

Brazos Classical Academy

Bryan/College Station, Texas

Vision, Mission, and Policy Statement

Vision and Mission Statements

Brazos Classical Academy is a Christian co-operative (co-op), operating under parental authority using the classical model to produce disciples who will influence our culture for Christ.

Brazos Classical Academy is committed to the following principles to ensure that the vision of the school is implemented:

- We demonstrate our Christianity in the context of relationships, loving each other with the love of Christ, encouraging each other to begin or develop a relationship with God through Christ, and treating each other with the dignity due creatures who are made in the image of God.
- We are rooted in the Word of God and teach the Scriptures of both the Old and New Testaments in such a way that students realize that the meaning and purpose of life and education are found in them. We acknowledge God as the source and author of all truth.
- All creation displays God's character and teaches us the meaning of beauty, goodness, and truth.
- Studying is an act of worship with spiritual implications; therefore, studies are conducted as unto God. Shabby scholarship brings Him no glory and is a failure to recognize His presence in our classrooms and in our lives.
- Our philosophy stresses unity of knowledge and all subjects are taught as part of an integrated whole. History is the story of God working in individuals and nations. It has a purpose and a destination. Because we are a western culture, we study western civilization with all its triumphs and failures. Literature, music and art are mankind's reflection of his understanding of the world. Properly done, the arts are a doxology, praising God and reflecting His truth, goodness, and beauty. Science and math are tangible evidence of God's orderliness and are our tools to explore the world and marvel at its design.
- Good students are good thinkers. Latin and formal logic sharpen our minds and teach us to analyze.

The Classical Distinction

Classical education, as the name implies, is the teaching method of proven excellence used throughout the previous two millennia. Classical students are instructed using the method called the Trivium, a three-stage process that corresponds with the learning stages of children as they mature in their capabilities. In the “grammar” stage, the youngest children spend much time accumulating facts about the various subjects; middle-school aged children learn to analyze and think critically about those facts in the “dialectic” (also called “logic”) stage; high school students in the “rhetoric” stage are primarily concerned with learning to communicate well using the facts and critical skills they have amassed. (See Dorothy Sayers’ article “The Lost Tools of Learning” at <http://www.gbt.org/text/sayers.html>.)

The content of classical education is based on the classics of Western literature, science, mathematics and the arts. Because excellence is stressed in all these areas, the student becomes a well-rounded individual who has learned how to learn. Unity of knowledge is stressed—each subject is related to others and cannot be properly understood in isolation. The subjects of Latin and logic are studied with academic rigor for the benefit they bring to the educational process and as preparation for more difficult studies in high school and the university. By the time the student leaves a classical secondary school, he or she will have learned how to write and speak effectively because much time will have been spent emulating the masters of those arts.

Statement of Faith

We believe the Bible to be the inspired, the only infallible, authoritative Word of God, completely inerrant in the original writings.

We believe that there is one God, eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

We believe God created the universe by His Power and Word.

We believe in the deity of our Lord Jesus Christ, in His virgin birth, in His sinless life, in His miracles, in His vicarious and atoning death through His shed blood, in His bodily resurrection, in His ascension to the right hand of the Father, and in His personal return in power and glory.

We believe that for the salvation of lost and sinful people, regeneration by the Holy Spirit is absolutely essential.

We believe salvation is by God’s grace alone through faith alone, resulting in both forgiveness of our sins and eternal life.

We believe in the present ministry of the Holy Spirit by whose indwelling the Christian is enabled to live a godly life.

We believe in the resurrection of both the saved and the lost; they that are saved unto the resurrection of life and they that are lost unto the resurrection of damnation.

We believe in the spiritual unity of believers in our Lord Jesus Christ.

Policies and Procedures

Requirements:

1. As a parent, you will teach one class and assist in one class.
2. You will have one free period unless you are called upon to substitute when someone is absent. Use your free time to get to know the other moms or to take some quiet time for yourself or to prepare for future lessons. Please do not leave the campus during this time without letting another teacher know how you can be reached in case of emergency.
3. All teachers are expected to arrive at co-op on time and be ready for announcements and prayer 15 minutes before first period. Teachers who are “off” first period are still expected to attend announcements and prayer time.
4. No new members will be admitted to the co-op once August orientation has taken place.

Commitment: Because this is an academic co-op run and taught weekly by the parents, your commitment is imperative. Perfect attendance is expected wherever possible. Certainly, life is full of unexpected events and we understand that. Barring those events, however, we ask that:

1. If you know ahead of time that you will be unable to attend more than two sessions per semester, we ask that you reconsider being part of this co-op.
2. You alone (not the co-op leaders or teachers) are the guardian of your children while they are on this church campus. Please refrain from leaving the campus. If you must leave, please take your children with you.*
3. Dropping out mid-term or mid-year by a family creates a big space to fill in terms of class offerings, teachers, and assistants. Please note that co-op fees will be forfeited by any family who drops out after orientation.

Sickness: While we want everyone to participate every week in our co-op, we understand that sickness can occur. To maintain the highest standard of hygiene in our co-op, we do ask you to observe our sick policy.

1. WITHIN 24 HOURS OF CO-OP TIME, if your child has a fever, contagious cough, or green nasal discharge, please do not bring him to co-op.
2. WITHIN 24 HOURS OF CO-OP TIME, if your child is vomiting or has diarrhea, please do not bring him to co-op.
3. WITHIN ONE WEEK OF CO-OP TIME, if your child has chicken pox or lice, please do not bring *anyone in your family* to co-op.

**If you have school-age children who are well, but you, the parent, are unable to attend because of other sick family members, the well children may attend if another member of the co-op agrees to be the guardian of your attending children that day. Please DO NOT send pre-school or nursery age children if you are not able to attend yourself.*

Discipline Policy

The word “discipline” means “to make a disciple.” This involves both the positive and negative aspects of teaching a child to live properly before God in all spheres of life. Two important factors of effective school behavior are properly established authority and consistent discipline.

In order to guarantee your student and all the students in our classrooms the kind of educational climate they deserve, we cannot tolerate a student impeding the teaching or preventing another from learning. Good discipline is imperative for a successful home school group. Children are happier and more cooperative when they have boundaries. We will be making these boundaries clear to the students and we ask you to reinforce them at home.

1. Students will honor and obey their teachers at all times.
2. Students will treat the facility in a manner that glorifies God.
3. Students will be kind to one another.
4. Students will do everything without complaining or arguing.
5. Students will not have gum, candy, or other snacks during class unless it is provided by that teacher for a specific purpose during that class only.

Our discipline system is very simple. When a behavior problem occurs, the classroom teacher will talk to the child reminding him of the correct behavior. If the behavior continues, the child will have to sit out of the activities for a designated time. Any further behavior problems will result in the child being removed from the class and the mom/dad called out to deal directly with her/his child. *Any child that continues week after week to misbehave will be asked to leave the group permanently.*