

## **Principle 2: THE HUMAN DIGNITY OF EACH PERSON AS AN IMAGE OF GOD**

- 1. We appreciate, respect and reverence the uniqueness of each individual and the diversity among all persons.**
  - Be inclusive and respectful of the ethnic and religious differences that define diversity: caste, creed, culture, language, gender, socio-economic status, intellectual abilities.
  - Expose students to more cultures and to varied socio-economic groups.
  - Speak positively about all; treat all equally and fairly.
  - Speak respectfully to others regardless of their issues.
  - Provide opportunities to learn about one's own culture and the cultures of others: e.g., Culture Day.
  - Practice advocacy when decisions are made on national and international levels which affect the dignity of persons.
  - Provide retreat programs which guide persons to respect themselves as unique members of God's creation.
  
- 2. We actively support a holistic education which encourages a positive sense of self-worth and the full development of the person.**
  - Integrate the value of human dignity in academic and extracurricular activities.
  - Empower one another: develop potential, talents, strengths, self-discipline; acknowledge accomplishments; encourage personal choice and responsibility; provide a sense of security; seek ways to support parents and families.
  - Accommodate differences: financial, religious, educational and personal through various services, offices and outreach programs.
  - Develop a sense of being valued and being "good."
  - Encourage self-reflection toward the goal of others' becoming their true selves.
  - Instill values that are countercultural to the world's values (materialism, consumerism, etc.) and motivate students to respect themselves and try their best to achieve their highest potential.
  - Offer more education on handling conflicts and modeling respect.
  - Develop the life skills which truly value the human dignity of each person.
  - Make a concerted effort to know each student as a person and his/her unique learning needs.
  
- 3. We reverence the image of God in each person we encounter through respectful listening and availability.**
  - Promote ethical attitudes and social responsibility; share spirituality through spiritual direction, bereavement counseling, chaplaincy work and like contacts.
  - Give special care to those who do not function according to society's expectations.
  - Engage in personal, honest relationships in an increasingly technological world that devalues face to face communication.
  - Take an interest in the lives of our students and care enough to understand the personal life-struggles of individuals.
  - Be willing to share time and interest in others.
  - Listen to the lived stories of every individual, to their needs and ideas.
  - Become aware of one's own prejudices and listen to others non-judgmentally.
  - Listen to the needs of the student as expressed by their parents or guardians.
  
- 4. We create a welcoming atmosphere that builds relationships leading to unity and community.**
  - Create a more just society through the infrastructure that permeates our schools.
  - Create a culture of respect without distinction in all relationships.
  - Meet language needs so all feel served and included.
  - Make efforts to help each child feel accepted, affirmed and loved.
  - Show by example the value of high morals in the way we speak, treat others and involve ourselves in local community issues and projects.
  - Increase our concern for and sensitivity to difficult family situations; include all combinations of families.
  - Thank all volunteers and respect the time they give to service.
  - Look at possibilities of working more closely with the local church.
  - Include in mission statements the idea of the need to create a Christian environment in which all persons are respected and encouraged to grow in faith.
  - Encourage and/or sponsor mission trips.

- 5. We provide opportunities and environments to help persons to claim/regain their human dignity, identity and self-worth.**
- Continue to help others, especially women and girls, to know their personal dignity and to develop self-esteem and self-reliance.
  - Identify and challenge the patriarchal mind-set embedded in our societal structures and systems.
  - Be more intentional in our efforts to evaluate our organizational and managerial processes to empower women and model collaborative decision-making and problem-solving.
  - Avoid bias in expectations, offering equal opportunities to succeed and to experience individual attention in a variety of ways.
  - Give students opportunities to express themselves through extra-curricular activities.
  - Encourage others by pointing out their strengths and weaknesses, challenging them to enhance individual learning styles.
  - Be creative in acknowledging hard work and improvement.
  - Evaluate outreach programs to ascertain their effectiveness in the light of new and ever-changing needs.