

Achieving God's Best

How can a middle school student achieve the best that God has for him or her? At Cypress Christian School, our mission to honor the Lord Jesus Christ promotes two prongs of achievement: academic excellence and biblical values. The pre-teen and early teen years are a critical time for children to take ownership of these traits. In middle school, the goals of reaching academic excellence and living out biblical values are unpacked differently than they might be for a kindergartener or high school senior.



In both academics and faith, we want our students to look beyond the opinion of popular culture to grasp hold of the truthfulness, reliability and usefulness of the Bible. 2 Timothy 3:16-17 (NASB) proclaims, "All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work."

Our middle school students are taught to develop habits that produce academic excellence. As visitors walk through the halls, they hear teachers say, "Students, take out your planner and write down these details ..." or "Place your notes in the vocabulary section of your expandable so you can locate them tomorrow." Enforcing the habit of writing down assignments and organizing work will pay dividends down the academic path. For middle school students, learning how to plan and organize is just as important as the right answer to a question.

Achieving God's best also means living out biblical values. We want every student to confidently live in the truth that God is reliable, the Bible comes from God, and, therefore, the Bible is reliable. There is pressure in current culture to dilute the Bible's authority by saying that while the Bible is fine for dealing with "spiritual" problems, it cannot adequately address the modern problems of the 21st century. Not true! God's Word has the answers. Our teachers show students how to apply biblical truths to everyday issues like how to be a friend or how to be obedient when no one else seems to be. This foundation also opens the door to conversations about life's "big issues" as students struggle with the death or illness of a family member or friend.

On a broader level, middle school students learn that the reliability of the Bible is demonstrated in history, science, math and language. They also explore God's wisdom concerning the great questions of human existence: Is there a God? Why are we on this planet? Why is there death and suffering? What does the future hold? How do I know right from wrong? In Bible classes, students grapple with these questions and learn about differing worldviews and the grid through which these issues are examined.

The middle school team confidently imparts biblical truth as they instruct students at Cypress Christian School in academics and Christian values. Equipping students to achieve based on the truth, reliability and usefulness of God's Word teaches them to honor the Lord with excellence and to focus their achievement in a manner that pleases Him.



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MRS. IVA NELL RHEA | Middle School Principal