



*Shaping Strong, Confident, and Inspirational Children*

## SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT In Elementary and Middle School Children

At East Valley Christian School (EVCS), we believe that spiritual development is vital in today's secular world. We believe the secular world in its fallen state is harmful to mankind and vehemently opposes godly prohibitions and commandments. In addition, the secular world fosters doubt and disbelief in God's promises. We also believe children who are raised in a Christian environment carry on the godly traditions of their parents—so, we seek to work with parents who want to provide a Christian education for their children.

### **Spirituality and a Child's Adjustment**

In public schools the role of religion is diminished or excluded from most discussions and analyses of a child's social adjustment. At EVCS, we teach children that spiritual faith is highly valued and the children come to recognize that religion has an important impact on their lives. Unfortunately, many people today only see spiritual faith and prayer as a mere coping mechanism. However, research supports findings that higher levels of religious involvement influence greater wellbeing and mental health. In addition, religious practices have been found to serve as a source of strength.

### **The Value of Spiritual Development**

Spiritual development embeds significant value systems into children that affect the way they feel, think, and behave. At the societal level, economic and cultural changes are related to a (debated) loss of significance of both religion and the family in many societies. At EVCS, we believe family is the place where major socialization activities take place for children and these activities play an important role in a child's development.

One study found fact that today's youth who are religiously devoted had a significantly decreased likelihood of participation in a variety of substance use behaviors as well as decreases in the likelihood of fighting and theft. Many studies find that spiritual development has important implications in terms of youth involvement in problem behavior. The implication is that problem behavior in young people can be associated with a lack of spiritual development.

### **Nurturing and Nourishing Today's Youth**

At EVCS, as educators we treat colleagues and children well, we intentionally provide a good example for children, and use contemplative practices when connecting with nature. We believe opportunities for creative expression and free play, engagement with nature, contemplative practices (e.g. mindfulness), relationship building and moral/character development are all related to nurturing and nourishing a child's spirituality. Our goal is to protect, enhance, and deliver value by using our high-quality learning environment to build a brighter future for today's youth.





*Shaping Strong, Confident, and Inspirational Children*

**Let's Talk About Your Child's Spiritual Development**

We at EVCS, believe that as children learn, grow, and mature it is crucial that their school environment has a satisfactory structure that allows them to immerse themselves in a safe learning environment. We also believe children learn when they play and work on what they've learned. Please feel free to call us to discuss your goals and thoughts so we can learn how we may best help you achieve your family's educational goals.

Main Office: (408) 270-2525