



THE PRINCIPAL'S PAMPHLET

by Melodie McKenzie



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PROVIDENCE CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

Lansing, IL

Unity in the Body of Christ

On Tuesday, May 29, all who were gathered at Oak Glen URC were witness to eight testimonies to the goodness and grace of God in our graduates' lives. At Providence, we faithfully pray that glory would be brought to God's name in all we do. While there was guidance given as to how to craft the graduation speeches, it was not planned that all eight of our young people would give such consistent testimonials to God's work in their lives and their dependence on Him. God is so good to us to have brought all the glory to God on that night.

While there was consistency in certain themes, there was also quite a range in the different directions that the students took and in the specific details they cited that constituted how they have changed over their years at Providence. We heard joyful nostalgia, and memories of discipline. Academic struggles were mentioned as well as success in goals accomplished. There were testimonials of struggles with suffering along with the joy of friendship. Although some may say that we have the least diverse grouping of students perhaps anywhere, we see a wide variety of giftings in what each member of this eighth grade class has brought our school.

This multiplicity of gifts reminds us of the body of Christ. He has sovereignly ordained to fit us together in one in Him. In I Corinthians 12:12 – 27, we are given specific details on how God has joined various differing members into one unified body—the Church. We also see this here at Providence in how God adds families to our school and grows our body. These verses will give us our theme for the 2018 – 2019 school year: Unity in the Body of Christ. May Providence Christian Academy exhibit faithfully this unity in our part of the body. May each of us find our use in our body of our school.

Why the Liberal Arts?

Two weeks before school was out, I was on jury duty in a courtroom in the Daley Center in Chicago potentially being assigned to a two-week trial. With a rising stress level, I was thinking about how this just cannot happen. Our school is much more important than this trial. There are eighth grade speeches to practice, math classes to teach, and a hundred other end-of-the-year details. I cannot be assigned to a jury!

But why is my life and/or our school more important than the situation in this particular citizen's life that has necessitated civil court proceedings? I'm sure they would prefer to be somewhere else as well. Also, what is it that prepares any random citizen to join a group of other citizens on a jury to determine the fate of another?

The answer, I believe, lies in the liberal arts. Here at Providence we teach a well-rounded education that includes the typical elementary subject areas of math, grammar, writing, literature/reading, science, and history with the addition of Bible, music, drama, art, p. e., logic, and Latin. The Greeks are credited with developing the liberal arts in order to give a thorough education that would prepare folks to be responsible citizens. This form of education was continued by the Romans and spread to many other cultures including the founders of our nation. It is differentiated from subject-specific educational institutions like a math and science academy or a performing arts school.

We have chosen this liberal arts philosophy for the core reasons that it will help our students to love learning, to be well-rounded, and to show responsibility in whatever they do in life and for the Kingdom. The unexpected blessing of this education is that it typically also makes a person merciful. As you read and learn in such a broad way, it opens your eyes to view things from your neighbor's perspective. This will prepare you for serving on a jury, for working in a dentist's office, for helping in the new building, or for leading your family in worship.

Thank You!

We are so grateful for all of you who make this school such a great place to be. Here's a shout-out to our committees from this past year.

- ❖ Board: John Boersma, Luke Darling, Bill Regnerus, Mr. Pete Smith, and Mr. Brian Yonkman
- ❖ Building Committee: John Boersma, Jeff Helmus, Jeff Huizenga, Bill Regnerus, Dave Sitter, and Steve Vander Woude
- ❖ Education Committee: Mr. Pete Smith, Alison Vander Woude, Mr. Ed VanderWoude, and Mr. Brian Yonkman
- ❖ Finance Committee: Luke Darling and Mr. Brian Yonkman
- ❖ Promotion Committee: Luke Darling, Jess Hoekstra, Bill and Charity Regnerus
- ❖ Room Moms: Erica Bice, Sarah Boer, Ruth Helmus, Jess Hoekstra, Charity Regnerus, and Mrs. Diane Smith

Thank You and Blessings!

Also, we give a heart-felt thank you to Sara Grace Baugh who was a volunteer teacher aide this year. She assisted in the combined phonics and math classes in Kindergarten, 1st, & 2nd grades. She also aided in the 1st ~ 4th grade p.e. classes. In addition, she jumped in to help in any other way she could find—assisting the teachers and the Principal and covering many needed areas. She was also a mature and Godly influence on our students' lives. She will be greatly missed, and we pray for God's blessings on her in the fall as she begins her studies at Covenant College to be a teacher.

Retirement

DEFINITION: leaving one's workplace in order to devote all time and energy to working for the Lord (*taken from the Lange dictionary*)

Providence has been so blessed for the last five years with the addition of Ms. Lange to the faculty. Her expertise in music and in physical education as well as her tutelage of individual students has served us far beyond what we expected when she first came on board. In addition, she has grown the culture of our school in the areas of diligence, beauty, and doing all to God's glory. While we are sad for ourselves and will miss her weekly presence, we are thankful for how the Lord is using her for His Kingdom. She is still with us as part of our larger community/body (if you will).

Loving every child and teacher each day at school

Exercising our students' bodies

Angelically singing God's Word and His truth in songs and hymns

Noticing every need and filling in the gap

Nurturing our students who needed extra help

Leading us all in excellence and diligence

Anticipating needs and meeting them

Never giving up and never wearying in God's service

Growing and stretching our students beyond what they expected

Encouraging everyone to do all to God's glory

New Building

- ❖ Have you seen the pictures on line? Have you seen the building for yourself? Have you already been over to help? Come again to see the improvement and what's left to do! We need all hands on deck in order to be ready to move in and to be ready for school to open on August 16th.
- ❖ Since our new theme is Unity in the Body of Christ, the new building gives us the perfect opportunity to be the "hands and feet" of the body. Even the older students are encouraged to join in and help. They have exhibited their love for serving in our trips to the Children's Hunger Fund as well as our school work days. Cleaning the base boards is a perfect task for these young and willing young people whose knees can take a lot more than our older ones can. (Am I right, Laura?) Come use your "elbow grease" to fulfill your role in the body of Christ for the good of the body and for God's glory!
- ❖ Here is the last listed date to help. There may be further dates emailed.
 - Saturday, June 30 beginning at 8:00 am
- ❖ Please refer to Bill's email of June 2 for more detailed information. The Board's challenge to us is that every family will participate in the cleaning and renovation of our new building. So far, some have been there enough times that we lost count. In addition to many parents, we've had grandparents, students, teachers, and even some members of the extended constituency. Don't get left out!
- ❖ Tentative move-in date (if all the work gets done): Saturday, July 14
 - help needed to move items out of FUMC and into new building
 - help needed to do a final cleaning of FUMC to leave things better than we found them

Items of Note

- ❖ **MUSIC:** The Board is still in search of a music teacher for next year. If you have anyone further to suggest, please let me or any Board member know. Also, please continue to pray that God would send the right person.
- ❖ **SCHOOL HOURS:** In order to extend the morning teaching time for math and phonics classes and also to be a little closer to Illiana's time for pick-up, the Board has adjusted the school day to be very close to what it used to be before we moved so close to T. F. South. The new school hours are:
 - 8:10 am – drop off at Providence
 - 8:25 am – school starts
 - 2:55 pm – closing prayer and pack up
 - 3:00 pm – pick up at Providence
- ❖ On Tuesday, August 14, we plan to have our “Welcome back to school!” **ICE CREAM SOCIAL**. All families are invited to join in the fellowship. We will drop off school supplies and of course fellowship with familiar and new friends. There will tentatively be an extra celebration in thankfulness for our new building.
- ❖ Get excited! Thursday, August 16 is the **FIRST DAY** of school!

1 Corinthians 12:12 & 27

12 For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ.

27 Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.