



Accreditation and Curriculum

ACCREDITATION

Miami Christian School was chartered by the State of Florida in March of 1954, and the school has operated continuously in Miami-Dade County since that time, on its present campus since 1958. The school continues to meet or exceed all pertinent standards for non-public school operation established by the State and County, with respect to facilities, curriculum and personnel.

In 1978, the school was accredited by the Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI). This Association links Miami Christian with over a thousand other Christian schools across America and in several other countries as well.

In 2003, MCS was also accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS). This body accredits more than 12,000 public and private educational institutions from pre-kindergarten through the university level. SACS/CASI is one of only six such regional accrediting organizations in the United States recognized by the US Department of Education.

TECHNOLOGY/SCHOOL INTRANET

All classrooms in the elementary through high school have computers. The entire school has internet access with two dedicated T-1 lines; websites are filtered for inappropriate content while providing the educational benefits afforded by the internet. Faculty, staff, students and parents are connected to the school website, which allows better communication and assures parents will have weekly access to homework assignments and grades.

ELEMENTARY CURRICULUM

The elementary school (Kindergarten – fifth grade) features a curriculum of daily Bible instruction, language arts skills (reading, writing, spelling, listening), math skills, science, social studies, Spanish, computer and physical education. In addition, a music program provides music classes and activities for students starting in PK3, and includes teaching in music theory and instrumental music in grades 2-5. An important aspect of MCS' teaching is the integration of Biblical truth with all subject areas.

The academic emphasis is on a well-rounded program, which stresses important skills in math and reading. The language arts program helps promote higher student achievement in these areas.

The faculty combines creative teaching with loving concern for each child in well-disciplined classes as a means to facilitate maximum student learning.

Spiritual growth in students is fostered by Bible study, special chapels, programs, missionary projects, and the daily models of a faculty and staff committed to Jesus Christ.

SECONDARY CURRICULUM

MIDDLE SCHOOL: Departmentalized classrooms with instruction in Bible, Math, Science, English, Social Studies (Geography, Civics and American History). Students have enrichment classes in band, choir, computer, foreign languages, physical education and art.

Honors classes are offered for students in grades 6-8 who meet the criteria. **Honors students are required to bring laptops in to class.**

SENIOR HIGH: The High School program is college preparatory in thrust with an emphasis on critical/analytical thinking skills and offers opportunities for advanced placement and honors credit in several areas. Students who qualify may have dual enrollment in nearby colleges or universities. **All high school students are required to bring laptops to class.**

ESOL

MCS accommodates ESOL students in elementary through high school. Level one is for the non-English speaker; level two for limited English; level three is for the advanced full English speaker who needs help with reading and writing.

A combination of reading, writing, listening and speaking will be taught and practiced with the purpose of getting the students to operate in the English language at grade level as quickly as possible. Classes will be conducted according to grade level and individual needs of the students. Tuition cost for the ESOL program is indicated on the Fees and Financial Policies sheet.

MIAMI CHRISTIAN SCHOOL
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Buildings and Services

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

Miami Christian School is located on 20 acres of land in west-central Miami-Dade County. Included on the campus are four classroom buildings and two modulars for grades K-12, as well as athletic fields for football, soccer, softball, and baseball. There is ample open space for general student activities, and two fenced-in playgrounds for the elementary.

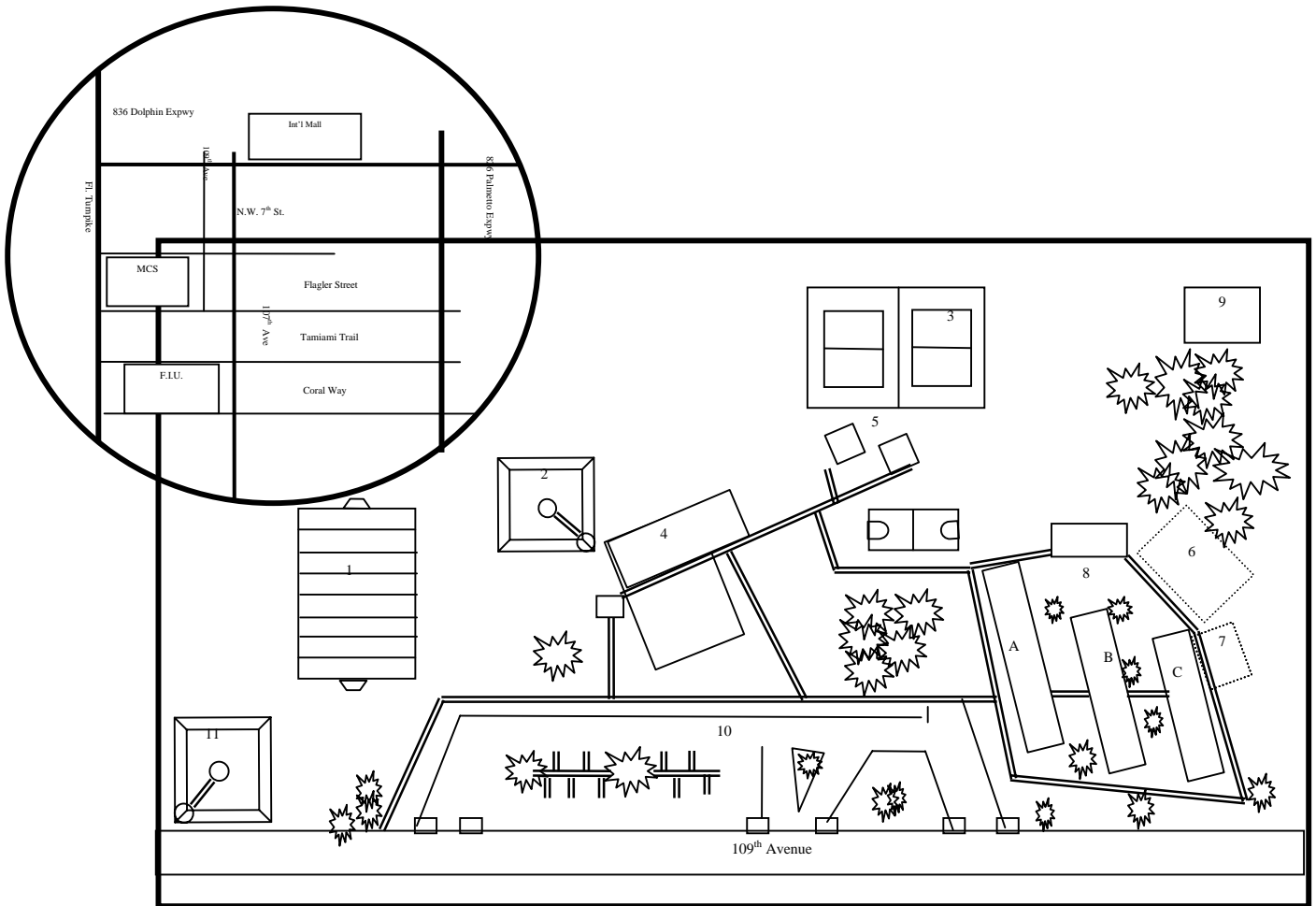
In addition to classrooms, the MCS campus includes the library holding over 21,000 volumes – and a facility which includes three completely furnished science laboratories, two computer labs, computers in the library and all classrooms, school wide Internet, gymnasium, music room, a fitness center and locker rooms for athletics. (Please note the master plan of the campus below.)

SERVICES

FOOD: Students may supplement their lunches (or buy it entirely) at the food service area. Sandwiches, hot meals, desserts, beverages, and snacks are available.

HEALTH: Students may receive medication while at school if the appropriate Physician's Release Form is on file in the office.

TRANSPORTATION: In the event that you may not be able to provide your own transportation, MCS recommends that you find a private bus company to serve your particular transportation needs.



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| 1. Soccer and Football Field | 6. Elementary Playground |
| 2. Baseball Diamond | 7. Pre-school Playground |
| 3. Tennis Courts | 8. Classroom Buildings A/B/C |
| 4. D Building Classrooms & Gymnasium | 9. Maintenance Area |
| 5. Modulars | 10. Parking |
| | 11. Softball Field |

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School Government

Miami Christian School is not affiliated with any one church or denomination. Instead, it is owned and operated by the MCS self-perpetuating Board of Trustees (Board) - another outstanding feature that sets MCS apart from other Christian schools in the greater Miami area.

The Miami Christian School Parent-Teacher Fellowship is an independent and separate organization. The objective is to facilitate the education of children attending Miami Christian School by supporting and cooperating with the programs of the school. The program of this organization is both educational and social in accordance with Christian standards of life in our school, home, and community. Its objectives are accomplished through cooperation with the faculty and the administration.

THE BOARD

The Board of Trustees consists of persons of meeting the Scriptural requirements concerning spiritual leadership. Through their meetings, they establish policy, select the school head, oversee the financial affairs of the corporation, and ensure that the philosophy and objectives in the long-range plan of the school are maintained. The Board's main responsibilities are to support the mission and vision of the school and raise funds, as well as introduce new friends and students to the school.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Dr. William Lukes, President

Shepherd Educational Associates

Tania Mercadal Vice President / Treasurer

Administrative Assistant - Garcia-Menendez Enterprises

Carmen Perez, Secretary

Owner, Action Express, Inc.

Valentin Alvarez

Real Estate

Keyla Reilly, J.D.

Owner, Squirrel Realty

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UM Miller School of Medicine Scholarship Medical Student

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Admissions and Registration

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

We welcome students of any race, color, national and ethnic origin, and do not discriminate on this basis in admission or in any area of the school life and program. The following criteria are considered in admissions decisions, listed in order of priority:

1. It is desirable that one parent (or both) or the student gives evidence of personal faith in Jesus Christ as Savior.
2. Parents indicate a firm desire to educate their children in a Christ-centered school.
3. Parents are expected to commit the spiritual development of their children to the cooperative efforts of the home, church, and school.
4. The family demonstrates a life-style in harmony with the purposes and objectives of Miami Christian School.

In addition, students who qualify for admission should demonstrate:

1. Ability consistent with our academic standards.
2. An established pattern of responsible, obedient behavior.

Administrative discretion is permitted on an individual basis.

ADMISSION PROCEDURE

APPLICATION: The application process includes the family's basis for faith in God and reasons for desiring enrollment at MCS. The **non-refundable** application fee must accompany the application form when it is returned. This fee covers the administrative costs of processing the application and the testing given each child.

ASSESSMENT: MCS gives an academic potential, pre-admission assessment to determine each student's ability. The standardized assessment is not an "entrance exam" as such, with passing/failing grades. It is designed to measure such things as general academic aptitude, reading skills, and math aptitudes, thus indicating the potential ability of the student to perform satisfactorily within our school's curriculum. There is no special way to prepare for the assessment, but it is wise to see that students get a good night of rest before the assessment. Results alone do not determine acceptance. Since assessment scores are often misunderstood or are misleading, assessment results are only divulged in personal conference.

PARENT ORIENTATION: Parents are encouraged to seek information about the school, its history, philosophy, policy and practices. The school's personnel stand ready to help in every way possible to answer questions. Tours of the campus and classrooms, open houses, printed materials, and calls to the admissions office are ways to familiarize parents with MCS.

REFERENCES: Satisfactory references from a current teacher, principal or previous teachers are desired before admission can be considered. A form for this purpose is included in this packet and should be forwarded to the appropriate person(s). The school may also contact other references, such as an adult friend known to MCS or a previous teacher.

INTERVIEW: A personal interview with the parents and prospective student is held with one of the school administrators. The purpose of this interview is to get better acquainted, to clarify the spiritual and educational goals of the family, and to determine how closely they match the opportunities existing at Miami Christian School. During the interview, there is ample opportunity for parents to ask questions about the school, its programs, and its policies.

ACCEPTANCE: Admission decisions are reached based on the information obtained through these above sources, generally within ten days after the interview. Decisions are based on the family's spiritual commitment to the Lord Jesus Christ and the student's ability to profit from the instruction given here.

In the selection of the student body of MCS, the school will be exclusive with respect to academic and behavioral criteria and inclusive with respect to racial, cultural, and social status. Miami Christian School complies with the American's with Disabilities Act. Requests for accommodations are welcome from parents and students as long as students have documented disabilities.

REGISTRATION PROCEDURE

Enrollment is confirmed by remittance of the **non-refundable student enrollment fee** which is paid after receipt of the letter of acceptance, or after the interview. This fee plus the **non-refundable June, July and August tuition payments** insure a place for your child for the coming year.

Registration is available online during the summer.

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Statement of Philosophy, Objectives, Purpose and Faith

MISSION STATEMENT

Miami Christian School, in educational partnership with parents, challenges young men and women to know Jesus as Lord, to achieve their fullest academic and physical potential, and to impact a diverse world with character and leadership.

STATEMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

Miami Christian School exists both to evangelize and to cooperate with Christian parents in teaching their children to love God with all their heart, soul, mind and strength. MCS believes that the ultimate context for effective, purposeful education is to be found in the Word of God, and seeks to integrate the truth of Scripture in every aspect of school organization and life. Educational psychology and methodology as well as the interpretation of the data of truth will be ultimately dependent upon the fundamental convictions upon which the school rests. The basic concepts upon which MCS's Christian educational philosophy is grounded are these:

1. God exists and is the Creator and Sustainer of all things.
2. God maintains sovereign control over His entire universe, and ordains that orderly natural processes shall govern its regular function, but that God has and does intervene in supernatural ways upon occasion.
3. God has revealed Himself explicitly through His Word, the Bible, and through His Son, God incarnate, Jesus Christ, and it is possible to know Him personally.
4. Because of sin, man is separated from God and unable to relate himself to God, the Source of all wisdom.
5. Regeneration is the spiritual change accomplished by God through faith in Jesus Christ. True meanings and values can be ascertained only in the light of His Person, purpose, and work.
6. The ultimate responsibility for educating a child resides with the parent. However, the home, the church, and the school should complement each other in promoting the education of the total child -- spiritually, intellectually, physically and socially.
7. Because there is an absolute standard of morality described in the Bible, convictions concerning right and wrong will be developed. The educated Christian is tolerant of people, but intolerant of error and untruthfulness.
8. As both parent and teacher derive their authority in education from God, they stand responsible to use that authority in training the child for God.
9. God has given differing abilities to each student. It is the teacher's responsibility to motivate each child to develop fully according to his/her capability.
10. The Christian is not to be conformed to the values and thought categories of this world, but must express responsibility in his/her distinctive role in society.

11. Education in a Christian school is not an end in itself, but a means to the end that each student is prepared for a life of obedient fellowship with God and mutual benefit to his fellowmen.

The implementation of this philosophy is contingent upon prayer.

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

Miami Christian School considers the Word of God explicit in making Christian parents responsible for the education of their children (Deuteronomy 6:4-6). Education for the Christian is not limited to the truth of God revealed in His Word, the Bible, but also includes instruction in the truth of God revealed in His world. Children in such a family ought to be educated through home, church, and school with the conviction that all truth has its ultimate source in God, and that a personal relationship with God through faith in His Son, Jesus Christ, is crucial to all learning and living. The purpose of the school, therefore, is to provide sound academic instruction integrated with the historic protestant Christian view of God and the world.

There is an important difference between the Christian and the non-Christian's comprehension of any given subject. Even though knowledge is factually identical for both, no subject can be taught and understood in the totality of its truth if the existence of the Creator is ignored or denied. Knowledge is both purified and dignified by recognizing God's place in it, and God honors with His blessing the parent and child who will embrace a Scriptural approach to education.

As a means of implementing the general purpose outlined above, Miami Christian School exists to do the following:

1. To provide a nondenominational, Biblical approach to Christian education.
2. To present a realistic, practical, balanced view of life based on the Scriptures -- the authority from which MCS operates.
3. To maintain high academic standards for Christian families.
4. To provide examples of mature Christian living in the lives of school personnel.
5. To be an extension of the Christian home and the Body of Believers, the Church of Jesus Christ.

In the selection of the student body of MCS, the school will be exclusive with respect to academic criteria and inclusive with respect to racial, cultural, and social status. Miami Christian School complies with the American's with Disabilities Act. Requests for accommodations are welcome from parents and students with documented disabilities.



STATEMENT OF OBJECTIVES

MCS believes that students in today's complex, humanistic, and materialistic societal matrix must be taught:

1. That the Bible is the infallible Word of God, and the only reliable guide for living.
2. That Jesus Christ is the only hope of salvation, and that each person must be born again by the Spirit of God in order to enter into fellowship with God.
3. That truth as taught in all areas of the curriculum must be integrated with Biblical truth in order to achieve true understanding and wisdom.
4. To think clearly, analytically, logically, and critically.
5. To express themselves orally and in writing in an accurate and lucid manner.
6. To exhibit Christian graces such as honesty, kindness, and courtesy toward others.
7. To fulfill personal responsibilities.
8. To develop understanding and readiness to assume the responsibilities of productive citizenship.
9. To recognize the particular abilities and limitations that are God-given, and to come to appropriate life-orienting decisions concerning education and vocation.
10. To exercise constructive leadership.
11. To appreciate the fine arts, and learn to give expression to their own creative skills.
12. To exercise discernment and discretion in wholesome physical and mental recreation.
13. To acquire techniques of and enjoyment in independent study as preparation for a lifetime of progressive learning.
14. To value intangible ideals such as loyalty, truthfulness, submissiveness to authority, and purity that are lightly valued in a secular world.
15. To recognize the personal imperative of evangelism and missions world-wide.
16. To appreciate our American heritage, and attain awareness of the problems that face our nation today.

STATEMENT OF FAITH

It is to be noted that no grouping of words can fully express all that might be said or implied concerning our convictions and doctrinal position. However, as a general and comprehensive expression of the principal truths for which Miami Christian School stands, the following is our Statement of Faith:

1. **THE TRINITY:** We believe in one God, existing in a Trinity of persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (John 15:26), Who are co-eternal and of equal dignity and power (Matthew 3:16,17).
2. **THE BIBLE:** We believe the Bible is the Word of God, verbally inspired and without error as originally written, and that the 66 canonical books of Scripture comprise the only infallible rule of faith and practice for the Christian (II Timothy 3:16; II Peter 1:21).
3. **THE PLAN OF SALVATION:** We believe in Jesus Christ, conceived of the Holy Spirit (Matthew 1:20), born of the Virgin Mary (Luke 1:35), Whose sinless life and a sacrificial death on the cross for the redemption of sinners provides a sufficient and complete expiation for their guilt (Ephesians 1:7). We believe that Jesus rose again for our justification (Romans 4:25), ascended into Heaven, and is now seated at the right hand of the Father, interceding for all those who come unto God by Him (Hebrews 7:25). We are "looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ," (Titus 2:13), and believe that all things shall finally be subjected to God through Him. (I Corinthians 15:25- 28).
4. **THE CHURCH:** We believe that the true church, which is the Body of Christ (Ephesians 1:23), is formed by the Holy Spirit's work of all those who trust Christ as their Savior (Ephesians 2:22, I Corinthians 12:12).
5. **THE CHRISTIAN'S MINISTRY:** In view of Christ's great commission to His disciples (Matthew 28:19,20) and recognizing the lost condition of all those who fail to accept the Gospel message (John 3:18, 36), we believe in the urgency of every Christian's responding to the Great Commission of Christ. "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." (John 3:16)

Miami Christian School is dedicated to helping carry out the plan of God in this age in conformity with the last command of our Savior to "be witnesses unto me...unto the uttermost part of the earth." (Acts 1:8)

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Student Life

SPIRITUAL LIFE

Miami Christian School seeks to lead its students into a positive and mature Spirit-controlled life. MCS believes that the most well-rounded person is one who bases his life in Jesus Christ in a personal commitment to Him through salvation. Thus, several activities are specifically planned toward this purpose.

CHAPEL: Once each week chapel is held for devotional messages, special lectures, musical presentations, and similar activities under the supervision of our school chaplain. Often these chapels serve as guidance, encouragement, and enlightenment for the students as they grow in their spiritual lives toward maturity and future service. Attendance is required of every student.

SPIRITUAL EMPHASIS WEEK: Twice during each school year, MCS sets aside a week for special chapel services for grades 6-12. Usually a special speaker comes to minister to the students in his area of specialization -- missions, evangelism, youth ministries, church ministries, music ministries, etc. Occasionally, retreats off campus are part of the schedule for this week, during which students can work more closely with the speaker in a less formal setting, permitting more interaction and benefit.

ACTIVITIES

An important phase of a student's life and development consists of participation in the extra-curricular activities of the school. Many different opportunities exist.

CLUBS: High School students have the opportunity to participate in service and/or enrichment clubs during the scheduled school week. One period a week is devoted to clubs. Each club is sponsored by a faculty member. Service clubs are designed to encourage and organize students to do community service. This enhances the student's resume for college and may qualify them for recognition or awards given by community organizations. Enrichment clubs provide various activities that are of interest to the students and enhance the high school campus experience.

SPIRIT WEEK: Each year the student body enjoys a week of activities designed to show school spirit. Games, thematic dress for each day of the week and other wholesome activities that promote enthusiasm for student life help to make Spirit Week fun. The Homecoming Game is the culmination of Spirit Week where the homecoming court is announced and the king and queen are crowned.

CLASS ACTIVITIES: Students have opportunity for leadership in their classes by participating as class officers. Class officers are helpful in organizing activities for their class and for the school such as the Junior Class ring ceremony.

OTHER ACTIVITIES: Students have other opportunities to be involved in the school such as concerts and field trips.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Students are encouraged to participate in community service and volunteer activities. Accumulating numerous hours enhances the student's resume for college and may qualify them for recognition or awards given by community organizations.

FINE ARTS

Classes in the arts are an important part of the MCS curriculum. Band is available for students in grades 5-12. There are various choral groups, some of which are entered into by audition only and some are open to the general population. Art classes are available for the various grade levels. Students in fine arts classes are often given opportunities to perform and/or compete in their genre. Students of all ages have opportunity to be involved in fine arts.

ATHLETICS

Students are encouraged to maintain physical fitness as essential to their well-being. In addition to required physical education classes, extra-curricular sports are offered at various grade levels, including football, soccer, volleyball, basketball, softball, baseball and cheerleading.

PERSONAL CONDUCT

The student handbook is posted on line, which outlines the academic, dress, and conduct expectations of students attending MCS. Students are expected to make exemplary conduct in conversation and dress their goal, and to respect the rights of others. Students found to be out of harmony or in violation of the guidelines outlined in the handbook will be disciplined and may be asked to withdraw from the school whenever the general welfare of the school is in jeopardy. Students who have been asked to withdraw from the school because of unacceptable behavior may not be readmitted for at least one semester, and references will be required to confirm that such behavior has been corrected. There will be no tuition/fees refunded when students are asked to withdraw from the school. The same applies to students who choose to leave.

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