



COVENANT

CLASSICAL



WELCOME

Welcome to Covenant Classical School. We call our school ‘Covenant’ because we believe that God has made Jesus Christ the covenantal mediator. In faithfulness to the covenant, God has in Christ reconciled us to himself, reconciled us to one another, and reconciled us to creation. On a daily basis and in all we do, we strive to live out and instill the reality of that reconciling work. This requires wisdom. We call our school ‘Classical’ because God in his providence has been active in imparting this wisdom throughout the whole course of human history. The heart of classical education lies in a counter-cultural willingness to name what is beautiful and true, and then to allow ourselves in humility and gratitude to be shaped by it.

Our aim is to train students not only to question the unexamined assumptions of our culture, but also to apply a biblical grid that encompasses all of life. It is not enough to clarify what is true; we must also come to terms with the nature of truth itself. Against the major educational approaches on offer today, we assume the interconnectedness of knowledge. We are reminded of the words of that great thinker Francis Schaeffer, which are even more true today than they were when he first wrote them a generation ago:

Today we have a weakness in our education process ... we tend to study all our disciplines in unrelated parallel lines. This tends to be true in both Christian and secular education. This is one of the reasons why evangelical Christians have been taken by surprise at the tremendous shift that has come to our generation.

Through the integration of life and faith, students develop a thoroughgoing Christian worldview—and then live it out! For the student at Covenant, all the subjects (from physical education to Latin to art) are mutually integrated and bound up in the life of faith. We believe that an educational approach that artificially separates faith from knowledge is simply a misunderstanding of faith itself. We believe that at this turn in our cultural history, a classical Christian education is a powerful tool for instilling a solid Christian worldview to the next generation, tomorrow’s leaders. We teach with the next generation in our minds and its mission field in our hearts.

For His Kingdom,

The Board of Trustees
Covenant Classical School

COVENANT CLASSICAL SCHOOL PROFILE

Type of School

Classical Christian, independent, non-denominational, coeducational

Organizational Structure

The Members of the School include parents of enrolled students, school administrators, and faculty. The governance of the school is vested in the Board of Trustees, which includes appointed trustees and trustees elected by the Members of the School. The Administration of the School is responsible for the daily operation of the school.

Affiliations

Society for Classical Learning (SCL)

Grades Offered

Grammar School (Kindergarten – Grade 5)

Logic School (Grades 6 – 8)

Enrollment

135 students enrolled for 2017-2018 school year

Faculty

Six Grammar School teachers, eight Logic and Rhetoric School teachers, two Latin teachers, two Fine Arts teachers. 53% of faculty members have Master's degrees; 16% of faculty members are currently in Master's degree programs.

Curricular Program

College-preparatory. Based on the classical model known as the Trivium (Grammar, Logic, and Rhetoric stages). Classical and traditional subjects, with strong emphasis on integration across disciplines: Bible; English Grammar, Composition, and Literature; History; Geography, Math; Science; Technology; Latin; Logic; Rhetoric; Art; Drama; Music; Physical Education.

Extracurricular Program

Broad range of after-school offerings, including Sports (Cross Country, Dodgeball, Fencing, Basketball), Fine Arts (Strings Ensemble, Choir, Ballet, Drama), Spanish, Mandarin, Chess, Debate, Cooking Club, Girls Bible Study, Certamen.

COVENANT CLASSICAL SCHOOL PROFILE *(continued)*

Leadership and Service Opportunities

Students plan and lead service projects each semester.

Grammar School and Logic School:

Iowa Test of Basic Skills administered annually. National School Norms Percentile Rank above 95% for all grades for the 2016 test.

Before and After School Care

Provided for an additional fee. Before Care starts at 7:30 am. After Care concludes at 5:30 pm.

Financial Aid

Need-based tuition discounts available, based on third party need assessment.

Diversity

Covenant is blessed with diversity in its faculty and families. Over 40% of Covenant students are of African American, Asian, or Hispanic descent. Many churches (denominational and non-denominational) are represented. Covenant's financial aid program provides for a broad range of economic diversity as well.

Updated 04/10/17

WHAT IS CLASSICAL CHRISTIAN EDUCATION?

Classical education belongs to the traditional and enduring stream of education started by the Greeks and Romans, developed by the Church through the centuries, and renewed by contemporary educators. Infused with the liberal arts and sciences, classical education includes the language arts of the trivium - grammar, logic, and rhetoric - and the quantitative arts of the quadrivium - mathematics, science, music, and visual arts. Students study great works of literature and art, both old and new, by methods best suited to their developmental stages. As participants in the great conversation of history's finest thinkers, students acquire more than vocational skills; they prepare for their roles as informed citizens, thinking Christians, and virtuous shapers of culture.

Classical education was widely embraced in the English-speaking world until the early 20th century, when experiments with alternative forms of education began. The past thirty years have witnessed a resurgence in classical education across the country and a recognition of its proven excellence in preparing young people for college - and more importantly - for life.

The classical method has an ancient pedigree and is based on a three-stage model, which organizes learning around the maturing capacity of a child's mind. In the Grammar stage, the focus is on acquiring the building blocks of information; students begin to think more analytically in the Logic stage; and learn to write and speak with force and originality in the Rhetoric stage.

Grammar Stage (*Kindergarten - 5th Grade*)

Students learn the grammar - the fundamental rules and data - of each subject area. They learn how to read and write well, master basic mathematics, explore history chronologically from ancient to modern times, and marvel at God's design of plants, animals, and the human body. Naturally drawn to chants, songs, and rhythmic verse, students at this level can learn an enormous amount of information, much of which is retained for a lifetime. Learning opportunities are enhanced by taking advantage of the natural ability of young children to absorb information. In third grade, students begin their study of Latin, which is essential to a fundamental understanding of English, history, and great literature.

Logic Stage (*6th Grade - 8th Grade*)

Early adolescent children have a tendency to contradict and argue. Their ability to draw conclusions on the basis of facts begins to develop. Building on these abilities, Socratic methods of teaching foster inquiry, discussion, and debate, with an emphasis on reason and analysis. During these years, students study formal logic and begin to apply logic to all subject areas. Students learn to think clearly, to synthesize information across subject areas, and to debate in a respectful manner.

WHAT IS CLASSICAL CHRISTIAN EDUCATION? *(continued)*

Rhetoric Stage (9th Grade - 12th Grade)

Capitalizing on a high school student's need for independence and self-expression, skills are developed in applying and effectively communicating one's knowledge and understanding of a subject. Students study classical rhetoric - the art of using language effectively and persuasively - and apply their rhetorical skills to all subject areas. Rhetorical training gives students the ability to persuade logically and passionately with integrity, and equips them to not only respond to our culture, but to actively engage and influence it.

Throughout all stages, we strive to help students develop a genuine love for learning and the desire to be life-long learners. We are committed to helping them learn to live as vibrant Christians in their various callings. All subjects are integrated and taught in light of a Christian worldview, the lens through which all of life's experiences are seen and understood. We believe that an educational approach which confines faith to Bible class and chapel has already given up what lies at the heart of a Christian worldview. Through the integration of life and faith, Covenant students develop a thorough Christian worldview and prepare to be tomorrow's leaders, engaging the culture for Christ.

Updated 01/23/2015

CURRICULAR OVERVIEW

Bible

Students learn that God's Word is truth, and that it is applicable to every facet of life and learning. The teaching of God's Word is integrated into all areas of study, including history, science, mathematics, language, literature, and art, and students are shown how the Bible provides the foundation and context for all learning.

In daily Bible classes, students study the Bible sequentially from Genesis to Revelation during the Grammar Stage (Grades 1-5) and again sequentially at a deeper level in the Logic Stage (Grades 6-8). More extensive biblical and theological studies are completed during the Rhetoric Stage (Grades 9-12). Through the study of God's Word, students develop an understanding of the main events and people in Scripture, basic theological concepts and major biblical themes, the attributes and characteristics of God, and the plan of salvation. Students are immersed in the lives of those faithful to the spreading of the gospel, are encouraged to develop the Christian discipline of regular memorization of Scripture and consistent prayer, and are encouraged and equipped to become life-long students of the Word of God.

Language Arts

Our Language Arts program encompasses and integrates phonics, literature, vocabulary, spelling, grammar, and composition. In Kindergarten through Grade 2, students receive intensive phonics instruction to equip them with the phonetic skills needed to become fluent readers with strong comprehension. Students are introduced to high quality children's literature beginning in Kindergarten. Teachers read aloud to the students and ensure that they are developing listening comprehension skills, which provide the foundation for reading comprehension. Students narrate, or orally summarize, the stories that they have heard, further developing both their listening comprehension and oral language skills.

In all grades, a variety of excellent literature is used to teach reading skills and to encourage a love for reading. Students are carefully monitored to ensure that they are learning to read fluently, both orally and silently, and that they are learning to fully comprehend what they are reading. In the Grammar Stage, comprehension is focused on answering, orally and in written form, concrete questions about the literature being read, summarizing key sections, and describing character traits. In the Logic Stage, as the capability for abstract thought matures, students learn to analyze literature, reading carefully and critically with an understanding of the Christian worldview and identifying world views of various authors. Throughout all of the stages, students are encouraged and equipped to develop a life-long love of reading excellent literature. (*continued*) →

CURRICULAR OVERVIEW *(continued)*

(continued)

As students are encouraged to develop a passion for reading, they are also given the skills to become excellent writers and speakers. In the early grades, students learn to spell correctly, learn basic rules of grammar, and memorize and recite poems and passages from the Bible and other great literature. They learn by imitating the works of great authors, reproducing dictated passages and copying passages from classical works of literature. Students are taught how to construct correct sentences, write coherent paragraphs, and compose effective essays. They are introduced to many styles of writing through the study of excellent literature, and are required to speak and write often and correctly in all subject areas. They learn what a gift language is by dissecting and arranging it in winsome, coherent, and convincing ways.

History and Geography

Like all other areas of study, History is taught from a Christian worldview. Knowing God depends on knowing History - what God has done for people as recorded in the Scriptures, and what He has done for people in the last two millenia. Knowing oneself also depends on knowing History - where we came from and why we are who we are. Students see God's providence as it is revealed in recorded history, learn the historical significance and chronological position of major people and events of history from creation to the present, and develop an understanding of the influence of historical events on contemporary thought and culture.

History is taught using a literature-based approach, including an emphasis on primary sources and biographical studies. Students are also encouraged to be "self-educators" by delving deeper into topics that are of particular interest to them. World History is studied chronologically, from ancient to modern times, in Grades 1 through 7, enabling students to develop a thorough understanding of the context of historical events. Although the latter part of these studies includes significant study of the role of America in World History, a more in depth and comprehensive study of American History and the U.S. Constitution is completed in Grade 8. Geography is also studied systematically and comprehensively, with a different part of the world covered each year during the Grammar Stage. In the Rhetoric School (Grades 9 - 12), students complete a more in depth study of World History from ancient to modern times.

CURRICULAR OVERVIEW *(continued)*

Mathematics

Through the study of Mathematics, students see the order, precision, and consistency of God's creation. They come to understand the immutability of God through the fascinating immutability of the number systems. Students learn how to reason logically and stick with a problem until it is solved, from kindergarten addition to senior calculus.

In the early years, manipulatives are used extensively to ensure that students understand mathematical concepts. Students then begin to memorize and master basic mathematical facts. Both conceptual and practical understanding of mathematics is emphasized through the frequent use of word problems.

Students in the Logic School complete Algebra in 8th grade. Students in the Rhetoric School complete Geometry, Advanced Algebra, and Pre-Calculus, and have the option of taking Calculus in the senior year.

Science

Students explore deeply the physical world God has made and are encouraged to appreciate its awesome beauty and complexity. Students are given the intellectual tools to understand complex scientific concepts and to pursue scientific careers if they so desire. They also reflect critically upon the place of science in our society and learn to appreciate that science is a human discipline that has developed over time and is subject to change.

In the Grammar Stage, students develop an understanding of basic scientific terminology, vocabulary, and the scientific method, and enjoy many hands-on experiments. Students are shown that, because God created the universe, it has inherent order which makes it possible to hypothesize and experiment, as well as to identify, classify, and categorize elements of Creation. As studies progress, students learn to differentiate between theory and fact. They become familiar with major scientists in history and their contributions and discoveries. Students develop an increased appreciation for God's perfect design in nature and the universe, and man's stewardship of the earth.

CURRICULAR OVERVIEW *(continued)*

Latin

One of the fundamental aspects of Classical Christian education is the study of Latin. Latin was regularly taught in American high schools as late as the 1940s. It was considered essential to a fundamental understanding of English, the history and writings of Western Civilization, and the understanding of Romance languages. However, like many traditional particulars of good education lost in the name of “modern” or “progressive” education, Latin’s advantages have been neglected and forgotten in recent times.

Students at Covenant study Latin in third through tenth grades. Primary benefits of the study of Latin include:

- The study of Latin greatly enhances the understanding of the history and writings of Western Civilization, and the impact the classical cultures had on our modern culture. Rhetoric School students (9th-12th grades) who have completed extensive Latin studies are able to delight in reading ancient texts in the original language, grasping finer points that may be lost in translations.
- Latin is not a “dead language”, but rather a language that lives on in almost all major western languages, including English. The study of Latin improves English vocabulary since approximately 65% of English words have Latin roots.
- Inflective languages, those languages such as Latin that have case endings which require memorization and analysis, are superior for improving language skills. The study of Latin greatly improves students’ understanding of the nature of grammar and languages in general, improving English skills and overall understanding of languages and communication.
- The study of Latin lays an excellent foundation for subsequent study of any of the Romance languages, including Spanish, French, and Italian, since they are based on Latin, as well as the study of law, medicine, and other professional disciplines.
- Latin is a very systematic language, and trains the mind to think in an orderly fashion.

Students of Latin are trained in a method of rigorous analysis, and the ability that is acquired is not limited to Latin. The study of Latin equips young minds to encounter unfamiliar material in a disciplined way.

CURRICULAR OVERVIEW *(continued)*

Logic

Logic is the skill of correct thinking and conceptual development. It is the thinking through of similarities, comparisons, and differences in order to induce the correct general conclusions. Studying logic and practicing logical thinking prepares students for the development of wisdom. Unfortunately, logic is all but forgotten in modern schools.

During the Logic Stage (Grades 6-8), students study the various types of logic including informal logic, categorical logic and symbolic logic. Logic has a central place in our Logic Stage curriculum in that it is a subject and skill that is applied and used in virtually every other class. For example, students in history, literature or science classes are required to think logically about the content they study and to respectfully expose any fallacies they detect in texts, presentations, or discussions. Their writing in these classes is assessed for logical sharpness, and examinations presuppose and exercise logical skill. These skills in logic are also foundational for more extensive studies in the Rhetoric Stage (Grades 9-12).

Art

Students are encouraged to appreciate and imitate the beauty of God's creation through art. Students are taught to use a variety of art media and are taught the basic fundamentals of drawing to enable them to create adequate renderings. A subset of the students' art projects are integrated with the historical period that the students are studying to further reinforce these studies.

Students observe great artwork, learn about the history of the works and the relationship between art and culture, and describe and discuss their opinions of the works. They also learn by imitating the great works they have observed as they begin to develop their own creativity and self-expression. Students are encouraged to express themselves artistically in a manner that honors God.

CURRICULAR OVERVIEW *(continued)*

Music

Students learn that music is a gift from God, and are encouraged to sing knowledgeably and joyfully to the Lord on a regular basis. Understanding of Scripture is enriched through the teaching of many classical, meaningful hymns, in which students also learn the history and significance of the hymns and their composers.

Students are instructed in the fundamentals of music theory and vocal and instrumental music, and are encouraged to select some area of vocal or instrumental music to pursue in depth. Students develop an awareness of and appreciation for various musical styles and forms. They listen to the works of great composers, learn about the history of the works and the relationship between music and culture, and describe and discuss their opinions of the works.

Physical Education

Students are encouraged to recognize that their bodies are the temple of the Holy Spirit and, in cooperation with parents, are encouraged to knowledgeably establish and maintain good health and nutritional habits. Students are taught basic exercises and the benefits that these exercises provide for various body systems, as well as the function of different muscles and how to strengthen them. Instruction is provided in basic game skills such as throwing, hitting, kicking, and catching, helping students to improve coordination, agility, strength, and endurance. Biblical patterns of behavior are encouraged through activities requiring cooperation, teamwork, and good sportsmanship in competitive situations.

HOW TO APPLY *(continued)*

Apply

Use our easy, online application. This will provide you with a tool to track your admission status once your application has been received. A non-refundable fee of \$125 must be submitted with each application.

1. **Create an account and log-in.**
2. **Create a “New Student Application”**
3. **Upload the following:**
 - a. **Birth certificate**
 - b. **Most recent report card(s), if applicable**
 - c. **Most recent standardized test scores, if applicable**
4. **Forward a transcript release form to your child’s current school.**
5. **Track your status online by logging in to your account.**

Test

Admission testing is done for a variety of reasons. This process gives both the school and family a clear assessment of the child’s needs and fit in the school. The testing enables us to determine grade placement, tutoring and summer academic needs prior to entry, or if there are any significant concerns regarding learning or behavioral needs the child might have. Covenant Classical is a school that is equipped to meet the needs of the average to gifted learner. Though we would love to welcome all children, we currently do not have the resource staff to service students with significant IEPs and learning disabilities.

After admission testing is complete, our school will contact you to schedule an admission interview.

Interview

The admission interview is an opportunity for you to get to know our administrative staff and members of the Admission Committee. This process also gives us the ability to ask questions of one another and express any concerns either of us might have. Both parents need to be present for the one-hour interview.

Following the interview, you will be contacted within one week with the admission decision.

HOW TO APPLY *(continued)*

Accept

When a student is admitted, an acceptance letter will be mailed to the parents. If a student has been extended an offer of acceptance, he or she will be placed in the grade assigned according to previous school work and admission test results. Once you have received the acceptance letter, you will need to secure your child's admission. Please sign and return the Parental Covenant with a non-refundable deposit of \$525 per student. Once the school has received this form and deposit, your child's placement is secured.

Non-Discrimination Policy

Covenant Classical School admits students of any gender, race, color, nationality, or ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students in the school. Covenant Classical School does not discriminate on the basis of gender, race, color, nationality, or ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, admission policies, and other programs.

Prepare

It is highly likely, regardless of grade placement, that the student will need summer academic work prior to the first year of enrollment. Our classical curriculum is unique, and it is very likely that even the strongest students will need some level of enrichment in order to create a smooth transition into the classroom for both the student and teacher. The additional summer supplemental work is not included in the standard tuition cost. If needed, details on tutoring fees will be provided by the Admission Committee at the time of acceptance.