The statement below is on the Course Description page on Atlas for each course K4-12.

**Christian Teaching and Learning**

Jesus said that the two most important commandments are to love God and love others (Matthew 22:36-40). Therefore, Christian Education’s goal is to pursue teaching and learning in ways that promote love of God and neighbor. At OCS, teaching Christianly begins with three key assumptions:

- **Relationships are critical.** We believe that people learn to love by being loved, first by God in Christ (the Gospel) and then by others. We seek to value each student and pursue high academic and behavioral standards while embracing God’s grace and mercy. God uses the Gospel and all it entails to transform people and then uses transformed people to transform the world (i.e., to accomplish our school mission).

- **Course content matters.** In order to promote love of God and neighbor, course content must be not only excellent but also presented from a Christian perspective. After carefully processing any objectionable or incomplete content, this means answering the “So what? Now what?” questions in ways that advance God’s kingdom work in the world and that encourage students to think.

- **Instructional and non-instructional experiences matter.** Gaining a Christian perspective on the world is necessary but not sufficient for Christian transformation. One must also love what God loves; truth must capture our hearts and imaginations. Because our loves and choices are shaped by repeated practices, *how learning happens is as important as the content being learned.* This means that instructional methods, noninstructional activities, the social environment of the school, and other aspects of school life that students experience day after day should be designed to nurture love of God and neighbor.