

FOUNDATIONS

A *Foundations* View of the Parent-Teacher Partners



From its inception, *Foundations* developers were keenly aware that parents are critical in the decision-making process of choosing a school. They were also aware that, while most parents take this decision seriously, surprisingly few public, private, or parochial schools make an effort to explain the philosophy, mission, or pedagogical principles that buttress their system's educational model. In the WELS, literature about the unique model we call *Christian Education* could be characterized as spare, incomplete, or communicated at a professional level that it is practically inaccessible to parents. Perhaps the working assumption has been that parents who are members of the local congregation already know what Christian education is all about. Or perhaps we have been satisfied to merely describe the programs we offer and leave it at that. Yet, for parents who have little experience with either the WELS or Scripture itself, Christian education can seem to be a complex structure of biblical rules and principles. Even for parents who are already familiar with our schools, the biblical vision for Christian education is often flawed with misunderstanding and misinformation.

Foundations focuses on parents. One of its primary objectives is to help parents see their role in their child's education as critical. Many program components feature a writing style that parents can readily understand and communicate. Issues that every parent will deal with during the schooling years are covered in clear and concise language. The aim is to help them discover how Christian education works, why it works, and why it is one of the most valuable gifts they can give to their child.

The philosophical underpinnings for Christian education are found in the Bible. The Bible teaches us who God is, and what he has done for us. It also informs every aspect of life in a Christian school by addressing the most significant need of every child, parent, and teacher in a Christian school population. It tells us that we are all hopelessly flawed by sin. But Scripture also tells us that we are redeemed by Jesus' sacrificial death and destined for eternity in heaven with him.

Foundations explains to parents that Bible truth drives Christian education at every level. It will help them understand that we are all *works-in-progress*, changed by the power of the gospel and striving to live in obedience to God's will. It positions Christian schools as extensions of the parental role—workshops for shaping children in ways that will bring glory to God's name and secure everlasting life for his people by teaching Bible truth. *Foundations* promotes a relationship between parents and Christian educators that is bound in Christian love and founded on Scripture as the mutual charter for working together toward common educational goals.