



# WOODSTREAM CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

9800 LOTTSFORD ROAD MITCHELLVILLE, MD 20721 301-955-1160 (V) 301-955-1169 (F)  
WWW.WOODSTREAMACADEMY.COM

## PHILOSOPHY OF EDUCATION

The Bible is the foundation of our philosophy of education. The Bible is the authoritative Word of God and should be taught in the home, school, and church. The foundation of education is laid at home and the school serves to extend this foundation.

**WCA Distinctive** - Woodstream Christian Academy (WCA) functions as a ministry of **Woodstream Church** to the community. As a Christian educational institution, WCA will, therefore, reflect the philosophy and values of Woodstream Church. It is a requirement that the administration, faculty, and staff are Bible-believing Christians and active church members.

WCA welcomes children without regard to race, nationality, or sex. WCA provides an environment that invites learning under the leadership of professional teachers.

As part of the Woodstream Church, the school operates independently of state regulation and control, but adheres to state and county health and safety standards.

**The Biblical Basis of Education** - The Bible is the foundation of our philosophy of education. The Bible is the authoritative Word of God and should be taught in the home, school, and church. The foundations of education are laid at home and the school serves to extend these foundations. All knowledge and wisdom is found in Christ (**Col. 2:3**). Therefore, Christ is the center of our education. Because God does exist (it is impossible for Him not to exist) logic, math, science, ethics, and literature are all possible and make sense. It is the God of the Bible that allows for intelligibility and meaning for all subjects. In other words, the God of Scripture is the necessary presupposition for all knowledge. The "fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge" (**Prov. 1:7**). The student will be aware, through the daily program, of God as creator and of His special love for the child as an individual. Bible lessons revealing God's care, protection, and leadership will be presented daily to insure a firm foundation of trust in a loving and holy God. The Bible will be presented as the Word of God, and Jesus Christ as the Savior and Lord.

**Classical Education** - One of the primary goals of the classical model of education is to teach students how to think. We are commanded by God to love Him with our minds (**Matt. 22:37**). This is best accomplished through the proven method of classical education. The classical method at every level is rigorous and challenges the student to critically think and interrelate all knowledge in a systematic and applicable way. This method really does promote a genuine love for learning. The classical model is not just receptive learning but rather it is interactive discovery. Classical training



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provides individuals with life-long skills, which enable one to analyze, listen, articulate, dialogue and debate.

An important part of the classical curriculum is the reading of great books. To be able to read and discuss the original sources of all subjects is a great benefit to the student as they are contemplating and critiquing some of the greatest minds in history. The reading of original sources, coupled with the very best of modern textbooks, gives the student a well-rounded foundation both intellectually and pragmatically.

The classical curriculums' emphasis on the humanities provides a clearer understanding of the more practical subjects such as math and science. Students learn to think beyond the subject itself and gain a full perspective as they attain an understanding of the whole as well as the parts. Through an intense study of facts in their correct context, the formulation of those facts into a coherent whole, and the ability to articulate conclusions in a persuasive manner, the classical method achieves the goal of preparing the student for great success in any endeavor they choose to pursue.

**The Trivium** - The classical curriculum is divided into a three-part educational process known as the Trivium. The first stage is the grammar stage (grades 1-6); the second stage is the school of logic or dialectic (grades 7-8); and the third and final stage of the Trivium is rhetoric (grades 9-12).

**The Grammar Stage** involves learning the rules and facts of all subjects. It is at this stage that students can absorb enormous amounts of information. Through memorization, chanting, rhymes, and songs, the student gains the basic knowledge of each subject, which prepares them for the second stage of their educational development.

**The Logic (Dialectic) Stage** is when the student takes all of the facts they have accumulated in the grammar school and begins to put them together into an interrelated whole. Since the basic facts and rules have been learned at the grammar stage, the logic student can begin to go beyond the basics and discover a more in-depth understanding of subjects studied. The use of the Socratic Method and Aristotelian logic are employed at this time to allow the student to reason well and begin to construct valid arguments.

**The Rhetoric Stage** (also known as the poetic stage) is when the students will express themselves through eloquent and persuasive discourse, dialogue, and debate. This is the stage when all they have learned is articulated in a persuasive manner. The School of Rhetoric students are expressive and desire to communicate their ideas in a creative and applicable way.



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The Book of Proverbs states, "For the Lord gives wisdom; from His mouth come knowledge and understanding" (**Proverbs 2:6**). This biblical distinction in learning fits perfectly with the classical model of education. The grammar stage is the gaining of knowledge, the logic stage corresponds with understanding, and the rhetoric stage with wisdom. The classical method of education is indeed the best environment for students because the foundation of classical education is the Word of God.