



BY THE MANE

A Publication of Dominion Classical Christian Academy

These things--the liberal arts and the great books--are maps that we today can use on the road to learning.

Martin Cothran

All Things New

Once again, we are grateful for God's providence in bringing just the right people into the Dominion family. As I said last year, we continue to be pleasantly surprised to find so many people committed to educating their children in a Christ-centered, classical, and covenantal environment. Our third year of existence has brought a third year of growth, and we now



have separate classes for grades K4-2.

Along with our new students have come several new teachers as well. This year's

newsletters will include introductions to our new teachers: Jeri Hanson in K4, Lane Heller in 1st grade, and
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A Christ-Centered Education

Your family likely became interested in Dominion because of our school's distinctives --Christ-centered, classical, and covenantal. I want to focus here on what is meant by Christ-centered.

Most Christian schools would say they are Christ-centered if asked, so what makes Dominion's approach any different? The difference lies in a thoughtful and deliberate approach in teaching our students to see life with a Christian worldview.

As Christians we must develop a fully-

orbed belief regarding God's plan for history, including His plan for us. This involves four recurring and ongoing stages of history. Each stage has implications that influence how we want our children to view all of life.

Creation. All is God's and all was created good. Our children need to understand that they are created in God's image and are therefore creators that should strive to imitate God's beauty.

Fall. when sin entered the world God's creation became broken

and distorted, including us. We all have our own little "pathologies." We must admit and endure them in a spirit of humility and repentance. Author J.R.R. Tolkien said, "Education is repentance." Our children and students must understand and admit they are broken and do not know all.

Redemption. This is the good news! All can be and will be redeemed by God. He allows us to be a part of His redemptive plan. We know that God wants to redeem souls but we hear less about

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Logic!" said the Professor
half to himself. "Why don't
they teach logic at these
schools?"

From *The Lion, The Witch
and the Wardrobe*

All Things New (continued)

Meg Garrison and Leigh-Ann Danley in 7th grade. We also added two aides: Julee Kemp in K4 and Susan Herndon in K5. Our students will benefit greatly from this considerable experience.

In addition to new people, students arriving at our back-to-school picnic were surprised to see a new structure outside. Thanks to a generous

donation, we were able to install a new, high-quality wooden playground, christened Fort Dominion. Our students have already gotten a great deal of enjoyment out of it, and we look forward to using it for many years.

Finally, after two years of operation as a university-schedule school, this year we have added a new, more traditional 5-day

option. Almost a dozen students will participate in a Tuesday/Thursday study center, and several more will join them in the afternoon for electives in art, science, music, and PE. This is exciting for several reasons, not least because we have been able to welcome several families who are "with us" philosophically but have logistical challenges. — James Cain

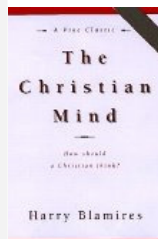
Christ-centered (continued)

redeeming the earth, cultures and communities. At the Association of Classical and Christian Schools conference this summer, Ken Myers said that "Culture is a recovery project rather than an escape plan." This is a command from God that we first see in Genesis, the dominion mandate to care for and cultivate His creation until "Thy will be done

on earth as it is in heaven." We teach our children that they must be engaged in their community to be able to impact and influence it. **Final restoration.** All of creation will ultimately be redeemed and restored to the perfection of creation. Knowing the end of the story helps our children to understand how they should live now in the middle of the story.

If our children understand these foundations of a Christian worldview, then they will be able to rightly interpret everything going on around them: politics, world events, the arts, the joys and tragedies of life and their purpose on earth. They will shape both the character and conscience of their community and culture.

Off the Shelf



The Christian Mind: How Should a Christian Think?
(Study Guide edition, Vine Books, 1997)

In a 1963 classic too seldom read, Harry Blamires laments the

disappearance of *The Christian Mind*. The suggestion that Christians have "lost their minds" is by no means uncommon, but Blamires veers from that well-trodden path to say that in casting away even the idea of a

Christian mind, the church has lost something vital: a field of discourse, a language, that enables us to explore and answer the questions of our day.

Christians tend to

Off the Shelf

jump at Christian practice: asking “What should we do about this?” The problem is, as this author writes, that we do not ask, “What or how should we *think* about this?” This book is an attempt to recover Christian thinking.

Classical education and the liberal arts are valuable tools in this work. I recommend this book as a starting place for thinking Christianly about what is going on in our world.

Food for Thought

As it is not expected that the child shall acquire at school all the knowledge he will need, nor that he will cease to learn when school instruction ceases, the first object of teaching is to communicate such knowledge as may be useful in gaining other knowledge, to stimulate in the pupil the love of learning, and to form in him the habits of independent study.

John Milton Gregory, *The Seven Laws of Teaching*

We have “a hope-filled goal: that the result of all of the effort we pour into teaching and learning would not only benefit the individuals we educate, but would help our society toward more grace and civility, toward a universally high quality of life.”

(from *Wisdom and Eloquence: A Christian Paradigm for Classical Learning* by Robert Littlejohn and Charles T. Evans)

Coming Events

September

- 3 First day of school
- 5 Opening Assembly, 10:30 a.m.
- 24 School Pictures, 8:30 a.m. (Best Day)
- 25 Open House, 6:30 p.m.
- 22 History Fair

October

- 3 Progress Reports issued
- 10 Grandparents Day, 10:30 a.m. (Best Day)
- 16 Prospective Family Information meeting, 7 p.m.
- 23 Foundational Workshop, 6:30 p.m.
- 31 Chapel (Reformation Day), 10:30 a.m./End of marking period

November

- 7 Report Cards issued
- 14 Honors Chapel, 10:30 a.m. (Best Day)
- 20 Prospective Family Information meeting, 7 p.m.
- 26 Early Release, 12:30 p.m.
- 27-30 Thanksgiving Break (NO SCHOOL)

December

- 5 Chapel (Advent), 10:30 a.m.
- 11 Christmas Program, 7 p.m.
- 18 Prospective Family Information meeting, 7 p.m.
- 19 Early Release, 12:30 p.m.
- 19 Skating Party, Skate Country, 1:30 p.m.
- 22—Jan 2 Christmas Break (NO SCHOOL)