

Back 2 School

The Kansas City region is blessed with some of the best schools in both Missouri and Kansas. So why Christian education? If you are struggling with this question, congratulations. A majority of parents don't even consider any options besides public education. When parents ask this question, it means they are taking seriously their role and authority in their children's education.

God ordained the institution of the family. Parents are called by God to teach and train their children. School, any school, is only allowed to teach a child because the parents delegate their God-given authority to the school. It is important, then, that the parents agree with the goals and objectives that the school has for educating their children. Parents will stand before God for what they allowed their children to be taught.

In Galatians 6:7-8, the apostle Paul states, "Be not deceived; God is not mocked. For whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting."

We can think of the heart and mind of every child as being a garden. What is being sown into the heart and mind of your child?

In a Christian school, the truth is being sown

"To tell the truth and nothing but the truth, so help me God."

With one's hand on the Word of God, a witness in a court of law will profess to tell the truth and nothing but the truth. In the Christian school, the whole truth is told.

In this age of relativism, truth is what-

Is
Christian
Education
Really
Important?



there is strength. The child sees agreement in all areas of his life and those in authority over him. The child is taught to respect his parents not just because he is directly told to do so, but also because what his parents are saying at home is backed up by the teacher at school. They are speaking the same thing.

Your child will be around other Christian students and be in a Christian atmosphere

No child or adult is perfect. Your child will be exposed to the world. He will have to endure temptation, even in a Christian school. The difference is the ability of a Christian school to deal with bad behaviors and influences. High standards of behavior and the disciplined atmosphere encourages growth in righteousness and respect for themselves and others.

Your child will meditate on the Word of God

To be eternally successful, a Christian must study and meditate on the Word of God. Through monthly Scripture memorization, Bible class, student chapel, and the full integration of the Bible into all subject areas, each student learns to hide God's Word in his heart. Why? So he might not sin against God (Psalms 119:11) and so in whatever he does he prospers (Psalms 1:3).

So why send your child to a Christian school?

Because it will give your child the best foundation for life! And if we can give an advantage like this to our children, shouldn't we make that a priority?

ever you want to make it. But as Christians, we know the truth, Jesus. We understand that there is an anchor for all of life's decisions. Our course is set. We have a sure rock to stand on. We want our children to have this anchor and sure rock. We want our children to know the Truth.

In a Christian school, the Word of God is the standard for truth. The teachers can be sure they are teaching the whole truth and nothing but the truth. The students can learn to evaluate what is truth according to God's Word. They are taught each subject according to a Christian worldview.

In science, your child will learn he is not the product of an evolved ape. He is not a cosmic accident that has no future beyond this world. He will learn the truth. Seeds of truth will be sown - that he is a child of God, created in God's image with a special God-given purpose for his life.

In history, your child will learn that all time is orchestrated by God. Seeds will be sown that it is God who puts kings in their place and sets them down. It is God that has the answers to social and economic problems. It is God who sets the standards for society.

In math, students will see that it is the infinite mind of God that put the universe in order in all it's mathematical accuracy.

Subject after subject, seeds of truth are sown. God gives knowledge and understanding. Wisdom comes by applying God's truth to that understanding.

In other words, GOD is significant in every area of study. To segregate God out of education is to present Him as insignificant and irrelevant.

In a Christian school the students are taught by Christian teachers

For seven hours a day, five days a

week, 36 weeks per year, a child is in school. The most significant role model a child has besides his parents is his teacher. The Bible states in Luke 4, that a student shall become as his teacher. It does not say they will learn from what the teacher says as much as they will learn from who they are. To raise godly children, it is imperative they have godly parents and teachers as role models. A Christian teacher will pray for and with a student. When a student comes to a difficult situation, they will be taught to bring that problem to God. Bad attitudes or problem behaviors are dealt with and discussed according to Biblical standards of right and wrong.

In a Christian school, the students are taught to honor their parents

A three-cord strand is not easily broken. When parents bind themselves to their church and a Christian school,

Vibrant Classical
Christian Education

Pre-K through 12th Grade

www.whitefieldacademy.org
816.444.3567

Truth in education matters.
Start early.

PRESCHOOL (3+) AND KINDERGARTEN
Now enrolling for Fall 2015!

913-722-0272 | OverlandChristian.org | 7016 W. 74th St, Overland Park, KS 66204

FIRST ASSIGNMENT: Back-to-school devotion

This back-to-school devotion with prayer and scripture invites the entire family and God to celebrate the transition into school.

It's easy, during the back-to-school rush, to get lost in the shopping, enrollment, and activity of school and miss out on asking God's presence and guidance for a child or teen's education.

Gathering the whole family together for prayer

Plan the back-to-school devotion in the evening, or another time when the whole family is present and relaxed. Time the devotion activity the day before school starts up after a break of some kind, to ease the family's transition.

Invite the family to be seated around a table, in the living room, or in some other comfortable family space for about 20 minutes. Select one member of the family to be the designated leader, and instruct members of the family that they may be asked to contribute specific prayers throughout the devotion.

Prayer asking God to bless the family throughout the coming school year

During this exercise, the designated leader begins with the following prayer:

"Loving God, thank you for the gift of vacation we have all enjoyed, especially (list family members going to school). We ask Your guidance as we begin a new school year (or semester) as a family. Help us to listen to each other, be patient when others are stressed, be helpful when others are struggling, and be kind when others are frustrated.



Guide us all to be better students in Your word and ways, O God, and help us to listen to ourselves, each other, and You." Amen.

Invitation to share thanksgivings from vacation and hopes for school year

The leader then invites everyone at the table to share something they give thanks for over the following break. For example, Sydnee, age 5, gives thanks for going swimming with Grandma, while Mom gives thanks for Tawnya, age 14, babysitting her younger siblings during the day.

When everyone has shared a thanksgiving, encourage the family to share a hope for the coming school year or term. For example, Sydnee may desire to make friends at her new school, while Mom hopes that all the children will clean up

after themselves when they come home from school.

Sharing the word, Jesus in the temple

For the next step, the leader can read Luke 2:45-47, and 52 to the group gathered.

"When Jesus' parents" could not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among his teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers... And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor."

How to close in prayer

To conclude, the participants can invite everyone at the table to hold hands and join together in the following prayer:

"Loving God, You brought Your Beloved Son to the temple to learn from His teachers, and You guided Him to increase in wisdom and divine favor. Guide those of us attending school to listen to our teachers and ask them questions, as Jesus did. Encourage us all to learn and grow as much as possible in the image of Your Son, Jesus, that our family might live in the light of Your love. Amen."

You can also conclude by saying the "Lord's Prayer" together as a family.

This is a great way to transition from vacation time to the faster pace of school and at the same time, honor Christ in our daily activities and school goals.

NOW ENROLLING
2015-16
816-455-3513
CLASSICAL CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
K-12

FAITH CHRISTIAN ACADEMY III

3500 NE Prather Rd. Kansas City, MO 64116 www.fcaclassical.com

HERITAGE CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

SOUTH JOHNSON COUNTY'S LARGEST CHRIST-CENTERED PRESCHOOL-12TH GRADE COLLEGE PREPARATORY SCHOOL

CURRENTLY SERVING MORE THAN 475 STUDENTS

CHRIST-CENTERED
Spiritually transformative, not merely informative

CONCEPTUAL THINKING
The convergence of critical thinking and creative ability

COMMUNICATION
Clear, concise, eloquent and insightful

CALLING
To know and to be known by God, To identify and nurture the unique potential of each child

EAST CAMPUS (Elementary/Central Office)
9333 West 159th Street
Overland Park, KS 66221
P 913.681.7622

WEST CAMPUS (Junior/Senior High)
16000 Blackhawk Road
Olathe, KS 66062
P 913.782.3262

Visit hcakc.org for more information.

STEM Diploma & Fine Arts Certified Track Available

PREPARING LIVES FOR TODAY, TOMORROW AND ETERNITY!

THE LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL of Kansas City

12411 Wornall Road
Kansas City, MO 64145
816.241.5478

Fully Accredited by NLSA & AdvancEd

www.lhskc.com

SURVIVING HIGH SCHOOL AS A CHRISTIAN

by **Susan Barclay**

One of the two youth groups my daughter attends sees the high schoolers themselves leading worship and delivering the evening's message. This is good in theory but can be quite iffy in practice - not so much the music part, but the public speaking part, especially if there's no guidance or someone to look over what you intend to say.

Recently the parents had a chance to participate in one of the meetings, and the speaker's topic was "How to survive high school as a Christian." The boy looked to be in grade 10, so the fact is, he hasn't survived high school yet. And he'd only scribbled a few notes on his subject that afternoon. It was apparent he hadn't put much thought into it or asked anyone to give him feedback.

His strategies for surviving high school as a believer come down to this: bob and weave, duck and run. If someone asks why you don't participate in certain activities, think fast and come up with an answer that distracts from your faith, or tell the person you're a loser. Not very courageous, not very victorious. Not, I'm afraid, very honest.

The Bible tells us in 1 John 5:3-5 that "This is love for God: to obey his commands. And his commands are not burdensome, for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. Who is it that overcomes the world? Only he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God."



Jesus said in Luke 9:26, "If anyone is ashamed of me and my words, the Son of Man will be ashamed of him when he comes in his glory and in the glory of the Father and of the holy angels."

My daughter's favorite verse is Psalm 27:1, which says, "The LORD is my light and my salvation—whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life—of whom shall I be afraid?"

Christians are conquerors, not losers - we have the gifts of eternal life (famously expressed in John 3:16) and salvation. We should be neither ashamed,

nor afraid.

As someone who did survive high school while being a Christian, I would offer the following advice to those who aspire to do likewise:

- First of all, make sure your faith is your own and that you're not just going along with your parents/church. You're not a Christian if you haven't made it personal, no matter what your heritage/tradition.

- Know what you believe and why you believe it. If you don't know these

basic things, how can you be strong or defend your faith if necessary? Books like Know What You Believe and Know Why You Believe by Paul Little, and The Case for Christ (teen version) by Lee Strobel are resources that explain Christianity well.

- Try to find like-minded friends who can support you and hold you accountable. Your school might have a club for Christian students, or you may know some of your classmates from church or youth group. Meeting together weekly for Bible study, prayer, discussion, and fellowship can be life-saving and life-giving.

- Just say no - no to smoking, drinking, drugs, and any other activity that doesn't fit with your Christian values. You aren't obligated to explain yourself, but you can choose to tell people that you don't think those pursuits are "cool," that they don't sit well with you, that you're unique and don't follow the crowd, or that you have boundaries that stem from being a Christ-follower. You

don't want to soil your temple, His dwelling place.

- Part of the human problem, not just the teenage problem, is that we want to be liked. We want our peers to accept us and not reject us. Unfortunately, this is the life we are called to if we are to be true Christ-followers. In the Beatitudes Jesus said, "Blessed are you when people insult you and persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great; for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you." (Matthew 5:11-12)

- It may not be easy, but remember this: "your reward in heaven is great." Alone, it isn't possible to survive high school as a Christian. But with God, all things are possible. Not only can you survive the high school years, but you can thrive in them. May God bless you as you stay true to Him and His Word.

Susan Barclay is a successful writer and has a degree in library science. www.susan-barclay.ca.

SUMMIT CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

Named a Top 5 Private School in the Kansas City Area

ENROLLING NOW FOR 2015-2016!

CALL 816-525-1480 FOR MORE INFORMATION OR A PERSONAL TOUR.

1500 SW Jefferson • Lee's Summit MO 64081 • summit-christian-academy.org

INSPIRING WORLD CHANGERS

Pre-K Thru High School

ENROLL FOR 2015-2016

- Excellence in Academics
- Championship Athletics
- College Level Courses
- Students with a Mission
- Curriculum on Godly Character for Pre-K thru High School

www.mca-eagles.org > 913.631.0637

Now Enrolling 2015 - 2016 School Year

Enroll by Aug. 15
Classes Begin Aug. 21

7600 Blue Ridge Blvd.
Kansas City (Raytown area)
Since 1983

Heart of America Ministries & Christian School

- Pre-School Thru 12th Grade • Non-Denominational
- Individualized Instruction • Self-paced Christian Curriculum
- Diagnostic Testing to Determine Students' Individual Performance Level • Safe, Supervised Learning Atmosphere
- Computer Enhanced Learning • Family Discounts • High Academic Results • State and International Conventions • Accredited by Accelerated Christian Education

Call 816-356-6380 for a information packet or visit www.heartofamericaministries.com