

SCHOOL MISSION STATEMENT

Providence Academy

Providence Academy equips students to achieve academic excellence and spiritual maturity through a biblically-based, Christ-centered, classical education, so they will think and live in a manner which brings glory to God.

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT PURPOSE STATEMENT

The purpose of the Providence English department is to equip students with the communication and study skills needed to succeed in college, the work force, and the Christian life. The emphasis is on reading, writing, speaking, and listening to glorify God, with a focus on literary classics and integration with the humanities. Students begin with a strong phonics emphasis in kindergarten. Grades 1-9 employ an integrated, objective-based program, *Expert English*, through which basic grammar is mastered by the end of eighth grade and composition is a vital part of every day's activities. Rhetoric level courses are literature based, with discussions, oral and written analysis, and oral presentations comprising much of each course. The culmination of the department is a study of classical rhetoric the junior year and the development of an individual senior thesis project; the topic must be arguable and within a biblical world view framework, exemplifying the Creation/Fall/Redemption paradigm. Students argue and defend their topic and conclusions in a 20-40 page paper and to a committee of school and community leaders.

Capstone Objectives:

1. Use written and spoken language to inform and persuade effectively
2. Display knowledge and appreciation of our literary/religious heritage, including the desire to be a lifelong reader
3. Choose and evaluate literature and media according to a biblical worldview
4. Graduate with the ability and desire to learn, share, and defend Truth through oral and written language

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT GOALS

The student will:

1. **Relate the Bible to language and literature (I Cor. 10:31, Phil. 4:8)**
2. **Apply biblical principles to personal use of language (Psalm 20:14).**
3. Master basic grammar by the end of eighth grade
4. Use in original writing all basic grammatical constructions, as appropriate to grade level, with correct and appropriate grammar, vocabulary, spelling, and mechanics
5. Use composition skills in a variety of modes and forms, with an emphasis on rhetoric in grades 10-12
6. Utilize research and study skills as an aid for learning and for success in life
7. Develop spelling and vocabulary skills, with a focus on classical roots
8. Develop reading comprehension skills
9. Understand and enjoy various literary genres from world, American, and English literature
10. Identify and discuss elements of literature in a variety of literary selections
11. Analyze literature for its literary techniques, style, and biblical principles (**Phil. 4:8**)

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12. Become familiar with basic literary “literacy”: authors, works, trends, “schools”
13. Correlate specific literature with its related history, society, and philosophy, including integration with the humanities
14. Use speaking and listening skills effectively in the classroom setting
15. Use higher level thinking skills in a variety of settings and activities
16. **Develop a love for God’s gift of language, an appreciation of the communicative gifts God has given to mankind in general and to himself/herself uniquely, and an understanding that, as God’s Word, the Bible is the greatest literature in existence**