

# Concepts of a Distinctly Christian Education

## **Scripture and Thinking**

We believe and want the children attending PMCA to know that God gives us every word found in the Bible. We want them to understand that they have the actual Word of God in their hands and that it is the supreme authority. We desire to see the children attending PMCA accept the Word of God and obey it. We believe that the strength of God's Word in the lives of the students gives them a foundation from which they can test all ideas that come their way.

## **Who We Say That God Is**

We want our students to develop their concept of who God is solely from Scripture. We recognize that God reveals Himself to us and that He is a holy God, to be reverently feared and held in joyous awe. At PMCA we gladly portray the love and goodness of God, especially through His act of giving us a Savior. As the students mature through their years at PMCA, they will grow in their understanding that we worship one God, and that God is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. They will learn that God created all things out of nothing and that He maintains and oversees His creation. He indeed preserves and governs all creatures, including mankind.

## **Covenantal Promises**

We emphasize the concept of promises (covenants) that God makes with His people. For example, God entered into a covenant with Abraham and promised to be Abraham's God and the God of Abraham's descendants for the generations to come. We continue to rely on this promise of God to us, to our children, and to our children's children.

We also desire that students recognize the good news of the promise of grace in Christ for all of God's children through the generations.

## **The Nature of Mankind**

We teach children that when Adam fell, we all fell. The seed of sin was planted in each of us at that time. We believe that the Fall has tainted every aspect of our human experience— both physically and spiritually. We suffer as a result of the Fall.

Because sin permeates our very beings, we are not able to please God without His saving grace.

Wonderfully, God chooses to set each of His children free from the curse of sin. He knows the future because He has planned it and uses it for His glory and honor.

## **We are Redeemed**

We acknowledge that each member of God's family (including our children) is an heir to the wonderful effects of Christ's redemptive work on the cross. While we were born sinful with no prospect of hope in ourselves, a child of God is now beautifully grafted into the branch of Life with all the other children of God. We believe that Christ paid for our sins and we have a new life to live for Him. As a result, we have a hope for the resurrection of the body and for an everlasting relationship with the Lord Jesus.

## **Christ is Lord**

We want the children who attend PMCA to know that God has power over every thought, word, desire and experience they have, no matter how they feel.

We desire that all students recognize the shallowness of the world's concept of independence and that they see dependence on Jesus as King of their lives to be the superior desire. It is also important to us that our students recognize that God calls them to be students and that He will ultimately call them to a life's vocation.

We believe it is vital for the children to understand God's desire for man to have dominion over the animals and to explore, discover and subdue the earth to the glory of God its Maker.

We believe Christian parents are commanded to teach their children diligently and not to conceal from them the praises of the Lord or His strength and wondrous works. We believe God's children will learn to put their confidence in Him and not forget His amazing works while keeping His commandments.

We believe that by delegated authority, our teachers stand in loco parentis, cooperating with parents in the endeavor of passing along a Christ-centered world-view to each child. With this influence, we believe children will come to interpret life and the world in the light of Scripture, to the glory of God and to the benefit of His Church.

# Elementary School

PMCA offers an intimate elementary setting coupled with a stimulating academic atmosphere. Children are taught that all things are under the Lordship of Christ as they discover and enjoy God's creation through hands-on activity and challenging academic study.

## 2010-2011 Demographics

Mr. Donald B. Beebe, Head of School

Students	
Pre-K	12
Kindergarten	17
1st Grade	17
2nd Grade	17
3rd Grade	16
4th Grade	24
5th Grade	19
<b>Total</b>	<b>122</b>

**Tuition Range:** \$5,025.00 - \$8,835.00

## Minority Students

African-American	58
Asian-American	10
Hispanic-American	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>74</b>

## Faculty

Full-time	7
Part-time	8
<b>Total</b>	<b>15</b>

## Degrees\*

B.A.	9
B.M.	1
B.S.	4
M.A.	2
M.Ed.	4

\* Many faculty members hold more than one degree.

The basic skills of mathematics, reading and writing form the core of the curriculum. Textbooks are used in conjunction with manipulatives, games and hands-on experiences to promote mastery. Students learn problem-solving techniques and reading strategies and are challenged to express themselves clearly in written language.

Science and Social Studies are important parts of the curriculum as well. In addition to traditional textbook and hands-on experimentation, our Science program is enhanced by use of the Morris Arboretum and other outdoor facilities in the area. Our teachers also take advantage of the historically rich area in

which we live, taking students on field trips to historic destinations such as the Mercer Museum, Pennsbury Manor, Hope Lodge, Harrisburg and Philadelphia.

Beginning in Kindergarten, instruction in special subjects is offered by teachers trained in their disciplines. Spanish, Art, General Music, Instrumental Music, Library, Computer and Physical Education classes all enrich the learning experience of elementary students.

- Our Spanish curriculum helps students build a basic vocabulary and mastery of present tense verbs.
- The General Music program instructs students in the basics of good singing technique, reading music and understanding music theory. Students in 4th and 5th grade have the opportunity to take instrumental music lessons and participate in beginning bands.
- Students become familiar with artists, as well as techniques, with a historical and hands-on approach to Art.
- Our certified Librarian sees that our students are encouraged in a love of reading, given an understanding of the uses of a library and prepared with basic research skills.
- Using technology as a tool is the heart of our Computer curriculum. The classroom curriculum is supported by the use of computer programs, both in the lab and classrooms, and students are trained in the skills necessary to use the resources of technology.
- In Physical Education students build flexibility, strength and cardiovascular endurance, while learning skills, games and team cooperation.

Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten are years to build a broad understanding of the world, as well as to learn how to be cooperative members of a learning community. We provide an active learning experience designed to challenge each student at his or her own level. Instruction is provided in reading and mathematical skills with developmentally appropriate activities.

Our 4- and 5-year olds can be found moving about the classroom, measuring and counting, reading and examining, as well as working with paper and pencil/ Projects in cooking, nature studies, science and social studies all offer active opportunities to build basic skills. Early success in learning builds enthusiasm, confidence and a positive attitude toward school and learning.

# Middle and High School (cont.)

Housed in period architecture, the PMCA campus fosters a warm atmosphere for education. The Academy is accredited by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools (MSA) and retains an active membership with Christian Schools International (CSI). All faculty members, of whom many hold advanced degrees, are committed Christians.

## 2010-2011 Demographics

Mr. Donald B. Beebe, Head of School

Students

Grade 6	24
Grade 7	26
Grade 8	24
Grade 9	33
Grade 10	19
Grade 11	36
Grade 12	37
Total	199

**Tuition Range:** \$9,995.00 - \$11,295.00

## Minority Students

African-American	63
African	2
Asian-American	3
Asian	6
Hispanic	11
<b>Total</b>	<b>85</b>

Faculty

Full-time	18
Part-time	11
<b>Total</b>	<b>29</b>

Degrees\*

B.A.	21
B.F.A.	1
B.S.	6
B.S.T.	1
M.A.	9
M.A.Ed.	1
M.S.Ed.	1
M.Ed.	3
M.S.	1
M.A.R.	2
Th.M	1

\* Many faculty members hold more than one degree.

## Middle School

PMCA has designed a unique program specifically geared to the middle school student. Classes in the middle school are discussion oriented and foster participation, build confidence and hone skills in discourse and reasoning. This takes place in an atmosphere of steadily increasing student responsibility. Upon completion of PMCA's middle school, our students are ready for the progressively more difficult and challenging years of high school.

Because middle school students learn best through experience and social interaction, PMCA sponsors a program of co-curricular activities including field trips, drama, clubs, interscholastic athletics, choir, band and themed days.

The PMCA middle school curriculum encompasses all of the components of a sound liberal arts program. Core subjects include Bible, History, English, Math and Science. A range of special subjects involves study in fields such as the Arts, Health/Physical Education, Technology/Research skills and Spanish. Study skills are intentionally taught within the established curriculum.

## High School

PMCA's high school offers an atmosphere which stimulates learning and thinking under the Lordship of Christ. Typically, at least 98% of PMCA graduates attend a college or university, thanks to our rigorous course of academic study. High school students develop a sense of ownership and pride in their school as active participants in an academic life.

PMCA offers high school students opportunities to enhance their classroom studies by choosing to participate in programs such as the PMCA Literary Forum. Students read a widely diverse selection of poetry, plays and novels chosen to represent various eras, cultures, styles and key writers. Teachers and students hold eight evening meetings a year to discuss these great works of literature in an exciting, informal meeting.

## Course Offerings

Honors courses are available in English, Math, History, third- and fourth-year World Language and selected Sciences. Advanced placement (AP) is available in Calculus, English, History and Art.

# Middle and High School

## English Department

9th: Freshman Literature  
10th: World Literature  
11th: American Literature  
12th: British Literature or AP English  
Elective: Yearbook (10th-12th)

## History Department

9th: Western Civilization  
10th: Global Studies  
11th: U.S. History in the 20th Century or AP U.S. History  
12th: U.S. Government and Political Studies  
Elective: Sociology (12th only)

## Mathematics Department

9th: Algebra I or Geometry  
10th: Geometry or Algebra II  
11th: Algebra II or Trigonometry  
12th: Pre-Calculus or AP Calculus  
Computer Science (11th and 12th only)

## Science Department

9th: Biology  
10th-12th: Chemistry, Anatomy and Physiology,  
Zoology,  
Physics  
11th-12th only: Honors Chemistry 2, Honors Physics,  
Honors  
Zoology and Honors Anatomy and Physiology

## Bible Department

9th: Old Testament Studies  
10th: New Testament Studies/World Religions  
11th: Theology  
12th: Apologetics

## World Language Department

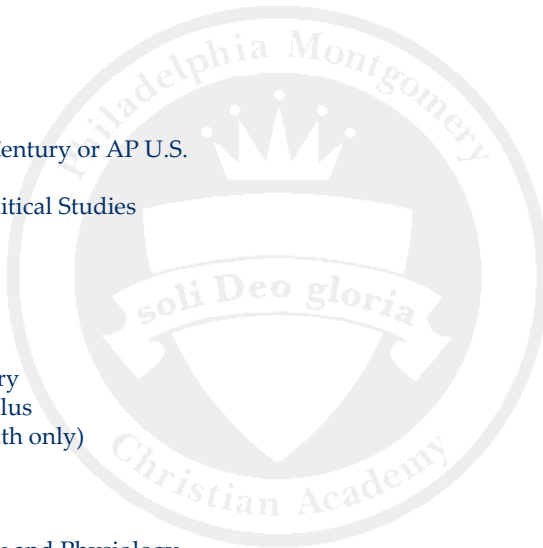
German I-IV  
Spanish I-IV

## Fine Arts Department

Introductory Art  
Intermediate Art  
Advanced Art  
AP Art  
Choir  
Band

## Phys. Ed./Health Department

9th and 11th: Physical Education  
10th: Health  
Elective: Physical Education (10th and 12th)



# Student Life in the Secondary School

## Athletics

At PMCA we believe that athletics are an integral part of the education program and that each student should have the opportunity to participate in some form of competitive sports. Our athletic program complements our total school program and is another avenue of personal Christian growth and commitment.

### Fall Sports

- Cross Country
- Soccer – Boys – Varsity, MS
- Soccer – Girls – Varsity, MS
- Tennis – Girls

### Winter Sports

- Basketball – Boys – Varsity, JV, MS
- Basketball – Girls – Varsity, JV, MS
- Wrestling

### Spring Sports

- Baseball – Boys
- Softball – Girls
- Tennis – Boys
- Track & Field

## Student Organizations and Clubs

Students are encouraged to participate in the wide range of activities offered at PMCA. These organizations help to develop and enhance student leadership skills.

### Opportunities for high school students include:

- National German Honor Society
- National Honor Society
- Student Council
- Philosophy Club
- Student Newspaper
- Yearbook
- Interact
- Culture Club
- Bible Studies
- Writing Club
- Scrabble Club
- Chess Club

### Middle School opportunities include:

- Mythology Club
- Math Counts
- Reading Olympics
- Geography Bee

## Fine Arts

PMCA offers a diverse and exciting fine arts program. Fall musicals have showcased student talent in productions such as Pirates of Penzance, Fiddler on the Roof, and Annie, and draw on the talents of our middle school students as well as high school students. Winter plays offer a range from challenging dramas like Flowers for Algernon and Animal Farm to engaging comedies like It Happens Every Summer and You Can't Take it With You. Springtime brings our Fine Arts Festival with student art shows, a themed Musical Extravaganza Review, special ensembles and choirs, one-act drama and comedy performances, and elaborately staged scenes from Shakespeare. Students also perform in Winter and Spring concerts and regularly receive high honors in seasonal art shows and competitions. Our young thespians participate in children's theatre productions that travel to area elementary schools and community centers. The fine arts program at PMCA cultivates a relationship between academic excellence and artistic expression.

## Drama

- Fall Musical
- Winter Play
- Musical Extravaganza
- Shakespeare on the Hill
- Children's Theatre School Tours
- Fine Arts Festival
- Area Theatre Competitions
- Theatre Bus Trips
- Drama Club

## Music

- High School and Middle School Bands
- Jazz Band
- Middle and High School Chapel Praise Teams
- Gospel Choir
- High School and Middle School Choirs
- Christmas Concert
- Spring Concert
- ACSI Competitions
- Community Performances
- Fine Arts Festival
- Men's A Cappella Group

## Art

- Art Show
- ACSI Competitions
- Fine Arts Festival
- Art Club