Harding Academy’s Position on National & State Curriculum Standards

There has been much discussion at the local, state, and national level recently regarding the Common Core Standards. Consequently, the question has arisen, “What is the Academy’s position regarding the implementation of state & national standards?”

All three of our accrediting agencies (AdvancED, ANSAA, & NCSA), require the school to have a written curriculum that is aligned and based on state guidelines & national standards. While state standards & frameworks form the foundation of any curriculum, they are not the curriculum. Additionally, the Academy does not simply adopt state standards & frameworks in their entirety without careful examination and evaluation. Harding Academy desires that her students acquire the skills and understanding necessary for the development of Christian character and intelligent citizenship. As a result,

• We believe that Christ and His principles are the ultimate source and authority in every involvement and activity.

• All standards and frameworks are filtered through this ultimate standard, and alignment occurs only if the schools mission and worldview are uncompromised.

• We use the standards as an informational piece regarding the national and global educational contexts in which we are preparing our students.

• We regularly evaluate and re-evaluate the standards and frameworks to determine the degree in which they match with the school’s grade-level scope & sequence.

• National & state standards are seen as the minimal foundation requirements of instruction and not the ceiling of our expectations.

Harding Academy will continue to stay informed of public education and curriculum trends. However, the school will not waiver in its efforts to provide a challenging, Christ-centered curriculum that is aligned with our mission to be a Christ-centered school that cultivates a love for learning, while educating the heart and mind for eternity.