

This is a copy of our philosophy/mission of education that we sent to our LA as well as some objectives within that philosophy. I intentionally wrote it in a very objective-based, lesson-plan-type feel but the content is far from any lesson plan I ever wrote in the classroom! If you are willing to share, I'd love to hear what you come up with!

Burton Family Mission for Education:

We believe that the purpose of education is to develop children into adults who are both privately happy and publicly responsible.

Privately happy:

- They will know themselves (who I am, why I'm here, where I'm headed), discover their purpose, their interests, their gifts, and be given opportunities to develop and pursue them.
- They will have a spiritual foundation that gives them a sense of security in knowing that they are not an accident, but created for a purpose.
- They will know how to care for themselves- the body, nutrition, fitness, natural remedies, cooking, cleaning, basic household repairs.
- They will have a critical understanding of how things work in the world around them (science, nature, math, economy, government).
- They will have a sense of financial awareness and responsibility.
- They will have an appreciation and understanding of art and how it benefits our overall wellbeing.

Publicly responsible:

- They will develop a sense of logic/reasoning about what's going on in the world, why it's happening, and how they should respond (from Artificial Intelligence to Black Lives Matters, to Covid-19, to poverty, to climate change, etc.)
- They will be able to use their gifts to better their community.
- They will be able to communicate their ideas with the world (through reading, writing, speaking, and art)
- They will have an understanding of democracy (as well as other forms of government) and their role and responsibility in it.

Vision for Home Education

We believe that all children have been created in the image of God for a unique purpose and have been designed with unique interests and desires to fulfill that purpose. With a hope that our children will grow to be both privately happy and publicly responsible, we will strive to provide educational opportunities that will develop:

1. Critical and curious thinkers
2. Effective communicators
3. Diligent workers
4. A sense of wonder

"The way kids learn to make good decisions is by making decisions, not by following directions." -Alfie Khon

Developing critical thinkers:

- Children will be able to respond orally and in writing to the literature they are reading.
- Children will participate in discussions based on themes in read-alouds.
- Children will be able to demonstrate an understanding of the math skills needed for their post-grad pursuits, and their life as adults.
- Children will be able to demonstrate an understanding of science concepts needed to explain the physical world around them and for their post-grad pursuits.
- Children will be able to think critically about how their bodies work and how to best steward their bodies with regards to fitness and nutrition.
- Children will be able to think critically about the person that God is making them to be and, with a parent, mentor, etc. seek out opportunities to further explore those talents.
- Children will be able to think critically about finances and how to wisely steward the resources they have (giving, saving, investing, spending).
- Children will be able to think critically about social media (it's uses as a tool as well as its pitfalls) and create healthy boundaries in order to best steward their time, relationships, and emotional well-being.
- Children will be able to think critically about what makes a thriving home including aspects of community, hospitality, minimalism, and sustainability.
- Children will be able to think critically and biblically about current social and cultural issues.
- Children will be able to examine history with a critical eye and understand historical implications for current and future events.
- Children will be able to understand their role in a democracy and be able to think critically about various forms of government around the world.
- Children will be able to demonstrate an understanding of the differences between various economic policies and philosophies.
- Children will be able to examine social injustices in their communities and in the world, and respond to them in bold and creative ways.
- Children will be able to read, examine and apply scripture to their lives.
- Children will be able to recognize a true Christ follower.

Developing curious thinkers:

- Children will be able to develop driving questions about topics that pique their interest and given ample time to dig deeply into and find answers to those questions. (PBL)
- Children will be able to present the findings of their research in the form of a project using various platforms (technology, fine arts, speech, etc.)
- Children will be able to use platforms such as Skillshare, Coursera, Udemy, Future Learn, etc. to learn about various topics of interest, and develop their talents/skills.
- Children will be given frequent and extended free-play time to allow for imaginative play, exploration, discovery, creating, etc.
- Children will be given opportunities to teach others about their various interests.
- Children will engage in philosophical discussions.
- Children will identify potential careers, business opportunities, and/or future fields of study in which to use and further develop their God-given passion

Developing effective communicators:

- Children will be able to recognize the elements of a story in literature.
- Children will be able to tell and write a “good” story, both fiction and non-fiction.
 - Speeches- Persuasive storytelling
 - Retelling, and inventing stories that entertain.
 - Journalism- stories that inform
 - Telling/writing our own story and life stories of others (biographies)
- Children will be able to have a basic conversation in at least one other language
- Children will be encouraged to speak out boldly against injustice in their communities, and in the world.
- Children will be able to communicate ideas through various art forms.
- Children will be given the opportunity to perform/communicate in front of audiences through: Music, Poetry nights, TED evenings, Kids Business Fair, etc.
- Children will have the opportunity to interact with others from various backgrounds, ethnicities, religions, learning needs, ages, etc. in various social situations: Classes, sports teams, home-ed. meetups, field trips, service projects, neighborhood, etc.

Developing diligent workers:

- Children will be able to routinely complete household chores.
- Children will experience the blessing of doing more than what is expected.
- Children will be able to recognize a need and fill that need without being asked.
- Children will be able to complete weekly goals with excellence.
- Children will learn the blessing of helping/serving others (neighbors, friends, siblings, parents, others).
- Children will practice learning a musical instrument.

Instilling a sense of wonder:

- Regular visits to various museums, factories, businesses to observe the beautiful, the intriguing, inspiring, etc.
- Lots of opportunity for free play:
 - To create/build
 - To imagine
 - To discover and explore both indoors and outdoors
 - To be exposed words and numbers through books, magazines, poetry, loose parts, etc.
 - To make music
- Regular and frequent outdoor time in various settings to experience the beauty and wonder of the natural world.
- Regular trips with family and friends to get away from the noise of the city.
- Regular meet-up with all types of people from diverse backgrounds.
- Regular study of God’s word together to learn of his character, his story and our place in his story

"The purpose of education is to create in a person the ability to look at the world for himself, to make his own decisions..."

James Baldwin