

WESTSIDE CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

Classical Christian Education

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Announcing Upper School

In order to complete the rhetoric stage of our classical Christian education, Westside Christian Academy began a high school, beginning with grade 9, in August of 2015. WCA's program is separated into two major divisions: Grammar School (K-6) and Upper School (7-12). The Upper School incorporates the logic (also called dialectic) and rhetoric stages in our classical methodology.

Vision and Mission: The Westside Christian Academy Upper School prepares young men and women for a joyful life as a worshipper of God with the desire and ability to lead in Truth, whose natural outcomes are cheerful service in families and communities, bearing the good fruit of the gospel of Jesus Christ for the joy of all peoples. It is our hope that graduates of WCA's Upper School will:

- Know the scriptures, reason their interpretation and apply their precepts to every area of life
- Speak articulately, boldly and winsomely, for Christ's glory
- Are practiced in acts of cheerful service and self-sacrifice
- Act and speak in compassion and humility as befits those aware of their own sin and rejoicing in the mercy shown them by God in Christ
- Love learning, seeing God's creation as a reflection of His majesty and pursue diverse interests in self-study and formal education throughout their lives
- Are disciplined and accustomed to the reward of sustained effort in pursuit of a worthy enterprise

Building on the foundation of WCA's Grammar School, the Upper School's logic and rhetoric programs equip students to reason and to be artful

and winning in communications. Dialectic students learn to draw conclusions by relating facts and ideas from a variety of sources, weighing arguments, and supporting conclusions with evidence and reason. They are equipped to be discerning rather than manipulated by a smooth tongue, a clever retort or a barrage of cited statistics. Rhetoric students learn to recognize and appreciate beauty through the arts, sciences and nature and to be persuasive in writing and speech. They are led to walk on a solid path of building knowledge, understanding and wisdom.

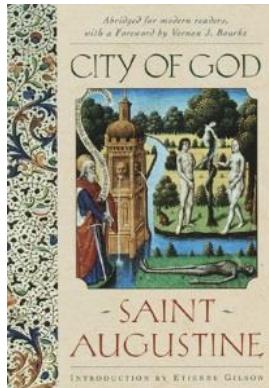


School Life and Culture: Like the Grammar School, we strive to create a joyful community of learned Christ-followers in the Upper School. Consistent with their growing maturity we create experiences that develop both leadership skills and an attitude of humble Christian service. The academic program is rigorous and infused with the delights of exploring cultures distant in time and geography, examining ideas and opinions which confirm and challenge our own, and visiting the foreign lands of microbes, geodes, and distant planets.

In the grammar school, these adventures were experienced in memory work, stories, poetry and play. Upper school students, on the other hand, discover God's world through direct examination of evidence – be they sustained efforts in nature study or readings in primary sources – reasoning to conclusions, arguing for positions and sharing findings and insights with others in well-crafted writing and speaking. While no less playful than their grammar school counterparts, upper school students are characterized by a growing seriousness about their lives and studies as they begin to understand how the ideas and events of past millennia have shaped their own lives and to see how their decisions, words and actions impact those around them and have growing consequence for a broader community.

All of this happens best in the context of a community which we cultivate first by modeling as faculty and staff, by the leadership of students, and finally by traditions and ceremonies which create a sense of belonging and pass on the values and disciplines – disciplines that are not only vital for academic life but also are an excellent preparation for lives in families and institutions of worship and work. The health of the school is a direct reflection of the spiritual health and the strength of the collegial relationships among instructors and administrators. For this reason, our choice of faculty becomes of even greater import than specific curricular decisions, as important as those are. Our decisions bearing on the curriculum and the cadence of the school day weigh heavily on the importance of faculty team work in creating an environment of scholarship, peace and the pursuit of excellence. Students learn to argue vigorously with intelligence, decorum and mutual respect, by watching their instructors do the same. Given the preparation for life beyond school, and – for many students – further academic work, the upper school faculty are scholars and generalists willing and able to teach beyond their special subject matter. They regard teaching beyond their field as an opportunity for new learning and camaraderie among faculty peers who assist one another to impart wisdom and delight to their charges. The result is a lively academic environment where inquiry is an adventure led by instructors but shared by all.

Areas of Study in our Rhetoric Program



Humanities is taught as an integrated course encompassing theology, bible and history including the ancient Greek and Roman world, medieval history, modern US and British history and the Reformation. The challenging literature we read dovetails well and engages our minds in classical, medieval, American and European works of fiction, poetry and plays. English composition and rhetoric are strengths as we stress the art of communicating well on paper and in speech. Christian apologetics and a critical understanding of world religions have a practical application of navigating our confusing world of conflicting worldviews. Our traditional science and math courses also stretch minds for critical thinking and understanding God's universe. Language offerings are Latin, Greek and Spanish. The arts, athletics and co-curricular opportunities also play an important role.

Studies are not limited to the classroom, but include regular and extensive field trips utilizing the substantial resources of Northeast Ohio and beyond. We will collaborate with like-minded traditional schools and home-school cooperatives as we participate in the arts, athletics, debate and clubs. Our rhetoric school juniors and seniors will have opportunity to travel abroad for both study and service, likely with an adventure in Rome and/or Greece.



Shaping the Culture of WCA

The students in the first few classes of WCA's high school will find themselves on an adventure that few other students ever experience. As they engage in a series of "firsts," along with their teachers, they will quickly be learning to lead those coming behind to create an upper school culture which embraces truth, beauty, goodness and service. These leaders will help make choices about our developing program, new rituals and rites of passage, their own field experiences and participation in the arts, debate, clubs, athletics and outreach with a goal of understanding their God-breathed purpose in the Kingdom.

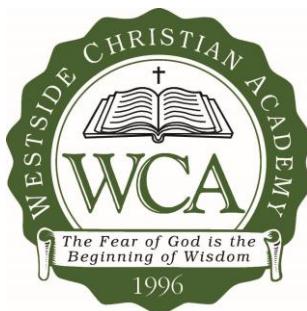
We intend to foster an environment in which our upper school students grow through spiritual and physical discipline with the ability to know Jesus and feel supported in exhibiting and modeling Christian values without feeling pressured by media of the perfect teen. For instance, in public and private schools alike, high school students often date because they think they are supposed to. Instead, we will offer a message that it is right and good for our teens to focus on what is truly important - following a godly path. Through adult support and God's wisdom our teens will learn to communicate with and appreciate their peers, male or female, without interference from confusing cultural norms.

Affordability

As the body of Christ, we strive to help parents in providing a quality classical and Christian education. Tuition is modest compared to surrounding private schools and financial assistance is available. Current details of our tuition and fee schedule can be found on our website or by contacting us directly.

Admissions

The admissions process begins by exploring our website (including our statement of faith), scheduling a tour and having dialogue with our headmaster and teachers. Application can then be made on-line, followed by admissions testing and an interview to help assure each student is being set up for success.



Find out more at www.WestsideAcademy.org

WCA is a member of the Association of Classical Christian Schools and the Association of Christian Schools International.
We are also chartered by the Ohio Department of Education.

Is not the great defect of our education today... that although we often succeed in teaching our pupils "subjects," we fail lamentably on the whole in teaching them how to think: they learn everything, except the art of learning.

Dorothy Sayers

Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.

Deuteronomy 6:4-7