

REHOBOTH CHRISTIAN SCHOOL: STUDENT OUTCOMES

Identification of student outcomes can take a form from the very general to the very specific. We have chosen a middle course in our effort to create a vision for the kind of mind and heart and behavior that we cherish for Rehoboth graduates.

Although we find helpful the differentiation of head, heart and hands, much of learning does not smoothly fall into categories. The educational process is complex, even murky. “The Spirit blows where it wills,” making unpredictable how it is that knowledge, skill, and virtue settle into one’s life. In that Spirit, we list randomly/alphabetically our outcomes, all the while working and praying that God will shape Rehoboth students toward the following ends:

Biblical Literacy:

Graduates will have a solid knowledge of the biblical story, both Old and New Testament. They will understand the Bible as God’s revelation to humankind. Their biblical literacy will become more than head knowledge, but will routinely find application in life. They will see the Bible as central to their faith and discipleship.

Christ and Culture:

Graduates will be students of culture, their own and others, and learn to identify important trends and choices in popular culture. They will study issues of “Christ and culture,” and come to see in culture its potential for good or evil. They will engage the culture, understanding that it is within culture that we live out our Christian lives.

Christian Ethics:

Graduates will possess an ethical framework for life based on the Christian faith. Using the Scriptures and the wisdom of the church through the ages, graduates will desire always to seek out a moral way of life and then to follow it. Their school years will have provided numerous studies and examples both of ethical and unethical behavior.

Christian Formation and Witness:

Graduates will engage in life patterns and establish habits that will shape their spirituality and witness. A relationship with Christ will be enriched by church attendance, worship, bible-reading and prayer. Students will seek to be serious disciples of Jesus, bear witness to His grace and disciple new believers. Christian witness will not only be individual, but cultural, seeking to transform culture as “salt and light” in our community and world.

Church:

Graduates will have developed a biblical understanding of the church. They will have studied its biblical origin and theology, and see how God in His history has both preserved the church, but also called it to do His work on earth. Graduates will understand the fullness of the Great Commission, the task of evangelism and commit to a life in the church.

Cross-Cultural Communication/ Competencies:

Graduates will be cross-culturally sophisticated, that is, be able to move comfortably between more than one culture. They will know the social skills, courtesies, graces and competencies that are expected both in a dominant culture and in a minority culture. They will avoid the negative behaviors and patterns that break down cross-cultural communication and respect.

Economics:

Graduates will receive an overview of economic systems and principles. They will understand Biblical principles of sharing and financial stewardship, will desire to use their resources to serve the kingdom of God, will practice good money management and will be self-sufficient and saving. Students will understand such concepts as financial dependency, consumerism, pawn economy, instant gratification and the culture of poverty.

English Proficiency:

Graduates will depart Rehoboth with an ability to use standard English in their speaking and writing. Students who come with limited English proficiency will have been intentionally taught through the use of specific methods and strategies so as to grow in proficiency and confidence in their English usage.

Geography:

Graduates will have a good grasp of world geography, locations and regions, and see themselves as part of a bigger world. They will be able to do comparative analysis and understand the effect of geography on culture, politics, history and economics. They will avoid the ethnocentrism and self-centeredness that marks many cultures.

Gifts and Calling:

Graduates will have an understanding of their distinct gifts, will pursue, through planning and decision-making, post-high training and experiences that will further expose and develop those gifts, and make career choices that will provide a service to society, sustenance for family and fulfillment and joy to each individual graduate.

God's Kingdom:

Graduates will have a biblical, Reformed understanding of the kingdom of God. They will be able to differentiate the design and purpose of God's kingdom over earthly kingdoms, and seek first God's kingdom and its coming "on earth as it is in heaven." They will accept the invitation to live in that kingdom now, not merely in the future.

Health Fitness:

Graduates will live physically healthy lives. They will understand and celebrate the marvels and intricacy of the human body, know the patterns and habits of physical health and commit to wholesome physical activity and nutrition. To be avoided are the many diseases that are self-inflicted.

History:

Graduates will appreciate history and honor its unique ability to enlighten our path. They will understand the power of the past over the present and future. They will have traveled the contours of the Western World, but also the important non-Western and local history that continues to shape the world of our students.

Hope and Direction:

Graduates will depart from Rehoboth with a hopeful, optimistic view of life and the future. They will see opportunities and follow callings that will match their God-given gifts. They will avoid the despair and aimlessness that marks all too many in our region. Knowledge, attitudes and skills will propel them into fruitful occupations and lives.

Justice:

Graduates will have a passion for justice in all of its forms. This embodies public justice, which includes political, social and economic justice, but also justice in our personal and institutional dealings with our family, neighbors and colleagues. They will seek to both understand justice and then do justice. Such pursuit will be under-girded with solid understanding of political systems, federal, state, tribal and local.

Leadership:

Graduates will understand and recognize qualities of leadership. Each graduate will understand that he/she has leadership ability. They will, when called upon and gifted for the task, learn to exercise their leadership skills in church, community, government and the workplace. The practice of "followership," an important corollary, acknowledges the wisdom and leadership gifts in others.

Literature:

Graduates will be knowledgeable of great literature produced both in Western civilization, but also in non-western cultures. They will have developed a sense of what is worthy and what is degrading, enlightening and misleading. Reading for worldview will become instinctive.

Lordship of Christ:

Graduates will understand that the Christian faith has implications for all of life, that it is not confined to “spirituality” or an afterlife. They will come to understand and believe that Jesus is both Savior and Lord and live accordingly in their vocations and avocations, in family and church and friendship.

Marriage and Family:

Graduates will understand dynamics of a Christian marriage and family, will desire to enter into that kind of marriage, if so led, and will put the principles into practice. Further, they will understand the implications of divorce for children and spouse and its long-term affect on society.

Media Literacy:

Graduates will apprehend the powerful influence of media in its multiple forms. They will know the basic principles and techniques of visual and mass communication, including advertising, television and movies. The saturation of life by images will be critiqued and used when appropriate to communicate effectively.

Music:

Graduates will have been exposed to a wide range of music and come to appreciate several varieties. They will have had opportunity to both listen and perform chorally and instrumentally. Students will develop those gifts and be challenged to use them to honor God and bless their church community. Graduates will discern both what is worthy and what is base in contemporary music.

Numeracy:

Graduates will possess basic computational skills to live in real life. Though not all graduates will require ability in higher mathematics, in an age in which we are bombarded by numbers, everyone must have skill in thinking numerically. Graduates more gifted in math will have been prepared for advanced training and professional application. The Author and Creator of math and logic will be acknowledged and honored.

Oral Communication:

Graduates will become coherent speakers, orally able to express ideas in speech, discussion or conversation. Closely related is the discipline of listening so as to engage with others in collaboration and communication yielding deeper insight and understanding.

Physical Education and Play:

Graduates will comprehend that it is with our bodies that we engage the world, that the body requires careful stewardship. They will understand the path to fitness and strive to practice it. They will learn to play, enjoy the gift of athletics and engaged in wholesome competition. Flexibility, endurance, strength and body-image will be properly understood and pursued.

Practical Arts:

Graduates will have had general exposure and basic understanding to practical arts of life related to homemaking and maintenance. They will have the confidence to continue learning as they mature and become property or home owners. Students with particular gifts in technology (industrial, computing, information) will have had opportunity to explore and develop in those fields.

Prejudice and Racism:

Graduates will understand the dynamics of prejudice and racism and commit to addressing it in their lives and social settings. Further, they will see patterns of institutional racism historically and currently in society and resolve to do justice in all human and cultural relationships.

Reading and Literacy:

Graduates will be good readers, recognizing words and understanding sentences, paragraphs, essays and books for their purpose and meaning. They will read with care, energy and discernment, recognizing the nuances and varieties of literature. They will be lifelong readers, avoiding the image-based media as the sole source of new information and ideas.

Respect and Reconciliation:

Graduates will leave Rehoboth with a profound level of respect, what in the Navajo language is called *it'ídlí*. This implies respect for Creation, culture, neighbor, family/clan/heritage and self. Such respect ultimately flows from reverence for a sovereign, gracious God, from whom all life and blessing flows. This respect will propel graduates as agents of reconciliation (*k'é*) into their families, churches and communities.

Science:

Graduates will have a basic understanding of the laws and processes of nature and science. They will appreciate both the immensity and intricacy of the creation, as designed by the Creator. The scientific method, both its potential and its limits, will be understood and utilized. Both naturalism and pantheism will be understood as contrary to a Christian worldview, while “Design” theories will be appropriately presented.

Second Language:

Graduates will have begun learning a language other than English for the purpose of understanding more deeply the diversity and ways of people and cultures. Navajo students will have been encouraged to study the Navajo language and thereby become comfortable in settings where the native language is used.

Self-knowledge and Purpose:

Graduates will have knowledge of self, having been created in the image of God, flawed by our sinful nature, and offered redemption through Jesus Christ. They will see themselves as members of the church universal, called to be disciples, to share the gospel and to serve, using the unique gifts and experience that God has given them.

Social Relationships/Interpersonal Competence:

Graduates will live socially healthy lives. They will understand what is involved in creating wholesome human relationships related to parents, siblings, relatives, gender, neighbors, colleagues, strangers, and to our sexuality. Given that man is created for relationship, graduates will commit to loving their neighbor, and themselves.

Stewardship of Creation:

Graduates will understand the Christian doctrine of creation. They will see it as part of God’s revelation to humankind, learn to enjoy and celebrate the beauty of creation and commit to be caretakers and stewards of the creation. They will avoid a lifestyle and practice that abuses the handiwork and design of God’s created order.

Technology:

Graduates will see the relationship of science and technology, and the extent that technology shapes and even controls our lives. The danger of technology becoming overly esteemed will be demonstrated to our students. All graduates must be technologically competent regarding computers and information retrieval.

Virtue and Values:

Graduates will seek to live a virtuous life. Their education will have included opportunities and instruction for moral formation, but also models of virtue in the form of teachers. Examples of virtue and positive values include honesty, patience, diligence, courage, kindness, humility, courage, faith, hope, love—and the greatest of these is love.

Visual Arts:

Graduates will have discovered and developed gifts in creating and understanding visual arts. They will have had their sense of sight enhanced, seeing the world and creation more clearly and colorfully. Their training will have challenged their creativity and artistic inspiration and equipped them with tools to meet the challenge. Gifted and motivated students have had opportunities for advanced training in visual arts.

Work:

Graduates will learn the ways of the workplace. If they are employees, they will practice habits of timeliness, honesty, respect, diligence, courtesy and service. If they become supervisors or employers, they will become servant leaders who are fair and generous toward those with whom they work.

Worldviews:

Graduates will be able to navigate the major worldviews of our time, both world religions and other philosophies of life. They will compare these propositions and purposes to a Christian worldview recognizing in particular the vast differences. They will have been introduced to Christian apologetics. They will see the implication of a Christian worldview as it bears on all areas of life.

Written Communication:

Graduates will be capable writers, practicing the patterns of correct sentence structure and spelling. They will write with clarity and conviction, and use the written word in the workplace and in other areas of life to accurately record and communicate truth and creatively express ideas.