

GRACE COMMUNITY SCHOOL PHILOSOPHY OF LIBRARY ADMINISTRATION

The Swedberg Memorial Library, as an integral part of the ministry of Grace Community School, operates under the Grace Community School Mission Statement, which reads:

Grace Community School, in full fellowship with all the resources of Grace Community Church, exists to:

- Instill foundational biblical truth
- Inspire the formation of inner convictions
- Impart academic knowledge essential for building skills

so that our students are personally and professionally equipped to impact their world for Jesus Christ.

Accordingly, the Swedberg Memorial library is dedicated to fulfilling its role in support of the Grace Community School Mission Statement by offering the students of Grace Community School selections of books, periodicals and other media of the highest and best possible quality within the guidelines listed below.

First, however, we affirm that the following foundational and essential guidelines have been developed and are consistently employed based upon our role as the guardians – “in loco parentis” – of the young, vulnerable, and impressionable students entrusted to our care by their parents. We strive to exercise this delegated stewardship with humility, meekness, a lucid understanding of and appreciation for the serious nature of this endeavor, and a firm resolve to glorify God in the implementation of all policies of the Swedberg Memorial Library.

Swedberg Memorial Library Guidelines:

1. Language, themes, and situations: We purpose to exclude all literature that prominently features and/or promotes blatantly objectionable, obscene, pornographic, blasphemous, or senselessly violent, brutal, and rapacious themes, language, behaviors, characters, philosophies and situations.
2. Worldview: We purpose to carefully screen literature that glorifies or exalts a non-Christian ungodly, evil, or occultist worldview.
 - a. A small minority of these texts *may* be suitable for students in a carefully-controlled classroom environment in which the informed instructor may present all or portions of these works to students as examples to avoid, or to contrast these writings with literature that promotes a wholesome, positive Judeo-Christian ethic.
 - b. However, we will in almost all cases proscribe these texts from inclusion in book lists for independent student reading (e.g., for book reports).

3. Historical accuracy: We purpose to offer historical texts – fiction and non-fiction – that accurately reflect the well-established, documented, traditional consensus of reliable scholars regarding world, country, and state history, and especially Western culture. Accordingly, we will severely limit or even exclude from our library:
 - a. historical texts – fiction and non-fiction – that are overwhelmingly “politically-correct” and thereby offer a polemic, revisionist, post-modern view of history and culture, especially Western culture.
 - b. literature – fiction and non-fiction – that regards, under the ever-expanding umbrella of “multiculturalism”, any human endeavor even tangentially related to white European society as thoroughly and endemically bad, while promoting all philosophies and behaviors associated with virtually any “minority” (including pagan religious beliefs and practices) as noble, exalted, and good.

4. Christian and related ecclesiastical literature: We purpose to carefully screen literature – fiction and non-fiction – that is primarily dedicated to Christian theology, doctrine, ordinances and ecclesiastical practices. Accordingly, we will severely limit or exclude from our library texts and periodicals that:
 - a. offer profane or blatantly heretical views of Christian theology and doctrine, and erroneous application of these views to societies, churches and/or individuals.
 - b. offer weak, inadequate, non-Scriptural and inappropriate presentations of Christ, God and the Holy Spirit.
 - c. purport to be authentic and authoritative, and yet pervasively denigrate and slander Christian characters, historical Christian leaders and orthodox Christian doctrines.

5. Quality: We purpose to collect, offer, and promote literature – fiction and non-fiction – that demonstrates literary excellence for students at all grade levels. We will accordingly consistently seek to add works to the Swedberg Memorial Library that, appropriate to the designated grade level, feature complex plots, dynamic characters, and a variety of creative literary devices, including irony, foreshadowing, and universal themes that challenge students judgment skills and discernment, and inspire them to higher level thinking.

6. Enjoyability: (yes, a coined word). We purpose, as much as possible within the guidelines offered above, to collect, maintain, offer, and even promote literature to our students that they will enjoy, in order to inspire in them, as much as lies within our power to influence, a genuine love for reading.