

EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES POLICY

What is our objective as a body of learning? At BCA, we value each student as an individual and as part of a community; we seek to recognize and to develop all aspects of their personhood with excellence, according to God's highest purpose for their "heart, soul, and mind."

PREAMBLE

Since subjects in the arts deal with both the positive and negative aspects of the human condition they sometimes portray values that are not Biblical. But since students will eventually face these issues it is wise to provide a secure Christian setting in the home and/or school where students learn to process the evil in life.

RATIONALE

As a Christian school, it is our purpose to teach the truth.

It is also the purpose of BCA to develop Godly values in the students. These values can be drawn from the truth inherent in a resource and/or how the resource is taught.

The resources chosen should be ones most suited to teaching truth, values, and curriculum content.

Since some subjects such as Literature deal with conflict, and the portrayal of conflict inevitably involves evil, these criteria are especially important in choosing English language arts resources.

Please see the concurrent policy entitled "BCA Statement of Philosophy Regarding Works to be Studied in ELA Classes."

POLICY

Where the curriculum allows for choices in the use of resources, the selection will be based on the following criteria:

The work must have the potential to:

- fulfill the foundation objectives of the course,
- examine the truth and values, and
- provide students within each course with a healthy balance of themes that are not preponderantly negative.

The work must not have:

- gratuitous offensive content (offensive content which does not have a direct link to the development of either plot or character),
- a positive portrayal of negative behaviour (behaviour contrary to Biblical principles is glorified and/or negative consequences are not evident),
- material that is unnecessarily graphic or that has a recurrence of questionable themes, or
- content which minimizes the potential to teach truth and values.

CHALLENGE PROCEDURE

If a parent perceives that a resource does not meet the criteria outlined above, s/he should contact the teacher with their specific concern. The teacher shall provide the parent with a copy of the BCA Educational Resource Policy, its supporting articles, and a prepared summary of the foundational objectives of the unit as well as the method by which potentially negative aspects of the resource will be handled in class.

If the concern is not addressed to the parent's satisfaction, s/he may request a meeting with the teacher and principal to discuss the specific concern, the Educational Resource Policy and the unit summary. At this meeting, the parent(s) shall submit to the principal (in writing) a request for their son or daughter to be exempt from the unit and provide specific suggestions for alternatives that would meet the foundational objectives of the unit.