

## **Teaching Children, Not Curriculum: Partners in Education**

Classical education undertakes to educate the whole person—mind, heart, and soul—by offering a formation in intellectual and moral virtue. Next fall we will implement two components of the St. Patrick Curriculum. We will fully implement its ELA program in our PreK-5 and we are in the process of deciding how we will implement its history curriculum in our middle school. This moves us toward a more intentional integration of learning across all disciplines.

Yet, by adopting this curriculum, we are not only choosing content that will feed children holistically; we are also choosing an approach to teaching and to communication that is more aligned with our goals of building a community of education. Our mission of training the heart and mind is fulfilled in three ways: in content, in pedagogy, and in our community. We are called to work together as parents, teachers, and students to grow as a community in Christ for a common purpose.

A more faithful fulfillment of this mission commits all the members of our community to a real partnership in education:

**For our teachers and students**, we commit to offering an education which is not reducible to instruction; to creating an environment which cultivates the student’s natural desire for wisdom and virtue, and which draws upon the teacher’s own creativity, responsiveness, and love of learning.

**For our families**, we commit to support parents in their role as their children’s primary educators; to extend “the warmth and intimacy of the family’s life” in our classrooms; and to foster, with rich content and well-ordered instruction, conversations at the dinner table about what our children find beautiful in their learning, what challenges them, and what they find joy in.

**For our parents and teachers**, we commit to strengthening communication, so that parents are connected to their children’s learning and teachers know how to better meet students’ needs.

Ultimately, even a fully integrated curriculum is secondary to our teaching methods and the ends we seek. Our new pedagogy will encompass intentional practices that change how we—parents and teachers—educate. Practically, this means forming the students’ imagination by engaging in open-ended discussions about great books, conducting inquiry-based math and science lessons, bringing history to life through stories, and memorizing and reciting beautiful poetry. Our new curriculum calls for parents to participate in their children’s education by reinforcing these practices in the home. The intellectual and moral formation of the whole child demands the collaboration of the whole community of education.

To that end, plan to come to our students’ Art Show on April 28th; consider joining our school’s PTVO meetings; and we invite you to the following events (receive PIP points for attending!):

**Lecture Series**

March 29: What does Classical, Catholic education look like at St. Andrew School? by Mrs. GG Grotbo and Mr. Joe May

April 4: Catholic Identity & Ecumenism by Dr. Hannah Hemphill

April 21: Faith & Reason by Dr. Eric Hall

May 31: Why Classical Education? Why St. Patrick Curriculum? by Dr. Diana Philpott

**Community Information Night**

May 2: St. Patrick Curriculum