

A Message from the Principal Regarding A Conservative World View of Education

*“The measure of a healthy society is not just material freedom,
It is how virtuous its citizens are.” --Leo Strauss*

Life Preparatory Academy seeks to work together with parents in keeping with each child’s individual gifts and talents. We focus on the child’s relationship with God and others while seeking to maintain rigorous academic standards. Life Preparatory Academy has consulted many sources of curriculum, state, and internationally recognized standards to implement extremely detailed, developmental goals, which seek to train students in a morality-based worldview. By using a variety of published sources, we can customize the curriculum to meet different needs.

Life Prep is one of few evangelical schools, K-12th grade, who have obtained accreditation through Kansas State Department of Education. This ensures that each student will receive a quality, traditional education while maintaining a strong scriptural foundation. We use a hybrid curriculum under the instruction of highly qualified staff consisting primarily of ABeka, BJU Press with a number of classes supplementing with other materials including personalized, online courses in our on-campus Learning Laboratory.

*“Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.”
--Proverbs 22:6*

The goal of a conservative education and world view is to graduate young men and women who can think logically and independently. Reading and writing are emphasized using proven methods that promote a student's ability to comprehend the oral and written language then express himself or herself in writing and orally. Our curriculum materials are designed to support student understanding of the concepts underlying the material, thereby providing a solid foundation for continued progress. A feature of our curriculum materials enables students functioning below grade level in mathematics and English language arts to catch up; and students functioning ahead of their levels to progress at their own speed without hindrance. The curriculum is customized to best meet the needs of students.

*“Progress, far from consisting in change, depends on retentiveness. When change is absolute there remains no being to improve and no direction is set for possible improvement: and when experience is not retained, as among savages, infancy is perpetual. **Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it.**” – George Santayana*

*The thing that hath been, it is that which shall be;
and that which is done is that which shall be done:
and there is no new thing under the sun.*

*Is there any thing whereof it may be said,
See, this is new?
it hath been already of old time,
which was before us.
--Ecclesiastes 1:9*

At Life Preparatory Academy, we practice a balanced view of study of history. So, in this world where it can seem like revisionism and bias surround us on all sides, how can one maintain that sense of balance?--through the tools of critical analysis.

All of our history courses employ the use of age-level appropriate primary source material to supplement our texts to gain a feel for the period of history being studied. Our students learn about the classical tools of rhetoric and how to identify them when they are used. All of our history classes practice differentiating fact from opinion and learning how to extract the facts from opinions which are presented.

Sometimes, covering topics in depth may come at the expense of the numbers of topics covered. However, history is not just a set of facts and dates which are to be memorized. It is the study of humans, their interactions, their feelings, their emotions, and their motives. No historical event happens in a vacuum. As such, it is the objective of a conservative worldview is to teach our students “how” to think, not just “what” to think.

*“Wrong does not cease to be wrong because the majority share in it.”
–Leo Tolstoy*

Life Preparatory Academy recognizes the importance of values in a conservative world view. Everyone has a set of principles by which he or she determines what is right and what is wrong. These principles guide all of us in our everyday living. At Life Prep, our high school courses on Ethics and the Nature of Good & Evil investigate the moral relativism which surrounds us in society and makes the case for a conservative world view in which there is “good” and there is “evil”. The relativism and existentialism so common in the philosophy and political thought of today so devoid of absolutes may work for a hermit who lives alone on a desert island at least for a while, but it does not work for those of us who live in the real world. We must relate to ourselves, to our God, and to those around us.

Living one's life with relative world view, clarifying a different set of values for each situation, is like building a life in an old hulk that is pulled out into the ocean without a rudder; they are tossed about by every wave and wind that life throws at them. Their lives are even more tumultuous than those who build theirs in the house upon the sand of the beach. At Life Prep, it is our goal that each and every student develops a strong system of values from the inside, building their lives upon the Rock so when the wind and waves of this life buffet them, they will remain standing and prosper in this world and the world to come!

Mark Appier

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