



A Christ-centered and Classical Education

As a Christian school, Schaeffer Academy believes and teaches that:

- 1) **Christ is Lord of everything** – not just the Bible or religion. He is the source and standard of all truth, beauty, and goodness.
- 2) **All people have violated Christ's Lordship**. They fall short of His standards of truth, beauty, and goodness. They need God's gracious forgiveness and salvation.
- 3) **God has revealed Himself and His way of forgiveness and salvation**. He has revealed Himself and His way of salvation in a special way in the Bible. So, we study the Bible. He has revealed Himself in a general way in nature and history. So, we study the world around us.

As a classical school, Schaeffer Academy's:

- 1) **Methodology is based on the Trivium of Grammar, Logic, and Rhetoric**. Every subject has a grammar, a logic, and a rhetoric. Grammar is the basic facts, rules, and information. Logic is valid reasoning and arguing with grammar. Rhetoric is skilled and persuasive communication of grammar and logic. We emphasize grammar in elementary school, logic in middle school, and rhetoric in high school. The trivium is very important in our definition of a classical school, but it is not the complete definition.
- 2) **Curriculum requires the study of a classical language – Latin**. We think that Latin is important because, in the words of Dorothy Sayers, "Even a rudimentary knowledge of Latin cuts down the labor and pains of learning almost any other subject by at least 50 percent. It is the key to the vocabulary and structure of all the Romance languages and to the structure of all the Teutonic languages, as well as to the technical vocabulary of all the sciences and to the literature of the entire Mediterranean civilization, together with all its historical documents."
- 3) **Curriculum focuses on the great ideas, books, and art of Western Civilization**. We do not worship our past. Much that has been done in the West has been wrong. However much has also been right. Since we cannot evaluate our current situation by comparing it to the future, we must compare it with the past if we are to evaluate it at all. Furthermore, we believe that humility is a Christian virtue and that to ignore the past is arrogant.
- 4) **Curriculum is academically rigorous**. We emphasize academic excellence. Academically disciplined study of God's Word and God's world is important, meaningful work that deserves our best efforts. We believe that students need to be guided and stretched by their teachers. We do not believe that students should be left to study only what they feel like studying.
- 5) **Vision of true education requires relationships and joy**. Teachers, students, and parents must know, trust, and care about one another for the highest levels of learning to be attained and enjoyed – and learning should be enjoyed. It should be a blessing.

Of course there is much more that could be said about our Christian faith and our academic philosophy.

Keith E. Phillips, Headmaster