

CCHS SCIENCE INTRODUCTION & PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

The science courses at Covenant Christian High School are standards based and founded on the revelation of God. We believe that the source and purpose of all creation is the Triune personal Creator. With this foundation, we are distinctive for a variety of reasons:

Bible and Science –

1. *Unity* - Our students will know that God has provided two revelations: general (nature/works of God) and special (Scripture/Word of God). Since both came from the same source, they must be reconcilable. “All Scripture is God breathed and is useful for teaching...” (2 Tim 3:16).
2. The revelation of God’s works can be rightly understood only in the light of the written Word (1 Corinthians 1:21). A view of science is only correct if viewed through the lens of scripture. So “we demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God” (2 Cor 10:5).
3. Everyone who has not had their mind renewed by Scripture (Rom 12:2; 10:17) will have a false, distorted, view of reality – “Having exchanged the truth of God [as revealed by the world around them] for a lie” (Rom 1:25).
4. Science enhances our understanding of Scripture and increases our amazement of God. E.g. A study of the anatomy of an animal or the division of a cell gives a greater awe of the One who created it all good (Gen 1:31); whereas the investigation of viruses gives insight to the far reaching impact of when we fell in the garden (Gen 2:17; 3:16-19). A knowledge of the atom amazes us with the supremacy of Christ who holds all things together (Col 1:17).
5. A scientist is not the creator, but we are all to learn to better serve as His handmaid and steward over what Yahweh has given us dominion (Gen 1:26,28). Nor is the scientist a proud discoverer of new truths; we can all only humbly apprehend God’s gracious, beautiful revelation to the glory of His name. Scientific delight is found in revealing more knowledge of God creation and results in awe and worship.
6. Science cannot evolve or invent their own set of ethics, for Scripture already provides the only true, authoritative, infallible, inerrant rule for life and godliness (2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:3-4, 20-21).
7. Scripture’s account of creation is to be trusted as literal and historical. To deny creation is to deny the truthfulness of Jesus, and by consequence the historicity of the fall and our need of a savior (Matt 19:4-6; Acts 17:26; Rom 5:12-19). “If you believed Moses, you would believe me, for he wrote about me. But since you do not believe what he wrote, how are you going to believe what I say?” (John 5:46-47)

Creation –

1. *Glorifies God* - Our students will know that one can honor the Creator by studying His creation. Creation declares God's glory and reveals His attributes, leaving man without excuse (Psalm 19:1-4; Rom 1:18-20; Col 1:16).
2. *Ex Nihilo* - God created the universe out of nothing. This creation was complete, not a continuing work, providing for the needs of the world until the consummation of time. "God had finished the work he had been doing" (Gen 2:2). Yet creation constantly requires God's sustaining work – often referred to as His providence. Jesus Christ "upholds the universe by the word of His power" (Heb 1:3; cf Col 1:17).
3. *Order* - The origin of order is attributable to God's own attributes and rationality (Gen 1-2; 1 Cor 14:33). He created the world with a consistent and predictable structure. This principle breathed life into scientific work, especially after the Protestant Reformation.
4. *Knowable* - The One who is infinite allows the world to be comprehensible, i.e. there will always be mystery and discovery. Since God brought matter, space, time, energy, and life into existence, He can superintend and suspend natural law: a miracle. Nothing is impossible for God (Neh 9:5; Jer 27:5; 32:17,27; Matt 19:26).
5. *Good* - All God created is good (Gen 1:3-4, 31). His creation as we are discovering it today is still good. It is only when we are disobedient to the creation norm that these things become corrupted. It is only through obedience to the law of creation that we can experience God's good creation. Therefore, we are not to abuse or selfishly use creation, this includes our own bodies.

PHILOSOPHY

The science department of Covenant Christian High School exists to train students to glorify God and enjoy Him through the study of His creation. The source of all our knowledge is the general and special revelation of God. With this source we seek to achieve our goal by investigating the constancy of nature, the change produced in various processes, and the interrelationships of phenomena.

Students will understand and see the value and limitations in the use of models. They will develop their problem solving skills and mathematical sophistication as they advance through their high school science career.

Our rigorous college-preparatory program requires students to understand and apply concepts, orally discuss and give presentations, and write research papers and laboratory reports. We will stress the application of their scientific understanding to their lives. Upon graduating, the students will, by the grace of God, be prepared to give a reason for their hope and confidence at any college or university.