



PROVIDENCE CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

Soli Deo Gloria

Providence 360

...learning beyond the building

Overview

Students arrive at the academy with varying degrees of success in the classroom and varying backgrounds—some urban and some rural. For many, the textbook-only approach has dampened the wonder and interest of new discovery. In order to inspire curiosity, while motivating and preparing students for the challenges of the 21st century, *Providence Christian Academy* incorporates beyond-the-classroom learning opportunities. *Providence 360* expands and intensifies the academy's unique tutorial-mentorship model to integrate and enhance student learning in all subject areas with connections to real-world realities—beyond mere physical education and beyond the typical field trip.

Throughout their *Providence 360* experience, students will:

- be actively engaged
- reflect with discernment on the knowledge gained
- use analytical skills to apply their experiences
- demonstrate decision-making and problem-solving skills
- gain real-world competencies within various chosen disciplines

The *Providence 360* Mission

To inspire curiosity and learning beyond the classroom via outdoor adventures and hands-on experiences under the guidance of tutorial mentorship with community and creation as our classroom.

Our Vision

Providence Christian Academy understands that some of the best opportunities to mentor and inspire learning often come in experiences outside the traditional classroom. The academy seeks to enrich its academic curriculum and motivate students through designed outdoor adventure, local and cross-cultural community service, and opportunities to exercise teamwork, servant leadership, problem solving, and strategic decision-making.

Our faculty, tutors, mentors, and volunteers seek to live out the Biblical role model, while walking with God in and out of the classroom. *Providence 360* provides a vital avenue for forging and strengthening relationships that can foster spiritual, academic, social, and physical growth in both student and faculty participants. Students return to the classroom with the same mentors, teachers, and tutors, more motivated to apply learning in areas of problem-solving, more prepared to overcome frustrations, and more equipped to enjoy academic success.

Providence 360 - Elements of Learning

Providence and Adventure

Whether cycling, canoeing, hiking, fishing, or climbing, outdoor expedition can deepen knowledge of self, God, and His creation. For *Providence 360*, adventure, problem solving, and community mix with mutual concern and shared experience. The academy designs all outdoor experiences to foster growth in the knowledge of God through observation of His handiwork, while providing direct practical connections and integration with their classroom studies.

Providence and Creation

All creation reveals God's handiwork, and as students and faculty learn more of Him through their study of various elements of nature, *Providence Christian Academy* aims to draw a community of scholars together in wonder and praise for their Creator. A right view of our God-given role as stewards and caretakers of places and natural resources enhances our classroom study in the disciplines of theology, science, and geography. For example, time in Caledonia or Cowans Gap State parks can help students begin to understand concepts like forest conservation, while connecting with professionals presently caring for the park area. When students return to the classroom, challenging concepts found in textbooks are no longer flat and one-dimensional.

Providence and History

Past lives and places rich with history—stories of heroic endeavor—can inspire the younger generation to meet the challenges of their own time—to shape a more hopeful future. We strive to empower young scholars to apply lessons from history by exploring the very places where history took place. Exploring the Gettysburg Civil War battlefield, for example, makes the textbook account more than mere words on a page. Listening to community leaders or heroes from the past animates history beyond the brick and mortar learning that sometimes makes it so difficult for some students to appreciate and apply past lessons.

Providence and Culture

We seek to travel beyond the building—outside the familiar confines to understand better what can seem remote, foreign, and strange. Moving into the midst of other cultures stretches our worldview and allows us to practice seeing life through the eyes of another. During expeditions, we seek to learn more about the individuals who live in or come from that environment. We

teach our scholars that though our environment may influence us, we can choose what defines us. The influence of Christianity is embedded in the arts—theatre, music, and art. While exploring these avenues, we hope to inspire students to be the salt and light of their generation.

Providence and Community

We teach our students the practice of servant leadership and incorporate that practice into the academy culture through various community service projects (i.e. volunteering at the Gettysburg Battlefield or local nonprofit). So many children have experienced disintegrating families and communities and desperately need to see constructive community and collaboration. We strive to engender deep respect for authority and community leaders by interacting with leaders in the courts, halls of government, military, police, fire fighters, medical emergency personnel, business, and other vital elements of our community.

Providence and Calling - Leadership Training and Team-Building

Providence 360 sets a high bar for character development and the pursuit of excellence. We provide extensive outdoor leadership training in order to challenge our students to work as a team and grow in character.

Our students are exploring their calling and giftedness from day one, beginning even in the primary years with problem-based learning and ending with the creation of a co-curricular transcript that incorporates experiences such as internships, study abroad, research, and civic engagement. These experiences make our students more qualified for the challenges of the 21st century.