

Providence Perspectives

Equipping our covenant youth for the present and for the future.



Fall 2013

Welcome, Mrs. Melodie McKenzie!

Greetings! My name is Melodie McKenzie. I am the new first and second grade teacher at Providence Christian Academy. It is such a blessing from God to once again be a part of a Reformed, classical Christian school.

God laid it on my heart to be a teacher from the time that I was in fourth grade. I grew up on the mission field in Germany from when I was one until I was sixteen. From 1st through 12th grade, I attended Christian schools and then went to Appalachian Bible College in West Virginia to study Bible and Elementary Education. While there, I married my wonderful husband, Rob. After I finished my BA, I taught at a Christian school for two years then spent two more years working in the government schools in a Bible in the Schools program.

When we moved to Chicago, I taught on the south side of Chicago. I then became the principal of Oak Park Christian Academy. In 2010, I worked an office job while taking graduate studies at Trinity International University in Deerfield. I just walked with my MA this spring. God has been gracious in leading the steps of my path.

Throughout my life, the Lord Jesus Christ has drawn me to Himself and remained faithful in times of trouble. One of my favorite verses is Matthew 10:29, 31: "Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. Fear not, therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows." God has His watchful eye on us all the time.

Teaching is such a delight. I love seeing the light come on as children make connections in what they are learning. It is also a particular delight to see spiritual growth in my students' lives. It is such a pleasure to read books with them as well as explore nature and find what our God has hidden there. My favorite book is Tolkien's *The Hobbit*, but for younger children I love Stevenson's *A Child's Garden of Verses*. I have too many favorite hymns to tell, but one is "Lord, with Glowing Heart I'd Praise Thee."

My husband, Rob, and I live in the near western suburbs of Chicago with our cat, Winkle. My mom & dad have just come home from the mission field of Scotland and now live in Missouri by my grandma. One of my sisters lives with her husband in Minnesota, and my other sister lives in New Hampshire with her husband and two adorable sons, Daniel (6) and David (2).

It is a pleasure to be a part of Providence Christian Academy. I look forward to getting to know each and every one of you. Thank you for making me part of your community.



Summer Teacher Inservice

This past August, Mrs. Camie Perrin led the Providence teaching staff in a three-day in-service training. Mrs. Perrin is the head of school of Covenant Classical, a classical and Christian school located in Naperville, Illinois, and has extensive experience in curriculum development and staff training from a classical perspective. She had previously met with the Providence Curriculum Committee to give them her input on the Providence curriculum, achievement testing, faculty development and other questions the committee had regarding putting a classical model into effect within a Christian school setting.

Topics covered over the three days included:

- What is Classical?
- The Classical Classroom in Action
- Creating a Classical Lesson
- The Multi Grade Level Classroom
- Planning for a Multi Grade Classroom
- Purpose and Planning of Assessments
- Science in the Classical Curriculum

During the course of the in-service training, Mrs. Perrin shared lesson plan templates, classroom management suggestions, sample tests and numerous other resources with the teachers. With Mrs. Perrin's input, the teachers also developed a lesson plan and created goals for the coming year based on what they had learned. The time spent in in-service training provided Doris, Valerie and Melodie with a valuable opportunity to develop their skills in applying the principles of the classical method to the classroom as they meet with their students each day.



Mrs. Melodie McKenzie

The 1st & 2nd grade students have Song School Latin twice a week where they learn songs that expose them to Latin words and expressions. They enjoy the way the words feel on the lips. The 3rd through 6th grade students are taking Latin class via Classical Academic Press. They have a new vocabulary list and chant chart each week and are tested on their knowledge. We also take time to read and translate Latin passages. The students have been amazed at their own ability to understand what a Latin text says.

Currently, our whole school is learning a Latin Table Blessing. It is an old text that has been used by the Church for centuries. Here is the text in Latin and English:

Benedic nos Dōmine et
haec Tūa dōna
quae de Tūa largitāte
sūmus sumptūri.
Per Chrístum Dōminum
nōstrum.
Āmen.



Bless us, O Lord,
and these Thy gifts,
which we are about
to receive
from Thy bounty,
through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Mrs. Doris Trestler

One of the many pleasures of teaching at Providence Christian Academy is to see the students joyfully singing in the morning their favorite psalms and hymns. They sing with such enthusiasm and wholehearted praise to our Heavenly Father and we give our Savior thanks that we are able to praise His name in song. This year's favorite hymns so far are "Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing" and "Nearer, Still Nearer."

As an extension of their singing, the students are also enthusiastic lovers of reciting memory verses, poems, and sound-offs. The older students have taken great delight in learning the poem by Robert Louis Stevenson, "The Land of Storybooks," as well as chanting a sound-off of important geographic terms and maps. The younger students have learned a song called "The Northern Border of the United States" while learning to identify those states by their shapes. They love to play Around the World as we see who is fastest in identifying those states. Memorizing a timeline chant is also helping them to learn the important dates and events in ancient world history.

It is good to see and hear our students give praise and glory to our marvelous Creator for the mighty works He has done for us.



Mrs. Valerie Knoll

Two days into the new school year I was challenged by one of my students with "Mrs. Knoll, I thought we were going to learn to read!" Well, I am pleased to say, after 6 weeks, that I have finally met their expectations. We just read together through our first reader. We have also learned to write number sentences, recite the 7 continents and 5 oceans, and have discovered why leaves change color in the fall. It's fun to see the excitement and enthusiasm these Kindergarteners have for learning.

The greatest joy, however, is seeing them grow in their understanding of the Lord through the pictures He gives to us in the Old Testament of who He is and what He has done.

from the

Board of Directors

Another school year is now well underway at Providence Christian Academy. The school's three teachers are working hard each day preparing and delivering lessons. The students are exploring God's world in various fields like Grammar, History, Latin, Literature, Math and Science. Amid this daily fervor, the members of the Board frequently find themselves taking stock of what has been accomplished, what remains to be done for this year and beyond, and how to do all these things faithfully and well.

Fundamental to the Board's work is each member's commitment to provide students with an education that is Christ-centered, distinctively Reformed, and anchored in the rich tradition of the Classical Christian humanities. Seeking to help parents faithfully train up their children in Christ Jesus our Lord, we take the words of Colossians 2:6-9 to heart: "Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving. See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ."

Our curriculum is designed to honor this biblical mandate while ordering the students' education according to a vibrant Christian humanities program that employs the three hallmark features of Classical learning. Students begin by absorbing knowledge of God's world through memorization, songs, chants and drills. As the students grow in understanding, they start to comprehend the logical order and integrity of this knowledge. Finally, students develop the ability to articulate knowledge with skill, wisdom and eloquence.

At PCA, each of these modes of learning is
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Providence Christian Academy

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"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

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grounded in God's truth and revelation.

We have seen evidence of God's loving care and provision in the past year with the addition of new students, a new teacher, and new Board members. In August, PCA welcomed students from two new families and additional students from existing families. This summer, the Board was pleased to hire Melodie McKenzie as PCA's third teacher. And at the annual Association meeting, Edward VanderWoude and Dan Bruinsma were elected to the Board to replace Jeff Huizenga and Brian Bakker, who served faithfully for three years.

The Lord has also continued to provide for the physical facility needs of the school. Community United Reformed Church is now renting three of its classrooms to the school. We are grateful for the church's generosity and provision for us in this way. Regarding long-term facility needs, we are excited to report that on September 30, 2013, the Association approved the purchase of 10 acres of land on the west side of Calumet Avenue, just south of 117th Street, in Cedar Lake, Indiana. In the coming months, we will be moving forward with site preparation and building plans. While much remains to be done, we trust that God's direction and plan are perfect. We covet your prayers and continued support as we look forward to someday calling this location our permanent home! Thanks again for your support.

Contact Us:

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We are currently meeting at:

Community United Reformed Church
8405 Alexander Street
Schererville, Indiana

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



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