

CCS BOARD MEMBER ELECTION

Candidate Profile

Rob Alford

September 2010



4. CARY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL OR COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT:

- ◆ List any areas of past CCS service: *Field Day volunteer*
- ◆ List any areas of past non-CCS service or ministry (other than church): *Cub Scout Pack 202 Treasurer, baseball coach*
- ◆ List any areas of current CCS service: *None*
- ◆ List any areas of current non-CCS service (other than church): *Cub Scout Pack 202 Treasurer, Crown Financial Ministries budget coach*

5. SPIRITUAL EVALUATION:

- ◆ Provide a brief testimony of your faith in Jesus Christ.
Jesus Christ is my Lord and Savior.
- ◆ Do you study and meditate on the word of God daily? *Yes*
- ◆ Do you teach your children the word of God as Deut. 6:4-9 admonishes? *Yes*
- ◆ How do you lead your family spiritually?
On a daily basis our family discusses issues of faith and of God as they emerge out of our daily activities. We also read and discuss the Scriptures with our children daily. Following Deuteronomy 11:19, we teach them from morning until evening as we live out our lives as Christians.

6. CLASSICAL EDUCATION:

- ◆ In your own words, describe the vision and mission of CCS?
The vision and mission of Cary Christian School is to provide an education that is intentionally Christian using a proven classical methodology. CCS does not take a secular education process and layer on Christian education nor does it take a Christian curriculum and insert secular subjects where necessary. Instead, CCS understands that all truth is God's truth. Whether our children are studying Logic, Math, History, or Theology, they are studying about God. The nature of God is made manifest in all knowledge. CCS uses a model of education that has proven to be well-matched to the way in which God has designed us to develop intellectually.
- ◆ In your own words, define classical education:
Classical education is a method by which we take advantage of the way in which God designed us to grow intellectually. At certain stages, which roughly correspond to particular ages, our minds and spirits, are more responsive to particular methods of learning. Classical education seeks to conform its teaching methodology to these natural stages designed by God.

- ◆ Explain in your own words, what is meant by “CCS is following the Logos Model”.

The Logos Model is an example of the successful use of a classical education model in a contemporary setting. It is a starting point for Cary Christian School. While CCS follows the Logos Model specifically, the school is generally following the classical education model of the Trivium. Thus the school may refine the Logos Model or tailor it to our school where the administration determines that an approach may be better suited to the needs of our students.

- ◆ Please explain the three stages of the Trivium in your own words, and what differences there are between them:

The stages of the Trivium are: Grammar, Logic, and Rhetoric. Additionally, CCS uses a preceding stage called the Phonics stage.

***The Phonics stage** corresponds to the age at which children are learning to read. Once the students have mastered the skill of reading, they have the proper tools to move into the structure of the Grammar stage.*

***The Grammar stage** takes advantage of the natural affinity that 3rd through 5th graders have for memorization, repetition, and singing. The “grammar” itself is not limited to language arts, but instead extends throughout all subject areas, encompassing facts such as dates in history and multiplication tables.*

***The Logic stage** builds upon the tendency of children in grades 6 through 8 to want to apply the “grammar” of various subject areas learned previously. At this age students are more argumentative and aware of contradiction. It is the perfect age at which to begin to apply the facts and structure of the grammar stage to problems and logical thinking.*

***The final stage** in the Trivium is the Rhetoric stage. At this stage, students are naturally inclined to begin to consider the outside world and their relationship to it. Having been equipped with the grammar of various subjects and the logic of putting that grammar to use, they now begin to consider the implications to themselves and the world of these tools. The Rhetoric stage is one in which students begin to bring together the educational tools that they have acquired in an effort to master the art of learning. This mastery prepares them very well for the next stage of learning, called the Quadrivium, in which students undertake specialized studies in areas of interest. Even if students choose not to further their education, they are well-prepared with the knowledge and skills for lifelong learning as a child of God.*

- ◆ In your own words, what are three characteristics of an excellent classical education built upon a biblical worldview?

Classical education founded upon on a biblical worldview should evidence the Christian virtues of faith, hope, and love. The educational process should strengthen

the faith of students. With strong faith comes hope in God and His promises. Finally, our chief purpose in life should be to attain knowledge of and love for God. A biblical classical education will allow students to build upon that knowledge and love for God while equipping them to act upon the implications of the love of God in their churches and in the world.

- ◆ If you looked into a classroom that you considered was an excellent run class, what would you see?

There would be abundant evidence that the teacher and the students were engaged in joyful learning. The teacher would be guiding the students educationally and spiritually. The students would be following the leadership of the teacher with enthusiasm and a love for learning, for one another, and for God.

<Digitally signed: Rob Alford>

Signature