



The Impact of COVID on Schooling at PCA

Principal McKenzie

As you look back on the first half of the year, what has been the most impacted part of schooling under Covid?

The day to day work of schooling has not been impacted very much. However, it has been time-consuming keeping up with all the changes and reading new information.

With all that was unknown and unexpected that has transpired is there anything you didn't expect on Day 1 of school that has emerged as very different this year?

We did expect absences but they are proving much longer than we would have anticipated. Our families have been cautious with keeping their children out when they are sick, so there is more make-up work to catch students up when they return. So far, the families and children have handled it very well and completed all their work.

There is always diversity of thought on important matters. I had been praying that our differences wouldn't divide us in this tense time.

I will say as well that wearing a mask while teaching was a significant concern of the staff.

There was an unexpected blessing in discovering the clear face shields that the faculty uses. I had been most sad that our students would not see the smiling face of a teacher when they come to school. One teacher found the clear face shields online. When the next teacher ordered one it came in a six pack. It arrived just in time for the first day of school and she shared with all of us. I count that as a eucatastrophe (sudden and favorable resolution of events).

With Covid we've all at times been guilty of focusing on only the downsides of all of this. Is there perhaps something good or redeeming about all of this that you have noticed happening?

We have tried to direct the students to think not about themselves but to be more aware of others and their needs. We've seen this come into play by students praying for persecuted Christians and by students finding ways to show thanks to others in unsolicited ways.

Is there anything you thought would be difficult but hasn't been?

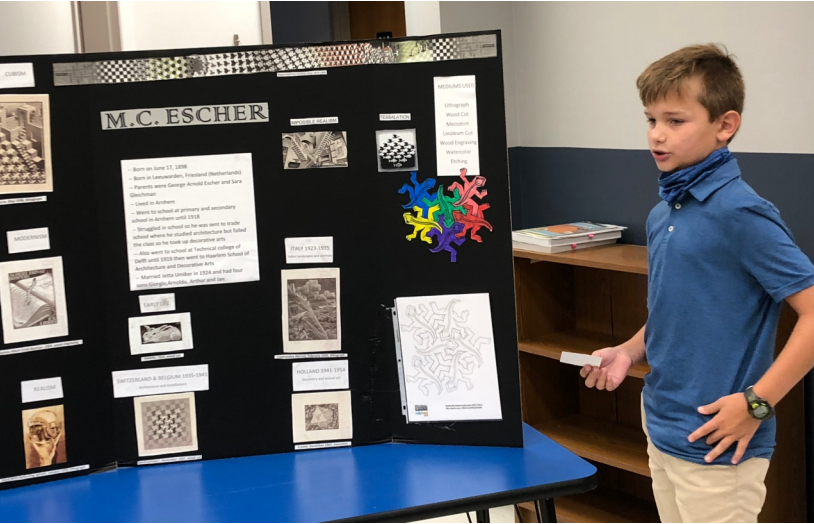
There is always diversity of thought on important matters. I had been praying that our differences wouldn't divide us in this tense time. By God's grace, our school community has been at peace with one another. This is a huge blessing from God.

How about the lighter side of all of this. Has anything funny or humorous happened this year due to changes, masks, shields etc?

The students like to bring their stuffed animals from home to play with at recess. One day, a stuffed dog came to school wearing a mask.



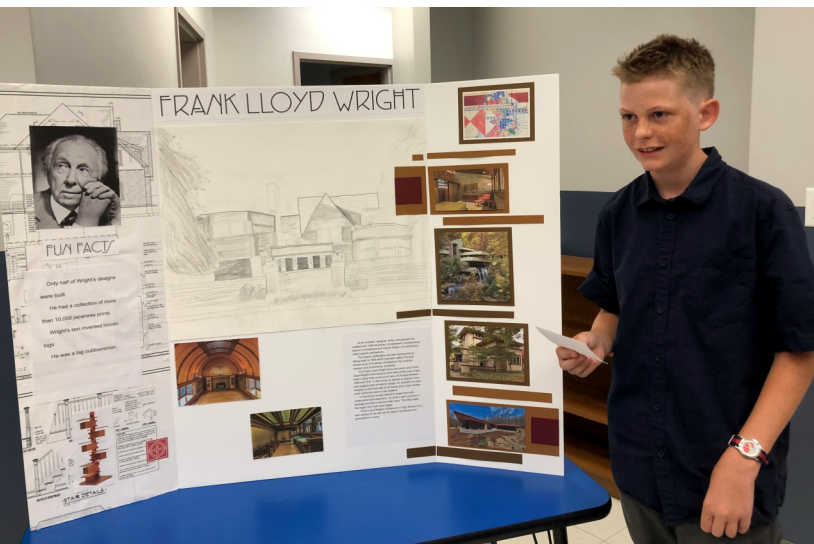
6th-8th Grade: Fine Arts Project



The subject of the 6-8 grade projects this year was Fine Arts, which includes such subjects as painting, sculpture, architecture, music, poetry, and the performing arts such as theater and dance. As in past years, the subject chosen was related to the period of history being studied.

This year the students were able to choose how to present their project. They had the option of doing a research report on tri-fold displays; performing an instrument or singing; presenting a memorized recitation of poetry or literature; or presenting a monologue from a play.

As you might expect, we had a wide variety of subjects covered in student reports, such as medieval stained glass, the author Dante Alghieri and the art of Vincent Van Gogh. Some students performed recitations and monologues presented



from The Canterbury Tales and The Comedy of Errors while others gave musical performances. As has been the case with past projects, the work this year was well done and the students are to be commended.

We pray that these projects helped to further the mission of Providence Christian Academy to equip our students for a life-long pursuit of truth, beauty and goodness.



10 Years at Providence Christian Academy

Doris Trester

You have dedicated a lot of your life to Providence, after 10 years why here?

Every year brings new students and new methods and opportunities to help in the education of our covenant children. I am very thankful for the faculty, the board, and the parents who have been truly kind and gracious to me all through the years. It is wonderful to be able to work with those who share in the desire to give God glory and to seek truth, beauty, and goodness in our children.

How is teaching at PCA different from teaching at other schools?

I am challenged every year to bring something new to the curriculum that we teach here. We are encouraged to adjust and enhance what we teach. For the last several years I have been working on adding primary sources to the History curriculum. It is an opportunity to hear the stories of History through the eyes of the people who lived during the time or event that we are studying. Most of all, I enjoy being in the company of like-minded fellow believers.

How have things changed for you in the past 10 years?

There certainly have been changes in the last 10 years. Every time we moved it was because we needed more space. We are now in our permanent facility and I am very thankful we are here. I have seen several graduating classes and although I miss the students that are gone, it is fun to see new students and new families that have joined our school.

Has the growth of PCA been challenging or did it come natural?

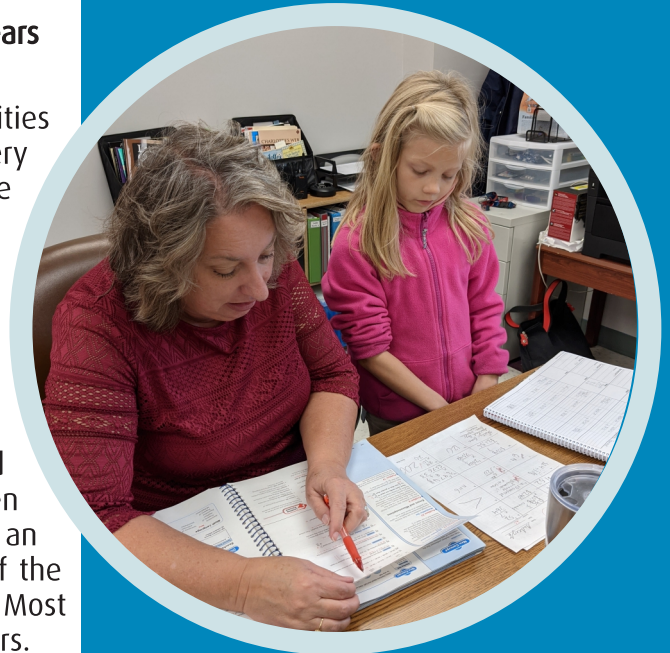
I am thankful that it has been a general progression throughout the years. If the growth had occurred all at once, it would have been hard to manage. It is a blessing that we have a collaborative spirit that embodies the staff. Everyone is willing to help one another out, especially as we have added staff throughout the years.

What was the most difficult change?

It is hard saying goodbye to the students who have graduated. I have so many wonderful memories of the times we had shared together. It has been also difficult to say goodbye to teachers who have moved on to other opportunities.

What is your favorite thing about teaching?

I love it when the students are engaged in their learning. It is so much fun seeing them respond with delight and eagerness in the subject matter. It is great when they can make connections to what they are learning with another subject or life situation.



Meet Our New Staff

Liz Porte



Why did you become a teacher?

I had some excellent teachers who were great role models. When I went to college, I became a Christian and felt the Lord calling me to teach, but with a new perspective - a biblical worldview. I want to challenge my students to find truth, beauty, and goodness everywhere and encourage them in their walk with the Lord. I am blessed to do a job I love.

Can you give us a glimpse of your teaching history?

When I received my teaching degree from Northern Illinois University, teaching jobs were scarce. By God's mercy, I got a job teaching second grade in a public school in Riverdale, IL the week after I graduated. I taught there two years before starting our family. I had two roles at Unity Christian School: I taught a combined sixth, seventh, and eighth grade class. I was the principal and had extra duties, such as leading staff meetings, setting up fire drills and field trips, and handling discipline.

What has your experience at Providence been like, so far?

It has been a busy time of learning new routines and procedures, getting to know students, parents, and teachers, learning new curriculum and doing lots of reading and studying, so I can stay a step or two ahead of my students. I love the culture of our school; it's a very nurturing place, and I have the highest regard for the Board and in particular, our Principal, who has been a model of gracious support. I am delighted to be a part of Providence!



Kindergarten

PREVIEW DAY

FOR THE 2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR!

WHEN: Monday, February 8, 2021

TIME: 9:00 - 11:00 AM

**LOCATION: Providence Christian Academy
14795 101st Avenue in Dyer, Indiana**



While prospective Kindergarten students “go to school” for the morning, parents will hear more about the Christian, classical education offered at Providence and how to prepare their child for Kindergarten.

Visit WWW.PROVIDENCECA.ORG for more information

Drama Class

Greek Theater Using a Different Kind of Mask

This year the Drama students studied Ancient Greek theatre. The greek actors would commonly wear masks during their performance and so too do our students. The students were given a mask and an opportunity to paint them any way they liked.



Field Trip Showcase

Gabis Arboretum

A typical Providence school year has the students out and about on field trips regularly especially in the Fall and Spring. Gabis Arboretum was able to welcome some of the students this Fall for memorable outdoor exploration. One intrepid bird watcher even noted a Nuthatch and sketched a drawing in honor of their find!





Providence Christian Academy

14795 101st Avenue
Dyer, Indiana 46311

"Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it."

--*Proverbs 22:6 ESV*

To learn more about Providence Christian Academy
please visit www.providenceca.org

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**If you would like information about
setting up a classroom visit, please
contact us by phone or email.

