

Quarterly Newsletter

STAY UPDATED ON
ALL THAT IS
HAPPENING AT CDT!



CLASSICAL
EDUCATION
WHAT IS IT?



CAPITAL
DEVELOPMENT
WHAT'S NEW?



INSTITUTIONAL
ADVANCEMENT
HOW ARE WE GROWING?

FALL NEWS



From J. Kevin Frye-Principal

It has been thirty years since Holy Family School regionalized to become Christ the Divine Teacher School. Today, CDT remains a strong and vital part of the Latrobe community. In fact, despite the challenges of navigating through the COVID pandemic, our school experienced a twenty percent enrollment growth over the last two years.

The classical curriculum adopted six years ago has been an important factor in this success, as has the completion of our air conditioning, greenhouse, and technology center projects. Our staff, students and parents are resolved in their commitment to the school's continued growth, and the support of those beyond our school walls continues to be a critical component of this success.

This newsletter is for you. It offers a glimpse into our school community today. We remain grateful for your support and pray the Lord will bless and strengthen you in the days ahead. Please know our prayers go with you.

For more information about Christ the Divine Teacher School, please visit: www.cdtschool.org.

"Our students learn how to think, not what to think."

WHAT IS CLASSICAL EDUCATION?

In 2015, we were blessed with an opportunity to transform our traditional Catholic school into a classical Catholic academy. The move offered the opportunity to set our school apart from others in the region. After six years, it couldn't be clearer that taking the path less traveled was God's plan for our school community. The transformation of our students academically, spiritually, and behaviorally has been evident.

So, what is classical education you ask? *"Classical education is like a very large museum filled with many beautiful wonder-filled rooms that could be studied over a lifetime. It is a long tradition of education that has emphasized the seeking after of truth, goodness, and beauty and the study of liberal arts and the great books."* (Classical Academic Press)

The school is separated into three sections: Lower Grammar (PK-2), Upper Grammar (3-5), and Logic School (6-8). Our content areas are also different than most. We study history, literature, nature studies, grammar, religion, Latin, logic, and mathematics.

History is our anchor subject. Students learn history in a sequential order starting with ancient civilizations followed by the Greek, Roman, Middle Ages, Renaissance, and New World periods. Our literature is closely intertwined with history. Students read novels and great works of literature tied to the period they are studying.

Our students are immersed in hands-on learning experiences, student-led dialogues, and creative opportunities which offer ways to explore and strengthen their spirituality and relationships with God. The rigorous academics paired with an engaging, religious learning environment prepares our students for the 21st century. Students are also exposed to many community service opportunities that allow them to see and experience a world beyond themselves. Their selflessness and kindness shine beyond their academics and are something that continues to make CDT such a special place.

*Read Well
Speak Well
Think Well*



*Searching For Truth
Discovering Beauty
Growing in Virtue*

LOWER GRAMMAR SCHOOL



KINDERGARTEN

IN KINDERGARTEN, STUDENTS LEARN MANY OF THEIR NEW SKILLS AND INFORMATION THROUGH SONG AND DANCE IN THE CLASSROOM. THIS TYPE OF LEARNING ENGAGES THE YOUNG MIND, HELPS TO CULTIVATE CREATIVITY AND IMAGINATION, AND ALLOWS STUDENTS TO FIND WAYS TO EXPRESS THEMSELVES!

"SINGING SONGS ARE SUPER FUN AND IT HELPS ME REMEMBER WHAT I'M LEARNING"—OLIVIA HISSEM

IN FIRST GRADE, STUDENTS ARE GIVEN MULTIPLE WAYS TO LEARN HOW TO SPELL AND READ RATHER THAN JUST USING PENCIL AND PAPER. CHILDREN DEVELOP FASTER AND GAIN A DEEPER LEVEL OF UNDERSTANDING WHEN THEY ARE HAVING FUN LEARNING.

"I LIKE TO SPELL ON MY WHITE BOARD, BECAUSE IT HELPS ME TO LEARN TO WRITE STORIES!"—MAGGIE VASLAVSKY



FIRST GRADE



SECOND GRADE

IN SECOND GRADE, STUDENTS HAVE MANY HANDS-ON PROJECTS WHICH ENGAGE THEM IN THEIR LEARNING. THESE OPPORTUNITIES PROVIDE UNIQUE LEARNING EXPERIENCES FOR A YOUNG MIND.

"I LIKE TO SORT THE ROCKS AND I THINK I MIGHT WANT TO WORK WITH ROCKS WHEN I GROW UP."—HARRISON PEER

UPPER GRAMMAR

IN THIRD GRADE, THE STUDENTS BEGIN NOVEL STUDIES. AT THE CONCLUSION OF EACH NOVEL, THEY CREATE A PROJECT (GAME BOARDS, DIORAMA, SKITS, MUSIC VIDEOS, ETC.) TO SHOWCASE THEIR UNDERSTANDING OF THE CONTENT THEY HAVE JUST LEARNED. THIS ALLOWS STUDENTS WITH DIFFERENT LEARNING STYLES TO DEMONSTRATE THEIR KNOWLEDGE OF THE CONTENT.

"DOING A DIORAMA HELPED ME TO LEARN MORE ABOUT WHAT LIFE WAS LIKE IN THE MIDDLE AGES. I LOVE TO LEARN ABOUT THE KNIGHTS!" - ALLY DUPILL



THIRD GRADE



FOURTH GRADE

IN FOURTH GRADE, STUDENTS CONTINUE WITH THEIR NOVEL STUDIES IN LITERATURE WITH MORE IN-DEPTH, CREATIVE, HANDS-ON PROJECTS THAT PROMOTE A DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF THE CONTENT.

"I LOVE THAT WE GET TO TAKE WHAT WE LEARNED IN THE BOOK AND THINK ABOUT HOW THEY DESCRIBED THE SETTING IN ORDER TO CREATE OUR ESCAPE PLAN OFF TREASURE ISLAND."—NIKALA LEVRIO

IN FIFTH GRADE, STUDENTS ARE BEGINNING TO DEVELOP A DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF HOW CONCEPTS IN ALL SUBJECT AREAS WORK TOGETHER. THIS TYPE OF LEARNING HELPS THEM TO DEVELOP PUBLIC SPEAKING AND CONVERSATIONAL SKILLS.

"THE WAY WE LEARN GRAMMAR AND LANGUAGE HELPS US TO BE BETTER READERS AND WRITERS." —LOGAN MCCULLOUGH



FIFTH GRADE

LOGIC SCHOOL



SIXTH GRADE

IN SIXTH GRADE, STUDENTS ARE LEARNING THE RESEARCH PROCESS. THEIR PROJECT CULMINATES WITH AN EGYPTIAN FAIR WHERE STUDENTS PRESENT TO THE STUDENTS AND FACULTY THEIR GAME BOARDS, COSTUMES, RESEARCH PAPERS AND OTHER COMPONENTS.

"DOING THESE TYPES OF PROJECTS HELP US TO LEARN HOW TO ARGUE OUR POINT IN A RESPECTFUL AND EDUCATED WAY." —SAM DLUGOS

SEVENTH GRADE STUDENTS LEARN PRE-ALGEBRA USING TRADITIONAL, CLASSICAL PEDAGOGIES THAT SHOW MATH IS SOMETHING BEYOND A UTILITARIAN SKILL, BUT A WAY TO UNDERSTAND THE WORLD. KNOWLEDGE OF SKILLS IS TRANSFERRED USING SELF-GUIDED MATH WORKSHOP STATIONS, TEACHER GUIDANCE AND STUDENT-LED SOCRATIC DIALOGUES.

"I LIKE THAT WE DON'T JUST LEARN FROM BOOKS, BUT FROM EXPERIENCES. IT HELPS US TO APPLY WHAT WE ARE LEARNING TO REAL LIFE." —LYDIA PIPER



SEVENTH GRADE



EIGHTH GRADE

IN EIGHTH GRADE, THERE IS A LARGE EMPHASIS ON HOW TO THINK ABSTRACTLY AND LOGICALLY. THIS STAGE OF LEARNING PROMOTES STUDENTS' INDEPENDENCE AND STRENGTHENS THEIR SKILLS TO BE INDEPENDENT THINKERS AND LEARNERS.

"WE CHOSE A BEATITUDE TO DO AN ARTISTIC PIECE ON. THIS HELPS US TO DESCRIBE IT IN A DIFFERENT WAY THAN IT IS USUALLY THOUGHT OUT. THIS SPARKS MORE CREATIVITY AND THOUGHT TOWARDS THE BEATITUDE."

PRESCHOOL

OUR PRESCHOOL PROVIDES OPPORTUNITIES THROUGH A CLASSICAL EDUCATION APPROACH, WHICH ALLOWS THE CHILDREN TO EXPLORE AND LEARN. THE ACTIVITIES AND CURRICULUM ENGAGE STUDENTS IN A WAY THAT PROMOTES THEIR LOVE FOR LEARNING AND PREPARES THEM FOR KINDERGARTEN.



PRESCHOOL

*"An investment in
knowledge pays the best
interest."
—Benjamin Franklin*



CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT

In addition to our change in academics, we have also been blessed to see improvement to our school facilities. Without the generous support from our donors, fundraising, and grants, none of this would be possible.

In 2018, several of our teachers were awarded a grant from the diocese to construct a greenhouse on school property. Science instruction can now "grow" in an exciting, hands-on setting. With the generous donation of materials and time, owner Lester Sutton and Aggressive Grinding Service employees completed the construction of the greenhouse just prior to the start of the pandemic in March 2020.

In 2019, our staff recognized the opportunity and need for technology advancement at our school. They were awarded another grant through the diocese to construct The LIFT Center (Learning Innovatively from Technology). Students are immersed in opportunities to learn video recording and editing with state-of-the-art cameras and video editing software. In addition, recent technology purchases created a 1:1 device ratio which have been a critical component in our ability to serve our students through the pandemic.

At the close of the 2020-2021 school year, the eighth-grade class fundraised to renovate the teacher's lounge as their class gift. In addition to their fundraising, the students (with the help of Mr. Frye and their parents) spent an entire weekend transforming the lounge for the teachers.

For the 2021-2022 school year, the school community will also see the addition of a STREAM (Science, Technology, Religion, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics) Room. This will include a 3D printer, robotics, virtual reality headsets, and more.

It is truly incredible to see dedication to the advancement of our school by so many and the generosity that follows. We are excited for the future and the opportunities to advance our school that will continue to provide our students with a rigorous, innovative, and creative education that will help them soar into their futures.

INSTITUTIONAL ADVANCEMENT

YOUR IMPACT BEGINS WITH THE ANNUAL FUND

Since the 2019-2020 school year, we have seen a 20% increase in our enrollment! With the generous 4 million dollar TOP Student Scholarship, we look forward to seeing our school continue to grow.

We have also been fortunate to have many local businesses and individuals participate in the Earned Income Tax Credit (**EITC**) Program. This program allows participants to direct 75-90% of their state income taxes into a scholarship fund and receive a tax credit in return. Last year we raised \$84,000 to be used for scholarships. The EITC program has provided many of our families with the needed financial support that makes it possible for their children to attend CDT.

Each year, we have several **fundraising events** to support our operating costs. In the past, families have helped to raise money through cash calendar tickets, a cash bash, art auction, bingo, and the Race for Education. Despite the impact of the pandemic and the ability to fundraise in person, our fundraising efforts produced a record-breaking year in 2020-2021 with \$86,000 raised!

This year, our goal with the **annual fund** is to raise \$20,000. This money will allow us the freedom to embark on new, ambitious projects that will continue to uphold the integrity of our Catholic identity, the mission of our school, and our dedication to being an educational leader in our community. Your support will impact our school for years to come and, for that, we are forever grateful. Below you will see short and long-term fundraising goals.

*If you are interested in donating to the 2021-2022 Annual Fund, please visit www.cdtschool.org on the **DONATE** page.*

GOAL

**ERECT A
PLAYGROUND**

GOAL

**BUILD A
GYMNASIUM**

GOAL

**CREATE A
STREAM
CENTER**

(SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY,
RELIGION, ENGINEERING,
ART, AND MATHEMATICS)

GOAL

**PURCHASE
INNOVATIVE
RESOURCES
FOR
EDUCATION**