

ZION CHRISTIAN SCHOOL
Learning and Living for the Glory of God

EXTRACURRICULAR MUSIC POLICY

- I. Committee Mandate: To create music guidelines that reflect the distinctiveness of the school as well as the spirit of the event at which music is played.
- II. Music may be played at extra-curricular events involving Zion Christian School. The Athletic Director is responsible for music played at sporting events, while the Principal is responsible for music played at other school functions.
- III. Guidelines
 - A. Music with both Christian and secular lyrics may be used so long as it conforms to these guidelines.
 - B. The music played at extra-curricular events will generally have two parts in need of evaluation; the lyrics and the music.
 - 1) Lyrics
 - a) Christian lyrics are permissible so long as they do not contain messages that are in conflict with the doctrinal standards of Zion Christian School.
 - b) Certain songs do not explicitly describe themselves as Christian, although they may contain themes that are Christian (e.g. victory, triumph, mutual help, etc.). So long as these “secular” lyrics do not conflict with the doctrinal standards of Zion Christian School, they are permissible.
 - c) A lyric may be associated with a performer in such a way that the song readily brings to mind that which is contrary to Zion’s doctrinal standards. Such songs should be avoided. For example, “We are the Champions” by Queen would not comply as the artists are well known for their alternate lifestyle.
 - 2) Music
 - a) Hymns and Psalms, in their worship service arrangements, are generally inappropriate for sporting events, as they are intended for sacred worship.
 - b) Music should not have the intention of promoting anti-Christian themes such as anger, violence, disunity, etc., as some modern genres of music intend. This may include:
 - Contemporary “Christian” music
 - Secular music
 - Instrumental music (i.e. without lyrics, such as soundtracks)
 - c) It should be recognized that certain soundtracks, even though their lyrics are removed, bring blasphemy to the mind of the hearer because of their offensive language. For example, “Highway to Hell” by AC/DC would not comply because removing the lyrics would not erase the association with the blasphemous message.
 - C. Both Christians and non-Christians will listen to the music played at Zion’s sporting events. Therefore, the music played should not be “morally offensive”. A proposed offense should be demonstrated by Scripture.
- IV. The Music Committee meets periodically to review and approve the music played at extra-curricular events. The Athletic Director or Principal may authorize the playing of unapproved music as long as it is deemed to meet the guidelines. The committee will subsequently review any previously-unapproved music at its next meeting.

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- V. Submissions: Anyone wishing to have specific music added to the approved list should submit the music and written lyrics to a committee member. The committee will review the music at its next meeting.
- VI. Grievances: Any concerns about the music played at an extra-curricular event should be forwarded in writing to a committee member. The grievance should contain specific reference to the guideline(s) that may have been compromised, along with Scriptural/confessional references to substantiate the complaint. The complaint and the music will be reviewed at the committee's next meeting. The committee chairman will then inform the person who submitted the complaint of the committee's decision.

VII. Scripture References:

1 Corinthians 10:23 – "All things are lawful for me, but not all things are helpful; all things are lawful for me, but not all things edify."

Psalms 24:1 – "The earth is the LORD's, and all its fullness, the world and those who dwell therein."

Matthew 5:16 – "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven."

1 Peter 1:13-16 – "Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; as obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, as in your ignorance; but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, because it is written, 'Be holy, for I am holy.'"

1 Peter 2:12 – "Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation."

Adopted by the Zion Christian School Board of Directors, August 26, 2008

Jon Verduin (Chairman)

Rev. Ken Smith

Rev. Steve Postma

Dr. Randy Baker