

A Statement to our Catholic Friends

Covenant Life School was founded in 1979 as a ministry to the members of Covenant Life Church, and until the fall of 2010 one of the requirements for enrollment was Covenant Life Church membership. It took several years for the school board and administrators to thoroughly discuss the possibility of opening enrollment to Christian families from other local churches. One of the key factors decided upon was to maintain the requirement for local church membership in an Evangelical church.

We have received a number of inquiries from Catholic families. While we recognize many common values and we respect the rich Catholic tradition of faith, we also note significant differences between the Roman Catholic doctrine of salvation and our Protestant doctrine of salvation. There are also important practical differences between Catholics and Evangelical Christians in the outworking of a life of faith.

At Covenant Life School, our expression of faith in God's Word and practice of Christian community is intentional and pervasive. As a school we worship together in school level chapels and in all-school chapels. Age-appropriate weekly Bible instruction is given in chapels, and students pray together and talk about God and the Christian life in their classrooms. Once students reach the 6th Grade, Bible is a full credit academic course. In the middle school grades the students do a survey of the entire Bible. In high school the students study Biblical Theology, Hermeneutics, Systematic Theology and Apologetics. The spiritual formation of our students in the tradition of the reformers is among our highest priorities.

Therefore we do not believe we can effectively partner with Catholic families because a child's experience at Covenant Life School would not nurture or encourage a Catholic understanding or practice of Christianity.

Some Christian schools have enjoyed and benefitted from the participation of Catholic families. Perhaps Covenant Life School will be able to do so one day, but for now the school board has stated specifically that during our first years as an open school, we will serve families from Protestant churches.

We hope our Catholic friends do not take this as any kind of statement about the sincerity of their faith or the legitimacy of their church life. For the benefit of all, we are simply stating differences that are important to recognize, and which for now focuses our mission on Protestant church members.