



OAKS CLASSICAL

CORE BELIEFS

MISSION

Oaks exists to glorify God by partnering with parents in cultivating wise and virtuous students, through classical education in Christ-centered community.

STATEMENT OF FAITH

Oaks is a non-denominational Christian school. We embrace the historic tenets of Christianity as presented in this Statement of Faith. Beyond these primary doctrines, we respect and acknowledge the primacy of the family and refer any secondary doctrinal questions to parents for clarification.

1. We believe there is one eternal God existing in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
2. We believe the Bible is the Word of God, verbally inspired and inerrant, and is the supreme and final authority in faith and life.
3. We believe God created the Heavens and the Earth, and created man in His image.
4. We believe that God wonderfully and immutably creates each person as male or female. These two distinct, complementary genders together reflect the image and nature of God.
5. We believe that humankind, by disobedience, fell from a sinless state at the suggestion of Satan. This fall plunged humankind into a state of sin and spiritual death, and brought upon all humanity the sentence of eternal death. From this condition, regeneration by the Holy Spirit is absolutely necessary for salvation. By God's grace only, through faith alone, are we saved from our sin.
6. We believe Jesus Christ is God manifested in the flesh, born of a virgin; He lived a sinless life, suffered and died on our behalf, and He arose bodily from the grave, ascended to the right hand of the Father and is coming again in power and glory.
7. We believe faith without works is dead. The present ministry of the Holy Spirit is to indwell (live within) the Christian, enabling him to live a godly life.
8. We believe that God's design for marriage is the uniting of one man and one woman in a single, exclusive union, as delineated in Scripture. We believe that God intends sexual intimacy to occur only between a man and a woman who are married to each other.
9. We believe there will be a bodily resurrection of the saved to life and of the lost to damnation.
10. We believe that God offers redemption and restoration to all who confess and forsake their sin, seeking His mercy and forgiveness through Jesus Christ.

EDUCATIONAL PHILOSOPHY

At Oaks, we believe entwining a high standard of academic scholarship with authentic, grace-infused discipleship in a nurturing and joy-filled environment beautifully prepares students to discover their purpose and potential. Three concurrent commitments undergird and illumine our philosophy: 1) education via the **classical** method, 2) intentionally **Christ-centered** in curriculum and culture, 3) and in **covenant** with God, and in partnership with the school and one another.

By Classical we mean:

The uniqueness of classical education primarily lies neither with the particular subjects pursued nor with the specific curriculum employed but with the method by which knowledge is acquired. The classical method seeks to develop in the student:

1. A body of knowledge essential to educated men and women
2. Sound thinking and reasoning skills
3. The capacity for beauty and clarity of expression

At Oaks, we base our educational approach on the classical teaching model known as the Trivium, which divides the educational life of the child into three stages (grammar, logic, and rhetoric) and takes advantage of the student's natural capacity for certain types of learning at each of these stages. This method develops logical thinking, reasoning, and communication skills that equip students for a lifetime of learning.

By teaching students how to learn, we provide a solid foundation for mastering the specific subjects encountered throughout their formal education. The subject material and curricula at Oaks are carefully chosen to prepare students for a variety of post-secondary educational experiences, but our primary objective is that students gain the skills of learning for themselves. In the end, our teachers strive to instill in students a genuine love and enthusiasm for learning that will remain with them throughout their lives.

By Christ-centered we mean:

Instruction at Oaks acknowledges that all life, knowledge, and meaning extend from our Creator. Our Christ-centered curriculum means we do more than simply provide a religion class among many other classes; rather, by integrating the Scriptures throughout the curriculum, we present the Lord as the One in whom all knowledge is united. This approach requires that all subjects, whether history, art, music, literature, mathematics, or science, be taught in the light of God's existence and His revelation to humanity through His Son, Jesus Christ. We lead students in a pursuit of truth knowing that all truth points to God, and we encourage every student to develop a deep, genuine relationship with God through Jesus Christ.

By Covenantal we mean:

As a covenantal Christian school, Oaks serves children of believing parents. We require that parents be professing Christians and be committed to a Christ-centered "paideia" (full instruction and upbringing of a child). At Oaks, parents can have confidence they are in a partnership with other Christian parents that share similar commitments.

As believers, we are brothers and sisters in Christ, joint-heirs in the gospel and, therefore, have a great privilege and responsibility in our relationship with one another and with the mission of the school. While we are not the local church, we are a community often engaging in prayer, service, fellowship, and Biblical instruction.

Therefore, as a covenant community of parents, staff, faculty, and students, we abide by Biblical principles of Christian conduct. Words and actions which are expressly forbidden in Scripture, including but not limited to blasphemy, profanity, dishonesty, theft, drunkenness, sexual intimacy outside marriage, and homosexual practice, are not acceptable.

We expect all members of the Oaks community to be growing in their faith, pursuing godliness, and repenting of the “sins of the spirit”, notably pride, covetousness, jealousy, lust, immodesty, as all are destructive to the unity of the Body of Christ. Furthermore, we will seek to nurture the fruit of the Spirit – love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

Covenant partnership at Oaks means much more than involvement. It means that we share core and agreed upon principles and objectives, that we commit together to do the hard work of honest, timely, and biblically-guided communication and that we will strive to model for the children entrusted to our care those things that are true, good and beautiful. We are convinced that if we are truly aligned on the major objectives, walking shoulder to shoulder in the same direction, we will not only avoid much of the distraction and division that can characterize school communities, but will give our children a profoundly formative academic, social and spiritual education.

Oaks maintains a commitment to the principle of “in loco parentis.” This simply means we recognize that we operate as an extension of the family, the responsible unit in God’s plan for the education of children. Accordingly, we see our teachers as functioning with delegated authority from parents who are accountable to God for the education of their children. As a result, we strongly encourage parental involvement at Oaks, and we enthusiastically invite parents to participate actively in the school. We also expect parents to submit to the policies and decisions of the school.

Board members, administration, faculty, coaches, and staff of Oaks Classical Christian Academy, whether full time, part-time, or volunteer, and both parents of each student must agree with and abide by the above Mission, Statement of Faith, and Educational Philosophy evidenced by their signing a statement of agreement annually. Limited exceptions are addressed on a case-by-case basis.