



# VICTORY

## CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

Official Statement as of September 30, 2022

*"We would like to give clarification on a situation regarding our Christian school and a homework assignment that was given, including information which has either not been reported by the media, or which was reported incorrectly. To be clear, our biblical faith finds any exploitation of children to be absolutely abhorrent. As a pastor, our Christian school is dedicated to the protection of children and biblical modesty.*

*A family whose child attends our private Christian school contacted their child's teacher concerning a homework assignment that was given. The teacher in our school had given an assignment to students from a website with resources for teachers called, "We Are Teachers." It urged reading for students, encouraging them to read "under a tree," "a non-fiction book," "in the park," "for an hour straight," "before breakfast," "in a bathtub," "under the stars," "under a blanket fort," and 12 other possibilities. The teacher simply asked the parents to take a picture of the student reading to receive credit for the homework assignment. The photo in question was to be submitted through a school educational portal, not to a personal cell phone or email address. In prior years when this assignment was used never did a parent send an inappropriate picture of a child sitting in a bathtub or any other homework locations.*

*The mother of the second-grade student messaged the teacher concerning this homework assignment stating that, "This may be interpreted wrongfully. I would send a message out to parents explaining this." Our teacher responded back, "I'll send a message out." The parent then replied, "Sorry, I just didn't want it to get turned around." Within minutes, and before the students even completed their school day, all parents in the class in which this assignment was given received the following correspondence. "For homework tonight the paper says to send a picture of them reading their homework in the bathtub. It was brought to my attention that that can be interpreted wrong so let me explain. They are supposed to be in their pj's, play clothes, or uniform while reading their homework in the empty bathtub. It's just supposed to be a fun thing for them to do."*

*Due to the nature of the concern, the mother of this second-grade student also contacted our school administration after hours. The administrator agreed that clarification would be sent out and within minutes reached out to the parent letting her know that clarification was sent out two hours prior to her phone call. The administrator then met with teachers immediately the next morning to discontinue the use of the assignment to avoid any further misunderstandings. The suggestion that our Christian school would ever engage in the taking of inappropriate pictures of children is not only abhorrent to us personally, but it was never a part of the homework assignment being questioned. To the best of our knowledge the matter was taken care of until the parent reached out to inform us a police report had been filed.*

*We understand and support the parents reaching out to the teacher for clarification. As a pastor and a parent, we encourage parents to be actively involved in their children's assignments. We also encourage them to raise any question they have with the ministry of our Christian school. Our ministry always has and always will support parental involvement in the academic life and work of their children. The teacher immediately clarified and made it clear that there was nothing inappropriate being requested. The continued misrepresentation otherwise is simply false.*

*The teachers of Victory Christian Academy have given their lives to ensure that children receive the best education in a Christian environment. We will continue to do this with excellence. I myself, as Pastor and President of our school, as well as our school administrator, have a love and concern for every student and family in our school and would never ever allow anything untoward to happen to these children."*

Pastor Jesse Latta  
Victory Baptist Church and Victory Christian Academy  
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