



PROVIDENCE CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

Soli Deo Gloria

LIBRARY AND STUDY CENTER POLICY

The library and study center is a vital aspect of *Providence Christian Academy*. Our Librarian, Mrs. Barbara Clark, will coordinate with the school leadership to provide materials for research, class assignments, curriculum support for teachers and students, and recreational reading for students at all grade levels. The library also will provide materials and services to meet the educational goals of the school with resources, facilities, and instruction that is necessary to aid both students and teachers in reaching the objectives of the academy.

- A. *Providence Christian Academy* will make every effort to provide a robust collection of books, periodicals, and other resources within its library. It is important for parents and students to recognize that some of the materials in the library may contain ideas or opinions that are not consistent with those held by the school or taught in Scripture. While the academy will make every effort to exclude materials that are openly in opposition to Scripture, rigorous education requires exposing students to arguments and beliefs held by unbelievers. The presence of a resource in the library is not an endorsement of its content. Students are encouraged to discuss such ideas with their teachers, parents, pastors, and peers.

- B. Any material presented in the library must lend itself to the fulfillment of the objectives and philosophy of the school. The material should always be capable of use in a positive manner, in which Biblical principles can be integrated. That material should be examined to determine its potential for teaching Christian truth, either by contrast or example. The ultimate aim of our resources is that students would be educated to the glory of God.

- C. The material should be of a generally high quality, from a recognized, skilled talent in the field, with a well-developed, worthy theme. It should be age appropriate in intellectual, emotional, and spiritual substance. The reading of the classics, books that have stood the test of time, is emphasized in all areas of the curriculum.
- D. The Librarian and teachers will work together as a team to select materials for each grade level to ensure that the school has an appropriate, accessible, and balanced variety of informational resources that lead to and extend beyond the learning opportunities stated in the curriculum. The informational resources shall clearly reflect the Christian distinctive of the school and support the learning objectives of the instructional program.
- E. The Librarian and teachers will intentionally work together to choose informational resources that are culturally sensitive, that represent all of the enrolled demographic population, and that originate from the students' countries of citizenship.
- F. The Librarian will intentionally solicit students and parents for recommendations regarding the selection of informational resources available for use in the library.
- G. The Librarian and teachers will work together to ensure that there is a direct link between the assessment of school-wide expected student outcomes and the selection of the school's informational resources.
- H. Informational resources will be readily accessible by students, staff, and faculty and will be clearly linked to the instructional program and environment of the school.
- I. A form will be kept on file in the library that parents or teachers should complete if they have a concern about a particular resource. The complaint is reviewed by the Librarian and the principal, at which time a decision will be made.

J. When selecting materials, the staff should look for those that have the following qualities:

1. Leading to a discernment of truth and rejection of error
2. Have a worthy purpose and accomplish it
3. Show good quality and taste in content and style of writing
4. Be thought-provoking, yet avoiding vain controversies (1 Titus. 6:4, 2 Titus. 2:23, Titus 3:9)
5. Stimulate and build Christian character
6. Conducive to a mindset such as that suggested in Philippians 4:8

K. The following criteria are recommended:

1. Biographies need to be evaluated from both the viewpoint of the worthiness of the person's life and the manner in which his life is presented. Biographies of godly men and women are distinctive of our center.
2. The purely fiction should be confined to:
 - a. Those that teach a good lesson.
 - b. Those that are an example of good creative writing.
 - c. Those stories of animals talking, fairy tales and other fantasy which are of the best quality.
3. Religious books should be in harmony with the Scriptures and need to be carefully checked as to their scriptural accuracy.
4. It is understood that books contain varying and sometimes controversial views on topics such as the origin of life, evolution, and other scientific and social issues. Books dealing with such topics may be accepted into the library as long as they meet the following criteria:
 - a. Books dealing with theories or philosophies that contradict God's Word must present that theory or philosophy as a theory or an opinion, rather than a fact.
 - b. The book must not imply that science and Scripture are incompatible or contradictory, or characterize those who hold a Biblical worldview in a negative way.

- c. The library will provide an abundance of books containing scientific research that finds its origin in the foundation of Biblical authority, rather than those that undermine the Bible's authority.

L. The recognized worth of resources by Christian or non-Christian authors should be considered with the following policies applied:

1. The presence of the following should be weighed prior to using any resource, and teachers should be prepared to address any of these elements present from a Biblical perspective:
 - a. Profanity (James 3:5-10)
 - b. References to sexual acts, but no graphic depictions of sexual acts, nor any sexual aberrations presented in a favorable way (Romans 1:24 –27, 1 Cor. 6:13-18, Gal. 5:19)
 - c. Nudity (the unclad form, and this should be for artistic purpose), but no nakedness (sensual presentation of nudity) (Matt. 5:28)
 - d. Exalting human philosophies that are contrary to godly principles (Col. 2:8)
2. Given the wide availability of worthy books and resources, the library will strive to select works that preferably contain none of the following. However, exceptions may be made for otherwise useful works that contain no more than a minimum of the following:
 - a. Blasphemy (Ex. 20:7)
 - b. Promotion of cult practice to encourage conversion (2 Pe. 2:1-2)
 - c. Glorification (and practice) of the occult (e.g., card reading, palm reading, séances, Ouija board, astrology, dungeons and dragons, witches, warlocks, ghosts, etc.) even if presented as a game (Deut. 18: 10-13)
 - d. Exalting depravity or vice, or being neutral to such (e.g., well-known personalities notorious for ungodly living, drug use, etc., and music that depicts the same) (Rom. 13:12, Eph. 5:11, 1 John 5:21)
 - e. Vivid and detailed description of violence (exceptions may be made in some cases for studies of historical events such as the Holocaust)

- f. Undue prominence given to romance
- g. Blatant or hinted anti-Christian and/or anti-Biblical action presented in a favorable manner
3. Exceptions described in Section 1 and 2 above are not permissible in resources available to students in prior to the secondary level (Grades 9 to 12).

M. The library will also be responsible for cataloguing and circulating CDs, DVDs, and software for classroom use. All non-print materials come under the same type of scrutiny and evaluation as the reading materials, and the same directives apply.

N. Library Material Acquisitions

1. Authority for selection of materials rests with the librarian in accordance with the aforementioned criteria policy.
2. The same selection criteria and guidelines that apply to purchases will also apply to the acceptance of gifts.
3. All gifts become the property of the school and when declared surplus may be dispensed as deemed appropriate by the Librarian.
4. The Librarian in accordance with the criteria established in this policy will give final approval for acceptance or rejection of the book.