



ROAR

GLORIA DEO ACADEMY DEVELOPMENT NEWS

GLORIA DEO ACADEMY

TABLE OF CONTENTS

3

19 YEARS—IGNITING FAITH AND EDUCATION FOR MISSOURI FAMILIES

For 19 years, Gloria Deo Academy has been changing lives -- one classroom at a time in southwest Missouri.

4

PARDON OUR PROGRESS

Development Director, Wendy Wright, shares an update on the Golden building construction, fundraising efforts, and more.

5

YOU ARE INVITED TO THE 2023 GDA BANQUET

Announcing our guest speaker, former Attorney General of the United States, John Ashcroft.

6

WHAT ABOUT THAT SECOND C: CLASSICAL?

Erin Butler writes about the three C's that make up our core values: Christian, classical, and collaborative.



GLORIA DEO
ACADEMY



19 YEARS— IGNITING FAITH AND EDUCATION FOR MISSOURI FAMILIES

Welcome back, GDA families!

For the 19th time, we're kicking off a new school year! From a small beginning with just 45 students to a bustling 835 this year, Gloria Deo Academy considers it a blessing and privilege to minister to families from Springfield to Joplin and beyond. And for the first time, we've given out significant scholarships to GDA families. 90 students shared a total of \$75,000! We believe this is what ministry looks like.

Unlike many schools, we don't focus on maximizing profit—we focus on impact through ministry. Our classrooms in Springfield and Nixa are buzzing with activity, filled up to a whopping 97%! It's a wonderful blessing, but it's also a big challenge. After this school year, we are out of classroom space, but we have more students seeking a place to learn. We seek your prayer and support as we continue to reach our fundraising goal so we can make an even bigger impact in southwest Missouri.

You know that prayer is a huge part of who we are—thank you for joining together for our 21 Days of Prayer. Every day we see students following your example. It warms our hearts to see students pray for each other, all on their own, without the prompting of adults. Seeing them live out their faith melts our hearts!

Let's team up in prayer as we move into the school year. Ask the Lord to show you how you could support Gloria Deo Academy as we shine bright for the glory of God. Join us on this amazing journey!

In Christ,

Joy Davis

Joy Davis, Founder & Head of School



Pardon Our Progress

Even though construction is messy, we are grateful that progress is happening! If you have been to the Golden Campus, you may have noticed the demolition happening in the breezeway. It is being remodeled to incorporate stairs and an elevator to the upper floor. An additional stairway is being installed in the back of the gymnasium area.

The completion of this project will get us ready to build twelve upper-grade classrooms, including two science labs on the upper floor of the east building. The classroom sizes will be more appropriate for upper grade students and will allow us to keep them all at one campus. Since last July, we have raised \$738,023 towards this project, which is already half of what we need to get started.

It has remained a priority to raise the majority of the money needed via cash or pledges before we commit to building, so as not to put our school at financial risk. We are grateful to the families who have supported the campaign so far and we are confident that God will move hearts to give, to get these classrooms built next summer.

In other news, you may be wondering what the hold-up is on the improved ingress/egress that was promised by our generous neighbors, Masada, Inc. Last year the owner of Masada graciously offered to

tear down the fence, level the ground between our property and theirs, create more parking and an easement between the two properties so that our car line can begin at their entrance and exit on ours. This would alleviate the traffic issues that sometimes occur and ones in the future. The first delay was unexpected engineering work required and the current delay is being caused by a small triangular piece of land that was missed by surveyors and belongs to a third party. Masada is working to get the piece vacated in order to move forward on the project. We are grateful that they are so determined to help us in the face of what has not turned out to be an easy task.

We are beyond excited to see God's plan for the school and as we move forward, we say thanks...thank you to the families and supporters of GDA. We could not do this without you. Thank you, Lord, for your provision and guidance. We love watching your plans unfold and we give you all the glory!

Blessings,

Wendy Wright, Director of Development

ALL IN HIS TIME BANQUET

**NOVEMBER 9, 7 PM AT BASS PRO'S
WHITE RIVER CONFERENCE CENTER**

We are excited to announce the featured speaker for our Annual Fund Event this year is to be **former Attorney General of the United States, John Ashcroft**. Dr. Ashcroft is a Christian, with long, standing ties in the Willard and Springfield community and we are honored to have him speak on the **importance of a Christian education**.

Not only will he be speaking but he will be performing with our choir students and long-standing friend and GDA choir teacher, Sharon Wilkins. In addition to his life-long political career, Dr. Ashcroft is an accomplished musician, vocalist and songwriter and they will be performing one of his very own songs.

We will also be showcasing GDA students and alumni in many distinct roles during the event and as always, you can be sure that they will make an impression that you do not want to miss.

The event will take place at the beautiful White River Conference Center at Bass Pro. Seats are limited, so please secure your seats or your table by registering here:

<https://gloriadeoacademy.org/all-in-his-time/>



**SCAN TO
RESERVE
YOUR SEATS**





WHAT ABOUT THAT SECOND C: CLASSICAL?

BY ERIN BUTLER

"BY WISDOM A HOUSE IS BUILT, AND BY UNDERSTANDING IT IS ESTABLISHED; BY KNOWLEDGE THE ROOMS ARE FILLED WITH ALL PRECIOUS AND PLEASANT RICHES." -PROVERBS 24:3-4

We hear them often as part of the GDA family, and as teachers and students we repeat them daily in our mission statement. I am, of course, talking about the three C's that make up our core values: Christian, classical, and collaborative. (Isn't it great when alliteration works out so well?) I think it would be safe to say that most of us clearly understand the "Christian" and the "collaborative" parts of these three C's. But how much do you really know about that second C, the "classical" part? It's my guess that this particular "C" may remain a mystery for many, even those who have attended GDA for some time. If your main idea of classical education is merely reading old books and learning an old language (Latin

WHAT IS CLASSICAL EDUCATION?

drills, anyone?) then keep reading, because you are missing out on understanding this fantastic second C! So here comes the inevitable question: what is classical education? I'll be honest—this is where it can get a little tricky. There is so much to be said about "classical education" that it can be overwhelming to nail down a definition.

You may read how it is a time-tested

tradition of education that has developed the greatest leaders and thinkers of the past (think Aristotle, Plato, C.S. Lewis, and Thomas Jefferson). You will hear others emphasize it as being the pursuit of virtue, truth, beauty, and goodness (yes, we all want that for our kids). You will learn that Christian classical education puts God at the center of each subject, showing how all subjects are interrelated and point back to Him. And you will come to understand how classical education ultimately creates self-directed learners who are taught how to think and learn versus merely what to think or learn. This all culminates in the **cultivation of wisdom** as the final goal of classical education.

That all sounds amazing, right? But if you're anything like me, all this information leaves you a little confused. It still sounds a bit too abstract. Personally, I need something more concrete to show me how this looks in practice. What does it look like to teach classically in the classroom and in our homes? After all, if you don't understand the method, then you will most likely find yourself asking, "Why are we doing this?" "Why is it relevant for my young child to know that?" "Do we really need to be reading that?"

But as the saying goes (and as I say often in my home), ***“There’s a method to the madness!”***

So what is that method? Simply put, the classical method is three stages of learning called the Trivium. You could say it is a 3-step process for **training the mind**. These stages are grammar, logic, and rhetoric. Interestingly, these three stages correspond with how kids are developmentally inclined to learn, as we’ll look at more closely below. I also find it fascinating that they ultimately embody knowledge (grammar), understanding (dialectic/logic), and wisdom (rhetoric), which is the natural progression of learning anything!

The first step of this learning process is the grammar stage, which corresponds roughly to the elementary ages. (The term “grammar” just refers to the basic parts or vocabulary of any subject—not an endless English grammar lesson!) The purpose of this stage is the accumulation of facts and information. This is done through lots of memorization, as any GDA elementary student knows. This is the perfect time for all that memory work, when students’ minds are the most “spongy” and able to soak up tons of information! They love repetition, songs, rhymes, and the like, so we utilize these means as a way to memorize facts, terminology, definitions, lists, formulas, and more. Because I have the most experience with this super fun stage, I want to highlight something that will, hopefully, lift some anxiety off both parents and teachers: the goal here is primarily the exposure to and gathering of information, **not understanding**. This is an important distinction to make. Understanding will come when students are developmentally ready for it.



That brings us to the logic stage. This would mainly be our middle-school students, although this stage can begin earlier for some kids. This age group has a natural tendency to debate and question, and they are ready to dig deeper to figure out the “why” behind everything! Now that they have spent their grammar years storing up a base of information, they will use that to study topics and concepts in greater depth. This is an exciting time where connections are being made and students discover how facts relate. Discussion is a major component of this stage, as well as the study of formal logic, debate, and reasoning skills.

The final phase of learning, into which our 9-12 students would fall, is the rhetoric stage. Rhetoric is all about communicating well. At this point, our students have stored up knowledge (grammar) and learned to think critically about those facts (logic). Now they are ready, as well as more naturally inclined, to express their thoughts and ideas through speeches, writing, and conversations. They are also more creative problem-solvers. These students use what has been learned to solve a problem, write an original speech, lead a discussion, or teach others what they know. This is what we have been waiting for, as we see the culmination of knowledge and understanding growing into wisdom!

Now we come back to all those wonderful goals of classical education, because this method of learning is exactly **how** our kids learn to learn; it is **how** they seek out truth, beauty, and goodness; it is **how** they become self-directed learners and leaders. And yes, that still involves studying the “old books” and learning Latin, plus so much more! But the key is the Trivium. Like the roots of a tree, a foundation of information is laid in the grammar stage as our children soak in knowledge. The information gradually grows into deeper connections and understanding in the logic stage, like the tree’s solid trunk. And now we see the leaves and flowers of the tree as knowledge and understanding come together to bloom into wisdom in the rhetoric stage. What a beautiful process it is!



GLORIA DEO ACADEMY
3146 S GOLDEN AVE
SPRINGFIELD, MO 65807

5770

49% PAID FOR



6120

51% REMAINING

HELP US BUILD FUTURE CLASSROOMS FOR THE NEXT
GENERATION OF GLORIA DEO ACADEMY GRADUATES.