



## STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The purpose of Providence Classical School is to provide a classical, Christ-centered education equipping students with a thorough biblical world and life view that captures their affections and enables them to discern, articulate and live truth.

## STATEMENT OF FAITH

**Concerning Scripture** - We believe the Bible in its original writings (the 66 books of the Old and New Testaments) is the inspired and inerrant Word of God and is the only infallible rule in Christian faith and practice. (*II Timothy 3:16-17, II Peter 1:20-21*)

**Concerning God** - We believe in one God existing eternally in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, equal in power and glory and identical in essence and attributes. (*Matthew 28:18-20, Hebrews 1:1-3*)

**Concerning God's Providence** - We believe all things that come to pass are directed by God's eternal will and purposes, according to His perfect wisdom, power, justice, goodness and mercy and without making either God the author of sin or man unaccountable for his thoughts, words and deeds. (*Daniel 4:35, Nehemiah 9:6*)

**Concerning Sin** - We believe the sinful disobedience of Adam and Eve caused all humanity to inherit a sinful nature whose corruption affects all of soul and body, separating us from God and bringing us under God's just and eternal condemnation. (*Romans 5:12*)

**Concerning Jesus Christ** - We believe Jesus Christ, the second person of the Trinity, was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, was fully God and fully man, lived a sinless life, voluntarily bore God's wrathful condemnation of pain and death to save His people from their sins, was raised bodily from the dead, ascended into heaven, and now reigns as the exalted head of His Body, the Church. (*Matthew 1:23, Ephesians 1:18-23*)

**Concerning Salvation** - We believe all who are born again by the Holy Spirit receive by faith the Lord Jesus Christ, are pardoned from all their sin and accepted as righteous in God's sight upon the merits and works of Jesus Christ on their behalf

alone and none whatsoever upon any merits or works of their own. (*Romans, 10:9-10, Ephesians 2:8-9*)

**Concerning Sanctification** - We believe all true believers, indwelt and sealed by the Holy Spirit until the day of redemption, are enabled more and more to live a godly life, bearing the fruit of the Spirit's renewing by obedience and good works without which faith is dead, and are eternally secure in His faithful keeping. (*James 2:14-18*)

**Concerning the Return of Christ** - We believe in the personal, bodily, and visible return of the Lord Jesus Christ to judge the world, the bodily resurrection of the just and the unjust, the everlasting punishment of the lost, and the everlasting bliss of the saints. (*I Thessalonians 4:16-18, Revelation 20:11-15, Revelation 21:3-4*)

**Concerning Marriage** - We believe the parents of the students are important to Providence Classical School's beliefs and structure because the family is the foundational unit for a stable society (*I Corinthians 7:2*). We believe marriage between one man and one woman for life reflects Christ's relationship with His Church (*Ephesians 5:21-33*). We believe that God intends sexual intimacy to occur only between a man and a woman who are married to each other (1Cr. 6:18, 7:2-5, Heb. 13:4). We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of a marriage between a man and a woman.

**Concerning Sexuality** - We believe God wonderfully and in His perfect wisdom wonderfully and immutably creates each person as male or female. These two distinct and complementary sexes together reflect the image and nature of God (Genesis 1:26-27). Rejection of one's biological sex is a rejection of the image of God within that person.

**Concerning Sanctity of Human Life** - We believe that all human life is sacred and created by God in His image. Human life is of inestimable worth in all its dimensions, including pre-born babies, the aged, the physically or mentally challenged, and every other stage or condition from conception through natural death. We are therefore called to defend, protect, and value all human life. (Ps. 139).

## STATEMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

Although most Christian schools share many common elements, it is *imperative* that parents scrutinize the foundational beliefs of the specific school in which they enroll their children. Therefore, below are the formative philosophical elements that we at Providence Classical School believe distinguish our approach to education.

### 1. OUR PHILOSOPHY IS GOD-CENTERED

**Man's chief purpose is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever.<sup>1</sup>**

*Providence Classical School is committed to assisting each student in the pursuit of mankind's chief purpose which is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever.*

In His providence and goodness, God has bestowed on mankind the ability to explore, investigate, and discover truths about the universe in order to exercise dominion over it and to bring Him glory. Christian education must diligently strive to develop each individual's God-given capacities so that they may be used to God's glory. Therefore, we seek to encourage quality academic work and to maintain high standards of conduct in order for students to achieve their chief purpose.

## **2. OUR PHILOSOPHY IS PARENT-PRIMARY**

**Parents are to bring up their children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.**

*Providence Classical School exists to complement, not replace, the parents' or guardians' God-ordained responsibilities as their child's primary nurturers and teachers.*

The primary responsibility for education rests not on the school, the Church, or the State, but on the parents/guardians to whom God entrusts children. Providence Classical School is seen as an extension of the family unit, rather than as an extension of the State (as the public schools are), or as an extension of the Church (as many other Christian schools may be). Therefore, we believe as long as a child is under the parent's/guardian's authority while undergoing formal education, he/she should be trained in a manner consistent with and complementary to their primary home environment.

## **3. OUR PHILOSOPHY IS BIBLE-BASED**

**True knowledge is impossible without recognition of God.<sup>2</sup>**

*Providence Classical School believes true knowledge is impossible to attain without recognizing all truth as God's truth.*

---

<sup>1</sup> *Whom have I in heaven but you? And earth has nothing I desire besides you. (Psalms 73:25 NIV); So, whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God. (1 Corinthians 10:31 NIV).*

<sup>2</sup> *You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being. (Revelation 4:11 NIV); For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities-his eternal power and divine nature-have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse. (Romans 1:20 NIV)*

We believe God's character is revealed not only in the Scriptures, but also in every facet of His creation. God cannot be rightly separated from history, literature, mathematics, science, or any other academic discipline. Therefore, we seek to integrate the truth of Scripture into every aspect of our educational program.

#### **4. OUR PHILOSOPHY IS REDEMPTION-DRIVEN**

**God intends we understand the human journey from the perspective of His redemptive purposes.<sup>3</sup>**

*Providence Classical School believes the only prudent way for a child to make sense of this life, living, and all of human history, is through the lens of God's redemptive purposes from all eternity.*

Central to God's purposes in His relationship to humanity is to have from among them a special people of His own who are: His people; His treasured possession; the apple of His eye; a chosen people; a royal priesthood; a holy nation; a people belonging to God; the sheep of His pasture; the children of God; and the body of Christ. How a merciful God, according to His sovereign purposes from before time, redeems a fallen humanity and graciously sustains them is the scarlet thread that binds together all of human history which will be triumphantly consummated when the Lamb of God returns for the marriage feast with His bride, the church of Jesus Christ with whom He will reign eternally. Therefore, we will seek to help our students view the human journey since its creation from a redemptive framework.

#### **5. OUR PHILOSOPHY IS GRACE-DEPENDENT**

**Having a right relationship with God is always based on a trust in His gift of undeserved grace and never on what is earned or deserved by good deeds.**

---

<sup>3</sup> *For you are a people holy to the LORD your God. The LORD your God has chosen you out of all the peoples on the face of the earth to be his people, his treasured possession. The LORD did not set his affection on you and choose you because you were more numerous than other peoples, for you were the fewest of all peoples. But it was because the LORD loved you and kept the oath he swore to your forefathers that he brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the land of slavery, from the power of Pharaoh king of Egypt. (Deuteronomy 7:5-8 NIV); But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. (1 Peter 2:9-10 NIV).*

*Providence Classical School believes it is vital for each student and his/her parents or guardians to understand the good news of the Scriptures is that no person can ever gain eternal right-standing with a Holy God by earning or meriting it.*

A common doctrine in almost every known religion in the world is earning the favor of one's god and any hope of eternal life in that god's presence by living a life of commendable good works. The Gospel message of the Scriptures is the favor of God and eternal life has no chance of being secured by the commendable works of any person. Therefore, we seek to communicate mankind's only chance of having right standing with God, now and eternally, is by trust in God's undeserved gift of a Savior who has achieved right standing with God for His people by paying the penalty for sin through His suffering and death.

## **6. OUR PHILOSOPHY IS HEART-FOCUSED**

**Focusing foremost on the heart and motives of the student, not his/her actions, and behavior, is paramount in affecting significant and long-term change in the life of the student.**

*Providence Classical School believes the most effective way to build exemplary character and commendable behavior in its students is to lovingly and consistently expose and deal with the motives of their heart.*

Jesus made explicitly clear in the Sermon on the Mount that we focus on the wrong thing when we view the height of holiness from the perspective of whether we have committed murder or adultery. Instead, Jesus says we need to begin to weigh our holiness by our motives, whether we have anger or lust in our hearts. Behavior is important, but God is not impressed with Pharisees who neglect the motives of their hearts. Therefore, we focus on the internal, hidden motives of the student's heart in order to effect significant and lasting change of character and behavior.

## **STATEMENT OF FINAL AUTHORITY**

The Statement of Faith and the Statement of Philosophy do not exhaust the extent of our beliefs. The Bible is the inspired and inerrant Word of God and is the sole and final source of what we sincerely believe on Christian faith and practice. The Bible is the final authority concerning morality, truth, and the proper conduct of mankind. For purposes of the Providence Classical School's faith, doctrine, practice, policy and discipline, the School Board is the final interpretive authority on the Bible's meaning and application.

## **STATEMENT OF MEANS**

Providence Classical School utilizes the *classical* approach to education as defined by Dorothy Sayers in her essay, "The Lost Tools of Learning."<sup>4</sup> This classical approach is comprised of the trivium, which focuses a particular pedagogy during specific stages of development. The trivium is based on the assumption that a learner must acquire knowledge or information (grammar), understand or intellectually grasp the information intellectually (dialectic), and effectively express and purposefully use the information (rhetoric). According to Peter Vieth's analysis of Sayers' essay, "...the trivium's significance is based on three enduring factors: the need to accumulate tools for learning, the process by which any subject can be learned, and the developmental stages of a child's growth."<sup>5</sup>

Therefore, the three stages of the trivium are focused developmentally over the canopy of the educational experience.

1. **The grammar stage (grades JK-5)** - The grammar stage is emphasized in junior kindergarten through fifth grade. At this age, children naturally learn volumes of information and enjoy jingles, singing, and sound-offs.
2. **The dialectic stage (grades 6-8)** - The dialectic stage is emphasized in the middle school years. At this time, young people naturally question authority and can be somewhat argumentative. Formal logic is taught during this stage to capitalize on the developmental proclivity of the students to argue and debate. All subjects are taught from a dialectic framework.
3. **The rhetoric stage (grades 9-12)** - The secondary years emphasize rhetoric which includes expression of self and the grammar and logic of each subject. During this stage, students begin showing interest in specific topics and can research and present opinions and evaluations.

---

<sup>4</sup> Dorothy Sayers: paper read at Oxford University; 1947.

<sup>5</sup> Gene Edward Veith; Classical Education; Capital Research Center; 1997; p. 19