

ARCADIA ★ ★ ★ ★

# CHRISTIAN CLASSICAL EDUCATION

FAITH. CHARACTER. HEART. SERVICE.

# Starter Kit

WELCOME TO ARCADIA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL



Teaching our students not  
what to think, but how to think!

ARCADIA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

ARCADIA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

SAN GABRIEL VALLEY'S  
**FAVORITE**

CHRISTIAN - OTHER CHRISTIAN SCHOOL (Non - Catholic)

2022

READERS CHOICE AWARDS

SAN GABRIEL VALLEY'S  
**FAVORITE**

CHRISTIAN SCHOOL (Non - Catholic)

2023

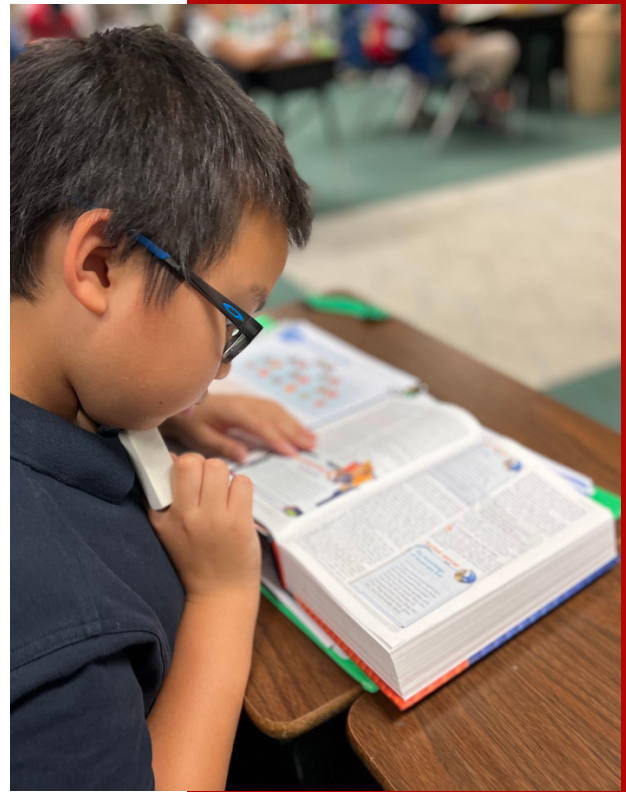
READERS CHOICE AWARDS

# OUR PHILOSOPHY

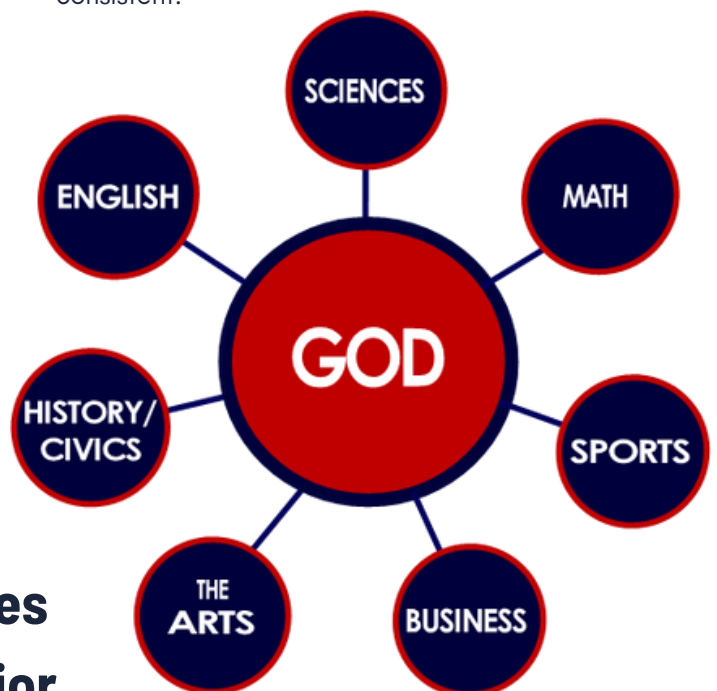
Paul challenged the church of Colossae with the following words...

"See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy based on the principles of this world rather than on Christ." Colossians 2:8

Paul's words still ring loud today. Many of our children have become captive to hollow and deceptive philosophies because they do not know how to effectively give an answer for what they believe. If our students do not know how to use their critical thinking skills to defend their faith, doubt begins to set in. That's why we believe critical thinking and biblical integration in all disciplines is important. We want to prepare our students to be thinkers of the Word and encourage them to live a life that reflects the life changing decision of Christ salvation. In a culture where absolute truths are being challenged everyday, it is important to come along side parents to train and equip our young people with the answers to their faith in all areas of disciplines. We at ACS believe that God is the center of all disciplines thus shaping the core of our children.



God is the center of reality. Truth is defined by God. Knowledge of subjects or things (including man himself) is unified, rational, and consistent.

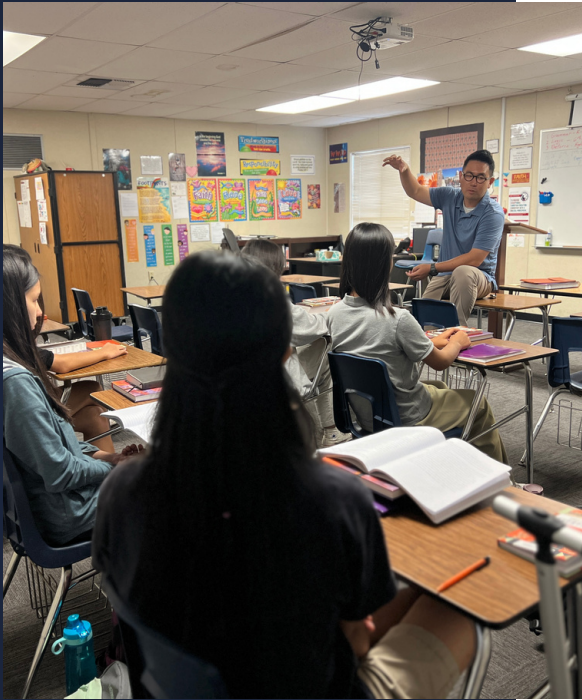


## Transitional Member



**Our worldview shapes our values  
and our values shape our behavior.**

# WHAT IS **CHRISTIAN CLASSICAL EDUCATION**?



The goal of education in ancient and medieval times was to teach children how to think and learn for themselves. They were given the tools of learning and then taught how to apply those tools of learning to any subject they encountered.

We call this **THE TRIVIUM**

The Trivium is nothing more than a proven and very practical approach to education that works. It is an instructional model that (1) is a common sense way of looking at subjects, (2) approaches the study of subjects in a way that naturally fits with how we learn, and (3) tailors curriculum content to a child's cognitive development.

## WHAT **METHODOLOGY** IS USED IN A CLASSICAL APPROACH?

There are three stages of learning:

1. Learn the words, vocabulary, and facts.
2. String vocabulary and facts in meaningful ways.
3. Demonstrate proficiency in completely expressing what was learned.

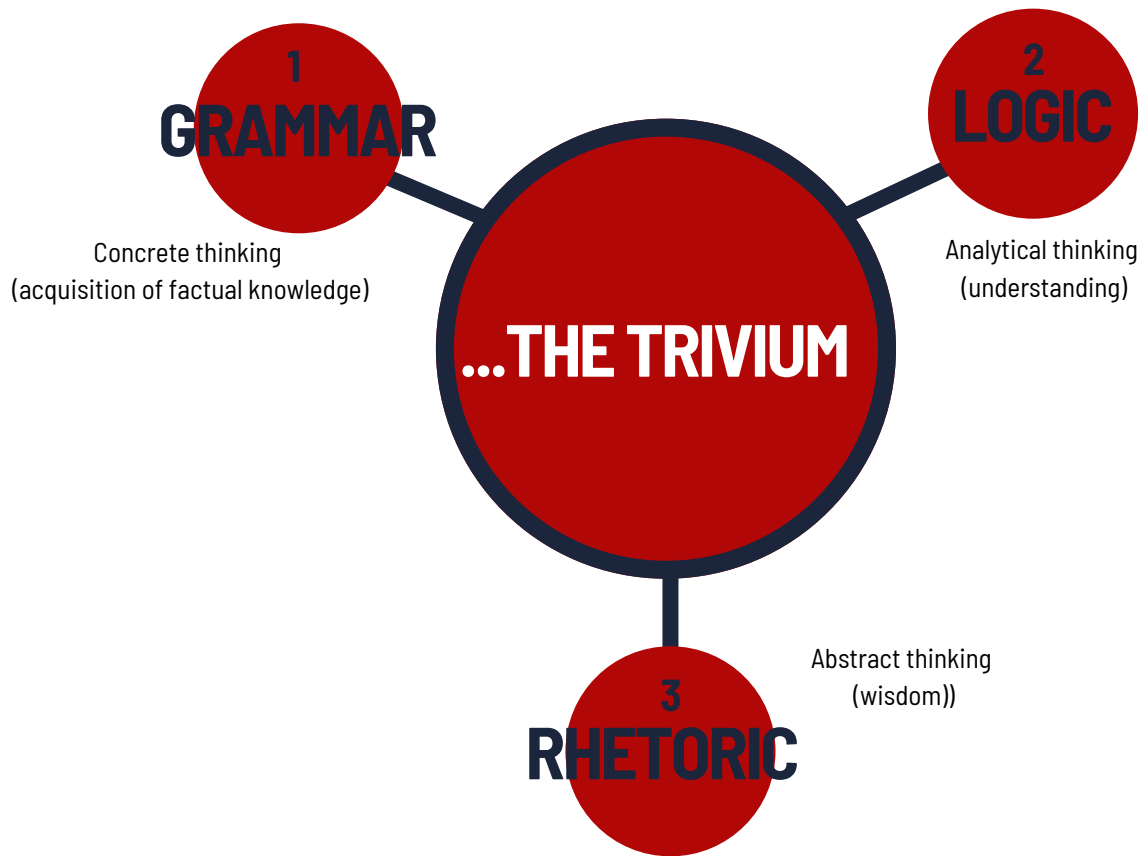
GRAMMAR STAGE: Concrete thinking  
(acquisition of factual knowledge)

LOGIC STAGE: Analytical thinking  
(understanding)

RHETORIC STAGE: Abstract thinking  
(wisdom)



# THE BUILDING BLOCKS OF ...



**Grammar stage (grades K-5th)** involves learning the fundamentals of a language and how to use it properly. Students would primarily use these methods: memorization, recitation, games, oral drills, practice, written and oral exercises, flash cards.

**Logic stage (grades 6-8)** trains a person in good reasoning so they properly understand questions and make good arguments; the study of logic is built on formal logic which allows a person to follow the logic of an argument. Students would primarily use these methods: questioning, debate, investigation, research, literature, and discussions.

**Rhetoric stage (grades 9-12)** would find students using abstract thinking, delving deep into curricular materials, using knowledge and understanding in application to life issues, writing and presenting research. Students would use these methods: essays, oral presentations, debate, defense papers, cross-curricular projects and written expression.

# FULLY IMPLEMENTING A CHRISTIAN CLASSICAL EDUCATION APPROACH

For many years ACS has established that Scripture at every point is the foundation on which to build all knowledge. ACS approach towards Christian education coheres better with a biblical view of man, who is not perfect and where the beginning of knowledge can be found through God. Secular educational theory views man as inherently good and, if left to his own devices, will choose the right thing. This is why ACS will be continuing to teach from a biblical worldview in all subjects, while at the same time embracing a classical method that will implement reading in the classics and student engagement around Socratic discussion.



Classical methodology capitalizes on the strengths of God's creative work by requiring of a child what he is best equipped to do: memorization—grammar stage; argument—logic stage; analysis and expression—rhetoric stage.

By embracing the Classical method, we add ways for the learner to acquire information, grasp it intellectually, and use it purposefully. It teaches them not to simply learn a subject but how to think.

With the Trivium as its framework, classical Christian education is also characterized by rich exposure to history, such as our "We the People" Constitution curriculum, plus literature and culture of Western Civilization. Students will be immersed in the "Great Books" of our Christian tradition and Western cultural heritage. In the Logic and Rhetoric phase students will read fewer "textbooks" and more original source documents and literary works, especially in history and literature. The languages of Western Civilization, especially Latin, are at the core of their academic studies. The development of a thoroughly Biblical worldview will be the underlying aim of every lesson and class. The Classical method will equip our children with the necessary tools to master whatever subject they encounter in life, and more importantly, to tackle the great issues of life to the glory of God. We believe ACS Classical Christian education will be an investment into your children's life that will reap a lifetime benefit.



## Good Soil: A Comparative Study of Association of Classical Christian School Alumni Life Outcomes

**Release date: January 27, 2020:** 2018-19 comparative study of 24- to 42-year-old alumni from public, secular private, Catholic, evangelical Christian, religious homeschool, and ACCS (classical Christian) schools, on topics of life choices, preparation, attitudes, values, opinions, and practices.





# HOUSE SYSTEM

Each student will be placed in one of the four houses during the ACS House Cupcake Ceremony.

**House Verse:** Philippians 4:6-7  
Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

**Motto:**  
We are set free by the blood of Jesus and equal in His eyes

**House Verse:** Romans 5:2  
Through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

**Motto:**  
I have seen farther than others, it is by standing on the shoulders of God

**House Verse:** Isaiah 1:17  
Learn to do good; Seek justice, Rebuke the oppressor; Defend the fatherless, Plead for the widow.

**Motto:**  
Talk. Walk. Spread.

**House Verse:** 2 Corinthians 4:16  
Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day.

**Motto:**  
Succeed with strength and courage. Protect and lead with authority.

# ARCADIA ★ ★ ★ ★ CHRISTIAN CLASSICAL EDUCATION RESOURCES

Interview with Association of Classical Christian School  
Vice President Member Services and Advancement  
Dr. Tim Dornlan

**A MOMENT WITH**  
**MR. LIMON AND DR. TIM DORNLAN**  
OF ASSOCIATION OF CLASSICAL CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS



Part 1



Why Classical Education?



**A MOMENT WITH**  
**MR. LIMON AND DR. TIM DORNLAN**  
OF ASSOCIATION OF CLASSICAL CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS



Part 2




How do you get involved with Classical Education?



**A MOMENT WITH**  
**MR. LIMON AND DR. TIM DORNLAN**  
OF ASSOCIATION OF CLASSICAL CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS



Part 3



Classical Christian vs Christian Education



**A MOMENT WITH**  
**MR. LIMON AND DR. TIM DORNLAN**  
OF ASSOCIATION OF CLASSICAL CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS



Part 4



International Students and Classical Education



**A MOMENT WITH**  
**MR. LIMON AND DR. TIM DORNLAN**  
OF ASSOCIATION OF CLASSICAL CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS



Part 5



Students and Disciplinary



**A MOMENT WITH**  
**MR. LIMON AND DR. TIM DORNLAN**  
OF ASSOCIATION OF CLASSICAL CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS




Part 6




Why Latin?



**A MOMENT WITH**  
**MR. LIMON AND DR. TIM DORNLAN**  
OF ASSOCIATION OF CLASSICAL CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS



Part 7



Encouraging words for ACS Faculty and Parents



[classicalchristian.org](http://classicalchristian.org)



**"The Lost Tools of Learning"** - By Dorothy Sayers



**"Introduction to Classical Education"** - By Dr. Christopher Perrin



**"Battle for the American Mind"** - By David Goodwin



**Research Shows Benefits of a Classical Christian Education** - by Gene Veith  
[www.patheos.com/blogs/geneveith/2020/11/research-shows-benefits-of-a-classical-christian-education/](http://www.patheos.com/blogs/geneveith/2020/11/research-shows-benefits-of-a-classical-christian-education/)

## The Miseducation of America

A New Documentary from FOX News  
Features Classical Christian Education  
[classicaldifference.org/miseducation-of-america/](http://classicaldifference.org/miseducation-of-america/)



# ARCADIA ★ ★ ★ ★ CHRISTIAN CLASSICAL EDUCATION

FAITH. CHARACTER. HEART. SERVICE.

## TIMELINE FOR FULL CLASSICAL APPROACH

**GOAL:** To have a fully implemented classical approach to Christian education by the 2025–2026 school year

### YEAR ONE (2022-2023)

Spring 2022: January-May: Curriculum Committee research ACCS for recommendation

✓ Fall 2022:

Seek Board Approval for Accreditation of Association of Christian Classical Schools membership

✓ Attend ACCS Admin Summit

✓ During the course of the first and second semester the board and faculty will be introduced to classical approach to education by watching "The MisEducation of America" with ACCS President David Goodwin, and numerous articles from ACCS, Professional Days will include guest speakers from other Classical schools and visitation to a classical school.

✓ During the course of the second-semester parents will be introduced to the classical approach to education through numerous articles from ACCS, guest speakers, and invitations to parents to visit a classical school. Parent meetings will be devoted to explaining the classical approach. Copies of books for recommended reading will be made available to parents for purchase.

✓ December - January: Letters of intent will be sent out to faculty with emphasis on Classical Education Transition

✓ Teacher contracts for the 2023-2024 school year will reflect adherence to teaching a classical education in the context of the school's present philosophy.



## Form Student Leadership and introduce of House System to Student Leadership

- Student Leadership will pick House names based on Classical Christian scientist, thinkers and philosophers who were world changers and history makers of their time.
- Student Leadership will research their House Names; create their House crest; create the House Motto
- Student Leadership will visit a school with the House System in place

## Seek Part-time ACHS College Counselor

Spring 2023:

Soft Introduction of ACS House System to the student body

Seek ACCS Transitional Membership...**accepted October 2023**

January - May: K-5th Faculty will review the Grammar Stage with a current curriculum that may be in line with Classical Christian Education.

## YEAR TWO (2023-2024)

Full implementation of the ACS House System within the student body.

ACS Core Leadership Team attends ACCS Admin Summit

"Introduction to Classical Education" course by Classical U to be completed by ACS teachers by December 2023; become new faculty training tool.

Soft Classical implementation introductions..

ACS Grammar Stage (K-5th):

In Grammar School, phonics is the key tool in teaching students to read. Students are encouraged to read phonetically at the very beginning of their education in the kindergarten classroom. It will be the goal to begin to introduce high-quality children's literature through the Literature program beginning in first grade. This soft classical implementation will include a teacher's observation of students' reading abilities to ensure a reasonable level of proficiency, adequate comprehension, and fluency in oral and silent reading.

ACS Logic (6th-8th):

Classical ELA Reading List Update; Logic implementation into classes, training our students to be a person in good reasoning so they properly understand questions and make good arguments; the study of logic is built on formal logic which allows a person to follow the logic of an argument. In the Socratic method, also known

ACS Logic (6th-8th) continued:

by the Greek word “elenchus,” students discuss a question under the guidance of a teacher in order to come to a factual and faithful conclusion. In a Socratic discussion, students must argue their points well, think through the logical implication of every proposition, and precisely understand each word’s definition. It teaches students to critique others’ arguments respectfully, and gracefully accept the critique of others.

ACS Rhetoric (9th-11th):

Seek a 9th-11th Bible Teacher; Introduction of Apologetics I and incorporating the Socratic discussion in studying the Bible and other world religions; Develop “Senior Thesis Assignment”; 11th Pre-Thesis Prep; Introduction of Latin to 9th -10th grade

### **YEAR THREE (2024-2025)**

ACS Grammar Stage (K-5th): Introduction into Latin; teachers will take the classes with their students so they can hold the students accountable to use their Latin roots, etc., in their study of vocabulary, spelling, etc.

ACS Logic (6th-8th): Introduction to Latin

ACS Rhetoric (9th-12th): Implementation of Senior Thesis; Introduction of Apologetics II and incorporating the Socratic discussion in studying the Bible and other worldviews; ACS Rhetoric Stage Course Schedule set in place

ACS team of reps to attend ACCS yearly Conference in TX.

### **YEAR FOUR (2025-2026)**

ACS Grammar Stage (K-5th): Review the ACS Grammar Stage and finalize Classical implementations.

ACS Logic (6th-8th): Review the ACS Logic Stage and finalize Classical implementations.

ACS Rhetoric (9th-12th): Review the ACS Rhetoric Stage and finalize Classical implementations.

Seek full membership into Association of Classical Christian Schools

# READY FOR THE NEXT STEP IN YOUR FAMILY'S JOURNEY?



I would like to take this time to welcome you to Arcadia Christian School. For seventy-eight years Arcadia Christian School has been a community dedicated to God, family and academic excellence. Here you will find we are passionate about developing a strong spiritual foundation in each of our students, as well as providing each child with a rigorous academic experience. Our teachers and staff are called to their work at Arcadia Christian School and they are committed to providing students with preparatory curriculum integrated with biblical teaching; all in a loving and caring environment.



Your child's future matters to us. That's why we are excited about continuing towards a Christian Classical Education method where we will equip our children with the necessary tools to master whatever subject they encounter in life, and more importantly, to tackle the great issues of life to the glory of God while partnering with you.

If part of your family's mission is to train your children up to have a strong biblical worldview foundation and to have family values equal to yours, then I strongly encourage you to consider Arcadia Christian School. We would be honored to partner with you as you seek God's best direction for your children's education and future.

Edward Limon  
Arcadia Christian School Principal

**Early Enrollment for ACS Families**  
Begins January 8, 2024

**ACS Open Enrollment**  
Begins January 15, 2024

## Enrollment Procedure

- You may begin ACS Enrollment on the ACS Admissions webpage
- Family and Student interview
- Assessment Test
- Finalize Registration with FACTS



If you have any questions, please contact 626.574.8229 or email [acsoffice@acslions.com](mailto:acsoffice@acslions.com).

*We look forward to welcoming you to the ACS Community!*

