

QUALIFYING STATEMENT

While we have stated in our philosophy of education that the ultimate aim of education is the all-around development of the individual, we wish to make this further qualifying statement:

The school cannot, and should not, attempt to do a complete job on every aspect of individual development. There are certain facets of development for which formal education is more suited than others. The school can only provide auxiliary services for those areas which are the primary responsibilities of the family, church, and other institutions.

All schools are now facing pressure from the outside to take almost complete responsibility for the development of the student. They must resist this pressure so they will still have the time to perform those unique functions for which they are best suited. They must also resist because it would be unhealthy for the family and other institutions to turn over their functions to the school.

The primary responsibility of the school is for the intellectual development of the student. This is a function for which very few parents and no other institutions of society are fitted.

Intellectual development including skills such as reading, communication skills, mathematical skills, and technological literacy, as well as the ability to apply critical thinking skills and the scientific method to problem solving are the primary responsibility of the school.

Almost everything else considered important to human life is a secondary responsibility of the schools. The schools should make some contribution to the development of moral and ethical values, citizenship qualities, vocational competence, health, and the use of leisure time. However, other institutions have greater responsibilities in all of these areas. School activity in these fields should be auxiliary.

Although the interests of students can and should be used as an aid to teaching, these interests should not be allowed to dictate the curriculum. Students must be exposed to many areas of knowledge outside the range of their individual interests.

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