



Classical • Christ-Centered • Creative • City-Minded

OPPORTUNITY PROFILE FOR UPPER SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

PHILADELPHIA CLASSICAL SCHOOL,
PHILADELPHIA, PA

OVERVIEW

Philadelphia Classical School (www.philaclassical.org) was founded in 2013 and is a vibrant K–8 school located in Center City Philadelphia. PCS purposes to be a dynamic urban community of teachers, staff, and parents who shepherd students in a transformative process from a childhood of discovery to a mature life of virtue. PCS seeks to do this by nurturing students in wonder to see the world as designed and sustained by a creative, good God and to embrace the cohesion of all things in the person and work of Jesus Christ.

In pursuit of this goal, students deeply engage time-honored texts, ideas, stories, and songs that have given participants, down through time, harmony of soul, clarity of vision, and sharpness of mind. Out of this burgeoning wholeness, PCS students are cultivated to evaluate various ideas and viewpoints with discernment, write with the finest language, speak in such a way as to fortify their listeners with truth, recognize and create work that is beautiful, and persuade others to follow them in the love of all that is truly good.

This classical education is presented in three phases that correspond to the Trivium—Grammar, Logic, and Rhetoric—which gives structure to an age-appropriate pedagogy that deepens and matures with the child. The ultimate goal of PCS is to graduate students who are uncommonly knowledgeable, distinctly humble, energized for a life of leadership and service, and fully prepared to master any subject with facility and complete any work with competence and insight.

This is an extraordinary opportunity for an experienced, dynamic classical educator or principal to lead PCS as the Upper School Principal.



SCHOOL HISTORY, DEMOGRAPHICS, AND IMPACT

In 2010, Katharine Savage began directing her energy, network, and leadership toward launching a classical Christian school in Philadelphia. Prior to this point, there had been no general interest in or even thought of a classical school. The majority of families simply moved away from the city when it was time to educate their children. This practice took a toll on churches and church plants in the area and made it hard to sustain Christian leadership and community. Katharine spent two years visiting more than fifty church home groups to raise support for her idea to create this new school. The school launched two years later in 2013 with 19 students and has since grown to 112 students. PCS has steadily added one grade per year and plans to become a K–12 school by the 2022–2023 school year.

PCS is committed to the rigorous and thoughtful classical tradition with a goal of integrating the mind and heart through Christian teaching. Today there are many families who have decided to remain in the city of Philadelphia because of PCS, and who have become keenly aware of the good fruits that a classical education has borne in the lives of their children. As a result of families deciding to remain in Philadelphia or move into the city, there has been a significant increase in the church planting and mercy initiatives in the city. PCS now draws students from more than twenty-four churches in the metro area.

PCS also seeks to be accessible to families from a wide range of socioeconomic backgrounds with a sliding-scale tuition model. The student body is 9% Asian, 14% African American, 16% Multi-Ethnic, and 61% European American. Several families earn less than \$30,000 per year, and several others earn between \$30,000 and \$70,000 per year.



FAMILY GROSS INCOME

# FAMILIES	GROSS HOUSEHOLD INCOME
17	Greater than \$150,000
16	\$90,000–\$150,000
19	\$60,000–\$90,000
7	\$30,000–\$60,000
3	Less than \$30,000

Our academic results have been very encouraging. While test scores are just one measure of achievement, our student body has consistently tested above the national norms in math and in comparison to national norms in verbal language skill.

After just five years of operation, PCS is a vibrant school with a mature leadership team and talented faculty who are constantly acquiring more training and expertise. With great success and enthusiasm, the PCS community is now ready to launch an upper school that will make PCS the first classical K–12 school in downtown Philadelphia. Already the school board has begun a campaign to locate a new, larger facility that can become the permanent home for PCS as a thriving K–12 school.

THE OPPORTUNITY

The Upper School Principal will shepherd students and mentor teachers, as well as provide academic direction for the formation of the new PCS upper school. Within five years, the Upper School Principal will serve with a new Lower School Principal and be a vital part of the PCS administrative team.



THE IDEAL CANDIDATE WILL HAVE . . .

- A living Christian faith and ability to articulate the need for orthodox biblical faith integrated with academic philosophy
- A sense of curiosity and a lifelong passion for learning, in addition to the ability to integrate well with the delight and drive of the established staff culture
- An understanding of and agreement with the mission, pedagogy, and statement of faith and code of conduct of Philadelphia Classical School
- At least eight years of experience teaching and leading in a classical Christian school, particularly at the high school level
- The ability to collaborate well with staff to deepen the academic integrity of the organization and to support the vision and mission of PCS as led by the Head of School
- A genuine enjoyment of interacting with students
- The ability to be conscientious and consistent in the management of staff and students
- The ability to embrace growth and change with ease
- Godly character, maturity, and emotional stability
- Education and experience using the CCEF model of lay counseling



INQUIRY PROCESS

PCS invites interested candidates to submit a résumé and cover letter to Head of School Katharine Savage at kat@philaclassical.org. Select qualified candidates will be invited to submit written responses to a series of questions designed to help the hiring team get to know the candidate.



MISSION

The Philadelphia Classical School exists to serve families by educating with excellence in a Christ-centered community through classical methodology. The school affirms, teaches, and exemplifies orthodox Christian faith and the gospel of Jesus Christ.



“PILLARS” OR CORE VALUES OF PCS

The four pillars of PCS represent the core values that drive our development and inform our decisions. These pillars are:

CLASSICAL

- Follows the natural, God-designed development of a child through the three Trivium stages of learning: Grammar, Logic, and Rhetoric.
- Cultivates wise and winsome students through participation in The Great Conversation. Character formation is a part of this interaction with the best academic works.
- Cultivates excellence in thinking, speaking, writing, and rhetorical skills through imitation of the “greats” in these arenas.
- Provides a comprehensive historical timeline and framework to understand all information, instead of random bits of information presented with no overarching structure.
- Incorporates classical literature as well as Latin instruction.
- Fosters the acquisition of transcendent knowledge as well as quantitative knowledge.

CHRIST-CENTERED

- Acknowledges that God is the author of all knowledge and wisdom, “for from Him and through Him and for Him are all things” (Romans 11:36).

- Teaches the humility that comes from understanding man's sin and wickedness and the broken relationships that result from sin.
- Teaches the boldness that comes from understanding God's love for us in that He did not allow our relationship with Him to remain severed, but sent His son, Jesus, to rescue us from death and sin through his own death and resurrection so that we can have a repaired relationship with Him.
- Memorizes hymns and scripture that undergird the Christian faith.
- Pursues the habit of reconciliation with others in light of our reconciliation with God in Christ.



CREATIVE

- Includes participation in the arts (violin, music, visual arts, and theater) as part of core academic instruction.
- Incorporates creative projects and imaginative days into daily instruction.
- Commits to a low-tech environment so that students are less distracted, less anxious, and more fully formed with the range of human skills that allow for maximum creativity.
- Creates beautiful classrooms that are inspiring places to learn.
- Incorporates time for play and learning through play.



CITY-MINDED

- Intentionally creates an environment that is racially and economically diverse, reflecting the body of Christ in the city.
- Teaches students to respect and learn from one another as having all been created in the image of God.
- Utilizes the city resources as an extended classroom on a monthly basis.

