

The Mission of Valor Classical Academy

Our mission is to educate and enculturate students in Christ, with the classical tradition, to glorify God in all of life.

Action	educate and enculturate students in Christ
Method	with the classical tradition
Aim	to glorify God in all of life.

Educate and Enculturate Students in Christ

Education is sacred. After all, the fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge (Proverbs 1:7). That's why our mission isn't about merely intellectual information; it's about character formation. We aim to educate and enculturate students so that their hearts and minds are tuned to God's truth. Just as all societies seek to pass down their beliefs, customs, and stories, Christian parents must raise their children in the discipline and instruction of the Lord (Ephesians 6:4). Valor exists to partner with parents to fulfill this sacred mission. We aim to cultivate the joy of learning by seeing God at the center of our education. We believe every context is a classroom to train children to love God with their heart, soul, mind, and strength and to love their neighbor as themselves (Matthew 22:37–39). We teach students that God's commands apply to everything their hands touch and their eyes see (Deuteronomy 6:7–8). That's why we direct students to seek God as the greatest good, and to seek the good of others through the gospel of Jesus Christ.

All education begins with a set of assumptions based on faith. Our education begins with the Christian worldview. Our purpose is to pursue truth as revealed in the Bible and through God's creation. The study of the Bible is central to our education. The Bible is the ultimate standard for all truth. In Christ, all things, including all academic disciplines, hold together (Colossians 1:17). Therefore, our school trains children to live knowing Jesus is Lord and to rejoice in that glorious truth (Romans 10:9).

- We study reading to understand God's word and world (Psalm 119:98–100).
- We study writing to clarify, correct, and contribute to our culture (Jude 1:3; Matthew 7:24–27).
- We study history to marvel at the story God is authoring with our world (Daniel 2:21; Isaiah 46:10).
- We study physics, biology, and mathematics to worship our Creator and exercise godly dominion over his world (Genesis 1:28).

We train students to live boldly and preach the gospel everywhere they go so that Christ is glorified and the nations are healed (Revelation 22:2). In short, we aim to help parents raise children of valor.

With the classical tradition

Modern education is parochial. Students rarely read primary texts outside the modern period. We aim to revive and pass on the heritage of Western Civilization left to us by the ancients and curated by our forefathers in the faith. Not every ancient writing is good. So we teach our students to discern good and evil with the Bible as the light to their path (Psalm 119:105).

The current government school system is proof that education fails if students are not equipped with the tools of learning. Imprecise thinking and poor discernment beget foolishness and pain. Students must be trained to memorize correctly, read closely, think critically, write clearly, and speak compellingly. That is why we use the Liberal Arts of the classical tradition in our education.

The liberal arts include the trivium and the quadrivium. The trivium teaches students how to understand the world through words.

- Grammar teaches students the basic parts of each subject; it cultivates the skill of speaking rightly. Language grammar teaches students to read, the parts of speech, and punctuation. The grammar of history teaches students the timeline of events and people in the period studied.
- Logic teaches students how the parts of each subject relate; it cultivates the skill of right reasoning and argumentation. Logic in language teaches students to evaluate the validity of arguments and craft their own. The logic of history teaches students how history holds together in a coherent story and to discern who the good guys are.
- Rhetoric teaches students to communicate their thinking effectively; it cultivates the skill of persuasion and effective communication. This includes the skill of writing clearly and speaking compellingly.

The four liberal arts of the quadrivium teach students how to think with number in space and time.

- Arithmetic teaches students to think in number, including how numbers operate on one another (addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, etc.).
- Geometry teaches students about number in space (area, volume, circumference, etc.).
- Music teaches students about number in time (whole-note vs. quarter-note, tempo, etc.).
- Astronomy teaches students about number in space and time (planetary orbits, lunar distance, etc.).

We aim to give students the tools to learn to think in words and number so that they are equipped to obey God by taking dominion of his world (Genesis 1:28).

To Glorify God in All of Life

Our aim is for students to fulfill the purpose for which God made them: to glorify God in all of life (1 Corinthians 10:31). We especially want them to glorify God by their valor. Valor means demonstrating courage in the face of great danger. It's the result of firm conviction and steady faith. In a world broken by the curse and still awaiting resurrection, we believe valor is the need of the hour. Fighting the good fight of faith (2 Timothy 4:7) and building his kingdom. In a world filled with darkness, we have courage, conviction, and a joyful devotion to God (Nehemiah 8:10) because of the hope given us by Christ's death, resurrection, ascension, and triumphant return (1 Corinthians 15:50–58).

We believe that education and enculturation is the catapult with which we wage spiritual warfare by launching skilled builders and brave soldiers into the future to tear down every evil ideology (2 Corinthians 10:5) and to rebuild a godly civilization. We aim to graduate students who serve God (Colossians 3:23–24), seek wisdom (Proverbs 2), and stand firm (1 Corinthians 16:13).

Our Deep Hope

Our deep hope is that our students become courageous leaders who glorify the Lord. That they hold deep convictions rooted in the authoritative truth of the King of Kings no matter what circumstances they face.

That they be equipped with His armor to engage in spiritual battle. Ultimately, we desire that our students become men and women of valor who willingly lay down their lives for others.

The Doctrine of Valor Classical Academy

How to Use a Statement of Faith

For Faculty: The Statement of Faith should be part of the contract for each faculty member. It defines the doctrine our school teaches. Every faculty member should understand and love its doctrine. In areas where a faculty member is unsure or disagrees, the Head of School will use his or her discretion in keeping with the spirit of the Statement of Faith.

For Families: Current and prospective families should know that this is the doctrine of Valor. Students and families do not have to completely agree. However, students and families will agree not to undermine this doctrine among the Valor community. The discretion of the Head of School will determine how many families with different doctrine the school can assimilate and while keeping its distinct culture.

The Statement of Faith

The basic beliefs of Valor Classical Academy are those foundational to Christianity. Christians throughout the history of the church have summarized in brief, definitive statements what Scripture teaches in order to clarify what is true and to guard the church from error (Titus 1:9). Such statements include the historic Christian orthodoxy in the Apostles' Creed (200s–300s), the Nicene Creed (revised in 381 at Constantinople), the Chalcedonian Creed (451), and the Athanasian Creed (300s–400s).

All the faculty and staff of Valor Classical Academy must joyfully affirm one of the following confessions in good faith:

- The Westminster Confession of Faith
- 1689 Second London Baptist Confession of Faith
- Treasuring Christ Together Affirmation of Faith

Additionally, all the faculty and staff of Valor Classical Academy must joyfully affirm the following statements in good faith.

- The Danvers Statement on Biblical Complementarity (1987).
- The Nashville Statement on Biblical Sexuality (2017).

Room for Disagreement

The above documents do not completely agree. One specific area there is room for disagreement on is biblical-theological systems (Reformed covenant theology, Baptist covenant theology, and progressive covenantalism) and their implications (mode of baptism, observance of the Sabbath, end-times views, etc.). Minor disagreements with these documents may be appealed to the Head of School, who will use his discretion in such cases.

Our Doctrinal Distinctives

These three doctrines distinguish Valor from many other Christian educational institutions. We love them and they shape our education and enculturation.

1. God's meticulous sovereignty. God controls everything. There are no accidents. History, past and present, is the record of God's intentional actions. His sovereignty over all things inspires us to worship, trust, and obey him. We want to trust God when suffering comes and glorify God by enjoying him and his gifts.
2. God's good design for men, women, and children. We don't merely affirm God's good design for men and women in the home, church, and society. We love it! That good design includes the authority of a husband over his wife as he leads her in a Christlike manner (Ephesians 5:25), the authority of parents over their children as they instruct them in the Lord (Ephesians 6:1-4), and the very good differences between men and women that ultimately point to the gospel of Jesus Christ (Ephesians 5:30-32). This is God's design, it is good, and we rejoice in it.
3. God's definition of justice. Justice is based on principles of righteousness defined in the Bible and are expressions of God's character (Psalm 89:14). We reject modern social justice and critical theories (all of them!). Justice is rooted neither in the oppressed versus oppressor schema of critical theory nor in a person's so-called race, ethnicity, sexuality, wealth, or any other identifier. Modern social justice perverts true justice as it violates God's prohibition of partiality (Deuteronomy 10:17; Leviticus 19:15). According to Scripture, justice is giving a person what they deserve (Exodus 21:23-25). We not only reject all forms of critical theory, social justice, and wokeness, but we also do not allow their presence in the modern world to affect our teaching. God's justice is the only true justice.