 3:6-7, 19, 24) Every human comes into the world with the corrupt nature received from our first parents, Adam and Eve, condemnable in God's sight, inclined by nature to hate both God and neighbor. (Psalm 51:5; Romans 5:12, 15-19) Unless the sinner is reconciled with God, that sinner will perish, enduring eternal punishment. (Romans 1:18; II Cor. 5:12, 17-20; Matthew 7:23, 10:11-15; Luke 16:23; Revelation 20:10, 14-15, 21:8)
7. God graciously chose to save from the fallen human race those He gave to His Son, Jesus Christ (John 6:37, 39; 17:6), by sending Him into the world to redeem fallen human beings from sin and its consequences. Jesus Christ, the eternal and divine Word of God, took on a sinless human nature at His incarnation (John 1:14), lived a life on behalf of His people which fulfilled all the righteous requirements of the law of God, and died on the cross to atone for their sins. (Romans 3:21-26) He was then raised for their justification. (Romans 4:25)
8. God graciously grants faith to believe in Jesus Christ and so to receive His saving benefits. (Philippians 1:29; Acts 13:48; Ephesians 2:8-9) Only through belief in the finished work of Jesus Christ can we be made right with God (Romans 3:24, 28); nothing we do can make us acceptable before God. (Isaiah 64:6; II Timothy 1:9) Therefore, we say that we are justified by grace alone through faith alone. (Romans 3:28)
9. In the life of a believer, good works are the joyful response of saving faith in Jesus Christ. (James 2: 17; Ephesians 2:10) Christians are called to live holy lives of gratitude to God for His great salvation. (I Thess. 4:7)

10. God regards children of believers as holy, and distinguishes them from children of unbelievers (I Cor. 7:14). God's promises are for the children as well as their believing parents. (Genesis 17:7; Acts 2:39)

11. Whether in the Old Testament or New, God saves sinners in the same way — through Jesus Christ and faith in Him. The revelation of His plan in Jesus Christ became increasingly clearer as history moved from the Old Testament into the New. (Romans 4:3, 23-25)

12. At the end of history, Jesus Christ will return to judge the living and the dead; (Matthew 25:31-46; Revelation 20:11-15) all will give account before God. (II Cor. 5:10) Only those who have been saved by Jesus Christ and made righteous through his atoning blood will escape eternal condemnation and live forever with Him. (Matthew 25:46)

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<sup>1</sup> Adapted from the *Foundational Beliefs of Calvin Christian School*