

Riverdale

Christian Academy

RESOURCE SELECTION POLICY

Purpose: to provide guidelines for the selection of curriculum resource materials as they are chosen to support the mission and vision of the school. This includes, but is not limited to, the selection of text books, library resources, literature, films, and plays.

Basis for selection: All resource materials for student use shall be previewed and evaluated by staff, program committee, and/or volunteers in the context of appropriateness, potential, and worth.

Materials should:

1. Creatively fit the aims and intent of the curriculum as outlined in course documents.
2. Respect the intellectual, emotional and spiritual level of maturity, interests and needs of the students.
3. Have the potential to engage and exercise students' powers of imagination.
4. Lead students to a greater understanding of cultures and the world views motivating those cultures.
5. Lead students to deeper levels of understanding of God, others, self, and humanity's role in culture.
6. Have technical excellence and/or literary quality.
7. Reflect honest, penetrating, and valid perception of human life in the context of sinfulness and redemption.
8. Be judged more in terms of overall themes and less in terms of a few specific instances of moral offensiveness.

Some guiding questions for approval:

1. Does it hinder advancement the program?
2. Does it contain overriding themes of life or themes of death, and if the latter, will it help us advance our program and a Christian world view?
3. Does it have explicit sex or nudity?
4. Does it have a constant barrage of foul or blasphemous language?

If the answer is "Yes" to one or more of these questions, the resource is not permitted to be used.

Approval process:

1. Staff are asked to make discretionary judgement on resources in the context of the guidelines as listed above. If the staff member experiences uncertainty with regard to a particular resource material, the staff member is advised to consult the principal.
2. All class sets of resource materials must receive the approval of the principal prior to purchase. The staff member is asked to either orally or in writing as deemed necessary by the principal, justify the materials in the context of the above listed guidelines.
3. At the discretion of the principal, the matter may be taken to the program committee for advice.

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Appeals:

If a parent/guardian, member, student, or staff member has a difficulty or concern about a text or other curriculum material, he or she is encouraged to:

1. Address the matter with the staff member responsible for the course.
2. If the concern remains unresolved, the matter should be addressed with the principal, and, if not resolved, appeal may be made to the Principal.
3. If a proposal for resource materials as presented by a teacher is not supported by the principal, the teacher has the option to appeal to the Principal.
4. Appeals to the Principal must be made in writing.
5. If the concern has to do with a legitimate personal, moral, or conscientious objection to the material, the staff member will attempt to find alternate material for the student to study independently.
6. If, as a result of an objection forwarded by a parent/guardian, member, student, or staff member, the objection is deemed to be legitimate on the grounds that the material is contrary to resource selection guidelines, then the material will be replaced by material that is more appropriate. This judgement is made by the principal in consultation with the teacher and if necessary, upon appeal to the Program Committee and/or board.

Films for recreation (e.g., films students bring from home which may be shown during an indoor recess or films shown at other school functions):

Criteria for Approval

If there is one of the following objections, the resource is not approved for use at the Riverdale location.

1. Harsh language: minimal profanity with special attention given to the use of God's name in a profane manner.
2. Sexual content: no sexual nudity or overt sexual content will be shown.
3. Violence: may not contain excessive or degrading violence
4. Humour: no sexual, racist, sexist or offensive humour.
5. Substance abuse: may not glorify or promote substance abuse
6. Themes: may not be based on any racist, sexist or blasphemous themes.