

Classical Christian Education

Is it Right For Your Child?

ASSOCIATION OF
CLASSICAL  CHRISTIAN
SCHOOLS



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Finding A School



You want to give your children the best lives possible. You know that selecting a school is the next step, and you worry about making the right choice. Choosing a school can be a daunting process.

In the age of Google, the unprecedented accessibility of information changes the stakes of education. In an ever-changing political climate, the values espoused at a mainstream school may not align with your family's values. Deciding where your child spends the formative hours between 8am and 3pm is a heavy decision indeed.

Where To Start



Private school or public school? Charter school or, maybe, homeschool? What is “Montessori” people keep talking about? Are there other alternatives? These questions are all too familiar to parents in the throes of a school search. But options aside, what you really want to know is this: Who will be their teachers? Who will be their classmates? Will they be given a great education? Will the school help me become a better parent and help us become a stronger family?

What Sets CCE Apart



In this ebook, we hope to show you how CCE aligns with your desires as a parent. We hope to demonstrate how the teachers, the community, and the curriculum will support your goals as a family. Several components of CCE set it apart from other methods of education, which will be explained below. It can be a lot to digest at first, and sometimes carries a stigma of intellectualism, but we want to help break it down and help you discern whether classical Christian education is the best fit for your child.

Worldview Development



Classical Christian education focuses primarily on worldview development. The curriculum design challenges the common cultural assumption that “Christians believe, they don’t think.” CCE works to integrate Christ in all studies, so that students consider Christ first in all areas of their lives, not just church and Bible class.

While most Christian school models simply employ a government-created curriculum in conjunction with separate chapel and prayer times, **CCE integrates the Bible into every class, subject, and conversation.** Picture a classroom where a teacher prints out the lyrics of a popular song, and begins a conversation examining the underlying ideas of the lyrics with the students. Think of a history class in which students learn a few key dates, and spend most of the class learning the story God wrote in the past, and that He continues to write through each human soul. Imagine math and science classes taught as the order in which God created the world, instead of a collection of facts and formulas.

Jesus in Everything



Classical Christian education aims to integrate Christ with all parts of life because we believe that He is sovereign over all of life. **Classical Christian educational philosophy maintains that Christians should take EVERY thought captive to Christ**, whether that thought concerns math, sports, friends, or God himself. CCE works to help students love Christ with all of their minds, hearts, souls, and strengths.

Teachers or Missionaries?

Another offering unique to classical Christian education is the teachers that are life-mentors. Teachers at your ACCS school are here to help you do just that. Teachers at CCE schools truly view themselves as partners in the formation of students; they want to love your child. Because of the small class sizes, your student could have the same teacher for years, cultivating meaningful relationships with them that extend far beyond the classroom. It is not uncommon for teachers to “hang out” with students after class, throwing the football, debating meaningful topics, or simply getting to know them.



ACCS teachers do not have to be state certified, only passionate and knowledgeable about Christ and the subject they teach. ACCS maintains that teaching is a missionary calling--a gift, not a taught skill--and they seek teachers who are servants of Christ first and masters of their fields second.

Protected, Not Sheltered

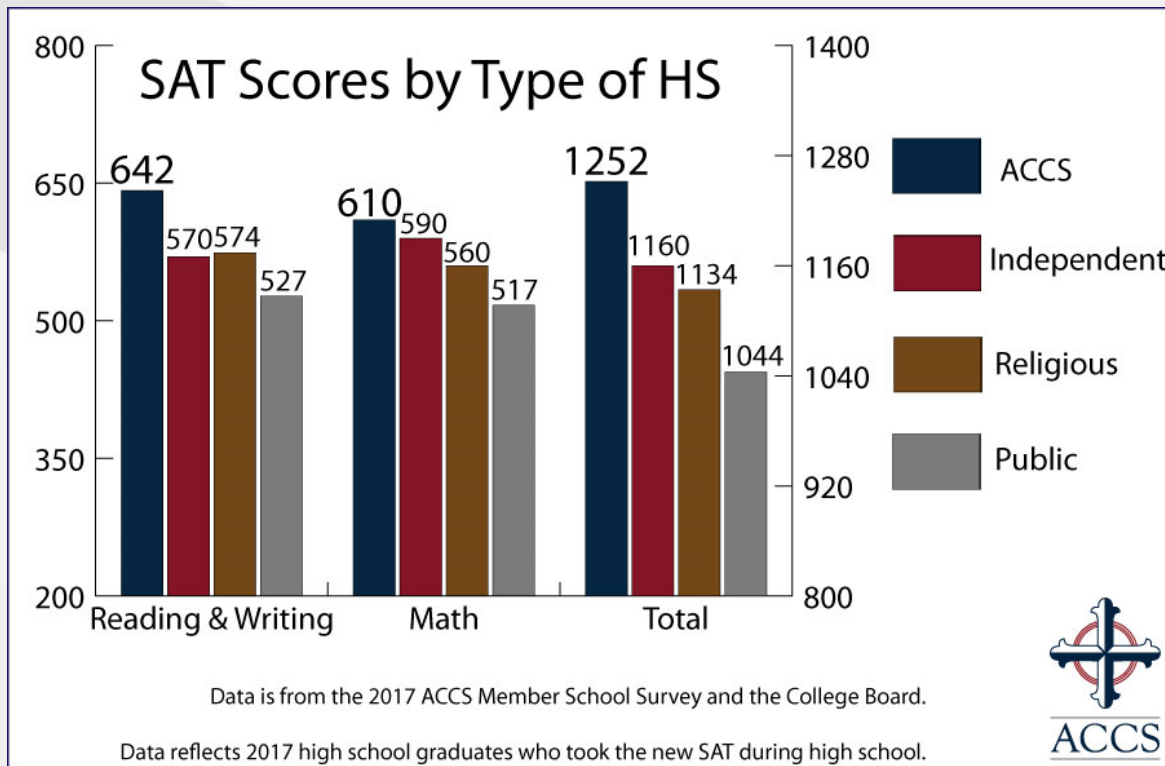


Classical Christian education provides a protected, but not sheltered, environment for your child. If you worry about the government's interference in the education of your child, your child's exposure to the LGBT and feminist agenda, or the drug and hookup culture, CCE is worth considering. But if "sheltering" your child is also a concern, a CCE school may offer something better.

Imagine a classroom where your student is taught every leading philosophy that has shaped our modern world. Where they master Darwin's *Origin of Species*, but also learn how to effectively refute it. They read Marx's *Communist Manifesto* and reveal its underlying assumptions. In this classroom, open discourse is promoted, all ideas are entertained, but only the truth is accepted. **The aim of CCE is not to shelter, but to equip students during their formative years to encounter Christ's truth across all disciplines. When they later encounter conflicting ideas, they will be well prepared to make thoughtful and Christ-like choices.**

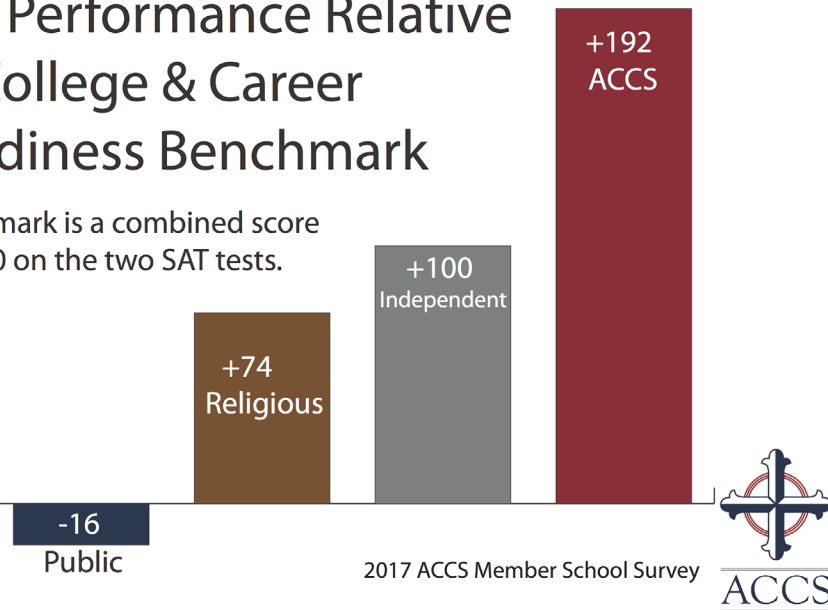
Superior Academic Results

Superior testing results demonstrate the power of classical Christian education. The charts speak for themselves, with students achieving scores on PSAT, SAT, and ACT tests that are much higher than even their private school counterparts.

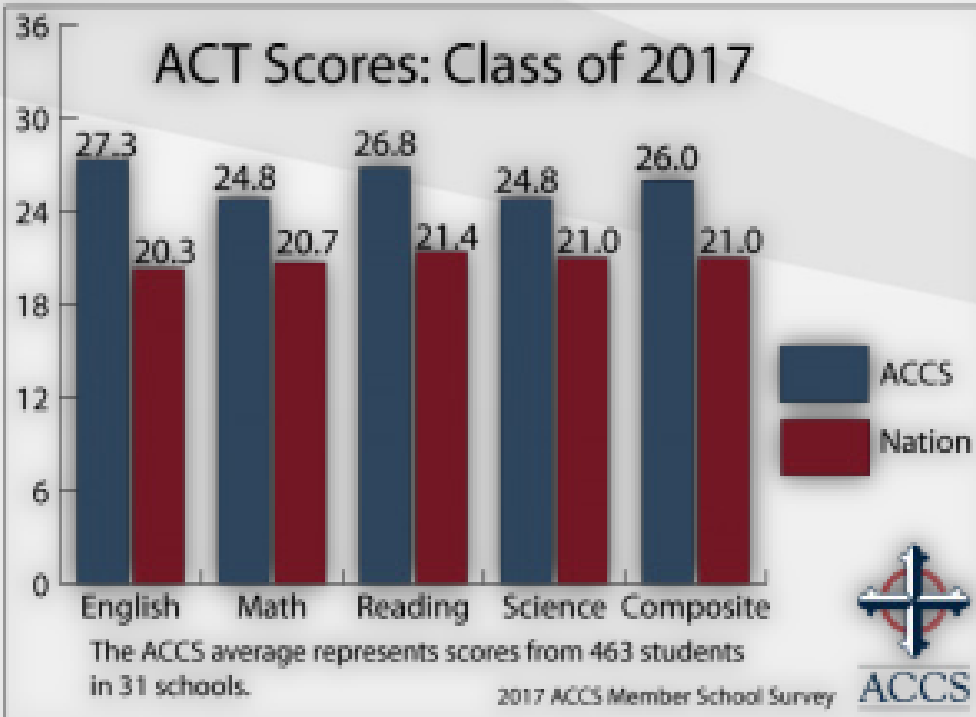


SAT Performance Relative to College & Career Readiness Benchmark

Benchmark is a combined score of 1060 on the two SAT tests.



ACT Scores: Class of 2017



Classical Christian schools achieve these results by employing a few, unusual methods.

Latin

Most ACCS schools begin teaching Latin in second or third grade, which develops a deep analytical understanding of word and grammar structure. Teaching Latin at a young age also develops a deep lingual literacy of over 60% of world languages and markedly increases vocabulary scores.

Socratic Discussion

Classical Christian schools emphasize critical thinking and rhetoric, by way of socratic discussion and senior theses. The term “socratic discussion” refers to an educational method in which students must read material and then discuss major themes with their classes.

Socratic discussion requires students to read the material, identify key themes, clearly articulate their response to the material, and defend their response to objecting classmates. This method immensely strengthens critical thinking skills by forcing students to ask the questions:

- “What is the text actually *saying*?”
- “How should a Christian think about this idea?”
- “Why?”

Senior Thesis

Before graduation, most seniors in ACCS schools are required to present an argument on a topic of their choice, and defend their thesis to a panel of judges. The thesis itself is expected to be well researched and well supported, and the presentation delivered with poise and clear articulation. The defense is expected to be likewise poised and effective. This exercise, though daunting at first, is regarded by several alumni as the most valuable assignment of their academic (through undergrad) career. The senior thesis builds rhetorical confidence, research and study skills, and enforces critical thinking throughout the entire process.

Primary Texts > Textbooks

Classical Christian schools also maintain that history and literature are best learned and appreciated by reading primary sources, instead of abridged versions or textbooks. Classical Christian education pushes students to form their own opinions about original documents, instead of relying on a textbook author's biased interpretation. This practice teaches students to consider the source, which gives them confidence to consider and conclude their own sound opinions.

Conclusion

Choosing a school is no small thing. Take the time to research your options, and make the most informed decision possible. Hopefully we have helped clarify your understanding of the unique benefits classical Christian education offers. Good luck on your search!

FIND A SCHOOL:

Want To Take A Closer Look At An ACCS School In Your Area?

Visit Our School Finder Here:

[SCHOOL FINDER](#)

Are you a Parent?

Our blog contains several thoughtful articles, helpful tips, and a sense of community for parents of students at ACCS schools. Subscribe here:

ClassicalDifference.com/subscribe

Subscribe to our quarterly magazine here:

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Interested in learning more about CCE?

Visit about.classicaldifference.com to get a more in-depth view of what CCE is, and what it's all about. You can also find more information about our annual conference here, where you will meet teachers and administrators from around the country, united in the vision of promoting CCE.



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