



FALL 2014

New NOEO Science Curriculum

We perish from want of wonder, not want of wonders. G.K. Chesterton

One of the goals of classical education is to teach children how to be keen observers and to pique their God-given childish curiosity about the world around them and how things work. For that reason, Providence has adopted a new Science curriculum entitled NOEO Science from Logos Press. *Noeo* is the Greek verb meaning to perceive with the mind, to understand, to think upon, ponder or consider. This verb is used in Romans 1:20: "For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly *perceived* ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse."

The NOEO Science curriculum is built around this idea of perception, that the "essence of science is simply observing and describing God's creation." The new curriculum helps achieve that goal by foregoing typical science textbooks, which can be dry and superficial, in favor of focused study and experiments. Susan Wise Bauer observes in her book, *The Well-Trained Mind*, that "[t]he only books more boring than basic history textbooks are standard science textbooks. And, on the whole, science textbooks lack coherence. They cover in hit-or-miss fashion, everything from rain forests to diet and nutrition in no particular order." NOEO's ordered approach leads students deeper into an area of study (this year, Biology) over an entire school year to allow for the development of interest and understanding. Students also benefit from frequent hands-on observation and experimentation and a variety of child-friendly resources, including Internet-Linked Usborne Encyclopedias.

All PCA students will study the same science subject each year, but at lower and higher levels. Grades 1-3 will study Biology 1, Chemistry 1 and Physics 1 in a three year cycle. Grades 4-6 will repeat the cycle with Biology 2, Chemistry 2 and Physics 2. At each level, students create scientific journals that feature drawings of their observations and written narration using the scientific method. In this way, the students not only learn *about* science, but also develop the tools and skills to better direct their wonder toward God's wonder-filled creation.

For more information on this curriculum visit: <http://www.logospressonline.com/noeo>

Sources and for further reading:

Bauer, Susan Wise. *The Well-Trained Mind: A Guide to Classical Education at Home*. New York: W.W. Norton, 1999.

Bortins, Leigh. *The Core: Teaching Your Child the Foundations of Classical Education*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2010.

NOEO Science Instructor's Guide. Canon Press, 2013

Wilson, Douglas. *Recovering the Lost Tools of Learning: An Approach to Distinctively Christian Education*. Wheaton: Crossway Books, 1991.



Morning Devotions

Students arrive at school bubbling with enthusiasm. As they shed their coats, hang up their backpacks and get ready for the day they very quickly make their way to the big block of tables and chairs in the largest classroom where the whole student body gathers for morning devotions.

At 8:30am sharp the faculty members are seated and the students settle in to officially start their day. The students know the morning routine well and will expect to be in morning devotions until 8:45am after which they are dismissed back to their classrooms as the whole school transitions to Bible class until 9:10am. The first 40 minutes of each day will be spent in the praise and the study of their God.

The first 5-7 minutes of morning devotions is led by one of the faculty members. The teachers trade off this responsibility via an ongoing schedule. The faculty led portion is spent reading from Scripture with accompanying devotional materials. The teacher will expound upon what is read with examples and application to the student's lives. The teacher's purpose in morning devotions is to lead the students in personal time with the Lord instructing them in how their lives reflect Christ.

Every week several new elements are introduced by the faculty in morning devotions. One item which is new for this year is the focus on a different Proverb. The text is introduced by a faculty member, expounded upon for the understanding of the children, and then recited orally each day by the entire student body.

To emphasize the Proverb it is also displayed prominently on the bulletin boards in each classroom and emphasized daily. The teachers have marveled at how applicable these Proverbs have been each week. How frequently the texts serve as reminders to the children when discipline is explained to them or how the children notice correlations in the Psalms & Hymns they sing each day.

Mrs. Knoll, PCA's Kindergarten-1st grade teacher, suggested the use of Proverbs in morning devotions noting that Proverbs' emphasis on the pursuit of wisdom is very applicable in an education setting. Being intentional about teaching the Biblical foundations for wisdom is a daily pursuit and one the teachers look forward to continuing through this practice.



Building News!

JEFF HUIZENGA

BUILDING CHAIRMAN

The Building committee and Board of Directors have been busy with building plans for Providence CA. We have contracted with the engineering firm named DVG engineering to complete the site plan and engineering for Lake County planning division. We hope to have this work completed and final subdivision approval by the end of the year.

We also have been working with Micheal Stanula Architect to complete the floor plan and elevations we hope to present them at the Fall Banquet with an opportunity for input from the larger association body before we proceed with detailed drawings of the building. Currently we have \$20,000 in a building fund and only \$63,000 debt remaining on the land that we purchased last year.

With a successful fundraising banquet this year we hope to be able to pay off our current debt and have sufficient funds to

In addition to the weekly Proverb, morning devotions also introduce a new 'Song of the Week' from the Psalter Hymnal each Monday morning. It is the first song sung each morning and every day. By the end of the week many of the children will have most if not all of the verses of the Psalm or Hymn memorized. At Providence Christian Academy we want the children to know and love to sing as many of our worship psalms and hymns as possible and this practice is one of the ways we try to establish this. After the song of the week is sung 20+ hands generally enthusiastically go up trying to be the one to select one of 3 additional psalms & hymns from the blue psalter.

Morning devotions on Fridays take on a little bit of a different feel as the Pledge of Allegiance is recited and a patriotic hymn is sung which the students really enjoy.

If you ever have the opportunity or have considered visiting the school (which the Board encourages, by the way) do try to get there by 8:30am to have devotions with the students. Seeing children heartily singing great hymns of the faith and applying Scripture to their lives is a great encouragement and an embodiment of the purpose of Christian education.



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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

Building News! CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

begin the building process next summer. God has blessed Providence through the years with a generous group of supporters and it is our hope and prayer that He will continue to sustain our needs through the years ahead.

Thanks for the support and God Bless.



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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.