



Providing academic excellence in a Christ-centered environment,  
Mount Paran Christian School unites with home and church to prepare  
servant-leaders to honor God, love others, and walk in Truth.

Accredited by the Southern Association of Independent Schools (SAIS) and AdvancED

## PHILOSOPHY OF INNOVATION

### ***What is our definition of "Innovation"?***

While many define innovation simply as a new idea or as something new, **at Mount Paran Christian School, innovation is examined, taught, and pursued as the practice of finding solutions to the problems faced in the world and as a means of thinking and learning that will transform hearts, minds, institutions, and culture.** If the point of innovation is to make better, to improve upon, we seek to think differently, to act differently, and to learn in such a manner as to transform – to make all of life better, for the glory of God. We believe innovation rests on a deep understanding of the created order, acquired through a robust commitment to the liberal arts.

### ***What is our philosophy behind innovation? Why are we focusing so much on innovation?***

At MPCS, innovation is not simply something that happens. We do not simply innovate; we do not simply change for the sake of change. Tradition and history are important. However, we welcome creative thinking and exploration. We welcome innovation.

Innovation needs to be a state of mind for both teachers and students alike. Therefore, we seek to educate students who will be agents of positive change – not for the sake of change itself, but to improve upon that which they have been called to steward. Likewise, we seek to enable faculty to foster within themselves this same spirit of innovation, transformation, and continuous improvement.

For several years through our professional development program, faculty at every division level have been mutually educating one another through the study of ideas, such as visible learning, growth mindset, positive deviancy, and the differentiation of instruction, to name a few. As such, the groundwork for innovation has been laid. The mindset necessary is being established and has taken root.

As a result, the following philosophical assumptions are foundational in all MPCS teaching and learning activities and were be considered in the development of the floorplans, teaching spaces, collaborative spaces, and throughout the new Murray Innovation Center and in every division and classroom of the school.

### ***Philosophical Assumptions About Learning***

- Learning is a process.
- Learning is active.
- Learning happens through multiple frames of reference.
- Learning must be differentiated to meet student needs.
- Learning is often collaborative and social.
- Learning includes group teaching.
- Learning happens through direct instruction.
- Learning demands risk-taking.
- Learning expects thoughtful failure and strategically learns from it.
- Learning requires multiple modes of communication.
- Learning must be interdisciplinary.
- Learning encompasses classical, traditional, and progressive pedagogical approaches.
- Learning through a liberal arts framework is essential.
- Learning is durable.
- Learning changes thinking and behavior.
- Learning pushes human and conceptual boundaries.
- Learning is an act of worship.