

Educational Philosophy

Some local schools face challenges in providing the best educational opportunity for every child, but every family wants and deserves an excellent school. Small class sizes, a safe environment, and teacher excellence attract families from all religious backgrounds to Christ Academy.

As a Christian and classical school, Christ Academy seeks the highest academic and behavioral standards while providing what we call redemptive education--education that meets students where they are and works with them and their parents to lift them into new and better opportunities.

Here are some ways we provide excellent, Christ-centered education:

- Each day begins in prayer, worship, and the public reading of Scripture. This forms the soul in a Godward direction and roots all that we do in the love of God and neighbor.
- Every subject in our curriculum works together to provide students with the background knowledge necessary to become fully literate citizens, capable of pursuing high achievements in a variety of endeavors.
- While we study the history and geography of every region of the world and their people groups, we emphasize the Great Works of Western Civilization in order to nurture the minds of our students on the foundational ideas of American civilization.
- We strongly believe that true education involves all aspects of the person and that a student must grow in both knowledge and virtue. In partnership with parents, we set high standards for student behavior.

Austine's story

"My name is Austine. I was born in Liberia. My life was good. I lived with my aunt and I was cared for. I had responsibilities for myself and for my younger brother. But I missed my mother who sacrificed to come to the United States to get a better education. I looked forward to coming to the United States. I wanted to get to know people from all over the world and live the American dream.

However, when I got here, it wasn't what I had expected. The school I attended was a disaster; students did not obey their teachers or elders. In Africa we would be beaten for lesser things than what these kids were doing. My mother wouldn't let me go to the park because she was afraid for my safety. As I mentioned, I got bullied for my lunch and for just being African. Most of the teachers did not notice these incidents or felt that there was nothing they could do.

So I started to give up. I started to behave like the other kids. I decided to live like an "American" kid (at least like the ones in my neighborhood). I started skipping school, disobeying the teacher and sleeping in class. I was suspended 5 times. I was not proud of this and my mom was disappointed and worried. She met with my pastor and they talked with Pastor Mike. Soon I was in Christ Academy.

Christ Academy has made a real difference in me. I appreciate Christ Academy because I love the experiences that we share there. We have gone to see the opera. I have seen productions like "Othello" and "Carmen." We also went camping in the Poconos where we went on a 25-mile bike trip; we've seen plays by William Shakespeare, and about the Canterbury Tales. The best trips, however, were to visit colleges like the McDaniel College and The King's College. I have never been on trips like these before and I can't believe how much fun they are. I can't believe that I'm actually looking at colleges."

Christ Academy admits students of any race, color, national and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national and ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship and loan programs, and athletic and other school-administered programs.

contact us

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Providing excellent, classical, Christ-centered education that is accessible to a diverse urban community regardless of economic or social status.

In the service of God and Neighbor

“Train up a child in the way he should go;
even when he is old he will not depart from
it.” (PROV. 22:6)



Established in 1886, Christ Memorial Parish School was one of West Philadelphia's premier Christian schools. After a 10-year hiatus, it was re-founded in 1996 as Christ Academy, with an emphasis on classical Christian education. When the tower of Christ Memorial Reformed Episcopal Church (REC) collapsed in 2004 and the building sustained major damage, Christ Academy moved to Grace REC, a sister parish in Collingdale, Pennsylvania.

In its new location, Christ Academy established an effective ministry among middle and high school boys. Expanding on this success, we presently serve boys and girls grades 5-12, and our student body includes many immigrant students from Sub-Saharan Africa. Christ Academy has substantially and effectively contributed to the growth and outreach of Grace Church. This is a successful model of how church and school can each multiply the work of the other in glorifying Christ and serving people.

“Inner-city youth need a Christ-centered community in which to grow into mature and virtuous adults.”

-Fr. Andrew Brummett, Middle School Headmaster

How can you become involved in Christ Academy?

- If you, a family member, or a friend would like to apply to enroll your child(ren) in Christ Academy, please obtain, complete, and submit an application, which can be found on the website or by calling or emailing us.
- If you would like to donate in support of the school, which serves a large number of students unable to pay the full tuition, you can give through the support page on our website or send a check to the school's address on the back of this brochure.
- If you would like to partner with the school by becoming a regular supporter or by making a tax-credit donation, please contact us by email or phone.

Christ Academy educates the future leaders of the Church and teaches them the tenets of the Faith and the wisdom for a good life. We are investing in these individual students as an outreach to our community, and we believe that an investment in them is also an investment for the future of God's Kingdom-work on earth. We are making disciples and equipping them to become disciple-makers.

Financial need is measured based on income, which will be proven by one month of the family's most recent income statement(s). Income statements must be provided every three months at the beginning of each trimester. Assistance is distributed based on federal poverty guidelines.

We hold our students to high moral and academic standards. Learning is assessed through tests and written assignments intended to measure knowledge acquisition and retention. Character formation is documented and assessed by our teachers as they communicate with students and parents regarding student behavior and growth in virtue.