

# The Stonehaven School

## Mission, Vision, and Foundational Commitments

### Mission

The Stonehaven School exists to glorify God by cultivating truth, goodness, and beauty in students through a distinctly Christ-centered classical education.

### Vision

Stonehaven aims to graduate young men and women who:

Love God with all their heart, soul, mind, and strength;

Evaluate all human knowledge and experience in the light of the Scriptures;

Are equipped to engage and shape the culture with the Truth of the Gospel;

Listen carefully, reason soundly, speak precisely, and articulate persuasively;

Have mastered a core body of knowledge and are capable of discussing great ideas;

Possess a life-long passion for learning and know how to apply the tools of learning;

Lead and serve with humility, gratitude, and grace.

### Foundational Commitments

The foundational commitments of The Stonehaven School distinguish it as an institution and are the standards against which all new ideas and practices are tested. They are the core values to which the Board of Trustees is committed and for which it is responsible on behalf of present and future constituents. The administration, faculty, and staff are likewise committed to and responsible for

implementing these foundational commitments in all policies and practices of the School.

**Christian Worldview:** *We believe that every aspect of our children's education must be intentionally founded upon biblical truth.*

At Stonehaven we believe the focal point of all that is, has been, and ever will be is the person of Jesus Christ. We believe that the education of our children begins with this reality. God reveals Himself not only specially in His Word, but also generally in every facet of His creation. All knowledge is therefore interrelated and teaches us about God's character, wisdom, and power. Ultimate reality exists only in Him, the Creator and Sustainer of all things, and therefore truth can be understood only as it relates to Him, the God of Truth and Sovereign Lord over all. The Scriptures teach that the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom and knowledge. We believe therefore that every aspect of our children's education must be intentionally grounded in and integrated with biblical truth.

**Classical Liberal Arts:** *We are committed to the traditional and long established, exemplary forms and standards in education handed down from ancient and medieval educators.*

At Stonehaven we are committed to a classical liberal arts education; the traditional and long established, exemplary forms and standards in education handed down from ancient (Greek, Roman) and medieval educators. We follow the methodology of the Trivium, seeking to identify appropriate analogies of Grammar, Dialectic (Logic), and Rhetoric in all subjects and to teach all subjects in a manner consistent with the appropriate developmental stage of the child. We understand that the liberal arts of antiquity denoted the education "worthy of a free man" (Latin *liber*, "free")—an education intent upon cultivating wisdom, virtue, and eloquence through the pursuit of truth, goodness, and beauty. We emphasize and seek to preserve and pass on to successive generations the richness of our Western cultural heritage.

**Wisdom and Virtue:** *We believe that true education culminates in wise and virtuous students who are being conformed to the image of Christ.*

At Stonehaven we believe each child is a living and eternal soul to be nourished, not a product to be manufactured. The purpose of education is not instilling knowledge alone, nor is it merely providing vocational skills. The purpose is inculcating wisdom and virtue in the life of each student. We seek true wisdom that begins with the fear of the Lord, is rooted in the Scriptures, and encompasses all of human experience. We aspire to virtue that reflects the moral excellence of Christ, expresses itself in faithful obedience to God, and demonstrates love to others. Wise and virtuous students will become understanding, thoughtful, and courageous leaders in our homes, churches, and communities.

**God-Honoring Excellence:** *We are dedicated to teaching and learning with excellence as unto the Lord.*

At Stonehaven we believe that all instruction must encourage students to love and honor God through their academic endeavors. God commands us to love Him with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength. Students must be challenged at all levels to do quality academic work "heartily, as unto the Lord" because God is worthy of their best. We employ gifted teachers who possess a passion for learning, a passion for teaching, and a passion for Christ. We want our students to possess a love of learning and be well equipped for their future callings.

**Appropriate Forms and Habits:** *We believe that true education recognizes that hearts and minds are shaped not only by ideas and knowledge, but also by practices, habits, routines, and liturgies.*

At Stonehaven we seek to deliberately develop a culture in the school in which every idea, truth, and concept has its fitting visible expression. We seek not the artificial formality of the arrogant, nor formality for formality's sake, but rather a wise attention to form that continually favors appropriateness over casual and comfortable

complacency. We believe that true education recognizes that hearts and minds are shaped not by ideas and knowledge only but also by practices, habits, routines, and liturgies.

**In Loco Parentis:** *We seek to assist parents in their God-given task of educating their children in the Lord.*

At Stonehaven we believe God has granted to parents the responsibility and authority for raising their children, including the responsibility of educating them. Stonehaven seeks to assist parents in this God-given responsibility. Stonehaven purposes to be an extension of the home --educators who function as agents and servants of the parents. We are committed to fostering a supportive community of like-minded families, who, with our faculty and staff, encourage one another in their calling to bring up their children "in the discipline and instruction of the Lord."

**Engaged and Committed School Community:** *We believe parents should actively participate in the life and community of the school.*

We strive to cultivate in our parents a sense of responsibility for the school and to see them well informed about the goals of our classical and Christ-centered approach. Parents are encouraged to actively participate in the life and community of Stonehaven. As we cultivate wisdom, virtue, and eloquence through the pursuit of truth, goodness, and beauty in the lives of our students, we expect to see our parents grow in the same. We believe our school community should reflect God's Kingdom in its racial, ethnic, and economic make-up. We desire to exemplify unity in the body of Christ through support and cooperation with area churches.

*Approved by the Stonehaven Board of Trustees October 18, 2011*