



Dr. John B. Engstrom  
President

January 20, 2005

Mr. Evan Shaddock  
1286 Carriage Hills Drive  
Eagan, MN 55123

Dear Mr. Shaddock:

Dr. Engstrom is on a sabbatical leave of absence and so I am writing to acknowledge your letter of December 29, 2004. Over the years, our Science Department has developed and follows the following statement:

*The Minnehaha Academy Science Department is interested in the importance of the fact that God created. We explore with our students one's finite understanding of God's possible creative means. We explore the wonder and planning involved in such an incredible process as creation.*

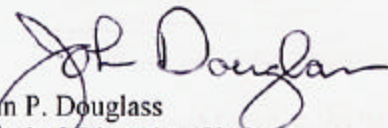
*We do not know how God created, whether it was all-instantaneous or by means of a process, or perhaps a combination of both. The scripture, we believe, may be faithfully interpreted in several ways on this issue. We do not teach atheistic evolution, since we believe, first and foremost, that God created. We teach that God is the absolute center of life and of creation.*

*We discuss with our students the concept that the Bible and our faith helps us to answer the really big, philosophical questions of "Why?" Whereas, science helps us to answer the detail questions such as "How?" We feel that the answers to the "Why?" questions, which faith and the Bible help us to understand, are much more important in the larger scheme of things than the "How" questions.*

*We, at Minnehaha Academy, are concerned with our students' gaining an understanding of Jesus' life and the fact that He died for their sins and rose again. We are concerned that students develop a personal relationship with Jesus as their Savior.*

We appreciate your concerns and your search for truth. As a parent of four Minnehaha graduates I feel that our school is blessed with faculty such as Dr. Crafton who lead our students to seek truth in a Biblical framework.

Very truly yours,



John P. Douglass  
Board of Education Chair

cc: Mr. Stephen O'Neil  
Dr. Jeffrey Crafton  
Rev. Daniel Thompson