



INFORMATION PACKET

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We are grateful for your interest in Cathedral Oak Academy. After reviewing this information packet, you are welcome to email us at cathedraloak.ws@gmail.com with any questions.

In Christ,
Cathedral Oak Academy



Overview of Cathedral Oak Academy

Mission Statement:

Cathedral Oak Academy partners with parents to spiritually and academically equip lifelong learners who are courageous leaders, capable of compassionately influencing the culture for the glory of God.

We believe that the ultimate goal of education is Godly wisdom. Three core components define a Classical education. We believe these three components, when combined, provide the potential for the greatest educational fruit.

- Christ-centered education
- Classical approach to academics
- University-Model® education

Christ-Centered Education

Discipleship Model

Cathedral Oak Academy is discipleship-oriented in its mission. Although we highly value evangelism as Christian individuals, the school exists to partner with Christian families to educate students in the Christian Faith, equipping them to be a blessing to the world. Cathedral Oak does not open enrollment to families who do not share the core doctrines of our Statement of Faith.

Christian Faculty and Staff

Cathedral Oak Academy employs Christian teachers and staff to ensure that our students are surrounded by adults who model a life committed to Christ. We expect all of our staff to model the Christian life through the following:

- Regular personal devotion to Christ
- Commitment to the Christian Scripture as the source of Truth
- Commitment to the local church
- Commitment to discipleship by investing in the hearts and minds of students.



Biblical Authority in Curriculum

All learning at Cathedral Oak is subject to the authority of Scripture. Our curriculum is taught from a Biblical worldview. Many, but not all, of the textbooks we use are written from a Christian perspective. Our teachers strive to inspire worship in our students through our curriculum. There is no such thing as a non-biblical subject. Christian content and practices aimed at inclining students' hearts towards Christ are woven throughout our school days both formally and informally through:

- Morning Assembly (Chapel)
- School-wide Scripture memorization and song
- Bible curriculum for each grade level
- Biblical worldview instruction in all subjects
- Prayer as a regular part of campus life

Character Development

Cathedral Oak teaches students to think critically from a Christian worldview and relates academic coursework to what we know about God from the Scriptures. We believe that just as actions follow worldview, character is shaped by a Scripture-informed course of study.

Practically, Cathedral Oak Academy hopes to provide:

- Integration of the Biblical concepts into academic instruction and core curriculum.
- Emphasis on study skills and self-discipline in a collaborative-style environment with policies of student behavior and conduct.
- High expectations of effort and excellence in work product maintained by Cathedral Oak parents and staff.
- Civility training through school standards and practices.
- Opportunities for students to serve
- Encouragement of students' development in their own personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

Apologetics

Ideas have consequences, and everyone has a worldview whether or not they can identify it. Formal training in apologetics is a vital component in equipping our children to live in a post-Christian world. While the biblical worldview is woven informally through the curriculum in the Grammar Phase, as children enter the Logic Phase and move through the Rhetoric Stage apologetics will become increasingly significant. At Cathedral Oak our goal is to move beyond teaching the basics of the Christian faith; we hope to help students understand what a Biblical



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worldview is, and to equip them to defend and promote this Biblical worldview. We want to expose students to key social issues and world religions, and train them to engage their Biblical worldview in our post-Christian culture. Our goal is to help students identify and counter the deceptions that so many young adults have unwittingly adopted. We want to arm our children so that they are not as vulnerable to the deceptions of this world, but instead can compassionately engage in it from a place of strength and conviction.

Family Ministry

Cathedral Oak Academy is a ministry partnership with parents and seeks to develop wise and virtuous students. Cathedral Oak does not intend to infringe on the ministry of the local church in the areas of doctrinal training, parent training, or weekly fellowship. We do, however, hope to serve the ministry of the local church by helping to further strengthen families, equipping and empowering parents to fulfill their God-given roles. Cathedral Oak will grow to provide training on various educational topics for parents prior to and during each school year.

Cathedral Oak Approach to Academics

The Great Tradition

Cathedral Oak Academy is committed to educating using a classical approach. We believe that we have a great heritage in the educational tradition of the West, extending back to the ancient civilizations of Greece and Rome. As we trace this heritage, in its best moments, education has been a commitment to the cultivation of wisdom and virtue in young hearts and minds. Education has been a means of grappling with the highest truths, coming to terms with the natural order of our universe, and discovering what it means to be human. In order to pursue these great ends, educators have used the seven liberal arts (grammar/Latin, logic, rhetoric, music, arithmetic, geometry, and astronomy) as a means. In essence, rigorous, liberal arts-oriented study has historically been the core makeup of a classical education. Many of the men and women we admire and whose life and work have made the greatest impact on western civilization were educated in this manner.

Unfortunately, this great tradition has been abandoned in the modern era. It has been replaced in the last century with a progressive philosophy of education. The ends of wisdom and virtue no longer reign supreme because there is no cultural agreement as to what a wise and virtuous life is. At best, test-taking skills, college prep, and vocational training are ultimate ends in the



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progressive model. This has made for a much more mechanical and systematic approach to education that cares little about what it means to be human and much about what it means to be an effective worker in the current system of American culture. At Cathedral Oak Academy, we certainly want our students to be well-equipped for the modern workforce, but this is not our ultimate end.

Cathedral Oak Academy takes a classical and Christ-centered approach to education because we care about worship. We want our students to understand that we study, experiment, think, discuss, write, debate, and create because we believe this is what it means to be created in the image of God. We study math for example, not ultimately to become an engineer, but because understanding math helps us understand something about the character of God. Classical education is an act of worship at Cathedral Oak Academy.

Education at Cathedral Oak can be best understood in two main categories:
classical content and **classical method**.

Classical Content

Truth, Goodness, Beauty

Classical education strives to only use the truly great aspects of our culture as its curriculum. Now that we know we want our children to memorize grammar, what constitutes grammar? What is the substance of the curriculum? These questions are especially relevant when one considers our fast-paced, information-laden society. There is so much information available; how do we sift through it all? Philippians 4:8 supplies us with a key principle that must be considered. It instructs us to think only on those things which are true, honest, just, pure, lovely (or beautiful), of good report, and praiseworthy.

A classical education, therefore, recognizes that these virtues must characterize its curriculum. Given the Church's overwhelming influence over the development of Western civilization, we have a rich heritage from which to choose. We have a wonderful tradition of literature, art, philosophy, and science that is true, honest, just, pure, lovely, of good report, and praiseworthy. Cathedral Oak will strive to immerse our students in content that is true, good, and beautiful.



The Great Conversation

At Cathedral Oak Academy education is a Great Books-oriented education. The western tradition, like no other, contains a long chain of great minds putting their thoughts down on paper, often referred to as the “great conversation.” The process of education must involve being caught up on the “great conversation” that has been going on for centuries. We believe that students must become acquainted with “the best that has been said and thought” before meaningfully engaging in the literature of today. Our goal is that they would become familiar enough with the Great Conversation that they might become wise and eloquent contributors to this conversation.

Fine Arts

Cathedral Oak will have options for Fine Arts such as music, visual arts, theatre, and choir. Specific details will be available soon.

Athletics

Cathedral Oak plans to offer a variety of athletic options based on interest. Specific details will be available soon.

Co-Curricular Activities

Cathedral Oak plans to offer students a wide range of activities off-campus which complement their on-campus studies. We describe these activities as “co-curricular.” These activities are planned and coordinated by families and will be advertised by Cathedral Oak Academy. Examples of these activities include Chess club, group and individualized tutoring, American Heritage Girls, community service, piano, guitar, or violin.

Classical Method

The Trivium

The Trivium (Latin for “three ways”) applies a learning process where students gain knowledge first, then understanding and, finally, wisdom. This three-step process is evident in the unfolding of the classical Trivium, which divides learning into three stages: grammar, dialectic (or logic), and rhetoric. Grammar, like knowledge, encompasses the building blocks of information that must be learned or memorized for any given subject-the ABCs, if you will. Dialectic (or logic),



like understanding, is the logical relationship between the information blocks mastered in Grammar. Then Rhetoric, like wisdom, is the goal. It is learning to apply Grammar and Dialectic in a beautiful, eloquent, and truthful fashion.

We follow these three steps—grammar, dialectic (called ‘logic’ at Cathedral Oak), and rhetoric—when learning any new subject. Although these three tools of learning can be applied throughout a lifetime, classical education aligns these steps with the natural development stages of children.

The following chart describes the focus and activities in each phase of the Trivium.

Trivium Overview	Grammar Phase	Logic (Dialectic) Phase	Rhetoric Phase
Grade	K-4 th	5 th - 8 th	9 th - 12 th
Student's developmental stage	Poll-Parrot: children naturally enjoy and absorb information.	Pert: students enjoy argumentation and finding opposing points of view.	Poetic: young adults seek to define and express themselves.
Emphasis for Mastery	Basic facts and figures	Logic and argumentation	Clarity of written and verbal expression.
Focus	The fundamentals of each subject.	The rules by which the fundamentals are ordered and governed.	The expression synthesis, and application of a subject's grammar and logic.



The following table describes illustrative topics and activities in each phase of the Trivium.

Illustrative Topics	Grammar Phase	Logic (Dialectic) Phase	Rhetoric Phase
Math	Addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, time, money	Variable manipulation, properties of operations, traditional logic, material logic, algebra	Algebra, geometry, trigonometry, analytic, geometry, statistics, calculus
Science	Identification, categorization	Experimentation, exploration, understanding phenomena	Investigation, explanation, documentation
History	Grammar of history, timeline, geography, historical characters	Analysis of source documents from original authors, constitutional history, contrasting viewpoints	Analysis, global context, original documents
Language Arts	Phonograms, English grammar and vocabulary, Latin grammar and vocabulary, spelling, reading for comprehension, handwriting, memory work	Argumentation, debate, syntax, analysis, history of language	Literature appreciation, expository writing, essays, study of other languages, thesis development and defense, formal rhetoric

We believe the goal of education is the attainment of wisdom, not simply to prepare students for the workforce. We do understand, however, that a truly wise person will make a better worker. Just as the book of Proverbs states, wisdom is rooted in the fear of the Lord. From this beginning a Christian Classical education is built.

In their early years, children thrive on memorizing facts—a skill that often becomes drudgery to adults. Classical students in the Grammar Phase can easily, and usually with great pride, memorize hundreds of facts, everything from grammatical rules and math facts to bones of the



body. Even at this stage, however, the goal of rhetoric remains in view; thus, we also encourage students to practice speaking often in front of their classmates and to work on quality penmanship, among other things.

In their “middle school” years most students revel in questioning everything. They love to argue; so, we challenge them to argue well through learning formal logic. In the Logic Phase we encourage students to question and prove and discover how their grammatical knowledge works together.

Finally, students enter the Rhetoric Phase (their high school years), eager for self-expression. Classical education capitalizes on this innate desire by teaching them what is beautiful and true in all subjects. They also study formal rhetoric and learn to communicate with grace and polish.

Integration

Classical education strives to integrate academic subjects. Life is not compartmentalized so neither should education be. Academic disciplines are a means to understand and enjoy this life God has given us to live. Life is not about understanding school subjects.

In a very real sense, math has everything to do with science, history has everything to do with literature, and the Bible has everything to do with them all. Just studying math for math’s sake takes all of the joy out of it. Classical education seeks for the classroom to be a microcosm of this integrated life we live. Integration helps our studies come alive.

Classical educators should seek to integrate both formally and informally. The Classical curriculum has integration built-in to daily lessons. Integration should also be informal and off-the-cuff, constantly referring to other subjects in the midst of the one being studied.

Lessons are interrelated and assignments can span more than one subject. For example, as students learn about ancient Egypt, aspects of that culture would relate to a classroom’s study of language, history, and science.

Classical Languages

Why Study Latin?

At Cathedral Oak, students will begin the study of Latin beginning in 3rd grade and will continue into 7th grade. Beginning in 8th grade, parents and students can choose to continue the study



of Latin or choose another available language pathway. Our reasons for Latin study stem from the following:

1. Knowledge of classical languages increases English vocabulary. About half of all English vocabulary comes from Latin and another 20 percent from Greek (~70% of all English vocabulary!). These words tend to be the difficult, polysyllabic ones----“SAT words.”
2. Latin aids in the understanding of English grammar. Studying a highly inflected language---that is, one that marks grammatical changes with a fully developed system of case endings----gives students a better grasp of English grammar. In fact, generations of teachers have observed that Latin teaches English better than English by requiring students to accurately identify the part of speech for every word!
3. Latin is key to modern languages. Knowing Latin makes it much easier to learn the grammar and vocabulary of the modern Romance languages (e.g. Spanish, French, Italian, Portuguese, Romanian), since they take about 80 percent of their vocabulary from Latin. Both Latin and Greek also aid in learning other case-based languages, such as German, Russian, and the Slavo-Baltic languages.
4. Latin teaches logical thinking. Future computer scientists and engineers benefit from experiencing Latin’s patterns, precision, and compactness.
5. Latin students excel on standardized tests which are required by competitive colleges. As a result of increased vocabulary, grammar proficiency, and reasoning skills, students of Latin consistently outperform their peers----including those who have studied modern languages. Using the SAT in 2016 as an example, Latin students scored 67 points higher than average on Critical Reading and 60 points higher than average on Writing. These scores for Latin students are higher than for any other type of language student. Latin students also scored 51 points higher than average on Mathematics.
Source: The College Board, 2016 College-Bound Seniors: Total Group Profile Report (Tables 10 & 16).
<https://reports.collegeboard.org/pdf/total-group-2016.pdf>
Mean scores for all test-takers are found in Table 10: Student Background Information and Characteristics
Mean scores for Latin students are found in Table 16: Foreign and Classical Languages
6. Several careers directly benefit from a knowledge of classical languages. The nomenclature and technical vocabularies of medicine, law, and the sciences rest on the foundation of Latin and Greek. Classical languages are a required subject for some higher degrees and for some ministry positions.



7. Latin enables students to understand and participate in the Great Conversation, which is the ongoing process of writers and thinkers referencing, building on, and refining the work of their predecessors.

Collaborative, University-Model® Education

Overview

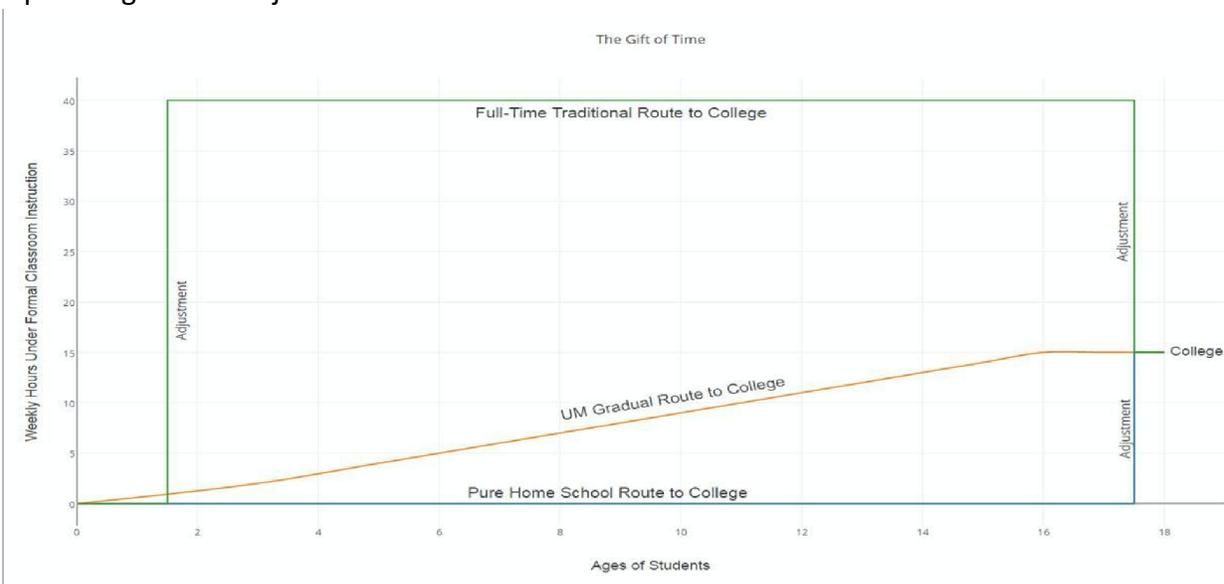
We believe that education ultimately falls under the jurisdiction of parents—not the state, not the church, and not the school itself. Deuteronomy 6, among other passages, specifically commissions *parents* with the task of rearing and teaching their children. The role of the school is subordinate to mothers and fathers. The school only partners with, or assists, parents in their great task of educating their children. Cathedral Oak has chosen a model of education that allows parents to retain ownership of their children’s education while still allowing them to reap the benefits of corporate education.

Collaborative, University-Model® education (also called “blended model” or “hybrid”) combines aspects of a traditional school and a homeschool into one unique model. This third way provides families with particular advantages:

- The University-Model® is a five-day academic program with students spending 3 days in the central classroom and 2 days in their “satellite classroom” at home. Both classrooms are under the supervision of the professional educator.
- Parents share responsibility for instruction with the professional, on-campus teacher who provides classroom instruction and take-home assignments. Parents do not need prior teaching experience.
- The school makes core curriculum choices, but families can supplement as often and as much as desired.
- Education is both individualized and classroom oriented. Students receive the benefits of one-on-one tutoring at home and classroom learning on-campus.
- University Model Schools are able to provide an academically rigorous school at a lower cost than most private schools.
- UM schools provide students with a smooth transition to college. Because of the unusual schedule, students learn time management and personal responsibility.

The Gift of Time

The collaborative, University-Model® schedule reintegrates parents into the spiritual and educational formation of their own children. This model permits students to assume responsibility, prepares them for the college environment, and gives parents additional time with their children in the most formative years. The following chart illustrates the academic benefit of gradually preparing students for direct entrance into college versus an approach that requires significant adjustments.



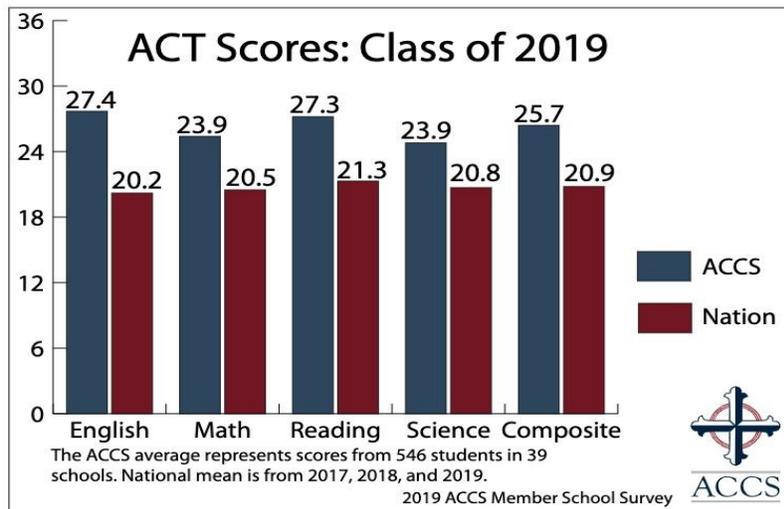
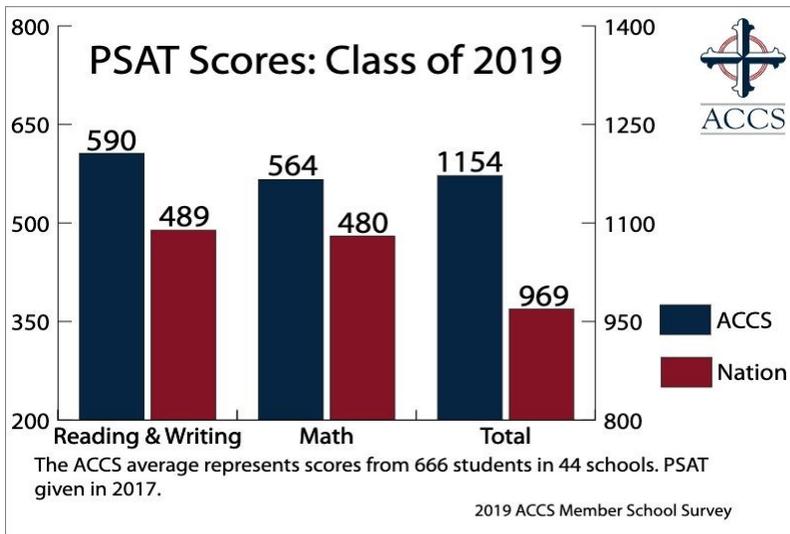
On the left side of this diagram is the number of hours each week students are in a classroom guided by a professional teacher. On the bottom, from left to right, are the ages of students up to 18, the typical age for high school graduation. The upper portion of this diagram is the additional amount of time the University-Model®, in contrast to the traditional model, gives back to parents. According to information gathered by pollster George Barna, the most critical period when 94% of all boys and girls come to a saving faith in Christ is before the age of 18, and 90% before the age of 14. Only 6% will make the decision to accept Christ between the age of 18 and their death. Since parents are the most influential factor in this decision, it is vital that models of education exist that keep parents involved with their children during the early, critical years of a child's education.

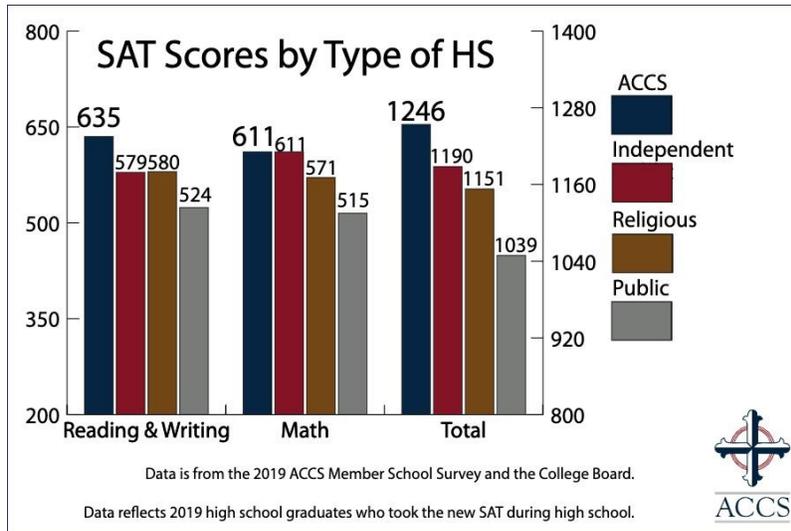


Accreditation and Academic Results

Cathedral Oak Academy will have dual membership with UMSI (University-Model® Schools International) and ACCS (Association of Classical Christian Schools), and will aim to be accredited through AdvancEd and ACCS.

Students at UMSI and ACCS member schools score above all other types of schools—public, religious, and even independent. Independent schools are typically college preparatory school that charge an average of \$20,000 per year.





How Things Work

A Typical School Week

Full details are covered in our co-teacher (parent) training before the first week of school, but the following is a general overview.

Day	Activities
Monday (On-Campus Day)	Each on-campus day includes teaching in Math, Science, Language Arts, , History, Foreign Language, Fine Arts.
Tuesday (On-Campus Day)	Another on-campus day.
Wednesday (At-Home day)	Assignments provided by the on-campus teacher.
Thursday (On-Campus Day)	Another on-campus day.
Friday (At-Home Day)	Assignments provided by the on-campus teacher. The on-campus teacher uploads a weekly lesson plan for the upcoming week. Co-teachers (parents) will be able to download the plan for the upcoming week and make preparations over the weekend.



Grade Levels Offered

- 2021-2022 school year: The goal is to offer K through 8th grade, possibly adding 9th grade (pending interest)

Books and Uniforms

Families are responsible for purchasing their own books and uniforms. Book lists for each grade will be available to enrolled families in June/July of each year.

At Cathedral Oak, students will wear a uniform during each on-campus day. Research has shown that this helps to minimize distractions, peer pressure, and socioeconomic distinctions. Details on our specific uniform policy will be available soon.

Device-Free Campus

As a school Cathedral Oak Academy will have a strict no cell-phone/personal device policy for all non-driving students. We want to give kids the gift of time away from the constant distraction and attention-seeking pull of screens. We want to teach a generation of kids to be engaged, reflective, and present in the moment. The rhythm of rest from our devices and developing a habit of presence plays an important part in molding our kids' desires. Devices may be kept in cars for students who are driving.

Tuition and Fees

We want Cathedral Oak Academy to be as affordable as possible, while providing teachers with a competitive salary. In this formative stage we cannot commit to a tuition fee, but we can offer the average tuition for UM schools in NC. This estimate will approximate what our tuition will ultimately be:

K-5:	\$4,687
6-8:	\$5,115
9-12:	\$5,956

Application and Enrollment Fees

Sibling and other discounts

We value our families and want Cathedral Oak Academy to be accessible to large ones! We plan to offer sibling discounts.



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We also would like to offer

- 2% discount for tuitions paid in full

Teachers and administrative staff will receive additional discounts on tuition for any of their children.

- *Application fee* \$125
- *Enrollment fee* \$250; \$500 family maximum

Enrollment Timeline

Application Submission	Applications will be available soon...
Family Interview	A Family Interview will be scheduled upon application.
Admissions Decision Date	Applications are considered as they arrive, with each month's applications forming a group of applicants. A waiting pool is opened when grades are filled with qualified applicants.
Fall Semester Tuition due	Summer (exact date to be determined)
Preparing for Fall (booklist, dress code, summer coursework, school calendar)	June
Co-teacher (parent) Training	Summer (exact date varies year to year)
Classes begin	August



Cathedral Oak Academy Board and Leadership

Cathedral Oak Board of Directors (in alphabetical order)

Kristen Carmitchel

Cathy Collins

Lora Geer

Misty Russ

Cathedral Oak Head of School, Academic Dean, and Campus Director

The Cathedral Oak Board is in the process of hiring a Head of School and additional administrators for the upcoming school year.



Statement of Faith

- We believe in one God, the sovereign Creator of the Universe, who is infinitely perfect and eternal. Genesis 1:1
- We believe in a triune God: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. Matthew 3:16-17.
- We believe Jesus Christ is the Son of God who was born of a virgin, lived blamelessly as a man, suffered and died for our sins. Isaiah 7:14, Matthew 1:23, Luke 1:35
- We believe Jesus rose from the dead after three days and later ascended into heaven to be at the right hand of the Father. Mark 16:19
- We believe Jesus intercedes for us and that our salvation comes only by God's grace and through faith alone. John 3:16, Romans 8:34
- We believe the Holy Spirit dwells in believers, convicts us of sin, gives us new life, and empowers and imparts gifts to us for His service on Earth. The Holy Spirit instructs and guides us into all truth. Romans 8:13
- We believe the Bible is the infallible, authoritative, inspired word of God. 2 Timothy 3:15-17
- We believe in the second coming of Christ. 1 Thessalonians 4:15-5:4, Hebrews 10:25

NON-DENOMINATIONAL STATUS

Cathedral Oak Academy is a private Christian school with 501(c)(3) nonprofit status. It is independently governed by a Board of Directors. It is not a ministry of any church or denomination, nor does it promote or endorse any denomination. It is our desire to remain united in the salvation and love of Jesus Christ, avoiding any dissension which may be caused by denominational differences.