



# The Standard

A publication of St. Andrew's Academy

## Editor's Note

Welcome to our first Issue of The Standard. In it, we hope to encourage, edify, and communicate. The name is a reminder to us all that we are called to a high standard. At St. Andrew's Academy, we want to help you, the parent, hold that high standard of excellence for your sons and daughters.

Issues of the Standard will come out on a semi-regular basis (the regular part being mostly a matter of time management skills) and will include news items pertinent to St. Andrew's Academy and St. Andrew's Families. It will also include articles relating to education, both home and private. Periodically, we hope to run the work of students of St. Andrew's Academy to show some of the accomplishments they have made.

We are encouraged with the progress students made this last year in the tutorial program. We are looking forward to the new classes beginning this Fall and anticipate a great time of learning and maturing (for both students and teachers!).

Our thanks go out to the parents and families of our students. We enjoyed working with you and look forward to more of the same. Our thanks also go out to those who have provided help of all kinds, from financial to phone calls and photocopying to words of wisdom and sound advice to (not the least of these) prayer.

Finally, if you have children at St. Andrew's, are planning on applying for your child to be a St. Andrew's Student or are a friend of St. Andrew's, we encourage you to pray for this ministry and institution, that it would grow and be able to meet the needs of more students and families and in so doing, glorify and honor God. May God Bless you richly as you enjoy the sunshine and (students) freedom of summer!

In His Service,

The Rev'd Brian Foes

## A High Calling

by B. Foes

The most fundamental goal of education is not to teach the 3 r's, nor to prepare for college, nor to prepare for the "real" world, nor even to build Christian Character. No, the most fundamental goal of education is to honor and glorify God.

The Westminster catechism asks the question: What is the chief end of man? The answer: To glorify God and enjoy Him forever. If that is our chief end, then that must also be the chief end of our education. I Corinthians 10:31 states that "Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God." Again, certainly education falls under this command.

Perhaps you've heard of the resurgence in classical Christian Education? Most of it might be attributed to a response to Dorothy Sayers' essay "The Lost Tools of Learning," which she delivered at Oxford in 1943.

Others have followed her lead (most notably, perhaps, is Douglas Wilson who wrote *Recovering The Lost Tools of Learning*), and we see Christian schools popping up all over the nation with a solid commitment to classical, Christ-centered education. They join the remnants of the classical, Christian ideal that is found to a greater or lesser extent in the parochial schools of the Anglican/Episcopal and Roman Catholic traditions.

Classical, Christian Education is that model of Education that trained all the great thinkers of our heritage. From Boethius and St. Augustine up through the men of the reformation and renaissance and even to the shores of America and the founding of Harvard and Yale, the classical, Christian model has been the main model of education. It has given us the great minds of history and was still in use even in this country until the inception of the public school system. Many if



not most of our founding fathers were educated in this paradigm.

My aim, here, is to call us all to a high standard, that of our Lord Jesus Christ. In holding up a classical, Christian model for education, I believe that standard is indeed raised.

Classical, Christian, Biblical education, as a paradigm, incorporates the understanding of the covenant responsibility of the parents



*Mrs. Foes helps the boys wrestle with Greek*

(Deut. 6:4-9, Eph. 6:4), the centrality of Christ and worship and adds the distinctively classical methodology of the trivium. What is the trivium? In a sentence, it is a methodology wherein the student is trained in age appropriate ways and with age appropriate content, taking advantage of the student's natural inclinations and working with the student's natural, God-given learning curve. It has three stages: grammar, logic and rhetoric. When the student is in the primary grades, he loves to rhyme and to memorize. This is the work of grammar. At the middle school age, he loves to argue—hence, he is taught to

argue effectively and with sound reason (logic). During the years following, the student is taught how to express his ideas and logic with more detail, flair, style and appropriateness—this is rhetoric, and follows after the maturing of the student's sensibilities and sense of tact.

The classical, Christian model gives the student the tools of learning. It teaches the student how to think, how to discern, as the

scriptures say, between good and evil. The "classroom" goal of education then, becomes not the regurgitation of a series of facts or a philosophy of art or history (though these might be a part of the process), but rather the search for Truth. Then, the student can follow the advice of St. Paul to the Philippians: "Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever

things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things" (Phil. 4:8).

## Educational Travel

Travel is a major learning experience, and St. Andrew's plans on using that learning experience as much as possible. That means that "extended" field trips will be planned at some point in the future. Washington D.C. and Britain are places that come to mind for a fairly decent trip! The difficult part is the cost. The nice part is that students travel very cheaply. Mr. Foes spent part of his earlier career being chased by students all over the Washington D.C. Mall from the Lincoln to the Washington Memorials. He has led well over a dozen tours to DC as well as great historical spots such as Jamestown, Yorktown, Colonial Williamsburg and Gettysburg. All the faculty at St. Andrew's have travelled extensively in Europe, some even as far as Russia!

St. Andrew's Academy can be reached at:

**Snail Mail:** PO Box 8  
Lake Almanor, CA 95923

**Phone:** 530/284-1003

**email:** [admin@standrews.place.cc](mailto:admin@standrews.place.cc)

**Web:** [www.standrews.place.cc](http://www.standrews.place.cc)

**Editor:** The Rev'd Brian Foes

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