

Mission and Philosophy

Our Mission

The mission of Regent Preparatory School of Oklahoma is to provide academically able students with a challenging educational experience designed to help them know, love, and practice that which is true, good, and excellent and to prepare them to live purposefully and intelligently in the service of God and man.

Our Method

The School offers its students an education that is both classical and Christian. It is classical in that it draws deeply on the rich heritage of Western civilization and culture; it is Christian in that it recognizes the Bible as the final authority in matters of life and thought.

A Christian Education

Education is a broadening experience that begins in childhood and lasts a lifetime. Our motto, "*faithful to the truth*," reflects our goal of providing a Christ-centered education that is rooted in the truth and authority of the Bible. This education acknowledges that God is evident in creation, sovereign through history, revealed in His son, Jesus Christ, and intimately concerned with us as individuals. A worldview based on the Scriptures provides a unified education in which all subjects - history, English, biology, philosophy, science, and the arts - are understood as part of an integrated whole. This worldview may be boldly stated, or it may be implicit, but it is always present. Regent is an interdenominational Christian school. Our faculty and board members embrace the historic tenets of Christianity as presented in our Statement of Faith. Beyond these primary doctrines, we respect and acknowledge the primacy of the family, and refer any secondary doctrinal questions to parents for clarification.

A Classical Education

At Regent, we are committed to a classical approach to education. We recognize that Christ was born during the reign of Caesar Augustus and that Christianity took root and grew to maturity in the West. So that our students may understand and appreciate the impact of western civilization on our culture, we emphasize ancient history, languages and culture, studied in the light of biblical Christianity. "*Classical*" also describes the methodology of our curriculum, which is rooted in what is known as the trivium. The trivium emphasizes the grammar, logic, and rhetoric of all subjects, and it teaches with the grain of the child, matching the child's developmental readiness with appropriate tools for learning.

Grammar (grades one through six) Students at this stage will readily soak up information and memorize facts as they acquire reading, writing, and arithmetic skills. They will learn the who, what, when, and where of subjects; multiplication facts in mathematics; land formations, capitals, and countries in geography; names and dates of important people and events in history; and vocabulary and spelling through a strong phonics and reading program. Good behavior will be expected as students learn what God expects of them.

Logic (grades six through eight) As students enter their argumentative teenage years, they will learn the construction and critique of valid arguments. They will develop the skills to discern fact from fallacy and proof from propaganda. God's Word will always be used as the plumb line for determining truth and developing a Christian worldview. Students will continue to

learn facts as they did in the grammar years, and they will develop analytical skills in light of those facts.

Rhetoric (grades nine through twelve) Students will begin to synthesize, express, and put to practical use what they have learned. During these years of heightened self-awareness, they will be taught to express the knowledge they have acquired in their studies persuasively, concisely, and attractively the knowledge they have acquired in their studies. Subject specialization will begin based on student's foundation of grammar and logic.

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God's Purpose for Man

Man was created first and foremost in the image of the Holy Trinity. Mankind's primary reason for living is to reflect the living God and to know Him. His highest aim is to know the Triune God and all His attributes.

God has ordained man to rule over all the creatures of the earth and all fauna and flora. To rule means to govern the movement of things: that is, to manage or to control. To take dominion over the earth, man must have knowledge of the world around him.

The image of God is both male and female joined together in the divine institution of marriage, once again reflecting oneness with the Triune God. His first commandment to man is to multiply, and thus the divine institution of family and children is established. "*Fill the earth,*" He commands, "*and subdue it.*" In summary, both the purpose for living and the purpose for education should be to know God, reflect His image and character, and exercise dominion over the earth.

God's Charge to Parents

Noah Webster, in the first American Dictionary published in 1828, defined *education* as:

The bringing up, as of a child; instruction, formation of manners. Education comprehends all that series of instruction and discipline which is intended to enlighten the understanding, correct the temper, and form the manners and habits of youth, and fit them for usefulness in their future situations. To give children a good education in manners, arts and science is important; to give them a religious education is indispensable; and an immense responsibility rests on parents and guardians. Hence, one who is educated is said to have been brought up; instructed, furnished with knowledge or principles, trained, and disciplined.

To educate means "to rear" or "to bring up" children. Ephesians 6:4 explicitly states that fathers have the responsibility "to rear" or "to bring up" their children—in other words, to

“*educate*” their children. The basic scriptural pattern for the education of children requires that parents not only take responsibility for, but also actively serve as, the primary agent of the education of their children.

The Scriptures are the tool that will bring forth a child noble in character, full of grace and truth. The education of the child must consistently work to mold and shape a human life in conformity to the pattern of God’s Word. For the child this begins with submission and obedience to God-ordained authority. For parents it begins with an understanding of their personal responsibility before God and a commitment to serve Him fully. Truth is imparted, moment by moment, by speaking and living God’s Word, and so parents must accept the responsibility to prayerfully study and teach every day the Word of God to their children.

God's Attitude Toward Children

And whosoever shall receive one such little child in my name receiveth me. But whosoever shall offend one of these little ones which believes in me, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea. (Matthew 18:5-6)

At Regent we believe that God places high value on children and that to be blessed with them is a solemn and sacred responsibility.

We prayerfully and soberly invest in the lives of children for God’s eternal purposes. With joy and thankfulness, we seek to know and encourage each child, mindful of the truth of Psalm 127:3, “*Behold, children are a gift of the Lord.*”

Our Name

The dictionary defines a regent as “*one who rules or administers during the absence of a sovereign.*” God made man in His image and gave him dominion over all of the earth. As believers in the Lord Jesus Christ, we are in active service until our Sovereign returns. We seek to be Christ-like and to be good stewards of all that He has entrusted to us. Stewardship includes educating our children by equipping their minds, sharpening their abilities, and developing their talents that they might also serve Him as regents.

Our Motto

The Latin phrase *Fidelis Veritati* is our motto. It is translated “*faithful to the truth.*” Psalm 117:2 states “*The truth of the Lord endures forever.*” The timeless, unchanging truth of Scripture is the foundation upon which a Regent education is built.

Our Crest

The Regent crest consists of four quadrants divided by a cross and surrounded by a grapevine. The cross symbolizes the centrality of Jesus Christ in our school. The grapevine represents Jesus’ words in John 15, reminding us to abide in Christ as the branch abides in the vine. Apart from Him we can do nothing.

The four quadrants of the crest represent the four areas of growth mentioned in Luke 2:52: “*Jesus kept increasing in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and men.*” Deepening maturity in each of these areas marked Jesus’ perfectly balanced life.

The upper left quadrant depicts the Bible, which represents wisdom. The book of Proverbs admonishes us repeatedly to seek wisdom. Scripture provides the basis of all knowledge and a complete worldview. The education provided at Regent mirrors Paul's words in Colossians 1:28: "*We proclaim Him, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that we may present every man complete in Christ.*"

The lower left quadrant depicts a vessel, which represents the stature of Christ. Isaiah 64:8 says, "*But now, O Lord, You are our Father, we are the clay, and You our Potter, and all of us are the work of Your hand.*" We are each created uniquely to serve God with our specific talents and gifts. Each child is encouraged through our curriculum to discover and develop the God-given abilities he possesses.

The lower right quadrant depicts a basket of fishes and loaves, which represent favor with God. Hebrews 13:16 reminds us to "*not neglect doing good and sharing, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.*" In the miracle of the fishes and loaves, Christ demonstrates this love and service to others. We teach our students to take what they have been taught and apply it to how they live, so that they "*will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, pleasing Him in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work.*" (Colossians 1:10).

Lastly, the upper right quadrant depicts the heart and flame, which symbolize favor with man. The heart and flame represent love and light. Regent's curriculum is designed to equip children to live purposefully and lovingly as Christ lived, both at home and in the world. We encourage our students to live as Jesus challenges in Matthew 5:16: "*Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.*"

English

The gospel of John states that "*In the beginning was the Word,*" the *logos*. Words were the starting point of all creation. In Genesis, God spoke the world into being. His actual words called into reality the physical world. Finally, "*the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.*" (John 1:14) To be full of grace and truth is the ultimate goal of all communication.

Through His Word, God creates and inspires mankind, expresses His love, brings all things under His dominion, and enters into relationship with His creation. As a human being, man is made in the image of God, and his words too become the central means through which he relates to and affects the world around him. As living epistles of God, man's words too must express the order and design of God. The Christian must learn to speak and write well if he is to truly fulfill the function for which God has created and ordained him.

Professor Richard Weaver of the University of Chicago has said, "*Generally speaking, students who display the greatest mastery of words, as shown in their knowledge of vocabulary and general ability to express themselves in writing, are most proficient in any subject they study.*" In every field of endeavor "*command of language will prognosticate aptitude.*"

At Regent, children learn to read phonetically. Reading, writing, and spelling are all taught together as the inseparable components of literacy. With regard to punctuation and grammar, man cannot communicate the content of truth without the form of truth. For this reason, grammar and punctuation take on heightened significance. They constitute the form within which communication becomes possible. Rudolph Flesch says: "*Punctuation, to most people, is a set of arbitrary and rather silly rules you find in printers' style books and in the back pages*

of school grammar. Few people realize that it is the most important single device for making things easier to read."

At Regent we desire that students read classical children's books that are challenging and interesting. The Regent student is encouraged to delight in books and acquire the habit of reading for a lifetime.

Writing and Interpreting Prose and Poetry

At Regent we believe writing is a medium for communication, as are all art forms. It gives the opportunity for direct communication, for verbalizing thoughts and attitudes, for speaking truth. Writing can be developed to transmit God's truth and to enrich the lives of family, friends, and casual contacts.

Beautiful poetry and prose are gifts from the Lord. Charlotte Mason refers to the art of recitation and interpretation as the "Children's Art." She claims,

"All children have it in them to recite; it is an imprisoned gift waiting to be delivered...out of the woodenness of even the most commonplace child steps forth the child-artist, a delicate sprite, who shall make you laugh and make you weep. A child who is not a genius, is not even born of cultivated parents, may be taught the fine art of beautiful and perfect speaking; but that is only the first step in the acquisition of 'The Children's Art.' The child should speak beautiful thoughts so beautifully, with such delicate rendering of each nuance of meaning, that he becomes to the listener the interpreter of the author's thought. Now, consider what appreciation, sympathy, and power of expression this implies, and you will grant that 'The Children's Art' is a liberal education in itself."

In learning to recite, one learns to speak. The result is an educated man or woman who is able to speak effectively in public.

Penmanship

From the beginning, the Regent student is taught neat, consistent handwriting. If the students are to be disciples of Jesus Christ in every thought, word, and deed, then their handwriting should clearly reflect this purpose. If written words are full of grace and truth, then they must be clearly legible.

History

The Bible is primarily a history book, a book of the history of God's dealings with specific people at specific places and times. The Bible itself continually stresses the importance of history, for good examples as well as bad. The eleventh chapter of Hebrews, in which the great lessons of faith are taught, presents another recounting of the history of the people of God (in this case, of their faithfulness). The Bible specifically directs man to teach history to his children. *"In the future when your son asks you, 'What is the meaning of the stipulations, decrees, and laws which the Lord commanded you?' then you shall say to your son, 'We were slaves to Pharaoh in Egypt; and the Lord brought us from Egypt with a mighty hand.'"* (Deuteronomy 6:20-21)

Once man catches a glimpse of his direct relationship to his historical past, history becomes one of the most exciting and important of studies. As man studies the past and the lessons of history, he will comprehend the limits of his life and develop guidelines for his conduct in contemporary life. Each successive generation builds, for good or for ill, upon what has gone before. Man must understand past events in order to comprehend prevailing ideas and beliefs of today. Otherwise, not only will he fail to make use of the success of the past, but he will also be doomed to relive the failures of the past.

In the study of history at Regent, facts are studied systematically and sequentially and form a basis of understanding that the student will call upon when he reaches the Platonic, dialectical mode of study. When learning history, the child remembers those events most important for the development of history and how these events tie into other events that come before and after. Then he does not merely assimilate disconnected facts, but is prepared later to see how all of these events fit together in God's continuum.

For the student at Regent, history is an inexhaustible storehouse of past men, women, and events, pathetic and heroic, that form in him principles whereby he will hereafter judge the behavior of nations and will rule his own conduct as a responsible citizen. Since history is about people, the student is allowed to linger over the history of individual men. Though the student is reading and thinking of the lifetime of a single man he is really becoming intimately acquainted with the history and culture of a whole nation for an age. The student comes to know the great people and the common people.

History at Regent relies, when at all possible, on original source documents; on letters and speeches of the individuals being studied; on the books, newspapers, posters, chronicles and artwork of the period. The study of historical events is integrated with the study of the literature, music, art, and scientific discoveries of the period.

Geography

Geography helps a child appreciate his world—the beautiful surroundings God has created. As God in Genesis finished creating the world, He saw all that He had made, "*and behold, it was very good.*"

The goal of geography is to accurately picture the world and the manner in which climate, location, natural resources, and landforms affect the way people live. The study of history and geography are integrated to help students understand the needs and histories of nations. To a lesser extent, geography is used to help students understand plant and animal life in their natural habitat.

Mathematics

God's Word is filled with the specification of precise mathematical relationships; with the laying out of clearly delineated patterns that God's people are to follow; and with distinct patterns that God has ordained for His creation to follow. Through the precision and order of mathematics, properties such as predictability, repetitions, symmetry, magnitude, form, and their relationships can be understood to successively solve problems in our ever-changing world.

For younger students, consistent practice and memorization of basic math facts are viewed as critical for future success in higher level mathematics. Children are provided opportunities to

apply their skills and strategies to real-life situations. Regent uses mathematics to train older students in higher level thinking so that they possess problems solving skills in a world of rapidly changing technology.

Computer Science

The computer is a tool for man to use. It is an instrument of logic, designed to supplement the human brain, but never to supplant it. A Regent student acquires strong abilities to reason before beginning the learning of computer skills. The computer is then used to further enhance the learning process. Technology is an integral part of life and is recognized as such.

Science/Nature Studies

The word “science” is based upon the Latin word meaning “knowledge.” At Regent we teach that scientific knowledge is to be understood in a relational sense that does not detach the children from the creation as mere objective observers, but instead brings them into closer and more intimate understanding of the creation. This understanding enables them to fulfill their covenant obligations to nurture and care for the earth and the plants and creatures with which God has filled it. Regent children learn not only this practical knowledge about the world, but also that God made everything for a purpose, for part of a larger order. Regent desires that the children have a useful, working scientific knowledge of the world around them. Students gain knowledge of the world through systemized observation, study, and experimentation.

Foreign Language

Jesus Christ’s last instructions to His followers were: “*Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.*” (Matthew 28:19-20) We view the learning of foreign language as essential, allowing man to communicate with others as he fulfills his obligation to the world beyond his own.

In the tradition of a classical European education, children in classes four through eight study Latin. Reinforced by Greek, Latin is the essential language, serving as ‘the tie that binds’ together the heritage of Western civilization. It remains today the foundational medium of those disciplines and professions that especially distinguish the Western way of life. Under the tutelage of *lingua Latina*, modern foreign language opportunities are offered to complement the study of the ‘mother tongue,’ Latin.

Logic

Logic, the science of correct reasoning, is initially offered to Class 7 students. Informal logic, the study of fallacious arguments, provides the first component in this curriculum, to be followed by formal logic. If history is a record of God’s dealings with men, and if science and mathematics describe the patterns ordained by God in His created order, logic reveals the rational endowment bestowed on man by his Maker. Indeed, as the evangelist John avers, Jesus Himself is the ‘*Logos*’ of God, the very name from which logic takes its name. The apostle Paul, who himself had received the best of classical and Christian training, places a very high premium on this ability to think the thoughts of God:

“The word [lógos] of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God . . .

We speak wisdom among those who are mature, a wisdom, however, not of this age. . . , which God predestined before the ages to our glory.” (I Corinthians 1 & 2)

Physical Education

At Regent we believe that physical education helps to develop positive physical, mental and moral habits. Athletics and physical training produce lifelong character in children. God has given us life and a body finely adapted for His service; He gives to man the work of preserving the body in health, nourishing it in strength and training it in fitness for whatever service He may intend.

Our goal in the Regent sports program is to train children in skill development, fitness, sportsmanship, and teamwork. At Regent, winning is not the primary objective. Children will be taught to pursue excellence and to do their best, understanding that the Bible teaches us to “work as unto the Lord.”

Health

Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you have been bought with a price: Therefore glorify God in your body. (I Corinthians 6:19-20)

At Regent we believe that the study of health in school is about medical choices, not ethical issues. Those issues are best taught by the parents in the home. Carefully written materials on these topics from a biblical point of view are made available to parents for their private use with their own children.

Music

Be filled with the Spirit; speaking to yourselves in psalms and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord. (Ephesians 5:18 and 19)

Music is an outward expression of the creative joy in our hearts. Regent children are exposed to great classical music, studying the works and lives of two great composers each year. Children at Regent worship their Lord with song, “*But let the righteous be glad; let them rejoice before God; yea, let them exceedingly rejoice. Sing unto God, sing praises to His name*” (Psalm 68:3-4). As students study significant classical selections, it is hoped that they will develop a lifelong appreciation for the great hymns and music of the ages.

Architecture and Interior Design

Architecture is living art. Studying man’s noblest buildings is a worthwhile endeavor. At Regent, time is spent studying period architecture as it integrates with historical studies.

Gardens and Gardening

Great enjoyment is to be had through the medium of gardening. There are numerous references to gardening and agriculture in the Scriptures. The younger students at Regent garden throughout the year, studying flowers, herbs and vegetables.

At Regent we believe that children who grow up in an atmosphere where beauty is considered an important part of daily life cannot help being inspired to develop their own original ideas in these areas, nor can they help being prepared to live aesthetically themselves.

Drama

Noah Webster, in his 1828 dictionary defined drama as the following:

“A poem or composition representing a picture of human life, and accommodated to action. The principal species of the drama are tragedy and comedy.”

Drama presents a slice of human life in action. It is an art form that gives enjoyment and presents truth. In keeping with our overall philosophy about creativity, Regent focuses on those themes which are true, honest, just, pure, and of good report.

Art/Creativity

In his book *Addicted to Mediocrity*, Frank Schaeffer states,

The best of the traditional view of the church, supported by biblical teaching, has been (thankfully) that the arts, creativity, enjoyment of our own creativity, the creativity of those around us - in short, all the beauty that God has put into this life - comes as a direct good and gracious gift from our Heavenly Father above...If from this world around us we can learn anything about God's character, surely it is that we have a creative God, a God of diversity, a God whose interest in beauty and detail must be unquestioned when one looks at the world which He has made around us, and people themselves as the result of His craftsmanship.

It is therefore no surprise to look at the history of the West and Christian culture and see its unrivaled heritage in the arts. It is no coincidence that this tremendous heritage of the arts, this involvement with creativity, also coincided with what we call a Christian consensus. One can reasonably affirm that this Christian consensus owed its existence (at least in part) to the fact that Christians and the Church were involved in the arts and the media of their day and age. For the arts - the media, ideas and human expression - are the root of all ideas and ideas are the foundation on which history is built.

The first artist was God Himself. Man's very existence is the result of God's creativity.

At Regent we believe that since we are created in God's own image, we too have the capacity to create, though on a limited, finite basis. We have been given the ability to produce and appreciate beauty. Creativity gives outward expression to the inward soul of man. John Saxon stated, *“Creativity springs unsolicited from well-prepared minds.”* The Regent education is designed to provide a strong knowledge base upon which the student may creatively build.

We teach that with God's gift of creativity comes the responsibility to think differently from the world, to dwell on the Word of God, and to be led by the Holy Spirit. *"And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is the good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God."* (Romans 12:2) All of a Christian's artistic efforts should reflect God and His beauty. The art that we study and produce is summarized in Philippians 4:8: *"Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and anything worthy of praise, let your mind dwell on these things."*

The Faculty

And the things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, these entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also. (II Timothy 2:2)

Because of the high value God places upon children, it is to be expected that He would instruct us to entrust their training only to those who faithfully uphold truth and knowledge. Regent believes the teaching of children is a high calling. Jesus identified Himself as a teacher: *"You call me Teacher and Lord; and you are right; for so I am."* (John 13:13) Those who are called to teach incur "a stricter judgment" because of the sacredness of their responsibility.

Accordingly, the faculty at Regent is composed of men and women who are passionate about their Christian faith, about children, and about learning.

The Finished Product

Regent Preparatory School seeks in all things to do the will of the Father. It is our desire to glorify God as we pursue academic and moral excellence for our children. We hope that the finished product is a life and a family that reflect the character and heart of Christ.

Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord; seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence. II Peter 1:2-3

It is by his deeds that a lad distinguishes himself if his conduct is pure and right. Proverbs 20:11