

GENERAL CHURCH AND ACADEMY K-12 ARTS CURRICULUM  
STATEMENT OF PURPOSE and VISION

Affirmed by the Visual Arts and Music Curriculum Committee—April 28, 2001

The **purpose** of this New Church arts curriculum is to facilitate students' awareness of and response to the Lord and His creation by developing an affection for, understanding of and skills in all forms of art.

*Matthew 12:35 A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good things...*

*Genesis 28:12 ...Behold, a stairway was set up on the earth, and its top reached to heaven; and there the angels of God were ascending and descending on it.*

The **vision** for fulfilling this purpose can be described by the following broad goals:

BROAD GOALS

1. **The Lord:** To assist students in developing an affection for and an understanding of the Lord as the Creator and the source of our potential to be creative.  
*D Wis. 12:2 To acknowledge a creative life is to worship God who is in the Sun of heaven; those who do this, are themselves living.*
2. **The Word:** To lead students to see that the arts can correspond to and serve as mirrors of the Lord's Word.  
*AR 938 For the Divine truths of the Word make the light which proceeds from the Lord as a sun, in which the angels are; and as they make the light, they are like mirrors in which the Lord's face is seen.*
3. **Spiritual World:** To foster students' awareness and response to the Lord's continual influx through the degrees of the spiritual and natural world.  
*LJ 316 ...Harmonies and beauties...proceed by continuous degrees from the highest harmony and beauty to the least.  
AE 1205:4 In everything spiritual there are three forces, an active force, a creative force, and a formative force.*
4. **Conjugal Love:** To help students see that the arts can communicate the beauty of the marriage of good and truth.  
*CL 384 Love alone is not the origin of beauty, neither is wisdom alone, but the origin is a union of love and wisdom...  
AC3080 ...All beauty is from good in which there is innocence. Good itself when it flows in from the internal man into the external makes beauty; and from this is all human beauty.*
5. **Charity:** To foster students' appreciation of their classmates' individual talents, and practice working together toward a common artistic goal.  
*AC 8124 With a person who is governed by charity towards the neighbor that is kindled by inward affection, charity towards the neighbor exists in every detail of his thought and speech, and of his will and actions.*
6. **Order:** To help students see how the organizing principles of the arts should be used responsibly to communicate the beauty of the Lord's laws of order and the ugliness of their opposites.  
*AE 831:6 From [the spiritual heaven] many arts in the world derive their laws and harmonies, from which come their forms of beauty.  
TCR 763 How can we have beauty without a contrast with ugliness?*
7. **Human Mind:** To help students develop the use of the sensual, imaginative and rational levels of the mind through the study and expression of the arts.  
*AE 410 ...The natural[mind] is interior, middle, and exterior; the interior communicates with the spiritual person through the rational, the exterior with the world through the bodily senses, and the middle conjoins the two...*
8. **Influx:** To help students express spiritual ideals and thoughts.  
*AC 10286 ...All imitation of Divine things is done by art.*
9. **Use:** To provide students with ways to bring thoughts and affections into ultimates through the creative process and art appreciation.  
*AC 9836:2 ...Preservation depends on the state of the ultimates, for all the interior things cease there, and form a plane there in which they may subsist. Ultimates are like the soles and the feet, on which the whole body stands, and are also like the hands and the arms, by means of which the body exerts its powers, and into which the body transfers its forces.  
Exodus 24:7 All that the Lord has said we will do, and be obedient.*
10. **Providence:** To help students appreciate how the creative, recreative and healing aspects of the arts contribute to the wholeness of life.  
*AC 2581 'And God healed Abimelech' means wholeness of doctrine as regards good. This is clear from the meaning of healing as making whole.  
Charity 189:XI There are diversions of charity which are the various delights and pleasures of the bodily senses, useful for the recreation of the mind.*

The **strategies** for implementing these purpose and vision statements are contained in each grade level's curriculum.