

G.R.A².C.E.

EMBRACING AND LEARNING ABOUT OUR SIMILARITIES AND DIFFERENCES

DAY 15 OF THE SFC PRAYER JOURNAL | MENTORSHIP

Each human being bears the mark of God Himself. The Bible calls this thumbprint “the image of God.” Beyond the common trait of the imago Dei, we have wonderful differences. We are two genders (male and female). We enjoy many racial and cultural differences. We experience life stages from conception to adulthood. We have a wide range of abilities and distinctions and we come from various economic and social backgrounds. That said, it is our image of God in us that makes us similar and gives value to every person.

*“I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made, wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well.”
Psalm 139:14*

WHAT IS G.R.A².C.E.?

GRA²CE embodies our school’s dedication to recognizing and honoring each individual in our community as a unique and cherished image-bearer of God. One of our Core Values is COMPANIONSHIP, which means truly caring for others and guiding them toward the love of Christ. The experiences our students have—whether in daily programs, classrooms, field trips, or events—are just the beginning. We aim for the SFC experience to extend beyond our campus, fostering genuine care for others in every aspect of life.

The acronym GRA²CE serves as a tool to teach our students about the beauty of both our similarities and differences. Through their education at SFC, we hope they will gain a biblical perspective on the richness of the human journey.

G = Gender

R = Race

A² = Age and Ability

C = Culture

E = Economic

MISSION

To partner with Christian parents within a Bible-based community, in order to disciple students to embrace biblical truth, strive for academic excellence, and model Christ-like leadership to influence their homes, churches, and communities for Christ.

CONVICTIONS

Statement of Faith and Declaration of Ethical and Moral Integrity

VALUES

“The Santa Fe Way Prayer Journal”

STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Living Truth in Christ

APOLOGIAS

STAGES OF DEVELOPMENT

INSTRUCTION

APOLGAS



GENDER

We celebrate and affirm the unique giftings and differences between male and female. From the beginning of time, God established this beautiful part of his created order. Genesis 1:27 says, “So, God created man in his own image, in the image of God He created them; male and female he created them.” As a school, we mentor our students in the beautiful unfolding of the male and female experiences from conception to adulthood.

RACE

We celebrate and affirm the unique giftings and differences of the multitude of races around the world, and especially in the SFC community. And, in accordance with Galatians 3:28, we treat every human being as equal in this world and also need Christ’s salvation and sanctification. We seek for each child to embrace and love their God-given race.

AGE

As a K-12 school we celebrate the unique stages of a child from conception to adulthood. As a Christian school, we seek to embrace and mentor students based on their level of physical, spiritual, and intellectual maturity. All subjects are taught with a deep understanding of the traits evident in each stage of life. Even Jesus, the creator of all things, experienced growth as a part of his incarnation on earth. Luke 2:52 says, “And Jesus increased in wisdom and in favor of God and man.”

ABILITY

Each student is gifted and enjoys unique skills and abilities based on how God created them—even back to the beginning of life. For, the Psalmist wrote in Psalm 119:44, “I will praise you for I am fearfully and wonderfully made....” At SFC, we have students with a wide range of artistic, athletic, academic, and other talents. In particular, about 14% of SFC students are in our highly successful Academic Support Program. Historically, 98% of our students in ASP graduate from SFC and go to college. We are proud of those students and we see them as a mighty and amazing part of SFC.

CULTURE

Each student brings a colorful culture from their family, their birth city, and their neighborhood. So, we cultivate joy in various cultures. For instance, we have many Californians at SFC. Some from our Golden State are from beach towns, some from farming communities, and others from urban cities. And, we love and value each of the cultures that we exhibit. Another “C” flows from over 80 churches.

ECONOMIC

As a private school that requires tuition, some families cannot afford the full tuition. For many, many years the leaders and parents of the school planned to help with affordability by providing need-based tuition assistance. Currently, 28% of the K-12 student body enjoys enrollment because of our aggressive and generous tuition assistance program. So, though the uniforms “hide” the appearance of economic status (to some extent), we thrive as a Christian school that has a wide range of economic differences.

IN CONCLUSION

As Christians, we are not only called to participate in God’s redemptive work, but we also have the responsibility to teach our children a kingdom perspective. Biblical views on unity and diversity must be intentionally taught, as they do not develop naturally in a world shaped by sin. In his book, *The Third Option*, Pastor Miles McPherson writes, “God, however, offers us a Third Option that stands in stark contrast to the two [us vs them] offered by culture. God’s Third Option invites us to honor that which we have in common, the presence of His image in every person we meet.” By honoring our shared similarities and celebrating the differences that reflect the fullness of God’s creation, we move closer to God’s heart.