

Cornerstone Family Schools Purpose Statement

Policy number	G-002
Category	Administration
Approval/Revision Date	September 21, 2013
Effective Date	June 4, 2012
Document Owner, Title	Chair, CFS Board
Version	1.3
Review Frequency	Annually
Approved By/Date	Board / unknown

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to define Cornerstone Family Schools in terms of purpose, philosophy, conduct goals, history, services available, contact information, and statement of faith.

DEFINITIONS

n/a

PROCEDURE

Purpose:

Cornerstone Family Schools (CFS) is an independent educational organization dedicated to assisting Christian families who have chosen to train their children in a responsible manner primarily at home. To accomplish this goal, CFS provides a structure of accountability, support, and encouragement for parents who desire to provide their children with the best possible training. This includes development of faith and virtue, essential knowledge and skills, and preparations for “life work.”

Cornerstone Family Schools is not a textbook publisher or distributor. Parents are free to choose the texts or curricula that best meet the needs of their family, so long as their curriculum is consistent with the goals and statement of faith of CFS and covers commonly accepted areas of learning for each child's level. Families may enroll and participate in national curricula and training programs, as CFS is intended to supplement and support, not supplant, such organizations. While the primary role of CFS is to provide accountability and support to home school families, CFS also offers a variety of optional group activities and enriching options not normally available to an individual home-educating family. In summary, the combination of accountability, familial responsibility, and resources is intended to educate and train young men and women to work in and minister to the world with the character and love of Christ.

Philosophy:

Cornerstone Family Schools believes that God has entrusted to parents the great responsibility and authority to see that our children are educated and trained according to his unique design for each child. The State of Kansas has a legitimate interest in seeing that each child becomes a productive member of society. These two spheres need not clash. Cornerstone Family Schools, and its predecessor, Cair Paravel-Latin Satellite School, have found great liberty in a system of accountability with responsible parents and open communication with the authorities charged with protecting the state's interests. While Kansas's compulsory attendance laws are vague and necessarily require subjective determinations by local authorities, the officials with whom we have dealt have always been satisfied with the structure and substance of the program.

Another important aspect of the CFS philosophy is that formal book learning has its place, and its limitations. We believe that a child should be encouraged to learn by doing, to gradually learn how to respond to and affect the real world not simply by reading about it, but also by acquiring valuable skills under the tutelage of those with experience in a wide variety of fields. Therefore, CFS supports apprenticeship training and opportunities in such areas as business, manual skills, law and legislation, medicine, counseling, and ministry. It is by experiencing these and other disciplines that a young person will be able to best discern how God would use him or her.

Conduct Goals:

Because CFS is an organization to assist Christian families, standards of godliness and moral behavior are expected from all participants, both parents and children. While CFS will seek to ensure all activities are provided in a safe and nurturing environment, we cannot guarantee there will not be individuals or instances that do not conform to our ideal standards of belief and behavior. Any behavior considered potentially harmful or destructive enough to be brought to the attention of the Board of Directors of CFS will be addressed in as wise and Godly a manner as possible using the principles spoken of in Matthew 18:15-22.

History:

The roots of CFS go back to 1982, when a few families associated with the Cair Paravel School (now Cair Paravel-Latin) decided to train their children at home. Because of the evident advantages of association with a traditional Christian school and its resources, the Cair Paravel Satellite School was organized. At the time, the home education movement was young, small, and controversial; therefore, the Kansas Commissioner of Education was presented the satellite school concept with its attendant accountability and activities. His response was as follows (excerpted from a letter from Merle R. Bolton, Kansas Commissioner of Education, September 6, 1983):

... have reviewed this matter with our director of legal services ... he believes the structure and operation of the Cair Paravel Satellite School Program to be in substantial compliance with the Compulsory School Law, if the instructor(s) is competent and the school is in session a period of time as above stated.

From a pilot program of three families, the satellite school grew to include over 60 families and over 120 students throughout northeastern and central Kansas. Until the spring of 1990, the satellite school operated with a director and coordinator under the Cair Paravel-Latin School board of directors. At that time, it was determined that the program was large enough to require its own board of directors. Cornerstone Family Schools was born, and incorporated as a non-profit, tax-exempt organization.

Services Available to All CFS Families:

- Orientation seminar
- Standardized achievement testing
- Directory of CFS families
- Access to the members-only link on the CFS website- www.cfs-online.org
- membership in the Mid-America Association of Christian Schools (MAACS) and the opportunity to participate in association Bible, academic, and fine arts competitions
- Junior and Senior High School level athletics program
- Elementary co-op
- Options and possibilities for field trips, science fair, family nights, etc. according to interest and availability of volunteer leaders.

In the event of inquiry by authorities, although CFS cannot provide financial assistance, CFS will provide available records, information, and general assistance in demonstration of a quality educational program in compliance with Kansas Compulsory Education Statutes.

CFS Contact Information:

Cornerstone Family School
P.O. Box 4968
Topeka, KS 66604
www.cfs-online.org

Cornerstone Family Schools Statement of Faith:

As a Christian school, the following statement of faith expresses the basics of our beliefs:

1. We believe the Bible to be the only fully inspired, infallible, inerrant and authoritative written Word of God. (II Timothy 3:16; II Peter 1:21)
2. We believe that there is one God, eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. (Genesis 1:1; John 10:30, 37, 38)
3. We believe in the full deity and full humanity of the Lord Jesus Christ, in His virgin birth, in His Sinless life, in His miracles, in His vicarious, substitutionary atonement through His shed blood, in His bodily resurrection, in His ascension to the right hand of the Father, and in His personal return in power and glory. (Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:23; Luke 1:35; Hebrews 4:15, 7:25, 9:12; John 2:11, 11:25; Colossians 1:14, Acts 1:11; Revelations 19:11, 16)
4. We believe that the human race is fallen in Adam and that the salvation of lost and sinful man depends upon the substitutionary death of Jesus Christ and is made effectual by grace through faith. (Romans 3:23; John 3:16, 19, 4:24; Ephesians 2:8, 9; Titus 3:5, 6)
5. We believe in the present ministry of the Holy Spirit, by whose indwelling and filling the Christian is enabled to live a godly life. (Ephesians 5:18, 4:30; I Corinthians 3:16, 6:19, 20)
6. We believe in the resurrection of both the saved and the lost; they who are saved unto the resurrection of life and they who are lost unto the resurrection of damnation. (John 5:28, 29)
7. We believe in the spiritual unity of believers in our Lord Jesus Christ. We believe that all disciples are called to attend, worship and serve Him in a local congregation or fellowship that is part of His Body, the Church. (Romans 8:9; I Corinthians 12:12, 13; Galatians 3:26, 28)

8. We believe that man was created in the image of God and that, from the moment of conception, each bears His image. (Genesis 1:26, 28; 5:1, 2)

VERSION HISTORY

Version	Description	Date
1.1	Changed bullet #4 of Statement of Faith – k.brewster	3.12.13
1.2	Multiple changes to reflect current processes -k.brewster	7.12.13
1.3	Eliminated CFS Program Requirements & Membership & Fee Schedule (those items are redundant with Membership policies)	10.5.13