



## Philosophy of Art Education

A Christian philosophy of art education is based on several underlying Biblical Truths. First, God created all people in His own image. *So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. Genesis 1:27* God made us to be creative. We are aesthetic beings, able to respond to and appreciate the beauty of God's world. Every young Christian artist is an image bearer of their Creator.

Second, God uses creation to reveal himself. Creation sings the glory of God and tells the wonders of this divine Creator! *The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. Psalm 19:1* For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse. *Romans 1:20* We can see God's Truths, revealed in creation, by way of the visual arts. Art is a process of making and interpreting visual reminders of God's creation.

Third, our purpose is to glorify God in our work *And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him. Colossians 3:17*

The art curriculum is based on four steps: 1) perceiving, 2) planning, 3) producing, and 4) presenting. Art should increase awareness of the beauty of God's creation, instill a fresh confidence in skills for creating art, create a desire to do one's best, and appreciate the accomplishments of others while fostering a deeper relationship with Christ our Savior.

During the perception process, we spend time exploring the aesthetics of what we see in God's creation. We talk about the elements and principles of design and how they are seen in nature. God is the perfect creator; he is the Master Artist. He made EVERYTHING out of NOTHING. We look to Him first for inspiration and give glory and honor to Him. We also spend time studying the history and works of other artists, reflecting on their interpretations of the world around us.

In the planning process, we develop and use creative problem solving skills that are critical for success in our rapidly changing economy. We organize our artistic ideas

with our personal experiences and previous knowledge to develop an idea for work of art that conveys meaning. There is a lot of trial and error, learning from mistakes and redos. We are reminded of God's grace in our lives; of his continual forgiveness in our failings.

The production process inevitably makes up most of the class time. Each person has been created unique with different gifts and abilities and is called to different roles in God's kingdom. We all have different personal experiences, abilities and centers of perception. In a loving atmosphere, we seek to identify and develop each student's creative abilities from whatever level they are at. Although artistic growth is desired, technical and physical skills are not the main emphasis of production. As an art teacher, I seek to develop each child's confidence in their artistic skills and a desire to do their best. Many mediums and techniques will be introduced and used. Our works of art should not only be creative and aesthetically pleasing, but ultimately bring glory and honor to God.

Presenting is an important part of the creative process. It is a time to reflect about how the goals were met and challenges overcome. It is a time to critique and give constructive feedback. It is a time to display the labor of our hands. But, it is most importantly a way to bring appropriate praise and glory back to God who gave us these gifts.

Finally, visual arts should be a reminder that we are the works of God's hands. We should continually strive to be what God designed us to be to accomplish His plan in His kingdom. We are not finished yet, but must allow God to mold and shape us. *Yet, O Lord, you are our Father. We are the clay, you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand. Isaiah 64:8* Let us continue to be molded and useful in His kingdom until the day when He calls us home and says "well done, good and faithful servant!" Then we shall be finished works of art.