



THE PRINCIPAL'S PAMPHLET

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Unity in Our Purpose

What makes the difference between children who grow up in the Church and with a Christian education and go on to live faithful, Godly lives and those children with the same upbringing who wander on their own path either leaving the faith or drifting off into mediocre evangelicalism? Does membership in a NAPARC church or graduating from Providence Christian Academy guarantee life-long faithfulness? If you cannot guarantee your child's salvation, what hope do you as a parent have for your children? While each parent longs, prays, and makes a multitude of choices to plant the child in the truth, it is God who gives the increase.

Here at Providence, we believe there are some tangible ways that God uses to grow His covenant children into the image of Christ. He does indeed use membership in a Biblical church and the confessions that faithful and diligent students of His Word have written. He also uses Christian schools who are faithful to the truth.

One reason why most or all of you chose our school is the high emphasis we place on a Christian worldview. While having a firm, Biblical basis of confessional theology is an essential first step, we must go beyond just knowing the truth. Children develop their own Christian worldview from seeing their parents live a daily Christ-centered life making each decision in light of God's Word. "More is caught than taught" they say.

Taking every thought captive to Christ is an hour by hour, minute by minute task. How do you determine how much screen time is appropriate? What sort of snacks do you buy and which do you avoid? Who do you invite over to spend time with your family? What do you do on Sunday afternoons? How do we sort out disagreements between fellow Christians? What is appropriate to wear? Through each of these matters, you are shaping your children to see how God would have us use the principles and truths of His Word to guide every aspect of our lives whether formative or seemingly mundane.

We can think of the fundamental doctrines of the faith as the roots of a plant that keep us grounded in God's truth and also that feed us all the nutrients we need to thrive. Specifically, we can use the overarching themes of creation, fall, redemption, and

consummation. As we go through our day to day lives, this puts situations in the framework of God's world. For instance, a student is sent to the principal's office due to disrespecting a classmate. The child is reminded that this classmate is made in God's image and thus to be honored and respected. Due to the fall, we make wrong choices and follow the devil instead of our Lord, but in Christ we have forgiveness when we confess our sins. One day, we will be reunited in glory and all of us will worship God in unity.

Our Christian worldview is the stem and leaves of that plant as it grows up. It is rooted in those fundamental truths of creation, fall, redemption, and consummation. All of life is related back to those doctrines and what they mean in life.

This leads us to the crowning glory of the plant—the beautiful flower that blooms on the top. The face of the flower is our children made in God's image. He stamps Himself on us so that His glory is seen in each and every child. This shapes how we as parents and teachers view our job in shaping and discipling these image-bearers.

Our picture of a flower is nearly complete. It is strongly rooted in Biblical doctrine, it grows on the strong stem of applying a Christian worldview across life, and the crowning flower of God's image shows its beauty. This alone is pleasant to the eye, but a flower is also beautifully fragrant. As honorable Christians, our fragrance is our humility. This is another aspect that sets us apart from the world. We do not take the afore-mentioned beauty upon ourselves as if it were our making. Instead, all glory that appears in us is from our beautiful Savior whose image we bear. In humility, we give all tribute to God for making us who we are. In all of this, we have a firm and abiding hope in our children staying true to their baptisms. Praise to God alone!

This article was written after reading chapter 3 in the book *Wisdom and Eloquence* by Littlejohn and Evans. The Board and I are reading this book and discussing a chapter each month. I highly recommend it to all of our families as it is helpful in shaping the thought behind what we are doing here at Providence. It can be found at Crossway or Amazon.

Unity in our Teaching

This year, our theme of Unity in the Body of Christ has worked itself out in our chapel services and also in our morning devotions. We are focusing on I Corinthians 12:12-27. We've already learned how Christ has adopted us together into one family and given us His Spirit to unite us. We've also seen how God chose each of us to play an important role in His body and how each member is different than one another and also necessary for the whole body to be complete.

Watching this truth play out at our school is such a privilege! At the beginning of each month, I teach a lesson on the next set of verses (also attached). Then, later in the month our ministers come to lead chapel deepening our knowledge. The students are working on treating one another with the love and respect due each other. They've been viewing their differences as a gift from God. (In fact, one group of students has even been doing secret good deeds around the school.)

These differences in our gifts are also seen in the way each of you serve our school. Our families do not all serve in the same way. God is pleased to take these different giftings and use them together to make one united beautiful school. Where one is weak, another steps in to fill the gap. God is so wise to bring such differing people together to make something far more beautiful than any one member alone.

I Thessalonians 1:2-4

"We give thanks to God always for all of you, constantly mentioning you in our prayers, remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. For we know, brothers loved by God, that he has chosen you."

Announcements

- ❖ Chapels: We welcome our school community to our upcoming chapels held in Suite D from 8:25 – 8:55 am.
 - Tuesday, February 19 – Rev. Wright, Covenant OPC
 - Tuesday, March 19 – Rev. Gephart, Cottage Grove CRC

- ❖ History Exhibits: The 6th – 8th graders have been working for the past few months on history projects to expand their learning. Similarly to the science projects from last year, they plan to display them at Recitation Night. On Thursday & Friday, March 21 & 22 at 8:25 am, the students will be presenting their work. You are all invited to attend in Suite D.

- ❖ Village Woods: Several years ago, we visited Village Woods in order to share a portion of our Recitation Night program and also so that our current students could see the humble roots where our school began. This year, we plan to do the same. On Friday, March 29, we will head over to Village Woods, share part of our recitation program, and spend a little extra time interacting with the dear folks there. We hope to make this an annual event. Please consider joining us for this service opportunity.

- ❖ Phil's Friends: On Tuesday, Feb. 12, we were all set to leave for our service field trip to make cards and pack hope packs at Phil's Friends when they closed due to weather. While the students were quite disappointed, they handled the news graciously. We gathered in the Great Room and still made the cards for those struggling with cancer. We watched part of a video from [their website](#) to learn about the ministry, and then we stood in a big circle holding hands and each student lifted prayers for the folks there.

Goings On at Providence



6th – 8th grade:
Periodic Table
Battleship in
Chemistry

Connections in Kindergarten

A week after learning a memory verse from John 4:24 and discussing what it means that "God is spirit...", the class was discussing the Ten Commandments. They talked about the first two commandments and why we should have no other gods and why we shouldn't make images or idols. Mrs. Knoll asked the students how it is that God can see and know everyone everywhere. One student responded with "because He's a spirit". Then a week later, in the review, the class was asked why it was wrong to make idols. One student threw up his hands saying, "What can idols do for you? They can't do nothing! They're just statues you made."

1st & 2nd grade:
Young
Michelangelos
in Art Class



Upcoming Events

- Monday, Feb. 18 – Presidents Day, no school
- Tuesday, Feb. 19 – Chapel, Rev. Wright
- Wednesday, Feb. 20 – Field Trip: K – 2nd to Governor's State to see "The Cat in the Hat"
- Monday, March 4 – Kindergarten Preview Day
- Monday, March 4 – Early dismissal, 2:00 pm
- Tuesday, March 19 – Chapel, Rev. Gephart
- Thurs. & Fri, March 21, 22 – History Projects, 8:25 am in Suite D
- Monday – Thursday, March 25 – 28 – Iowa Basics Tests
- Thursday, March 28 – Recitation Night, 7:00 pm in Suite D
- Friday, March 29 – Field Trip: 1st – 8th to Village Woods
- Saturday, March 30 – Sunday, April 7 – Spring Break
- Monday, April 8 – Early dismissal, 2:00 pm
- Tuesday, April 16 – Field Trip: Young Authors (2 students)
- Friday, April 19 – Good Friday, no school
- Thursday, April 25 – Association Meeting, 7:00 pm
- Monday, May 6 – Field Trip: 3rd – 4th to Governor's State
- Monday, May 6 – Field Trip: 7th – 8th to Irish American Center for a Shakespeare play
- Monday, May 6 – Early dismissal, 2:00 pm
- Thursday & Friday, May 23 & 24 – 7th & 8th Class Trip
- Monday, May 27 – Memorial Day, no school
- Tuesday, May 28 – 8th Grade Graduation, Lynwood URC, 7pm
- Thursday, May 30 – 12:00pm dismissal on last day of school