

PROVIDENCE SCHOOL OF TIFTON

Foundational Commitments

Mission

Our mission is to assist families with educating their children in the instruction of our Lord by cultivating a love of learning, Christian virtue, and the knowledge necessary for them to excel in every duty God calls them to throughout their life. We will carry this out by combining God-fearing, scholarly teachers and staff with a classical Christ-centered curriculum and a nurturing environment so as to instill truth, beauty, and goodness in every graduate (see Duet. 6:4-9; Eph. 6:1-4).

The foundational commitments of Providence School of Tifton distinguish it as an institution and are the standards against which all new ideas and practices are tested. They are the core values to which the Board of Directors is committed and for which it is responsible on behalf of present and future students. The administration, faculty, and staff are likewise committed to and responsible for implementing these foundational commitments in all policies and practices of the school.

As a distinctly classical and unapologetically Christian school, below is a summary of our core objectives, followed by a more detailed description of the ideas and practices to which we are committed:

Of being *Christian*:

- Teach all subjects as parts of an integrated whole with the Scriptures at the center (II Timothy 3:16-17).
- Provide a clear model of the biblical Christian life through our employees and board (Matthew 22:37-40).
- Encourage every student to begin and develop his relationship with God the Father through Jesus Christ (Matthew 28:18-20; Matthew 19:13-15).

Of being *Classical*:

- Emphasize grammar, logic, and rhetoric in all subjects.
- Encourage every student to develop a love for

learning and live up to his academic potential.

- Provide an orderly atmosphere conducive to the attainment of the above goals.

Christian Worldview: *We believe that every aspect of our children's education must be intentionally founded upon biblical truth. Providence School of Tifton seeks to present all truth and knowledge in the context of the following biblical worldview:*

God created the universe of His own free volition. As Creator, God is absolute, autonomous, and self-sufficient. He is in no way dependent upon the created universe, whereas the creation is utterly dependent upon Him. God, in His creative activity, brought all things into being; whether they be material, spiritual, conceptual, or abstract. All of these created entities function together in the way He decreed they would, according to His design. God is also providential, in that He governs all things that come to pass. His decrees are irrevocable; He alone is in ultimate control. While transcending all things, this providential oversight is not distant, but rather immanent and personal. At all times, He is intimately acquainted with and relates to everything in His universe.

The doctrines of Creation and Providence address the relationship of the created universe to its Creator. Neither creation as a whole, nor any part of creation, is autonomous. Only God is autonomous, and all creation is dependent upon and subject to Him. God alone is the ultimate reality, and the determiner of what is and what is not real.

At Providence, we believe the focal point of all that is, has been, and ever will be is the person of Jesus Christ. We believe that the education of our children begins with this reality. God reveals Himself not only specially in His Word, but also generally in every facet of His creation. All knowledge is therefore interrelated and teaches us about God's character, wisdom, and power. Ultimate reality exists only in Him, the Creator and Sustainer of all things, and therefore truth can be understood only as it relates to Him, the God of Truth and Sovereign Lord over all.

The Scriptures teach that the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom and knowledge. We believe therefore that every aspect of our children's education must be intentionally grounded in and integrated with biblical truth.

Classical Liberal Arts: *We are committed to the traditional and long established, exemplary forms and standards in education handed down from ancient and medieval educators.*

The basic building block for the structure of classical education is the Trivium. The Trivium is a model that deals with the method and organization of education. The three stages of the Trivium consist of Grammar, Logic, and Rhetoric. The first stage, Grammar, focuses on the fundamental rules of each subject. The second stage, Logic, emphasizes the ordered relationship of particulars in each subject. The final stage, Rhetoric, is the clear expression of the grammar and logic of each subject. Each stage wonderfully integrates and corresponds to the way God has designed the development of our children.

The Trivium also deals with content in that it incorporates specific courses in classical language study (Latin and/or Greek), Logic, and Rhetoric. In addition, primary and older sources of literature and knowledge are regarded highly and utilized regularly in the educational process.

The purpose of the Trivium is always to prepare for further study, to teach the student how to think, and to prepare the student how to learn. Our purpose in teaching subjects throughout the Trivium will be to equip the student with the tools of learning, rather than teaching the subjects as our final goal.

God wants us to love Him with our mind, as well as with our heart, soul, and strength (Matt 22:37). Therefore, we seek to individually challenge children at all levels, providing an environment that produces children who will have a lifelong love of learning. We understand that the liberal arts of antiquity denoted the education "worthy of a free man" (Latin *liber*, "free") –an education intent upon cultivating wisdom, virtue, and eloquence through the pursuit of truth, goodness, and beauty. We emphasize and seek to

preserve and pass on to successive generations the richness of our Western cultural heritage.

Wisdom and Virtue: *We believe that true education culminates in wise and virtuous students who are being conformed to the image of Christ.*

At Providence we believe each child is a living and eternal soul to be nourished, not a product to be manufactured. The purpose of education is to develop wisdom and virtue in the life of the student, not to instill knowledge alone, or mere vocational skills. We understand and embrace the truth that true wisdom that begins with the fear of the Lord and is rooted in the Scriptures. Because of this, it encompasses all of human experience. We aspire to virtue that reflects the moral excellence of Christ, expresses itself in faithful obedience to God, and demonstrates love to others. Wise and virtuous students will become understanding, thoughtful, and courageous leaders in our homes, churches, and communities.

God-Honoring Excellence: *We are dedicated to teaching and learning with excellence as unto the Lord.*

We believe that all instruction must encourage students to love and honor God through their academic endeavors. God commands us to love Him with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength. Students must be challenged at all levels to work "heartily, as unto the Lord" because God is worthy of their best. We employ gifted teachers who possess a passion for learning, a passion for teaching, and a passion for Christ. We want our students to possess a love of learning and be well equipped for their future callings. We also understand that this looks different for every student and seek to help each student honor God with their best academic work.

Appropriate Forms and Habits: *We believe that true education recognizes that hearts and minds are shaped not only by ideas and knowledge, but also by practices, habits, routines, and liturgies.*

Providence seeks to deliberately develop a culture in the school in which every idea, truth, and concept has its fitting visible expression. We seek not the artificial formality of the arrogant, nor formality for formality's sake, but rather a wise attention to form that continually favors appropriateness over

complacency. We believe that true education recognizes that hearts and minds are shaped not by ideas and knowledge only but also by practices, habits, routines, and liturgies.

In Loco Parentis: *We seek to assist parents in the task of educating their children in the Lord.*

At Providence we believe God has granted to parents the responsibility and authority for raising their children, including the responsibility of educating them. Therefore, we seek to assist parents in this God-given responsibility. Providence purposes to be an extension of the home, serving the parents. We are committed to fostering a supportive community of like-minded families, who, with our faculty and staff, encourage one another in their calling to bring up their children “in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.”

Engaged and Committed School Community: *We believe parents should actively participate in the life and community of the school.*

We strive to cultivate in our parents a sense of responsibility for the school and to see them well informed about the goals of our classical and Christ-centered approach. Parents are encouraged to actively participate in the life and community of Providence. As we cultivate wisdom, virtue, and eloquence through the pursuit of truth, goodness, and beauty in the lives of our students, we expect to see our parents grow in the same. We believe our school community should reflect God’s Kingdom in its racial, ethnic, economic, and intellectual make-up. We desire to exemplify unity in the body of Christ through support and fellowship with area churches.