

What is Classical Education?

This is one of the most asked questions of Schaeffer Academy! Classical education teaches children how to think and how to learn, not just what to know. The classical model used at Schaeffer Academy recognizes that students learn differently at different ages and it uses these differences to its advantage. The model divides learning into 3 stages known as the "Trivium".

Classical refers to the structure, form, and content of the studies. Classical education:

- 1) Emphasizes **grammar**, **logic** and **rhetoric** in all subjects.

By **grammar** we mean the fundamental rules of each subject, as well as basic data that exhibit those rules. Each subject has its own grammar, which the student is required to learn. This enables the student to learn the subject inside out. Students absorb the fundamentals about language, numbers and the created world. Their attention is engaged through songs, chants, movement, hands-on projects and field trips

The **logic** of each subject refers to the ordered relationships of the subject's particulars. As the students learn the underlying rules or principles of a subject (grammar) along with how the particulars of that subject relate to one another (logic), they are learning to think. They learn how to apply the principles of formal logic as they analyze and make use of the facts and information.

The last emphasis is **rhetoric**. We want our students to be able to express clearly everything they learn. Students at this state are ready to communicate what they know and believe in an original and effective manner. They learn and practice the art of rhetoric in well written papers, well-spoken speeches and well-reasoned debates.

- 2) Encourage every student to develop a love for learning and live up to his or her academic potential. In order for this to occur, the teachers must demonstrate that excitement to the students. If this goal is successfully reached the student will spend the rest of his life building on the foundation laid during his time at Schaeffer Academy. Not only did the child receive the tools of learning, he or she acquired the desire to use them.
- 3) Provide an orderly atmosphere conducive to the attainment of the above goals. The environment is structured and loving and does not allow for chaos. Parents are involved in the discipline of a child.

Portions of the above description of classical education is excerpted from Douglas Wilson's book **Recovering the Lost Tools of Learning: An approach to Distinctively Christian Education.** You are encouraged to look further into his book that is available at your local Christian book stores.

We believe that parents have a God-Ordained obligation to provide an education to their children that is permeated with God's Word. We seek to be an extension of the parent in providing an education with a Christian World View that will give children the tools necessary to critically analyze conflicting points of view and to be able to defend their beliefs logically. The parents will be intimately involved with the education process.

We believe that a classical education is the best means possible to acquire what the Bible refers to as knowledge, which by God's will leads to understanding, which in turn leads to wisdom.