



THE PRINCIPAL'S PAMPHLET

by Melodie McKenzie



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PROVIDENCE CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

Lansing, IL

Purpose: To Educate for Christ

At Westminster Presbyterian Church, our pastor is preaching through 1 Peter. We've been hearing sermons on who we are in Christ and how to be holy as Christ is holy. This past Lord's Day, we heard how we are foreigners—citizens of another place. When we spend time dwelling on these truths, the cares of this world (and the failings of our government and society) melt into the background. Instead, our thoughts and efforts are geared toward building a city that is not made with hands.

This is from our school's Constitution:

The purpose of this Association is to promote and provide, in conformity with our Basis and Principles, educational instruction and guidance so that the students may be equipped for the present and the future to take their place in the home, the church, society, and their vocation in a manner that is covenantally faithful and honoring to God.

In the Bible, "truth" and "knowledge" are not abstracted from life but determine and shape our lives. We are to be not only "hearers of the Word," but also "doers of the Word" (James 1:22). Therefore, the education process is not only to teach the children information and skills, but also to equip them with a Christian world and life view in order to fulfill our responsibility in God's kingdom. It is to give them opportunities and encouragement to actually use those skills to serve God and other people.

From the very beginning, our school had in mind the importance of being covenantally faithful to God and serving in His kingdom. As we are stepping through each school day with our math, writing, literature, history, etc., we keep in mind the end goal that is outside of this world. Academic learning is a stepping stone to equipping the students for honoring God in all they do.

Theme of the Year

Because we believe in equipping our covenant children for service in God's kingdom, it is essential to teach them who we are in Christ. One new way that we will accomplish that this year is to have a theme of the year for chapels and devotionals. Because our history cycle has swung around to medieval history this year, we have chosen the Armor of God to be our theme. It reminds us of the brave men and women who defended their faith in dark times.

One way the theme will play out is in many of our chapels for the year. On most months, the chapel is scheduled for the third Tuesday of the month. This way, you can plan your calendars to be there for as many as you would like. Many of our ministers will address a portion of Ephesians 6:10-18 on the Armor of God. There will also be other chapels on wisdom and the Gospel.

Another way the theme of the year will be addressed is in the classrooms. Our teachers will use the Armor of God to guide the students in classroom interactions. Also, I will kick off each month with a devotional on the theme. Here are the monthly titles:

- o September: soldiers of God
- o October: fighting against evil
- o November: belt of truth
- o December: breastplate of righteousness
- o January: feet shod w/gospel of peace
- o February: shield of faith
- o March: helmet of salvation
- o April: sword of the Spirit
- o May: praying at all times in the Spirit

We trust that this will serve to focus our school on our overall purpose of equipping our students for service in God's kingdom.

Welcome!

We are pleased to welcome three new families to our school this year. The Bice family, the Gephart family, and the Wright family.

The Bice family is no stranger to many since Erica Bice is Rick and Valerie Knoll's daughter. Josh and Erica live in Steger and will be sending their daughter, Kyah, to kindergarten with her grandmother.

Cary and Karese Gephart live in South Holland, IL. They are enrolling their sons, Keagan and Peyton, in the 5th grade. Cary is starting his second year at Mid-America Reformed Seminary.

As I wrote in my last principal newsletter, we are pleased to welcome Mrs. Louise Wright teaching in person this year. Rev. Iain Wright is the minister at Covenant Orthodox Presbyterian Church in Orland Park, IL. Their son, Ruairidh, will be in 4th grade.

We all look forward to welcoming these families as we gather on the 15th over our bowls of ice cream.

“May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.”

Romans 15:5-7

Announcements

- ❖ **Another Welcome:** This year, we have a special addition to our school. Sarah Grace Baugh, Shannon Onnink's daughter and Margaret's sister, will be serving as an aide in the younger classrooms. She is finishing up her final high school courses and intends to pursue college with the goal of teaching in a classical, Christian school. She has volunteered to spend parts of two days a week at Providence helping in whatever way she can. The majority of her time will be spent helping Mrs. Knoll and Miss Haveman in their combined phonics and math classes. She will also aide Miss Lange in 1st - 4th grade PE class. If you have any questions concerning this, please see Mrs. McKenzie. We welcome Miss Baugh!
- ❖ **Chapels:** Our school community is invited to all Providence chapels. Unless otherwise noted, chapel is from 8:40 - 9:10 am. Here is a list of the chapels scheduled so far. (There is still one more pending chapel in the fall semester slated for Grandparents Day.)
 - Aug. 17 - Rev. VanderHart
 - Sept. 19 - Rev. Wright
 - Oct. 17 - Rev. Joling
 - Nov. 21 - Rev. Vermeer
 - Dec. 12 - Rev. Anema

Items of Note

- ❖ **Ice Cream Social:** We are excited to welcome all of you and especially our new families on Tuesday, August 15, at 7:00 pm for our welcome back to school night. Feel free to bring your supplies with you so that you don't have to bring so many things on the first day of school.

- ❖ **Calendar:** We have updated the Providence calendar to include the dates for our all-school events for the year. It is included as a separate document with this newsletter.

- ❖ **Illinois Health Requirements:** Our school has submitted the application to receive vision and hearing screenings, so that is pending. We'll send the information on that date as we receive it. The health requirements are listed on our school's website under [Parents/Medical Forms](#). We ask that (other than the outstanding vision/hearing) you have all these forms submitted by the first day of school. If this is not possible, please write Mrs. McKenzie a note letting her know what day they will be turned in (even if you already told her verbally). Thank you so much.

❖ **First United Methodist Church:** We are so grateful for the open arms of the folks here. They are so welcoming of us and flexible to our needs. Here are some things about our location that you need to know.

- The main entrance with a doorbell is Door 1 on the north side of the building. This is the entrance that our school uses during daytime hours. For evening events, we often open the door off of the parking lot.
- The doorbell at Door 1 is only answered from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm by the office staff (usually Lori). If you come to school outside of those times, please give your classroom teacher or me a text or call, and we'll come open the door for you.
- Parking on either side of the street by Door 1 (Ann Street) is fine when coming during school hours. The no parking signs are for the high school students so they don't park there. Our families are "authorized."
- Please note that Ann Street is marked no left turn during daytime school hours.