



WHAT IS CCE?

Classical Christian Education

Prepare, deepen, transform

Classical Christian education is an educational category which establishes a biblical worldview (called *Paideia*) by incorporating ancient methods of student development. It includes the cultivation of the 7 Christian Virtues, training student reasoning through the Trivium (Grammar, Logic, and Rhetoric), and interacting with the historical Great Books.

THE CLASSICAL
+ BRINGING LIFE TO THE CLASSROOM
Difference



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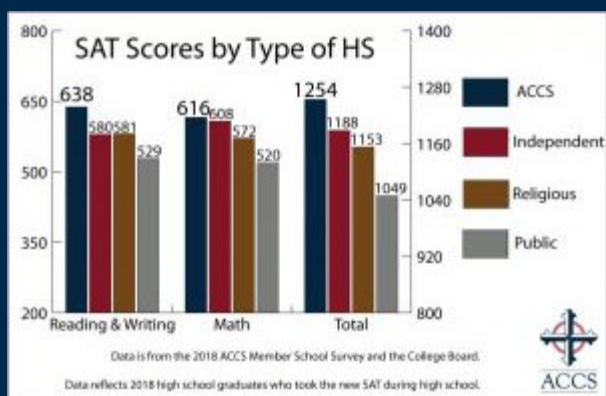
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Tens of thousands of parents are embracing classical Christian K-12 schools because they can see the difference. Parents want their children to flourish in life, not just get by. And they want this for their children's whole life, not just for college. This is a gift you can give your child in the **Christian paideia**.

Classical Christian schools were uniquely designed to help parents obey Paul's instruction in Ephesians, "And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the *paideia* of the Lord." In the first century to the 19th century, Christian education was the way Christian parents cultivated a Christian Paideia in their children.

Paideia is powerful because it influences who we are in a deep way that is almost imperceptible to us— it's woven into our childhood. If you spend a day in a conventional high school talking to students, and then spend a day with classical high-schoolers, we think you'll see the difference.

If you listen to educators today, you'll typically hear one common goal: "College and Career Readiness." But what if we were asked to rise to a greater purpose? Parents at classical Christian schools are realizing that their kids can rise to a greater, something deeper, if we dare to imagine it. We disciple students to love great art, great books, and to appreciate the Greatness of God. And when they come near graduation after a decade or more in classical Christian schools, people are doing something. No form of education can compare to the success seen within classical Christian schools.



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Education with a bigger purpose

With a classical Christian school, our goals are much bigger. This “pearl of great price” in education is greatly valued for those who understand its potential, but often goes unrecognized by those who do not.

- ***We train students to lead with eloquence.*** Our unique method, based in the tradition of the Trivium, works with the age of the child through grammar (k–6), logic (grades 7–8), and rhetoric (grades 9–12) to develop clear thinking and a masterful command of spoken and written language.
- ***We inspire depth and Wisdom.*** Students engage great books containing rich stories that shape both the soul and literary understanding. A rich and nuanced command of language plays an unsung role in understanding God's word, and in understanding our fellow man. And, a thorough immersion in the study of history using original sources helps students “*live in many times and therefore in some degree [be] immune from the great cataract of nonsense that pours from the press and the microphone of [their] own age.*” (C.S. Lewis)
- ***We cultivate rightly ordered affections (the ancient concept of virtue).*** We realize this sounds strange, or foreign. But since the time of the early church, Christians have been about training students to love the true, the good, and the beautiful. And, to “rightly order” those loves so that we love first our God, and then our neighbor. This means that we order our affections as God would.
- ***We imprint a biblical framework to understand everything.*** This is more than adding a bible verse to the curriculum. When every facet of history, science, math, philosophy, art, and other subjects is integrated around the truth of the Christian worldview, students gain a unique and important perspective.

“Smooth runs the water where the brook is deep.”

Shakespeare

It's time to rethink education. Classical Christian education breaks away to re-establish Christianity as a leading voice in our culture. And, classical Christian education also has proven to be the most effective preparation for college. **As you'll see, the difference can be measured many ways.**

Highlights of the classical Christian model

Classical Christian education uses methods and content that develop thoughtful, articulate, well-rounded graduates

Age-specific k-12 Learning

Christ-centered Curriculum

Time-tested Method and Content

Academically Rigorous

Nurturing Community

Recover lost tools, and a lost civility

By teaching them to read, we have left them at the mercy of the printed word. By the invention of the film and the radio, we have made certain that no aversion to reading shall secure them from the incessant battery of words, words, words. They do not know what the words mean; they do not know how to ward them off or blunt their edge or fling them back; they are a prey to words in their emotions instead of being the masters of them in their

intellects... We have lost the tools of learning..."

Dorothy Sayers

Classical Christian education takes advantage of natural inclinations of children at different stages of their development to maximize learning.

When young children find it easy and fun to memorize and enjoy choral recitations and chants, they are given opportunities to memorize all types of facts in math, geography, English, bible and Latin. These facts are the “grammar” or building blocks inherent in every subject.

Once they become teenagers, students like to contradict their elders, they sometimes are guilty of back talk, they enjoy pointing out other’s mistakes, and they like to propose and discuss difficult problems that have no easy solution. These students are ripe for instruction and training in formal logic.

If all goes well, in their later high school years students begin to show signs of creativity. The students, anxious to achieve independence and longing to express themselves, are taught to communicate eloquently and persuasively through instruction in rhetoric.

It was Dorothy Sayers who proposed this marriage of the three stages of the Trivium (grammar, logic, and rhetoric) to the three stages of children development (roughly elementary, junior high, and high school). Through careful and thoughtful planning with a specific focus on curriculum and instruction, classical educators “cut with the grain” and help students develop skills that, once mastered, equip the children to learn for themselves.

In short, education is primarily about what we are trained to love, not just what we are taught to know.

- The Trivium provides both language, logic, and leadership mastery in three parts or phases– grammar (typically emphasized in k-6), Logic (typically in 7-9) and Rhetoric (typically in 10-12).
- We build around a humanities core, based in great books, theology, philosophy, and history.



- Socratic discussion, common placing (journaling great ideas & support), and a variety of engaging methods based in classical tradition create a very different classroom experience.
- Structure and beauty characterize the environment with great art, uniforms, and organized, structured learning.
- The quadrivium provides a philosophical approach to learning about our world including number, geometry (shape), astronomy (motion), and music (ratio's and proportions).
- Theology is the queen of the sciences, with all subjects understood through the revealed word of God and natural/human history and philosophy.
- Great art is emphasized in the fine and performing arts.
- Christian community extends beyond the classroom with intentional focus on the cultivation of virtue, as a practice.
- The traditions of the church provide and inform the pursuit of the 7 Christian virtues, etc.

From the Trivium and Quadrivium, to Latin and Greek, to the cardinal virtues, to the great books; classical Christian methods sound foreign. But they have served the church for centuries. And, they are excelling

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Contact ...

PO Box 9741
317 W. 6th St., STE 211
Moscow, ID 83843
P: 208-882-6101
info@accsedu.org



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