



Faith at Traders Point Christian Academy Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

General

1. Do you have to be a Christian to attend Traders Point Christian Academy (TPCA)?

There is no faith requirement to become a student at TPCA. No matter how students arrive at TPCA, our hope is to introduce them to Jesus Christ and to encourage them to follow Him. We acknowledge and respect the fact that it is every person's right to make their own decision to accept and follow Christ. We do, however, highly recommend that students who enter Traders Point have either a passionate desire to seek Christ, or at least an open mind and heart.

It is very important that parents and students understand that TPCA is a Christian school operating on Biblical principles that will not be compromised. While students are not required to be Christians, all students are expected to participate daily in Bible study and prayer. This is the foundation of the Biblical worldview through which each student is expected to measure his or her actions and decision-making.

2. Are all students at TPCA Christian?

Everyone is at a different place in their understanding of what it means to be a Christ follower and in their personal growth. We recognize that it can be challenging for students to self-define their faith, and younger students may not have had the opportunity to understand or make a decision to follow Christ. Our overall aim is that our students will grow in their knowledge of God and become *sincere* and *engaged* in their faith in Jesus Christ. Hopefully their view of what that means will be expanded upon during their experience at TPCA.

3. What is the percentage of teachers at TPCA who are Christian?

While students do not need to enter TPCA with a faith requirement, all of our faculty and staff do. We are committed Christians from a variety of backgrounds and traditions.

4. What other faith backgrounds are represented among students?

Our student body, though not equally diverse, is comprised of students and families of other faith backgrounds, including, Hindu, Muslim, and others. We have an international student program that brings students to us from a variety of cultural and religious backgrounds. Students of other faiths are welcomed and are considered for enrollment at TPCA. We do explain to those families from the onset that while there is respect and tolerance for people of other faiths, we will be clearly leading and teaching from and toward the Christian faith.

5. What is the breakdown of denominations among Traders Point Christian families?

We have a variety of different denominations represented by our families. The majority of the Christian families at TPCA represent various protestant & evangelical traditions; 5% of our families are from Catholic backgrounds. Approximately 35% of our families attend Traders Point Christian Church, our sponsoring church.

6. What is the breakdown of denominations among TPCA faculty and staff?

We have a variety of different denominations represented by our faculty and staff. We have protestant and Catholic traditions represented, though we teach primarily from the protestant tradition when they differ.

7. Is the school affiliated with Traders Point Christian Church?

TPCA is a ministry of Traders Point Christian Church (TPCC), though we are separately incorporated entities. We share a rich history and partnership in the formation of the school, as well as a rich relationship as neighbors who share facilities on a regular basis. TPCC Elders approve member nominations to our Board of Directors, and there is one Elder who serves as a director each year.

8. How does the school define “Christian”?

In the admission and hiring process, TPCA defines “Christian” in terms of our Core Values and beliefs outlined in our Statement of Faith. These are available in the [“About Us”](#) area.

Our Core Values

Faith (belief, trust, confidence in God): We believe Jesus Christ is God’s Son and the only Lord and Savior of all creation. We believe a personal faith in Him is essential to the Christian life with personal responsibility to develop and exercise this faith for God’s glory. (Matthew 16:13-17; Ephesians 1:3-14; Colossians 1:15-23; Hebrews 9:11-15)

Relationships (Jesus, students, teachers, parents, church and/or community): We believe the school shares a partnership with the parents/guardians and the local church to build a personal relationship between students and Jesus Christ. We believe teachers instruct and serve as role models for students. We believe students have the personal responsibility to apply Biblical truths in their relationships. (Deuteronomy 6:1-9; John 13:12-17; Ephesians 6:4 | Timothy 4:10 16)

Understanding (knowledge and application): We believe God is the pre-existent Creator and the ultimate source of all truth and knowledge. We believe success in education is reflected in a child’s confidence and ability to apply what he or she has learned to situations inside and outside of the classroom. We believe a Biblically based education targets the child’s mind, body, heart and worldview. We believe intentional learning opportunities develop skills and gifts needed for the completion of each developmental stage. (Genesis 1-2; Proverbs 2:1-11 & 3:1-18; Genesis 1-2; Romans 1:18-32; Romans 12:1-2; Ephesians 4:20-24)

Integrity (accountability, excellence, honesty, transparency): We believe it is important to prepare our minds for action by applying the principles of Biblical integrity. We believe it is important for the world to see that we are set apart and made Holy, in Christ, so that the world may know Him. (Matthew 5:3-16 & 18:15-17; Acts 2:42-47; Romans 12:3-12, I Corinthians 12:7-11, Galatians 5:22-23; I Peter 1:13-16)

Truth (discernment, wisdom): We believe God’s Word, the Bible, is the only source of truth. We believe the Bible provides the instruction and direction which determines our goals, our actions, our speech and the foundation for our relationships with others. (II Timothy 3:16-17; Proverbs 4:20-27; Ephesians 4:25-5:20)

Our Statement of Faith

- We believe the Bible to be the inspired, infallible, authoritative, inerrant Word of God (II Timothy 3:15, II Peter 1:21).
- We believe there is one God, eternally existent in three persons - the Father, Son and Holy Spirit (Genesis 1:1, Matthew 28:19 and John 10:30).
- We believe in the deity of Christ (John 10:33), his virgin birth (Isaiah 7:14, Luke 1:35), his sinless life (Hebrews 4:15 & 7:26), his miracles (John 2:11), his vicarious and atoning death (I Corinthians 15:3, Ephesians 1:7, Hebrews 2:9), his resurrection (John 11:25, I Corinthians 15:4), his ascension to the right hand of the Father (Mark 16:19) and his personal return in power and glory (Acts 1:11, Revelation 19:11).
- We believe in the absolute necessity of regeneration by the Holy Spirit for salvation because of the exceeding sinfulness of human nature and that men are justified on the single ground of faith in the shed blood of Christ and that only by God’s grace and through faith are we saved (John 3:15-21 & 5:24, Romans 3:23, 5:8-9 & 6:1-10, Ephesians 2:8-10, Titus 3:5).
- We believe in the resurrection of both the saved and the lost; those that are saved to the resurrection of life and those that are lost to the resurrection of damnation (Matthew 25: 31-46 & John 5:28-29).
- We believe in the spiritual unity of believers in our Lord Jesus Christ (Romans 8:9, I Corinthians 12:12-13, Galatians 3:26-28).
- We believe in the present ministry of the Holy Spirit by whose indwelling the Christian is enabled to live a godly life (Romans 8:13-14, I Corinthians 3:16 & 6:19-20, Ephesians 4:30 & 5:18).
- We believe in the equality of races because there is no distinction in God’s treatment of people (Romans 2:11, Ephesians 5:18).

- We believe in the Lord's Great Commission, that we are bound to extend the gospel of God to all we reach (Matthew 28:18).
- We believe in the physical return of Jesus Christ to claim the saved and judge the lost (Matthew 24:42-44, 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11; Revelation 19:11-18).
- We believe in the unique creation of male and female in the image of God and in the sanctity of marriage defined as the union of one man and one woman (Genesis 1:27 & 2:24, Matthew 19:4-6, Ephesians 5:31).
- We believe all Christians are called and gifted by God for ministry in His Kingdom (Romans 12:3-8, I Corinthians 12:7-13).

9. How do we view the Bible at TPCA?

The Bible is the infallible, authoritative and inspired Word of God, which reveals God's truth and is our guide for faith and practice. We believe in the continuity of the Old and New Testaments and that both are to be understood in light of each other. The Bible contains God's unfolding redemption narrative and calls us to participate in God's ongoing work in the world. The Bible is living and active, accomplishing the ongoing work of the Holy Spirit.

The Bible guides us to the belief that God's truth is not merely subjective or relative to an individual, group or society, but that it is objective and universally true. To hold to a nonrelativistic view of truth does not equate with being intolerant. Tolerance does not mean that everyone has an equal claim to truth and thus no one view can be the right one, but it means that one can hold one's view and allow others to hold theirs while enjoying the freedom of discussion leading to a better understanding of the truth.

10. How do we approach the differences among various Christian denominations?

"In essentials, unity; in non-essentials, liberty; in all things, charity." (Richard Baxter) We approach this issue by placing the focus on Jesus and the Bible. At younger ages this issue rarely comes up. As student mature and enter middle school we begin to help guide them through the process of understanding and taking ownership of their own faith. In Bible and other classes, denominational differences may be discussed. When presenting similarities and differences among the different branches of the Christian tree (Roman Catholic, Orthodox and Protestant) we do so in a fair, accurate and informational way. We acknowledge at the outset the commonality shared through the early creeds of the Church, namely the Apostles' and Nicene Creeds. When discussing differences, we root them in their historical context to explain the reasons for the development of distinct doctrines.

Our goal as a school is not to gather around one theological tradition, but to instruct and Inform, always with a focus on Christ. While we rely on the Bible as the only authority, we practice hospitality to those with other views of the Bible. To extend the metaphor of hospitality: we prepare the menu and set the table and invite others to eat at the table.

11. How do we discuss issues regarding eternal judgment?

We approach this topic with humility and honesty, and share above all else, God's desire for His children to know Him. We describe the God of the Scriptures as one who is just and good. We focus upon the fact that to know Christ is to know life and we challenge students to know Christ in this life to be assured of their presence with Him in eternity. We point to the claims of the Scriptures, which reveal that heaven is Christ-centered. We recognize that we are not God, and withhold judgment regarding anybody's salvation. Above all, we recognize that, because of the volatile nature of the issue and how easy it is to be misunderstood in these matters, we recognize that *how* this is discussed is as important as *what* is said. Therefore, we prefer follow up Q & A sessions with smaller groups of students or one-on-one conversations when this topic arises. We encourage students to examine the claims of Christ for themselves and to discuss these matters with their parents and home church.

12. How do we approach the relationship between the Christian faith and Judaism in particular?

We point to the Jewish faith as the roots of our family tree. We respect and celebrate the Judeo-Christian heritage and values. We humbly revere all that God revealed about Himself through the Old Testament. We share history, values and morals with the Jewish faith. We neither coerce nor diminish students of Jewish faith. We do believe and are compelled to teach Jesus Christ as the Messiah promised throughout the Scriptures. We respectfully invite everyone to "come and see" Jesus, the Savior, not just of Christians, but of the world.

Academic

1. How is Christianity integrated into the classroom on a daily basis?

Our faith is not something that we force to integrate, as if it does not naturally belong to all parts of our life. It is integral, and we teach it as such throughout all of our departments. We believe that this allows us to teach more completely with awe and reverence in all subjects. We believe that God is revealed in art, the sciences, mathematics, throughout history, etc. We make connections and integrate between the various disciplines.

2. Why do you integrate a biblical worldview into all instruction?

Our faith is integral to all parts of our life. We integrate God's truth and sovereignty into all aspects of education so our students both learn about and engage with God and the life into which they are being invited in all areas of life. TPCA is united in this: our learning about God and our faithful response to Him are linked together.

3. Are Bible classes and Chapel mandatory?

Yes. Because of our core values and self-understanding as a Christian preparatory school, we understand that our community life is shaped by our communal experience as we study the Scriptures and are mutually encouraged in our pursuit of God together.

4. In Bible classes and other academic areas, are students free to question and debate issues--from spiritual matters to educational ones?

We encourage all of our students to become well-educated people who think for themselves, and to know how to discuss and debate on their path to knowledge and wisdom. Healthy and respectful dialogue and debate are important tools on the educational journey to owning their own faith.

5. Does Traders Point Christian Academy teach about and respect other world religions?

At Traders Point Christian Academy we teach faith in God through Jesus Christ, and we teach using the Scriptures as our guide. As students mature, we encourage them to build their own worldview by examining and critiquing all religions, including the Christian faith. We study and examine other religions as we discuss history, worldviews, and our own faith. We study other religions, but we teach the Christian faith. We believe that students must be informed in order to best represent Christ to others.

6. How does TPCA approach the behavioral expectations of their students?

The TPCA community chooses, freely and willingly, to impose upon itself rules for behavior which serve both the long range interests of the school and the immediate good of its individual members. While we do not view these expectations as an index to maturity in Christ, we do regard violations as a serious breach of integrity within the community because each member has voluntarily chosen to associate with the TPCA community and to accept its standards.

In younger grades, teachers use the biblical "fruit of the spirit" as a guide to student behavior. Middle school and older students are provided with information about behavior expectations and the consequences of making poor choices. In all things our goal is heart transformation..

7. What is a Biblical worldview?

A worldview is like a set of lenses through which we perceive the world around us. Our worldview is formed by our education, our upbringing, the culture we live in, the books we read, the media and movies we absorb, etc. For many people their worldview is simply something they have absorbed by osmosis from their surrounding cultural influences. They may have never thought strategically about what they believe and may not be able to give a rational defense of their beliefs to others.

A Biblical worldview is consistent and cohesive with Biblical revelation. We believe that God exists¹ and that He is the standard by which we measure everything else. God created everything that exists² and everything is held together by Him³. We believe the Bible is God's divinely inspired Word, revealed to mankind⁴. We believe that the fullness of God came to earth and lived in the human body of Jesus Christ of Nazareth 2,000 years ago⁵. We believe that mankind chose to rebel against God in the Garden of Eden and because of that act of rebellion, sin and death entered the world⁶. We believe that believing in⁷ and obeying⁸ Jesus Christ is the only way to have eternal life or to be reunited with God⁹.

¹ Heb. 11:6

² Gen.1:1

³ Col. 1:17

⁴ 2 Tim. 3:16

⁵ Col. 1:19

⁶ Rom. 5:12-14

⁷ John 3:15-19, 5:24

⁸ Luke 8:21, John 3:20, John 14:21, 23-24

⁹ Acts 4:10-12