



WELCOME

TO THE FUTURE
OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



THE KIRKWOOD PROGRAM FOR PRESCHOOL AND ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

- Academic Achievement
- Character Development
- Spiritual Growth



THE KIRKWOOD EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

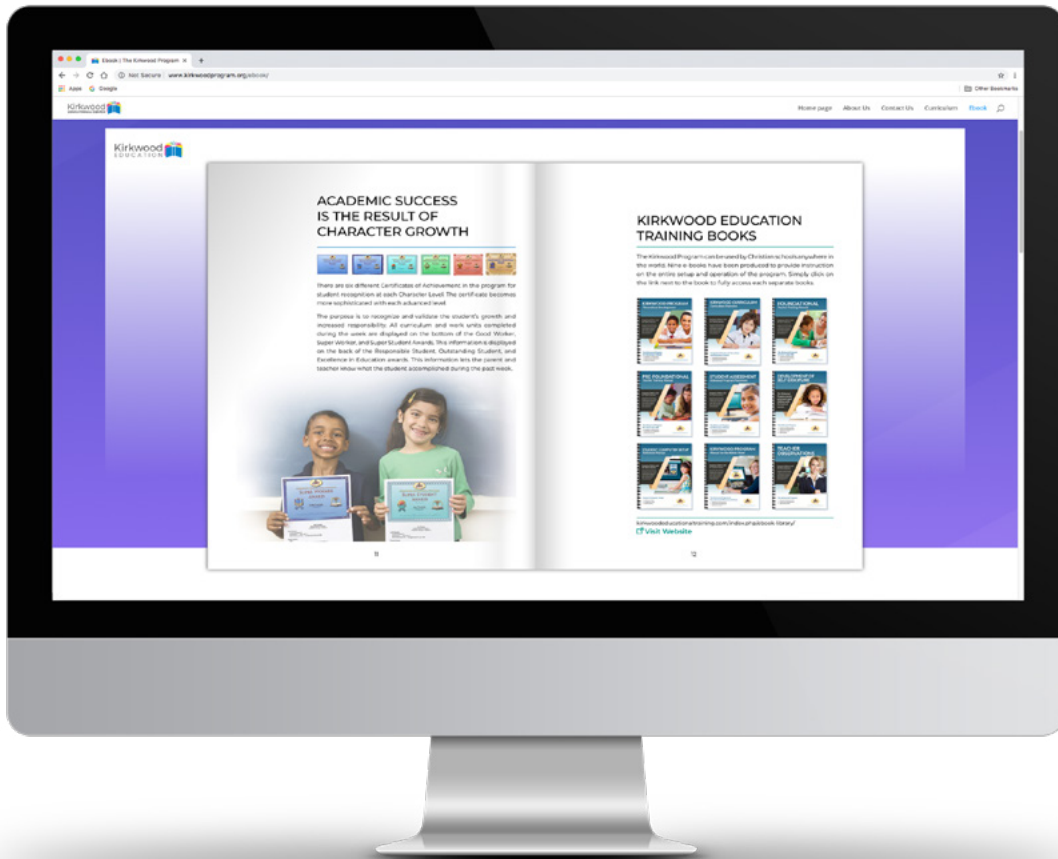
A MINISTRY FOR CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS

The Kirkwood program has been in continuous development and revision since 1975. The design of the educational system allows a seamless transition between classroom and remote learning while empowering teachers to truly meet the spiritual, emotional, social, and academic needs of each individual student.

Because of the level of teacher involvement and mastery learning structure, the school environment becomes more of one of love, co-operation, and mutual support rather than a competitive one.

The program enables students to systematically progress through six character levels, along seven different character development continuums. Academic achievement is the result of the growth of character; through the process, students become independent, self directed learners.

The Kirkwood Educational Program enables every student to develop the character and skills of success in order to become a powerful instrument of our Lord making this world a better, more loving place.



An interactive electronic version of this publication which includes access to the embedded videos and additional downloadable resources can be found at

<http://www.kirkwoodprogram.org/ebook/>

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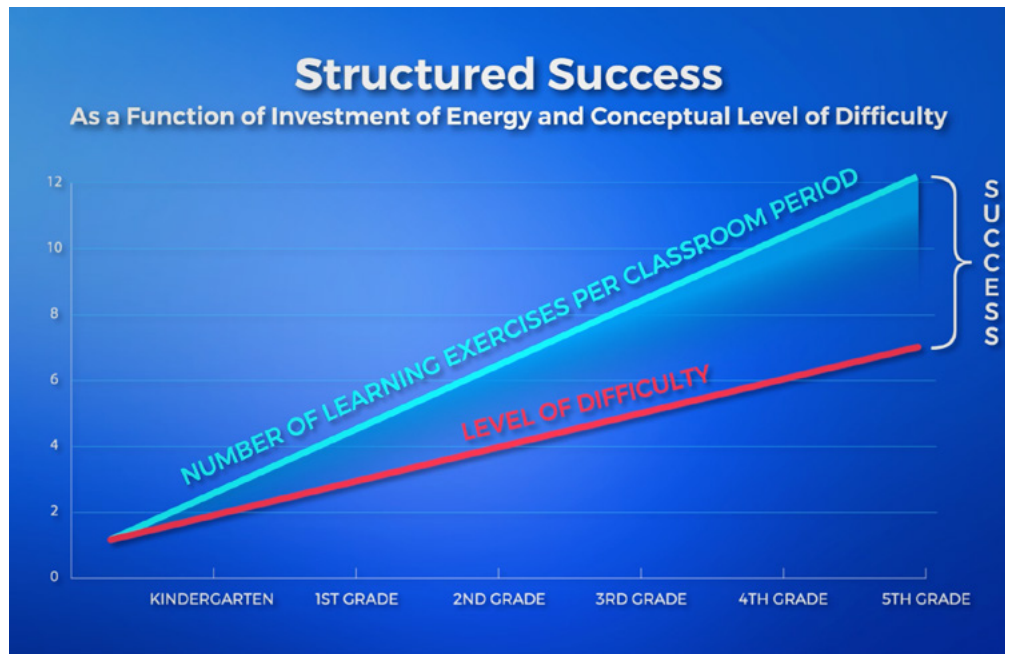
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2-MINUTE VIDEO INTRODUCTION TO THE KIRKWOOD PROGRAM



PROGRAM OVERVIEW (2 MIN)

15-MINUTE VIDEO INTRODUCTION TO THE KIRKWOOD PROGRAM



KIRKWOOD PROGRAM FOR SCHOOLS (15 MIN)

- Program Intro
- Seven Character Development Continuums
- Character Level Progression
- Mastery Learning Model
- Kirkwood Program Books and Manuals
- Curriculum Overview
- Operational Guidelines

THE EMPOWERMENT OF TEACHERS



“The Call”

There is no better, more powerful, or more significant ministry than working with young children. Because of the nature of their work, it is critical that teachers see themselves as instruments of God ministering in the life of each individual child that has been entrusted to them. Through the work of teaching, Christian teachers have a special opportunity to build up a child’s sense of self-worth and set the foundation for the rest of their lives. Yet, while the responsibility of the work is great, many teachers in the traditional learning systems find that their valuable time is spent in grading, lesson planning, correction and discipline, and other administrative pursuits that take away from the principal goal of mentoring and guiding children. However, schools are now able to take advantage of a powerful learning tool that successfully incorporates Christian values within a fully automated online learning platform that empowers teachers to do what they are meant to do: Guide, nurture, and teach children.



“The Work”

The design of the Kirkwood program gives the teacher tools to powerfully impact the life of the children she works with. The primary objective of the Kirkwood Program is to enable students to become successful in terms of spiritual and academic growth. Success is defined in two principal dimensions. The first objective is for the students to grow in their ability to love God and love others as they love themselves. The second objective is for students to develop a work ethic that results in success. Children in the Kirkwood program exhibit a high degree of academic achievement, character growth, and spiritual growth due to several components built within the Kirkwood program that produce these outcomes.

Some components of our program that directly influence student success are individualized lessons, a mastery learning structure, Time With My Teacher, and the systematic development of self-esteem and a positive learning environment. All these elements work together help enable the classroom teacher to minister to the needs of each child.

THE EMPOWERMENT OF TEACHERS (CONTINUED)

Teacher

- **Fosters growth in another human being to make a lasting difference**
- **Provides a positive reflected image by a significant other**
- **A character growth coach with high expectations**

Tools to Empower Teachers

Time with my Teacher

3 Primary Objectives

- *Facilitate spiritual growth and development*
- *Meet the social and emotional needs of the student*
- *Academic growth and achievement*

Diagnostic-Prescriptive Design

- *Enables a teacher or parent to work on the cutting edge of student mastery*
- *The focus is on character growth and development*

Real Time Records

- *Work units completed*
- *Comprehension levels*
- *Character Levels*
- *Displayed by day, week, or entire enrollment period*
- *Available to teachers, parents, and administrators*

The Kirkwood educational program empowers teachers to foster spiritual, emotional, and social growth, in addition to high academic achievement. For the teacher, this results in significant career and ministry satisfaction.

One of the main advantages of the Kirkwood program is the recognition that some students learn differently and at a different rate than other students. The program enables teachers to have an individualized program that meet the needs of every child—maybe even one with special needs. Each child within the classroom is learning different subjects, and each is succeeding where they are at. This removes all sense of competition that can negatively affect children in their formative years. Furthermore, the preschool and elementary curriculum contains for the most part a balance of visual and auditory learning processes. In addition, during Time With My Teacher, the parent or teacher can adapt tutorial instruction to meet the individual learning processes and styles for each different student.

One of the advantages of our individualized program is that it is a Mastery Learning Program. Think of it in terms of a child having mastery of every concept before they move ahead to the next

THE EMPOWERMENT OF TEACHERS (CONTINUED)

concept, so they will never be in a position where they don't have a solid foundation for success. No child is put in a situation of failure. There is also a sense of satisfaction knowing that each student is progressing in the character qualities of success.



In the event that a child is struggling with a subject, the Kirkwood tracking system enables the teacher to work right on the cutting edge of each student's mastery on every concept and work on that problem area with the child. The program allows the teacher to reinforce and review previous mastered skills before moving on to learn the next skill on the scope and sequence of each subject.

The training and skills of a traditional teacher differ using the Kirkwood model. The teacher takes the role of a personal coach and tutor, modifying tutorial instruction to meet the needs of a particular student and providing individual praise and reinforcement to build the child's self-esteem. Ultimately, the critical skill needed for a teacher is the ability to help each child develop Christ-like character while developing the skills and character of success.


The program helps develop work ethic and character qualities that produce success and Christlike character, which are the results of creating a loving and Christlike learning environment. It is important to note that in an all-day program, most teachers will actually work less hours. In the Kirkwood Education Program there is little or no lesson plan preparation, no homework or test grading, and little to no tutorial time before or after school for students who need extra help. The teacher's role is that of a mentor and counselor to each student rather than a group instructor for every skill taught. Furthermore, because the teacher is able to bond with each of her students in an individual level, the school environment feels like a caring community or family and children experience a sense of belonging and fulfillment.

THE BIG 7 - SEVEN DIFFERENT CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT CONTINUUMS

Academic Achievement is an outcome variable as a function of growth along each of the Character Development Continuums. Academic achievement is the result of growth in character.

Seven Interrelated Character Development Continuums

1. Investment of Energy
2. Value Development
3. Goal Setting Behavior
4. Self-Esteem
5. Responsibility
6. Independency
7. Spiritual Growth & Development



Standard Achievement Test Scores / Grade 3

Seven different character development continuums work together to enable any student to develop the character qualities of success. The outcome is an independent, self-directed learner. Please refer to the video on Character Development continuums.



Seven Character Development Continuums



01 Investment of Energy

Helping students become motivated to want to learn

02 Value Development

Students become aware of the value and relevance of each curriculum component

03 Goal-Setting Behavior

Students are empowered to define and complete an assignment, project, or goal

04 Self-Esteem

Helping students see themselves as strong, capable and able to learn anything

05 Responsibility

Students learn to take responsibility for their own actions, successes, or failures

06 Independency

Students are able to work independently with little or no supervision

07 Spiritual Growth and Development

Students learn to love God and are truly able to love others as themselves

ACADEMIC SUCCESS IS THE RESULT OF CHARACTER GROWTH



**Character Level
Progression
Awards**

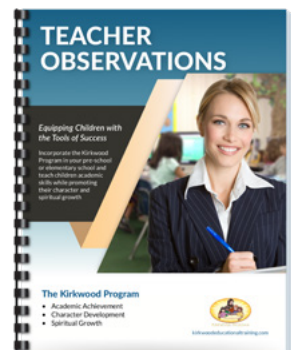
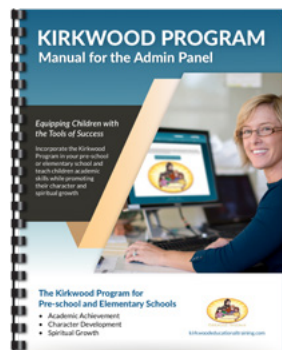
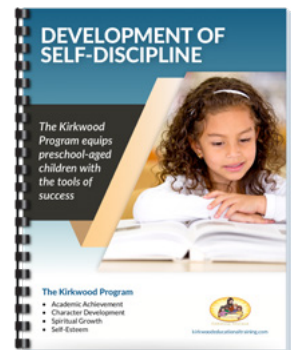
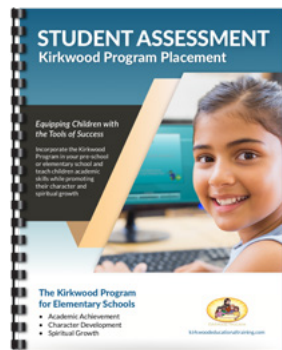
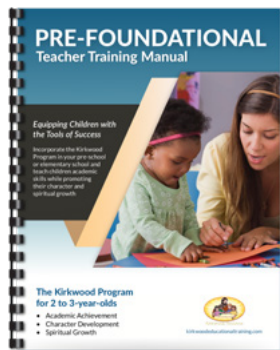
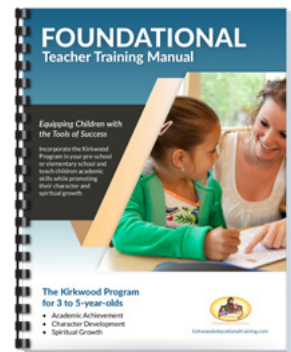
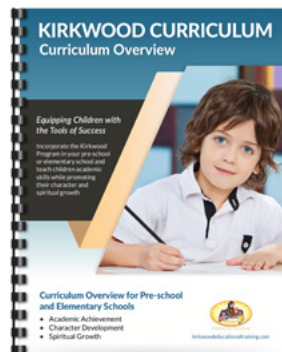
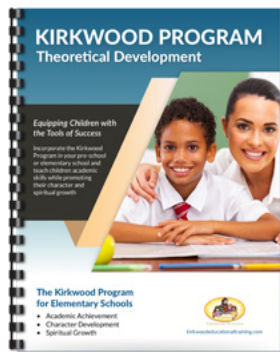
There are six different Certificates of Achievement in the program for student recognition at each Character Level. The certificate becomes more sophisticated with each advanced level.

The purpose is to recognize and validate the student's growth and increased responsibility. All curriculum and work units completed during the week are displayed on the bottom of the Good Worker, Super Worker, and Super Student Awards. This information is displayed on the back of the Responsible Student, Outstanding Student, and Excellence in Education awards. This information lets the parent and teachers know what the student accomplished during the past week. Please refer to the video on Character Level Progression.



KIRKWOOD EDUCATION TRAINING BOOKS

The Kirkwood Program can be used by Christian schools anywhere in the world. Nine e-books have been produced to provide instruction on the entire setup and operation of the program. Simply click on the thumbnails below to access each separate book.



kirkwoodeducationaltraining.com/index.php/ebook-library/

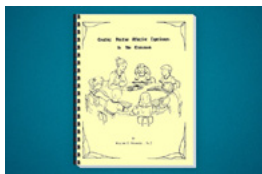
[Visit Website](#)

KIRKWOOD EDUCATION VIDEO PODCASTS

There is an expanding series of video podcasts designed to help teachers and parents understand more fully the underpinnings of the program. Please click on the thumbnails to view videos



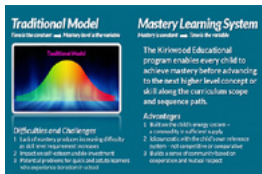
1 | The Genesis of the Kirkwood Program



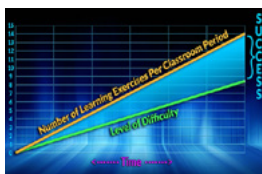
2 | Early Treatment Programs for Students With Low Self-Esteem



3 | Introducing Mr. Pencil



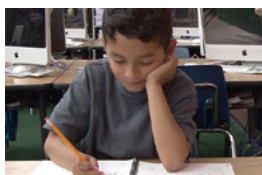
4 | Introducing the Mastery Learning System



5 | The Development of the Standardized Work Unit



6 | Motivation I - The Parent and the Teacher



7 | Motivation II - Self-Esteem



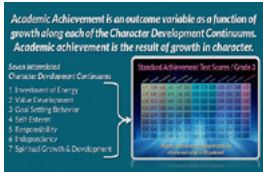
8 | Motivation III - Value Development



9 | The Discipleship Bible Lesson Series



10 | The Development of Self-Esteem



11 | Seven Different Character Development Continuums



12 | Character Level Progression



13 | Helping a Child Develop Strength of Character





14 | The Balance Between Work and Play

Please note: This information is taken directly from the website <https://kirkwoodeducationaltraining.com/index.php/program-history/> 


ADMINISTRATOR AND TEACHER TRAINING SESSIONS


There are four power point teacher and administrator training classes. Schools in the Southern California area can attend training sessions at the Kirkwood Training and Curriculum Development Center in Downey, California. Schools outside the area can receive the same training via Skype or GoToMeeting.

Download 
Training Session 1





- Some Underlying Principles
 - Character Growth Produces Academic Achievement
 - Benefits of a Mastery Learning Program
 - Three Principles of Methodology: Teacher | Self-Citizen | Value Development
 - Self-Confidence and Disruptively Thinking

Download 
Training Session 2





- Three Objectives
 - Create a Successful Learning Experience

Download 
Training Session 3



- Academic achievement is seen as an outcome variable as a result of growth in character.
 - The purpose of Character Level Awards is to recognize and validate the student's growth and increased responsibility.

Download 
Training Session 4



- Learning Letter Sounds
 - ABCD EFG
 - HJK LMN
 - OPQ RST
 - UVW XYZ

Please note: The presentations on this page can be accessed at kirkwoodeducationaltraining.com/index.php/in-service-slides 

THE KIRKWOOD PROGRAM FOR STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS



According to the U.S. Department of Education, approximately 10% to 12% of school-aged-children are students with special needs. This is a significant portion of the student population that needs to be ministered to. While our loving and Christ-centered Christian schools would be perfect to nurture special needs students, many are unwilling to accept special needs students due to either a lack of tools or a lack of resources to educate them. In the end, the precious gift of a Christian education is out of the reach of special needs students, and their parents end up having to rely on the public school system to educate their children. What our schools need is a flexible, affordable, and individualized system of education to help special needs students learn and succeed.

My name is Alena Strickland. I am the Support and Onboarding Specialist at Kirkwood Educational Center. I have a passion to help educate “special needs” kids in a way in which they are able to thrive in a learning environment. I use the term “special needs” to include not only those children with mental or physical challenges, but just as important are those with emotional or spiritual needs.

Over the past 30 years I have fostered over 200 children and have adopted 13 of them. Most are children with special needs. I have dealt with the public school system and fought to make sure the educational needs of my children were met, and it is this experience that has made me so passionate about this issue.

Before joining the Kirkwood team, I witnessed first-hand the amazing results that children who were learning in the Kirkwood program showed at a very early age. Since then I have had the privilege to be able to start two private schools using the Kirkwood program. One of these schools was at The Dream Center in Los Angeles.



The Dream Center was a school for the homeless children that live at the facility. The second school was at a ranch for abused and abandoned children in Texarkana, Arkansas. Needless to say, at both institutions the children we worked with came with many emotional and physical needs. Some of them had only attended school sporadically, yet they flourished with our program.

The three fundamental aspects of our program that ensure student success are 1) our emphasis on developing positive learning experiences to foster student self-esteem, 2) our mastery learning system that guarantees student success, and 3) the flexibility and ease of use of our program for both the student and the teacher.

POSITIVE LEARNING EXPERIENCES

Rigid and traditional educational systems can leave special needs students behind, and repeated experiences of failures and frustration have a negative impact on a child's self-esteem. When students with "special needs" do not have their curriculum tailored to their individual needs, the students may become rebellious or withdrawn. However, the inverse is also true.

When children have positive learning experiences, they develop confidence and a positive attitude toward learning. Children are empowered as their self-esteem grows, and they are more willing to invest more energy into learning. Our program validates and recognizes student effort through weekly certificates and immediate positive feedback when they answer correctly. In this way, a child is able to celebrate each achievement and work toward greater goals.



MASTERY LEARNING SYSTEM

Every child learns at a different pace. By design, the Kirkwood program is structured to meet each student's academic needs right at the educational level where they are currently able to be successful, ensuring that each student masters every single subject before moving on to the next. Students in our program are able to work as fast or slowly as they need to achieve their goals. The program can be set up to give the student frequent breaks if necessary.



This also ensures a learning environment free of rivalry and promotes a Christian environment where each child is valued and celebrated for the work he has put into learning. In this way, individualized Christian education brings quality and “Christ-likeness” to our schools.

EASE OF USE AND FLEXIBILITY

Our program is simple to use. Children simply need access to a computer and they can access their school work wherever they are. Furthermore, teachers and administrators have access to detailed student summaries that show at great length what areas a child may be struggling in and need more help. The program is highly customizable and can be tailored to every variety of learning situation, from schools to large classes, to single-room classrooms with only a small number of teachers to teach every grade.

While not all needs can be met in this educational setting, the flexibility to customize each child’s lesson plan in multiple ways gives many special needs students the tools they need for success. Because the program can be tailored to the individual needs of each student, children of many ages and abilities can learn at the same time in the same room. This means that less staff are required and teachers can better utilize their time.

Christian schools are known for excellence in education and in teaching Christian values, yet often they do not have the necessary tools to help students with special needs and, as a result, their educational needs are not adequately met. Therefore, their chances for academic success in private Christian schools is diminished.

With the Kirkwood program, schools can now minister to a population of students largely underrepresented in private Christian schools. It becomes an outreach of the Church to “special needs” students and their families, allowing them to find their true identities in Jesus Christ our Lord while receiving the quality education they deserve.

DISCIPLESHIP BIBLE LESSONS



<http://discipleshipbiblelessons.com/> 

To help teachers, parents, church leaders, and missionaries minister to the children God has entrusted to them, we have developed an online discipleship program that is absolutely **FREE OF CHARGE**. This program defines a pathway that enables children to grow and become Disciples of Jesus, encouraging elementary age students to store the truth of God's word deep within their hearts and souls.

Discipleship Bible Lessons are independent of any denomination and are simply designed to stimulate the Fruit of the Spirit in Christ-like character in a child's life. Discipleship Bible Lessons are currently being used by families around the world.

DISCIPLESHIP BIBLE LESSONS (CONTINUED)

The video lessons consist of beautifully illustrated scripture, along with corresponding life application. These two to four minute video lessons are available online. There are a total of six series of twenty-five video lessons each.

Upon completion of each series of video lessons, a certificate is presented to the child before continuing with the next series of lessons. Each printable certificate is suitable for framing and can be downloaded.

Upon completion of all six series of Discipleship Bible Lessons, young people from around the world will be presented with a diploma and given the opportunity to take the next step of spiritual growth, to truly become a disciple of Jesus.

This level of spiritual growth is built upon the truth that faith without works is dead. To become a Disciple of Jesus, the student must take a pledge promising to heed the leading of the Holy Spirit in their lives.

Disciples of Jesus are given a personal journal to record their thoughts and actions. Protected by their own password, their private thoughts before the Lord will be secured as their own. Procedurally, after the Disciple has viewed each daily video, he or she will be given a prompt to respond to and record their thoughts in their journal.

HISTORICAL FOUNDATIONS

Our mission over the past forty years has been to develop an educational program that would truly enable every student without selection factor to grow in Christ-like character and develop the character and skills of success. The very heart of the program is the desire for every child to become a powerful instrument of the Lord, manifesting the fruit of the Holy Spirit, and acting out of a heart of compassion to minister to the needs of others.

The historical foundation of the Kirkwood program began shortly after Connie and I were married in November of 1965. We were given the opportunity to buy the Downey Child Care Center. The offer was no money down - we had no money.

While completing my masters work in clinical psychology at Pepperdine University, I was part of an internship program at Metropolitan State Hospital and became acting staff Psychologist at the Day-Night Treatment Center. I then moved to private practice in Hollywood for a number of years in the late 60s and early 70s.



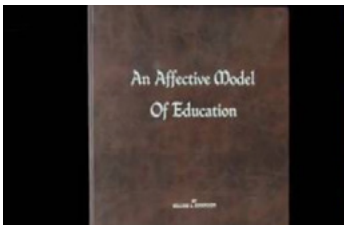
**Development
of the program
during the 1970s**

In the early 1970's, I served as chairman of the Downey Unified School District Board committee for the restructuring of K-3 elementary programs, a position held for three years. The California state's mandate was to build a completely individualized, continuous progress programs with continuums in the affective and cognitive domains. We were to develop programs to enhance student's self-esteem, making education as individualized and diagnostic as possible. For my Doctorate dissertation, I wrote a self-esteem test: The Primary Pictorial Self Esteem Test. I received a Ph.D. from the University of Southern California in March of 1976. USC was under contract with LAUSD to develop a self-esteem test. They plugged me into L.A. Unified. They said, "What we use, other people buy," so I continued working on the test for another two years.

HISTORICAL FOUNDATIONS (CONTINUED)

We went through seven revisions and five major validation studies with the final study having roughly 10,000 students from many different school districts.

The final validation study was completed in May of 1978. CTB McGraw-Hill wanted to publish it as an option component of the 1981 CTBS achievement test. But they wanted me to develop prescriptive intervention programs for students diagnosed with low self-esteem on any one of the subscale factors. Over the next two years, I developed and beta tested four programs: Creating Positive Affective Experiences in the Classroom; The Happy Time Program; Finding Myself in School; And Restructuring of the Grading System. These programs became the foundation of the Kirkwood Education Program.



***Development
of the program
during the 1980s***

A very difficult, soul-searching decision was made in the early 1980's that would define our path for almost the next 40 years. Please watch the Video 1980's. Also, in the early 1980's Ray White was administrative assistant to Dr. Paul Kienel. For Ray's dissertation he wanted to show that students who attended and graduated from Christian schools were spiritually more advanced than students raised in a good Christian church but attended public school. Because of my background, Ray asked me to write the assessment instrument. It was called Survey of the Spirit with a number of subscale factors. His position enabled the test to be used throughout California and beyond.


Sadly and tragically, the results indicated that there was no significant differences on any of the subscale factors at the 0.05 level. Paul Kienel was disappointed and buried the study. Dr. Ray White later become chairman of the Department of Education at Vanguard University.

HISTORICAL FOUNDATIONS (CONTINUED)



***Development
of the program
during the 1990s***

During the decade of the 1990's, the curriculum for the program from preschool through third grade was taken to the next generation. Please view the following short video.

Several years ago we became aware of the fact that 65 to 90 percent of young people raised in the church do not return within two years from high school graduation. The Discipleship Bible Lesson Series was developed to help young people store God's word in their heart and soul at Discipleshipbiblelessons.com 

The series is embedded in the school and online programs. It is also available for free as an independent program around the world. A small research study that was conducted last year revealed that students experienced positive, spiritual, Christ-like growth.



***Development
of the program
during the 2000s***

Because of the incredible development of computer technology and the expansion of the internet, the Kirkwood program has grown dramatically. Now home school families and Christian schools are using the program around the world. Please watch the last video on the historical development of the program over the past forty years.

In addition to spiritual growth and development, the Kirkwood education system enables students to develop the skills and character of success.

WASC/ACSI EVALUATION COMMENDATIONS

In accrediting Kirkwood Christian School, which has been the flagship of the Kirkwood Educational Program, the following WACS-ACSI commendations were given:

“ KCS creates an environment of love and openness that allows staff, students, and parents to interact in a way that reflects the attitude of Christ which shows a sensitivity to individual needs of the students. *(Indicator 7.4; WASC A5)*

“ Faculty and staff have embraced Kirkwood’s unique form of instruction and are committed to incorporating Christlike values through specific scenarios in the instructional program, providing students with tools to help them develop a biblical approach to problem solving. *(Observations; Interviews)*

“ The administrator, director, faculty and staff have created a culture in which Christ is the center, where a strong, spiritual foundation is developed that results in a growing Christian faith. *(Indicator 7.2, 7.4; WASC A5)*

“ There is a warm, nurturing environment that encourages children to grow in, and explore faith with connections to real life. Staff demonstrate their own walks of faith through their connection to the children and their families, through prayer and modeling in the classroom. *(School Report, Interview, Observation)*

- ““ *The school has an extensive staff orientation program that includes policies and procedures, and philosophies of Kirkwood’s educational program, ensuring that new staff are well trained for service at KCS. (Indicator 4.2, 4.3; WASC A4)*
- ““ *The teachers reflect a comprehensive knowledge and understanding of Dr. Kirkwood’s online program and philosophy. Teachers are engaged in the process of training and offer feedback on program to administration. Administration has made adjustments accordingly. (Interview)*
- ““ *KCS has a well-developed electronic program that provides individualized instruction and delivers immediate feedback for each student. The Kirkwood learning program offers instruction in math, language arts, vocabulary, character development and writing all in a computer format with accompanying workbooks. This enables the student to progress at his/her own rate of learning. Teachers can also follow the progress of each student on demand. (Indicator 5.8, 5.9; WASC B2)*
- ““ *KCS’s computerized core instructional program is thorough and well-developed. Administration is responsive to staff, allowing input on modifications and additional resource needs. New curriculum is added as the need arises. (Interview; observation)*
- ““ *There is a warm and nurturing relationship with the students and Kirkwood Christian Schools’ feels this is a hallmark for the school. They are engaged in the cognitive and spiritual development of each child, and pay special attention to affirming children as they learn. (Interviews; observations)*

Additionally, during the accreditation visit in March of 2016, Ms. Judy Howard, the representative from WASC, told the principal of Kirkwood Christian schools that if she had a child of elementary school age and lived in this area, Kirkwood Christian School is where he would attend.

PROGRAM PRICING

Monthly automatic billing is based upon the number of students enrolled in the Kirkwood Program.

KIRKWOOD PROGRAM MONTHLY FEE

\$15 per student

EVERY SUBSCRIPTION INCLUDES

- Student placement assessment
- Interactive Lessons
- Video instruction
- Technical support and monitoring
- Individual counseling upon request
- Student records
- Free PDF download of all workbooks
- Weekly achievement awards
- Engaging Bible lessons

WORKBOOKS

PDF workbooks are included with monthly fee. Hard copy textbooks can be purchased for an additional price through your school's portal. To see our entire workbook catalogue visit our

[Online Program's Book Store.](#) 

WE ARE HERE TO HELP



REMOTE TRAINING

The Kirkwood team will provide the help necessary for Christian schools anywhere in the world to start a school or to transition from a traditional model to our program. We will supply all necessary instruction and help to administration and teachers to make the transition as smooth and seamless as possible.

In addition to all training materials, the Kirkwood team are continuously available through GoToMeeting or Skype to provide individualized help and council to meet the needs and issues of your particular Christian school.

THE KIRKWOOD TEAM



William J. Kirkwood, Ph.D.
Director of Curriculum Development

Bill has a B.A. degree from Long Beach State University in Philosophy. He completed his master's work at Pepperdine University in Clinical Psychology and a Ph.D. in Counseling from the University of Southern California. He was part of an internship program at Metropolitan State Hospital and became acting staff Psychologist at the Day-Night Treatment Center. He then moved to private practice in Hollywood during the late 60s and early 70s.

In the early 1970's Bill Kirkwood was a part of the Downey Unified School District's Curriculum Development. Also, in the early 70s, he was chairman of the Downey Unified School District Board committee for the restructuring of K-3 elementary programs, a position held for three years.

For many years, Dr. Kirkwood was honored to serve as a member of the YMCA committee for preschool and youth programs. In 1994 he was given an award for excellence by the Downey Unified School District's Administrator's Association in appreciation of his service to the youth of Downey. In 2006 the Association of Christian Schools International honored him with a lifetime achievement award for his contribution to education. Recently, Bill was honored to receive the YMCA Distinguished Service Award.



Connie Kirkwood
Office Manager

Connie has served in virtually every position in the schools from teacher, Preschool Director, Administrator to Office Manager and Special Events Coordinator. Connie and Bill operated the Downey Child Care Center and the Kirkwood Educational Center from 1966 to 2004. In 2004, the schools became Kirkwood Christian Schools, a Christian non-profit organization.

Connie has been a critical advisor and partner in the development of the Kirkwood Program over the past forty-eight years.

Connie is a member of the Gypsy Johnson Auxiliary of the Assistance League, serving as chair of the Hospitality Committee for many years. Connie has also been active in numerous Christian and church organizations. Connie and Bill were honored to serve as Grand Marshals of the Downey Christmas Parade in 2008. In 2013, they received the Diakonia Award from the city of Downey for community service.



Janet Slinkard
Director of Operations

Janet oversees the activities of our highly skilled team to ensure efficiency and effectiveness. She also serves as liaison to school administrators and offers support to assist homeschool parents enrolled in the program. Janet began working for Kirkwood Educational Center as a graphic designer and she continues to be involved in the design and implementation of interactive curriculum and learning materials.

Janet has over twenty-five years experience in graphic arts and holds Digital Art and Media credentials from Platt College and Golden West College. She has also been certified by Adobe Systems in Visual Communication, Graphic Design, and Illustration.

Janet is dedicated to upholding a high standard of excellence in Christ-centered education. She is passionate about empowering the next generation and helping them develop their full potential so they can serve the Lord mightily.



Paula Perez
Digital Media Specialist

Paula's projects involve video editing and creation of animated lessons. She has a B.S. in Engineering from Cal State Fullerton and is certified in digital media by Golden West College. Paula has also studied music production and graphic design at Santa Ana College. She specializes in writing and producing promotional advertisements, short narrative films, and motion graphics.

Paula also serves as Creative Director at OC Grace First, a church ministry in Orange County, where she mentors talented youth to find fulfillment in devoting their creative talents to God. Paula counts herself blessed to work for Kirkwood Educational Center and be part of a team that shares her endeavors and goals to serve others and to serve Jesus Christ.



Lupe Harrison
Production & Resource Coordinator

Lupe is responsible for the production and distribution of student workbooks and printed materials. Lupe is also involved in research and development of educational and marketing materials. Lupe's vital contributions include the Kindle publishing of the Kirkwood Christian Reading Series, and daily operations of our online bookstore.

Lupe is a devoted wife and mother with a heart for Christian ministry. She demonstrates a passion for helping others through ongoing volunteer work in her church and community. Lupe believes that the key to making this a better world is helping our fellow man.



Christopher Law
Project Manager of Web Development

Christopher is responsible for the enhancement of product features and maintenance of Kirkwood school system's websites and online platform. He is also responsible for ensuring quality and timely updates that bring user centered design to the forefront of Kirkwood Education Online. He is a graduate of Azusa Pacific University. Here he obtained a bachelor's degree in Computer Science. As a developer and website design leader, Chris ensures the completion of all tasks with the utmost precision. Chris previously served two tours of duty in the U.S. Navy over the span of six years, where he served in a position of key leadership in which he ensured full functionality of the vessel's defense systems.



Dominic Crespo
Full Stack Web Developer

Dominic is also responsible for the enhancement of product features and the maintenance of the Kirkwood Education Online platform. As a full stack web developer, Dominic writes front-end and back-end code to ensure the user experience is as fluid as possible. His true passion is back-end coding, where he enjoys creating system services, application logic, and database integration. Dominic is currently serving as a Lieutenant in the Army National Guard. He obtained a bachelor's degree in Computer Science from Azusa Pacific University.



Alena Strickland
Support and Onboarding Specialist

Alena has spent the last 25 years caring for critically ill and developmentally delayed children from the foster care system. She has also planted Christian schools at the Dream Center in Los Angeles and Watersprings Ranch in Arkansas using the Kirkwood Program. She has served on the County of Orange Social Services Agency's Child Protective Services Advisory Board. In addition, she co-trains PRIDE classes required for potential foster and adoptive families, speaks at local churches and conferences, and has received certificates of commendation from both Los Angeles and Orange County for her outstanding service and dedication to the families of their communities.

Alena's dedication has been recognized through various media spotlights in magazines, documentaries, and books. Additionally she was named "Mom of the Year" by talk show host Steve Harvey, who sponsored a nationwide contest in honor of Mother's Day in 2014. Alena prays that God will allow her to continue to take more children until she is called home to be with Him.

CONTACT US

If we can answer any question or help your Christian school in any way, please feel free contact us.

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E-MAIL | support@kirkwoodeducationonline.com

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“Train up a child in the way he should go:
and when he is old,
he will not depart from it.”

Proverbs 22:6

