

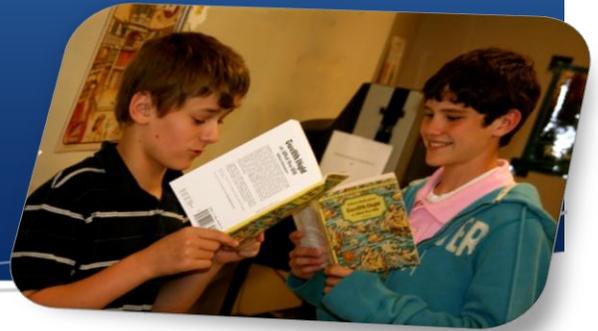
The Providence Post

Making the Secondary Transition

Logic Level Grades 7-9

“All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work”

II Timothy 3:16-17



Dear Parents,

The 2009 – 2010 school year is now in full swing! The secondary faculty and staff greatly appreciate all of the prayers you have offered for this busy time of year for Providence Academy. As with all things at Providence, we could not get the school year underway without your support.

This new newsletter, *The Providence Post*, is just one part of a key area of focus for the secondary this year – communication with parents. Our desire to strengthen this area of communication is rooted in a core belief concerning the biblical worldview of the role of parents in the training of their children and the role of the school to aid you in that training. God has charged you, the parents, with educating your children. Because you have chosen to delegate a portion of that charge to us, we exist to serve you, your children, and the larger kingdom that God is establishing. Therefore, both your desire and need to “connect” with what is happening at Providence Academy is more than just a passing interest – it is your God given responsibility. Our hope is that this newsletter will help you to better know and understand what is happening in the classrooms at PA. We will distribute the newsletter every 4.5 weeks, and each edition will include some of the following elements: college and career information, parent testimonials, subject specific activities, a letter from the board chairman, a note from the logic level dean of students, and finally, a letter from me. You will receive the letter via email. This first edition highlights another key area of focus this year – the transition from the grammar stage to the logic level of learning.

In closing, I want to remind us all that communication works both ways. Because we exist to help you fulfill God’s direct call to you to educate your children, we are responsible to do all that we can do to keep the lines of communication accessible for you. However, you are also responsible to communicate with us. At a minimum, that probably entails reading this new newsletter to learn about all of the great things we are doing with the secondary program. But, that also means sometimes doing more difficult things, such as being proactive in your willingness to follow the Matthew 18 principle or to attend different forums designed for parent and school interaction. We must also understand that communication is often not easy because we have a common enemy who does not want us to receive the blessing of good communication. While that opposition can come in many forms, I am convinced that two areas are real weaknesses for most of us. One, we are all very busy and can fall into the trap of being too “busy” to communicate as we know we should. Two, we sometimes allow fear to drive us to a lack of communication. As the year progresses, we all need to have a renewed sense of the importance of good communication; and as partners in education, we need to remember these pitfalls that often defeat us. We, as an administration and teaching staff, are committed to doing our best to communicate with you. Please continue to pray for us as we implement new ways to strengthen this core area.

Principal Williams

Making the transition with wisdom and confidence

As your child is growing into the logic phase, there will be many new and exciting changes. The school wants to help you give them the wisdom and guidance to handle these new changes as successfully as possible. The teachers and the parents must join together at this time to give the students the structure that they need.

Your child will need extra support this first year handling these new responsibilities. You may need to check his or her work and assignment sheets more diligently. The teachers will not be checking their assignment sheets after each period, so the students will be responsible for keeping up with this themselves. This can be difficult for most students at first. They will need you to keep them accountable each day. They need to be reminded that the immediate consequences are not in place, but the long term consequences are still there. Communicating regularly with the teachers will help you accomplish this task.

Daily checking of assignments and projects at home will provide much needed structure for your child.



New Steps

Lockers

The students will have a place to store books and assignments between classes.

Class Changes

The students will now have up to seven different teachers and classrooms a day.

Homework

Their homework will be kept up by the student and will need extra monitoring by the parent.

Assignments

The assignments will now include things like debates and study skills.

Communication

Now that the child has up to seven teachers you must establish communication with each of them.

How can I establish a relationship with the teachers?

Establishing a positive relationship with the teachers is a great way to help with the transition to secondary. The school has put in place many different forums for communication between you and the teacher. No longer will you see your child's teacher in carline or as you walk around downstairs. The way you communicate will change. Calling and leaving a message on your teacher's phone or sending an email are great ways to keep in contact with your child's teachers. Walking upstairs for a visit or a quick talk at a ballgame are other ways to establish a healthy communication. Placing an encouraging letter or a question in the teacher's mailbox located upstairs in the staff workroom or leaving a note downstairs with the secretary are all ways that you can establish communication with your child's teacher. You also need to be looking for communication from your child's teacher. This will come in the form of grades on papers, grade reports, and the seventh-grade newsletter. Also be on the lookout for emails and phone messages. Asking to see graded papers and assignment books from your child each night will help make sure that you receive the communication that your child is receiving from the teacher.



When should I request a conference?

Requesting a conference with your teacher should take place whether you are seeing struggles with the subject at home or not. At the secondary level, the students are always included in at least part of the meeting. Conferences can be positive and uplifting to your child. Therefore, contact all of your child's teachers for at least one conference a year.



"My job as a teacher is to treat each student the way their parents would, so the best way to do that effectively is to get to know the parents of every one of my students."

Mrs. Carpenter
Logic level teacher

Many have had success with good communication

Since my child's entrance into PA Secondary, I have been pleased to witness consistent improvements in communication. The implementation of teacher e-mail has been a great way for me to feel connected with teachers whom I rarely get to see in person. I have been so pleased to receive informational updates or notices of signature requests on graded exams being sent home. I have also been able to get questions or concerns answered quickly either by an e-mail response or phone call. Having clear communication definitely has contributed to having a less stressed and academically successful child. And thus, I am also less stressed and much happier with PA Secondary!

Gail Cambron (Secondary Parent)

Commonly Asked Questions

You may find yourself wondering how the new freedoms that your child will receive will affect how you have been involved in the school.

The students at Providence Academy that are at the secondary level will receive many new freedoms. This may change the way that you have been used to being involved. The social norms change when a child reaches the logic stage of learning. These are a few frequently asked questions.

Are students allowed to bring snacks to school?

The students may store their snacks in their locker, but please, no fresh fruit should remain overnight.

Are water bottles allowed in class?

Students may keep water bottles in their lockers, and may bring them to class unless a teacher specifies not to do so. Water bottles are not allowed in the computer lab.

Can students have cell phones?

Cell phones are strictly prohibited during school hours. If brought to school, they must be turned off and kept in their locker or backpack. If any teacher sees a phone during school hours, it will be confiscated. (See student handbook.)

When should notebooks be cleaned out?

Please do not clean out your student's notebook at anytime. The English teacher and the student are responsible for notebook maintenance.

Can we take a large family trip during the school year?

Please consult the school calendar when planning trips. Seventh graders have a very difficult time recovering their momentum after a vacation during the school year.



"I love the way that providence encourages my child to achieve excellence. "

Glen Hudson
Secondary Parent

Can I come and eat lunch with my child?

You are welcome to come and eat lunch with your student. If they seem not to want you around during lunch, then after visiting for a few minutes, come on over to the teacher's table and be prepared to enjoy lively conversation.

How should I celebrate my child's birthday at school?

Everyone loves cookie cake. However, over the last couple of years, donuts and juice during first period have become popular, too.

Will my child have time to use the restroom between classes?

There are five-minute breaks between each 50-minute class. Your child should plan for every other break to use the restroom and on alternate breaks go to their locker. This will take planning on what books to get from their locker for the next two classes. Teachers do not regularly let students use the bathroom during class, but emergencies are always taken into consideration.

Keeping It Together

One of the obstacles most seventh-grade students face is learning to stay organized. Keeping up with six to seven teachers can be a challenge. Moliere wrote: “The greater the obstacle, the more glory overcoming it.” Our guiding Biblical principle is I Corinthians 14:40: “Let all things be done decently and in order” (NKJ). Our God is a God of order not of chaos. So, we want to apply this principle to our lives, our homes, our school life, etc. We began with our schedules—understanding the order of the school day. Then, our notebooks were added. Please help us by making sure that there are no stray papers. All papers have a “home” in the notebook. You may have noticed the “graded papers” divider in the back of your student’s notebook. I will periodically have students examine their papers, sign the divider, and ask you to also examine and sign the divider. After you and the student have checked these papers with a printed grade sheet from your teacher, you may remove them, unless of course a teacher has asked you to keep that particular paper. Normally, they may ask you to mark as “KEEP.”

We will begin to work on our lockers and being good stewards of our time over the next few weeks. Students will begin by setting some goals this week. You might like to examine their text, Managing Self and Time, and discuss their goals with them. Please help me make sure that they have reasonable goals.

With His Peace,

Mrs. Holben



Mrs. Harbin

SGA Buddies

An SGA buddy is a system that is put into place by SGA. The juniors and seniors from Providence Academy are partnered with a seventh-grade student. These students will sit with them during lunch or chapel on certain days. They will help with showing them how to organize their lockers and navigate to their classes effectively. This program has been put into place to help show your student the ropes of secondary and develop a positive relationship between the older and younger students. If you have any questions about the buddy system, you can ask Mrs. Harbin (jharbin@providenceacademy.com)

Mission Statement

"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."



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