

Education via coram Deo

by Headmaster, John Morrison

Many who follow our blogs are aware that we at Grace Christian School have been working quite hard over the years to refine our emphasis on Christian worldview integration in all aspects of our educational program. We believe that if we are to be effective in deeply impacting our students, the “Christian” part of their education must be far more than merely adding Bible class and chapel as supplements to their academic curricula. Rather, the Christian mindset must permeate each subject area at the level of the students’ basic assumptions and presuppositions. Anything less than this falls short of authentic Christian education.

Several years ago, we were invited by Dr. Christian Overman to be one of just a few pilot schools implementing his Worldview Matters Worklife Restoration Advancement Program (WRAP). The basic thesis behind WRAP is its emphasis upon the Biblical concept that all areas of work, whether as an accountant, plumber, pastor, housewife, carpenter, missionary, etc., are equally precious in God’s eyes in terms of our doing them “as unto the Lord” out of a sense of His calling. Indeed, as Francis Schaeffer used to emphasize, God wants to extrude His people into all walks of life as salt and light; therefore, no vocation is any more or less sacred than another when we are doing what God has gifted and called us to do.

This emphasis was restored to much of the Church through the Reformation and, now, we are seeking to emphasize this often overlooked, but vital concept for our students. Indeed, it is a life-changing and revolutionary mindset when once we “get it!”

As part of this emphasis in our GCS educational program, we have adopted as a new school motto the Latin term “coram Deo” -- meaning “before the face of God.” This pretty much sums up the emphasis of WRAP and of what we are attempting in embedding these concepts within the mindset of our students.

One of our long-standing GCS workers and parents, Marc Kinder, even composed a song to help us grow in this concept of “coram Deo.” Take time to check it out the link in the picture above; it really explains this notion of coram Deo and what we are attempting educationally at GCS far better than my above words!

And, please be praying that God will help us to impact our students in a manner that will have eternal impact not only in equipping them individually, but in preparing them to be His witnesses in the larger world!