



# PROVIDENCE CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

**exists to assist parents in the covenantal education  
of their children. We instruct students from a  
Biblical perspective, within a confessionally  
Reformed and classical framework, teaching them to  
exalt Christ by pursuing truth, beauty, and goodness.**



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## THE PRINCIPAL'S PAMPHLET

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by Melodie McKenzie



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Dyer, Indiana

## Theme of the Year

In a world of uncertainty, what can we give our students to cling to in order to keep them safe? It is of course our good God. We'll begin this year dwelling on God's character. In Exodus, there is a passage that furnishes us with a number of God's attributes.

God had already given the Ten Commandments. Moses through his anger at the people's sin had broken the tablets. In chapter 34, the LORD told Moses to prepare two tablets like the first and bring them up the mountain for God to write the commandments again. Moses prepared and then climbed Mount Sinai where we read:

5 The LORD descended in the cloud and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of the LORD. 6 The LORD passed before him and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, 7 keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children and the children's children, to the third and the fourth generation." 8 And Moses quickly bowed his head toward the earth and worshiped. --Exodus 34:5-8

Here, in addition to the importance of God's name, we also see His mercy, grace, love, faithfulness, and forgiveness. Calvin teaches us in the *Institutes of the Christian Religion* that "Without knowledge of self, there is no knowledge of God," and "Without knowledge of God, there is no knowledge of self." The students will be directed to turn their thoughts and hearts upwards to learn of their God. In addition to compelling our worship, this knowledge of God will shape their view of themselves. From there, we'll turn in the second half of the year to how we are stamped in the image of our Creator.

In Colossians 3, we read how we are created in God's image. Since we are fallen, we must put off the old man and put on the righteousness of Christ. We are meant to mirror God's character since that is how He first created us. "This is our highest perfection and blessing—to bear the image of God." (*Calvin's Commentary XXI*, p. 212) Verses 12-15 say,

12 Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. 13 Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. 14 And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. 15 Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts,



since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. --Colossians 3:12-15

As we spend the year first meditating on God and then learning how we follow and imitate Him, our prayer is that we will grow each day in His likeness. Even amidst opening the year in a degree of uncertainty for what the future holds, we stand firm in what is certain in life.

“Once you become aware that the main business that you are here for is to know God, most of life's problems fall into place of their own accord.”

~J.I. Packer, *Knowing God*

## Welcome!

In addition to the Svendsen family who we introduced last spring, we are pleased to welcome two additional new families to our school this year: the Steffen family and the Woldhuis family. We are also excited to introduce our new faculty!

Quinn and Sadie Steffen just moved to Munster from Oak Park. They have enrolled their daughter, Skye, into the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade. Their church is Westminster OPC.

Trevor and Heidi Woldhuis are no strangers to many since Trevor's aunt and uncle, the Huizengas, have been with us from the beginning. Trevor and Heidi will be sending their son, Elijah, to kindergarten. Their church is Faith URC.

We are very pleased to welcome three of our own parents onto our faculty. Mrs. Sarah Boer will be our Academic Support teacher aide, Mrs. Karese Gephart will be our P.E. teacher, and Mrs. Shari Spoolstra will be teaching Art classes to the 1<sup>st</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> graders.

We all look forward to welcoming these families and faculty as we gather tonight over our bowls of ice cream.

## Faculty for 2020 - 2021

- ❖ We are pleased to announce the faculty list for this school year.
  - Mrs. Sarah Boer: Academic Support
  - Mrs. Marj Colvin: 5<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> choir
  - Mrs. Kim Darling: 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> drama
  - Mrs. Karese Gephart: 1<sup>st</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> PE
  - Mrs. Valerie Knoll: Kindergarten homeroom, 1<sup>st</sup> phonics, 3<sup>rd</sup> composition, 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> spelling
  - Miss Leann Lange: K - 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup> music
  - Mrs. Melodie McKenzie: Principal, 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> math
  - Mrs. Ashley Noffsinger: 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> homeroom, K - 2<sup>nd</sup> science
  - Mrs. Liz Porte: 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> homeroom, 6<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> science
  - Mrs. Shari Spoolstra: 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> art
  - Mrs. Doris Trestler: 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> homeroom, Latin A (3<sup>rd</sup>), 4<sup>th</sup> composition, 3<sup>rd</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> science
  - Mr. Ed Vander Woude: 8<sup>th</sup> logic
  - Mrs. Louise Wright: 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> homeroom including Bible, literature, history/geography, 6<sup>th</sup> logic, and grammar, as well as 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup>, and 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> Latin

“We ask you, brothers, to respect those who labor among you and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, and to esteem them very highly in love because of their work.”

1 Thessalonians 5:12-13a



## Announcements

- ❖ **Chapels:** Our school community is invited to all Providence chapels. Unless otherwise noted, chapel is from 8:25 – 8:55 am. Our **FIRST CHAPEL** is on the first day of school, **THURSDAY, AUGUST 20, 2020**. We are pleased to welcome Rev. Wright from Covenant OPC.  
Please join us in Suite D for chapel. If you are staying, please drop off your children at the back entrance per the regular routine. Then, circle around to park in the front of the school. Thank you.
- ❖ **Logic School Night:** The Education Committee is very thankful for the good turnout of parents last Thursday for Logic School Night. We are also grateful to the 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade students who participated in a demonstration to round out our evening. Mrs. Porte gave very helpful information on what Logic School is and how to succeed. We were greatly blessed to hear from a number of families who have already navigated the waters and who shared very helpful advice.
- ❖ **Ice Cream Social:** We are excited to welcome all of you and especially our new families to the **ICE CREAM SOCIAL** on Tuesday, August 18, at 7:00 pm at the school. Feel free to bring your supplies so that you don't have to bring so many things on the first day of school.
- ❖ **P.E. Clothes:** Our first P.E. classes will be held on Friday, August 21. Please have your 5<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade students bring their P.E. **UNIFORMS** in a separate P.E. bag. Please refer to the school handbook for uniform standards.