

History, Mission, and Values

History

The Board of Directors and Head of School continue to develop the vision that the Lord has given us to offer classical education in Leon County. It is our conviction that God calls each of us to love Him with all our heart, soul and mind (Matt. 22:37). To this end, and for His glory, we offer Christ Classical Academy. We invite your family to join us as we seek to fulfill this high calling.

During the spring of 2004, the Christ Classical Academy Board voted to open a classical Christian school offering instruction to students in Kindergarten through seventh grade. The First Church of the Nazarene graciously opened their facility to us allowing our 28 students to meet in their classrooms.

As of 2016, the Academy offers pre-kindergarten (PK3) through twelfth grade.

SCHOOL SONG

Glory Be to God the Father

Words by Horatio Bonar 1866

Music by John Hughes 1907

Verse 1

Glory be to God the Father,
Glory be to God the Son,
Glory be to God the Spirit,
Great Jehovah, Three in One!
Glory, glory, glory, glory,
While eternal ages run,
While eternal ages run!

Verse 2

Glory be to Him who loved us,
Washed us from each spot and stain;
Glory be to Him who bought us,
Made us kings with Him in reign!
Glory, glory, glory, glory,
To the Lamb who once was slain,
To the Lamb who once was slain!

Verse 3

Glory to the King of angels,
Glory to the Church's King,
Glory to the King of nations
Heav'n and earth your praises bring!
Glory, glory, glory, glory,
To the King of Glory sing,
To the King of Glory sing!

Verse 4

Glory, blessing, praise eternal!
Thus the choir of angels sings!
Honor, riches, pow'r, dominion!
Thus its praise creation brings!
Glory, glory, glory, glory,
Glory to the King of Kings,
Glory to the King of Kings

DISTINCTIVES

• Christ-centered Approach

Christianity has been an integral part of the history and development of western civilization. Anything other than an education centered on the person of Jesus Christ fails at what it purports to be. The Academy holds that all truth is God's truth. We seek to reveal in all subjects the significance of historical Christianity and the teachings of Scripture in ways which are natural

and not contrived. Our intent is to provide a clear model of the Christian life and a biblical worldview through our staff, board, and volunteers, so that every child is encouraged to develop a genuine and meaningful relationship with God through the person of Jesus Christ. Our goal is to foster an environment that is inclusive. We are unapologetic in the assertion of doctrines that are central to historic orthodox Christianity. Students and faculty alike are, however, welcome to their personal and denominational views on issues about which genuine believers disagree.

Apostle's Creed:

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth;
and in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilot, was crucified, dead, and buried;
the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from
thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy catholic church;
the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

- **Accreditation**

The Academy is a member of the Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI). As the school matures, our goal is to gain accreditation from ACSI.

- **Governance**

The Academy is a board-directed school. The Bylaws are available online and by request through the school office.

Current Board Members:

Rev. Paul Gilbert

Dr. Carl Moore

Mr. Jerry Peacock

Dr. Daniel Yang

Mrs. Kristina Osterhaus

Mr. Paul Shackelford

Mr. David Healy

Adminstration

Mrs. Amy Hines

Mr. Eric Hoffmann

Mrs. Hope Carrasquilla

Ms Kate Baumann

Head of School (850) 570-3939

Logic and Rhetoric School Principal – 7th-12th

Grammar School Principal – 1st-6th

Pre-Grammar School Principal – PreK-K

• **Classical Methodology**

The Academy employs the classical approach of learning based upon the Trivium described in “The Lost Tools of Learning” by Dorothy L. Sayers. The grammar school (K3-6) emphasizes basic learning skills, while the dialectic school (7-8) concentrates on formal instruction in logic. The rhetoric school (9-12) helps students develop a clear understanding of verbal, written, and mechanical aspects of expression used in each subject studied. The goal is to teach our students how to think as a basis for mastering specific subject areas. Intensive phonics and primary reading sources (including the Bible and classic works) are used for instruction in reading and language arts. The Academy applies an incremental and cumulative approach to teaching mathematics skills. Latin is taught for its direct benefits and as reinforcement for understanding English grammar and vocabulary.

• **Latin**

The Academy introduces Pre-K students to Latin through other languages and by studying the Latin roots of common words.

At the Academy, formal instruction in Latin begins in third grade. By introducing a child to the language at an early age we take advantage of a child’s great capacity for learning vocabulary and his love for the rhythmic chanting of verb conjugations and noun declensions. The exercise of fitting the meaning, tense, number, case and gender of a Latin word to its English equivalent strongly develops analytical skills as well as vocabulary.

Sections in Italics taken from the CCA Handbook for Kindergarten-12th grade.

“I will say at once, quite firmly, that the best grounding for education is the Latin grammar. I say this, not because Latin is traditional and medieval, but simply because even a rudimentary knowledge of Latin cuts down the labor and pains of learning any other subject by at least fifty percent.”

- Dorothy L. Sayers (Address at Oxford University, 1947)

• Grammar

In order to think deeply about any subject we must have “grist for the mill.” The grammar of any subject is simply the building blocks necessary to produce authentic inquiry. When children are young, abounding curiosity equips them to absorb and be able to recall astounding amounts of information. Through chants, songs, stories, recitations, oral presentations, and hands-on inquiry, they discover the truths about the world around them. In the Grammar stage (PK-5th), students learn the rules of phonics, spelling, English and Latin grammar; how to compose a paragraph; the stories and events of the Bible, history, and classic literature; math facts and reasoning; descriptions of plants, animals, human beings, and the earth. This information can then be recalled and used as they move into higher levels of thinking and reasoning.

Pre K Grammar Skills:

- Knows what the title, author, illustrator, spine, back cover, and front cover of a book are and where they are located
- Can name each of the letters and their individual letter sounds (80% accuracy)
- Counts by 1s to 20 and 10s to 100
- Can locate a point and count forwards and backwards on a number line (within 1-10)
- Identifies the names of pennies, nickels, dimes, quarters, and one-dollar bills
- Knows the days of the week and when regularly scheduled events occur
- Knows the four seasons and weather for the seasons

- Knows the terms 'top line', 'base line', and 'mid line' as it relates to handwriting and can locate them
- Can recite the alphabet clearly
- Can recite all single-letter phonograms (80% accuracy)
- Can recite the first ten questions and answers from the Westminster Catechism for Young Children: An Introduction to the Shorter Catechism
- Can recite monthly bible verses
- Can recite monthly poems or finger plays
- Can recite the days of the week and the months of the year

Logic

God is a rational being. We believe that God reveals Himself to humans in rational ways through His Word and through His creation (nature). Christianity, the way of life through which humans enjoy fellowship with God as their Heavenly Father, is therefore a rational lifestyle. Clearly, Christian parents desire their children to know the truth of Christianity. The goal is to educate students, teaching them how to know, through concurrent instruction in logic, Bible, science, etc., rather than to indoctrinate by merely teaching them what to know. Students are taught to discern truth and to defend it against challenges.

Pre K Logic Skills:

- Can use the questions of the Westminster Catechism to answer True or False questions
- Can find themes present within two books
- Can draw inferences from text and pictures
- Can describe the link between pictures in a story and the text of a story
- Identifies cause and effect within pieces of literature

- Can label the beginning letter sound of a picture correctly (80%)
- Identifies, writes, and compares numbers 1-10
- Orders one-digit numbers
- Compares 1-10 using 'more', 'less,' and 'the same'
- Identifies and creates patterns of color, shape, sound and movement
- Compares and describes objects according to size and shape
- Compares and orders concrete objects by length/height
- Identifies most, fewest, and same on a graph

Rhetoric

Rhetoric teaches the student the art of reading critically and appreciatively, all kinds of writing. It also instructs and inspires the student to write well in diverse genres, to speak eloquently with persuasion and confidence, and to listen courteously with understanding. The arts of communication and expression are critical for an educated person, and for the believer who desires to obey God in his call to "always be ready to give a defense." The Academy understands that when you equip the student with the tool of rhetoric, you lay the foundation for a lifetime of effective learning and evangelism.

*"But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear."
- 1 Peter 3:15*

Pre K Rhetoric Skills:

- Retells familiar stories with or without the use of sequencing visuals
- Summarizes the main idea of a story or piece of literature
- Will discuss with the class an idea found in a piece of literature
- Can blend syllables together to make a word

Sections in Italics taken from the CCA Handbook for Kindergarten-12th grade.

- Can blend beginning letter sounds with the rest of a word ex:
b all = ball
- Identifies, describes, sorts and compares geometric shapes and identifies similar shapes
- Identifies and describes yesterday, today, tomorrow, morning, afternoon, evening, and night
- Makes mathematical predictions with an explanation as to why
- Communicates mathematical ideas through words, pictures, numbers, or symbols
- Practices taking turns, listening attentively, and raising hand to speak

Life Skills

At this stage of development, children begin to gain the awareness and fine motor skills necessary to independently engage in learning and the world around them. These skills are taught, practiced, and mastered in our Pre K classrooms.

- Enjoys looking at pictures and books
- Awareness that letters form words and words form sentences
- Initiates and asks questions based on the text/pictures within a book
- Recognizes the difference between a poem and a story
- Can form letters (capital and lowercase) using the top line, mid line, and base line for correct letter formation (80%)
- Can form the numbers 0-9 independently
- Forms name with correct capitalization
- Has the correct (tripod) pencil grip
- Knows the 8 basic colors and shapes
- Knows own birthday
- Knows parents' names
- Knows the number 9-1-1 and when to dial it
- Holds and uses pencil, crayons, scissors, and glue correctly
- Takes care of their belongings
- Uses words to work cooperatively with friends

Operational Information

Hours of Operation

Christ Classical Academy Preschool is open from 7:45 am to 3:00 pm. There are two schedule choices available:

Full-Day: 7:45 am - 3:00 pm

Half-Day: 8:00 am - 12:40 pm

Before school care is available starting at 7:40am for all families. After school care runs until 5:15pm and is subject to an additional fee.

Enrollment

The preschool classrooms enroll up to 15 students per day. Enrollment is open to children who are four years of age by December 1st. Children must be completely potty trained to attend Christ Classical Academy Preschool.

* The Academy recommends that children who are not 5 by September 1st not advance to Kindergarten. However, with parent request and teacher recommendation, a request may be presented to the Board to allow a student to advance into Kindergarten early.

Arrival and Departure

It is very important that children develop a routine they can follow every day. This provides your child with a sense of security. Please keep teachers informed about your child's health, mood, eating habits, family situation, or anything you think may affect your child's behavior at school.

When arriving, please walk your child to the playground. Help your child hang his or her things on the hooks provided and sign your child in for the day. When it is time for the person dropping the child off to go, tell the child you are leaving and say “good-bye.” If your child is having difficulty separating, signal a teacher for assistance. Please make the arrival process as short as possible in order to help children adjust. **Please try to arrive before 8:15 to aid in transition and routine.**

At the end of the day, children who are going home by car will report to car pick-up and sit with older siblings or the PreK teacher. Children who are staying for after-school will be taken to after-school. Teachers will walk all children to their pick-up destinations.

Pick-up and Drop-off are not the time to have a full conference with teachers or to communicate with teachers about your child’s progress in the class. Please be sure to say and wave goodbye to your child’s teachers as you leave so they know you are leaving.

Attendance

If your child is going to be absent, please notify the teachers as soon as possible or call the office.

Birthdays

If your child is going to be celebrating a birthday at school, please let the classroom teacher know of your plans to celebrate at least one week in advance. This allows teachers to plan accordingly and for parents of children with allergies to provide alternate activities.

All birthday celebrations will be at the end of the day unless otherwise cleared with the teacher.

Holidays

The Board, administration, and teachers of the Academy desire for the celebration of holidays to be Christ-centered and God-honoring.

Halloween

Halloween is not celebrated or acknowledged at the Academy.

Christmas

The biblical emphasis of Christmas is on the birth of Christ, our Savior and Lord. Santa Claus is not acknowledged at the Academy. If students ask about Santa Claus, they will be directed to their parents.

Valentine's Day

Students may participate in the Valentine's Day celebration through the giving of cards. Exchange of cards is permitted in the classroom only and must include all students within that class. Sentiments expressed shall be of friendship only.

Easter

The biblical emphasis of Easter is on the resurrection of Jesus Christ. The Easter Bunny is not acknowledged at the Academy. If students ask about the Easter Bunny, they will be directed to their parents.

Safety and Health

Inclement Weather Policy

If Leon County Schools are closed, Christ Classical Academy will also be closed. If the school is open as usual at the beginning of the day but inclement weather becomes a serious threat, the Head of

Sections in Italics taken from the CCA Handbook for Kindergarten-12th grade.

School will determine if an early closing time is necessary. All parents will be notified through e-mail and telephone calls of this change.

Allergy Policy

When children are diagnosed with an allergy or there is a known allergy at the time of enrollment, the parent must notify Christ Classical Academy with a written doctor's statement. This should include food or other allergies (such as bee stings). If there is a plan to care for the child due to the allergy, this must be given to the school and have the doctor's signature.

If, for any reason, your child cannot eat a certain food, please inform the teachers as early as possible. In the event that food is served at the Preschool, you will be notified in advance if the food contains a possible allergen so that parents will be able to provide an alternative for your child.

Children with the following may NOT be brought to Christ Classical Academy:

- * Fever over 100 in the past 24 hours
- * Chicken Pox
- * Conjunctivitis (Pink Eye)
- * Whooping Cough
- * Lice
- * Measles
- * Scabies
- * Mumps
- * Rubella
- * Influenza (Flu)
- * Strep Throat
- * Scarlet Fever
- * Diarrhea
- * Vomiting

Due to limited isolation space, children developing any symptoms that require dismissal should be picked up by the parent/guardian as soon as possible. Children will be kept in the Office until their parent/guardian comes.

If the child is well enough to come to school, he/she is well enough to participate in the regular program, including indoor and outdoor activities.

A Child with (1) ONE or more of the following symptoms may NOT be brought to Christ Classical Academy and will be sent home if these symptoms (per teacher's discretion) occur:

- * Diarrhea: More than one (1) abnormally loose stool
- * Headache or stiff neck
- * Severe coughing
- * Unusually dark, tea colored urine
- * Difficult or rapid breathing
- * Gray or white stool
- * Severe itching of the body or scalp, or scratching of the scalp.
- * Fever over 100 degrees Fahrenheit by mouth or 99 degrees externally.
- * Pink eye-tears, redness of eyelid lining, irritation, followed by swelling or discharge of pus.
- * An infected skin patch—crusty, bright yellow, dry, or gummy areas of the skin
- * Unusual spots or rashes
- * Vomiting: More than one (1) or with any other symptoms in a 24 hour period
- * Sore throat or trouble swallowing
- * Yellowish skin or eyes
- * Excessive or green-colored nasal discharge

Children may return to school 24-36 hours (depending on the severity of the symptoms) after the disappearance of all symptoms,

including the disappearance of fever without aid of fever-reducing medicine.

Teachers will not administer medication or apply ointments of any kind. If needed, the office staff will administer medication and/or apply ointments to children.

Children must be on antibiotics for 24-36 (in accordance with doctor's orders) hours before returning to school.

Assessments and Additional Help

Teachers perform quarterly assessments to track the growth and progress of each student in Christ Classical Academy Preschool. These quarterly assessments are designed to test a student's cognitive, behavioral, physical, and social growth throughout the year. From these assessments, teachers may recommend that a child get extra help or may refer students to pediatricians or other specialists.

At times, a child may require extra help from a source outside of Christ Classical Academy. Teachers are more than happy to accommodate outside help during the school day. If therapists or other specialists would like to work with your child during the school day, we ask that teachers be given a 24 hour notice so they can plan accordingly.

Child Abuse Policies

As professionals who work with young children and their families, we at Christ Classical Academy are required by law to help the Florida Division of Children and Families (DCF) become aware of children who may be abused or neglected. According to the law, teachers are mandated reporters.

Guidance and Discipline

“Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right... and, fathers, do not exasperate your children, but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the LORD.” - Ephesians 6:1, 4

In line with the mission of Christ Classical Academy, all guidance and discipline will be done under the authority of Scripture and will be used to train children according to the Bible. All guidance and discipline will be done in love and with the absence of harsh words or physical punishment.

Upon the first infraction of classroom rules, the child will be given a warning and redirection. Upon the second, he or she will have to sit in time out. The third infraction will be a note sent home to the parent about the child's behavior. If a child is repeatedly disobeying, he or she may be sent to the office and a parent-teacher conference may be called.

Upon discipline, all children will be given the opportunity to talk through their disobedience with their teachers. This will be done in order for the child to recognize their sins and to have the opportunity to repent from them.

The school utilizes the behavior modification methods outlined in Shepherding a Child's Heart by Tedd Tripp.

Meals and Snacks

All meals and snacks are provided by the parents. Children should bring 1-2 snacks per day in a separate container, marked clearly with their names. Lunches should be brought in a lunchbox that is marked clearly with the child's name. **A spill proof water bottle with the child's name should be brought every day.**

The school also offers the Lunchpail program, where parents can elect to have meals delivered to the school for their children on select days.

Nap / Rest Time

All children at Christ Classical Academy Preschool will be given a nap time of one to two hours. During this time, the child does not have to nap, but he or she will be required to remain quietly on his or her cot for the duration of nap time. Children may be given books or an alternate quiet activity during this time at the discretion of the teacher.

Parents are responsible for providing a fresh set of linens each week for nap time (1 crib sheet for cots and one small, easily folded blanket). Each child's nap things will be sent home at the end of the day on Friday.

Outdoor Play

Outdoor play is an important part of the early childhood curriculum, and we consider the outdoors to be an extension of the indoor classroom. Typically, children go outside twice each day if weather permits. If your child is not well enough to play outside, he or she is not well enough to attend school for the day.

It is important that parents provide appropriate clothing and outerwear for the weather conditions (e.g., coat, boots, gloves, etc.). During the warmer months, children are encouraged to get plenty of water, and the length of time spent on the playground is typically shortened.

Potty Training

When a child begins enrollment, he or she must be completely potty trained. The child should be in cloth underwear and not in diapers,

Sections in Italics taken from the CCA Handbook for Kindergarten-12th grade.

pull-ups, or training pants. Children are expected to use the toilets and clean up properly without assistance from teachers or teacher assistants. Assistance with hand washing reminders and clothes fastening will be given if necessary.

In the event the child is found not to be fully potty trained as indicated by three “accidents” (inability to reach the toilet on time, wetting or soiling undergarments), at the discretion of the teacher, the child will be asked to take a leave of absence from the Preschool to work on readiness.

Soiled garments will be placed directly in a Ziploc bag with a note attached, to be sent home. Please provide your child with an extra change of clothes at all times **to be kept at school.**

Clothing

All students in the Preschool department are required to wear either their CCA preschool shirt every day or the informal uniform of the lower school. **Please refer to the school uniform policy.**

In order to foster independence and self-help skills, we ask that you send your child in weather-appropriate clothes that he or she can fasten independently. The typical day of a preschooler may include running, climbing, and working with art materials so please send children in clothes that can be laundered easily.

* Tennis shoes or shoes with rubber soles should be worn. For safety, please do not send your child in open-toed shoes.

* A complete change of uniform is essential. Please label all clothing with your child’s name. The extra set will be stored in a Ziploc bag at school.

Family Involvement

Parent Participation

The Academy believes that parents are responsible for educating their children (based on Deuteronomy 4:9 and 6:6-9). The Academy co-ministers with Christian parents in the education of their children. Parents are encouraged to participate at all organizational levels; volunteering, serving on/with the faculty or staff, and working on/with the governing board. We welcome parental visitations to the classroom and joining children for lunch when schedules permit. Parental involvement and support in the classroom, on field trips, at special services/programs and annual events are also expected.

Parent Communication

All children will be given a daily notebook that will go home and come to school each day. The teacher will record the child's behavior and additional information in the notebook.

Feel free to communicate any concerns to your child's teacher through email, or schedule a parent-teacher conference. All teachers will check email at least once each school day and reply within 48 hours.

Please be aware that due to the volume of children in the class and the nature of a Kindergarten preparatory program, teachers will report the details of a child's sleeping, eating, toileting, or participation throughout the day only when there is a concern or abnormality.

Parent and Teacher Conferences

All parents are required to attend a parent-teacher conference in the first quarter. Parents are strongly recommended to attend one in the fourth quarter as well. Conferences can be requested at any time.

Student Honor Code (Romans 13:8-14)

Attendance at the Academy is a unique privilege and it comes with certain responsibilities. Students must therefore follow these Christian responsibilities:

To God Almighty:

- I will seek to honor the Lord in all that I think, say, and do (Deut. 26:17).
- I will listen to God and His word. (II Timothy 3:16-18)
- I recognize that my behavior reflects on God (I Cor. 10: 31).

To my parents:

- I will attempt to honor my parents in everything I think, say, and do (Ex. 20:12).
- I will try to learn from my parents (Eph. 6:13).
- I know that my parents provide things for me that I need (Ps. 78: 1-8).

To my church:

- I will listen to the people in charge in my church. (Titus 2:1-15).
- I will make knowing God and praising Him a priority in my life. (Gal. 2:20).
- I will attempt to be a messenger of Christ wherever I go (Matt. 28:19-20).

To my teachers:

- I will demonstrate respect toward my teachers and will obey them. (Heb. 13:1).
- I will do all of my work to the best of my ability (Eph. 5:8-17).

- I will do my best to learn as much as I can. (Phil. 4:8-9).

To my classmates:

- I will honor and respect the time, work and feelings of my classmates. (Rom.12:9-18).
- I will be honest and kind in my relationships with my classmates (Phil. 2:3-7).
- I will do my best to be peaceful and not cause problems with my classmates. (Eph. 4:1-6).