

Who we are

History

Immanuel Classical School began in 2021 as a ministry of Saint Andrew's Presbyterian Church with 46 students, and it has grown to 140. Our school was born out of a commitment to train our kids up in the paedia of the Lord, and that all education is discipleship. For 3 years we have been growing our school with families who share this conviction and its pursuit of our mission: *"to cultivate wonder, train in truth, and shape our students' love for God and His world through robust, objective based Classical Education."* Immanuel has sought to be a community of grace rather than one of rules and rigidity, endeavoring to provide a gospel-saturated education program for mission-fit, Christian families for students K-12th grade.

What Does it Mean to Be a Classical, Christian School?

Classical and Christian Education coaches students in the Liberal Arts by using the trivium to hone the skill of words and move them from knowledge to wisdom in various subjects and using the quadrivium to hone the skill of numbers. All of this is aimed at truth and training in discernment while growing in wisdom. St. Augustine once said that the only question we need to ask in developing an educational program is, "What skills does a child need to understand the Bible and tell others about it?" That might seem simplistic, but, what are those skills? Students need to be able to read (books are important). But even more than that they must understand grammar, literature (the Bible is filled with poetry, history, parables, proverbs, legislation, etc.), and ancient languages. They need to know geography (the Bible is filled with places) and history (the Bible tells the history of the nations of the world and has affected history after the Bible was written). But to really understand the Bible, a young person needs the principles of logic to make a theological inquiry and so must be trained to think logically. Augustine discusses numbers in Scripture, and talks about the physical world –we need to know math and science. But the capstone of Augustine's ideology is the ability to communicate God's truth to others in a way that is winsome and moving—that is, the study of rhetoric. Amazingly, this embodies a thorough liberal arts education. And this is why Christians for millennia have gone into new cultures, championing literacy and education, and transforming these cultures with the study of God's Word. The liberal form our heritage. The goal of a classical education is not to nostalgically return to a golden age of the past, but to build on the heritage of Christian learning as we move creatively into the future in a post-Christian society.

This robust, distinctly Christian view of education has largely been lost in our culture. It is hard to train a child to love goodness, beauty, and truth when we don't believe such things exist. This is why Christian education will be distinctly different from the education of the world. We are teaching our kids to love what God loves. But it turns out that these abilities to think wisely and communicate effectively (the goals of the liberal arts) are precisely the most important skills a person needs to go into life, the workforce, and to transform the world. We have the tools to equip our children to confidently go out into the world as light, and to go forth as God's agents. Here at Immanuel Classical School, we are recovering these tools and have been amazed to give our children something that we never had.

Governance

Immanuel is a ministry of Saint Andrew's Presbyterian Church. As a ministry of the church, the school is accountable to the church's Session (body of elders) for philosophy and practice and submits to and celebrates the church's doctrinal positions. The Education Council of Immanuel is accountable and approved by the church's Session, meeting monthly to ensure the school's mission alignment, institutional health, and long-term sustainability. The Headmaster is a member of the Education Council and reports directly to the Session, tasked with overseeing the operation of the school.

Who the Head Master Is:

A Pastoral and Spiritual Leader

- A mature Christian evidenced by a growing relationship with Jesus Christ, a love for God's word, and an ability to engage all of life from a biblical worldview and a rich theological foundation.
- An unapologetic lover and servant of both God and children who seeks to make all decisions in commitment to what honors God and is best for children.
- A humble, thoughtful shepherd who prays with and for Immanuel's students, families, and staff.
- A stable guide who is supremely ethical, teeped in moral purpose, clarity, conviction, and integrity.
- A curious and life-long learner whose desire to grow is rooted in a visible love for the gospel and radiates out to the various members of the school community.
- A person who loves to lead the school into worship each morning and who sees the school day through rhythms of prayer.
- A person who loves the local family of God, embraces the Reformed tradition (adherence to the Westminster Confession of Faith), and becomes an active member of Saint Andrew's Presbyterian Church.

A Relational Leader

- One who upholds grace and individuals' unique dignity as guiding principles for all relationships. One who understands and fully embraces the centrality of discipleship and faith formation to the heart of the school and sees the necessity of healthy relationships toward accomplishing this mission.
- One who understands the importance of deeply knowing the students who make up the Immanuel community and the academic, social, emotional, and spiritual challenges they face while maintaining high student expectations.
- One who winsomely and hospitably demonstrates a love for people, evidenced by a sincere interest in all Immanuel stakeholders including faculty, staff, students, parents, alumni, and supporters.
- One who communicates clearly, timely, and courageously from a commitment to truth, grace, and renewal.

An Executive Leader

- A guiding presence whose executive leadership style models and promotes integrity, transparency, collegiality, and support with an administrative team that effectively makes decisions and executes Immanuel's strategic plans.
- A stable presence who predictably and reliably manages change, calmly embraces conflict or crisis, maintains a strong, positive public demeanor, and engages issues with impartiality.
- A strategic presence who displays flexibility to guide the school and execute both in the day-to-day and toward key long-term priorities.

Be the Face of the School and Champion of its Mission

- Consistently demonstrate a conviction and calling to protect, promote, and embody the school's Classical Christian identity, unique cultural DNA, and legacy as set out in its mission, vision and distinctives.
- Support and submit to the mission and vision of Saint Andrew's Presbyterian Church and champion a Kingdom-minded vision for the future of the church and school.
- Represent Immanuel Classical School in dealings with Saint Andrew's Presbyterian Church, other schools, professional organizations, government and accrediting agencies, and the public as needed to maintain a healthy school reputation within our surrounding communities.
- Effectively communicate to inform, inspire, unify, and challenge the various members of the school community both publicly and in writing.

Cast Vision

- Learn from and build upon the past, fully engage the present, and, in collaboration with the Education Council and Session, cast a compelling, Christ-honoring vision for the future.
- Understand and adeptly navigate the threats and opportunities posed by a rapidly changing culture and safeguard Immanuel's mission and values with wisdom and courage.

Ensure and Protect Immanuel's Institutional Stability

- Proactively engage in fundraising for Immanuel by personally prioritizing the development and cultivation of key donor relationships and by overseeing strategic fundraising initiatives.
- Employ the financial acumen necessary to protect and further Immanuel's financial health and well-being, providing competent leadership in all aspects of financial decision-making.
- Oversee and protect admission policies and procedures to ensure enrollment of mission-fit families.
- Engage the Education Council and Session in a servant-leadership role within the established governance framework.
- Oversee facility usage and maintenance.

Nurture and Further Immanuel's Educational Vibrancy

- Ensure that Immanuel's commitment to student learning is secure by fostering innovation, supporting and exploring best practices, and continually reviewing and enhancing the overall curriculum, program, and facility.
- Encourage a culture of mission-driven policies, procedures, and programs to advance the depth and richness of learning that has been central to Immanuel's mission, values, and distinctives.
- Recruit, hire, cultivate, and mentor outstanding, Christ-honoring educational professionals who are passionate about Immanuel's mission and inspiring students toward loving God and others.
- Build and protect resources that assure retention and continuous improvement for Immanuel administration, faculty, and staff.