

ONE MISSION: THREE APPROACHES



GLASGOW FAMILY OF SCHOOLS



Dr. Timothy Dernlan

The Glasgow Family of Schools

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Head of Schools

Introduction

Thank you for taking the next few minutes to read about the exciting work God is doing through a partnership of Christian schools in northern Delaware. Glasgow Christian Academy (GCA), Red Lion Christian Academy (RLCA), and Tall Oaks Classical School (TOCS) have recently partnered together under Glasgow Church to form The Glasgow Family of Schools. These Christian schools offer homeschool education, contemporary education, and classical education respectively. The unique educational methodology of each school provides parents with options from which to choose when deciding on the best educational fit for the children God has given them. This partnership of schools is similar to a university with multiple colleges within the university. For example, the University of Delaware has a College of Engineering, College of Arts and Science, and a College of Business all operating under the umbrella of one university. The next few pages will briefly explain our philosophy of Christian education, governance, unique educational focus of each school, and the benefits resulting from schools partnering together. I hope the following information is helpful, and you will find a home in one of our schools.

Philosophy

This section will focus on explaining why our schools exist, why we offer multiple schools, and why we choose to partner together rather than operate as independent schools.

Why do our schools exist?



- 1 Our schools exist to provide Christ-centered education and training for any and all children in our geographic region. We emphasize the truth of God's Word found in the Bible, and we train students to understand and appreciate the diversity of creation in the many subjects studied throughout the school. Our aim is to glorify God while training the next generation of Christian leaders who are prepared to impact the culture for Christ.

- ② Our schools exist to assist and partner with parents as they raise their children. Many schools claim to be the “experts” in the field and ask parents to “leave the education to the professionals.” Our schools, however, believe parents are given the primary responsibility as educators in the lives of their children. We encourage parent participation in our schools and foster open communication between teachers, parents, and administrators. We want our schools to be seen as one of many tools that parents can use to shape and train their children.

- ③ Our schools exist to prepare students to engage and impact the culture for Christ. We do not promote withdrawing or hiding from non-Christian environments. Instead, we see our schools as a greenhouse to safely grow students into mature Christians who are ready to defend and advance the gospel in every corner of the world and in every profession into which God calls them to serve.



Why do we offer multiple schools?



- 1 We want our schools to serve as many different children as possible. God creates children with different abilities, interests, and learning styles. By offering multiple schools, we strive to provide opportunities for children to learn in a Christian environment and in the unique way that God has created them. Finding the “right school” for a child can eliminate frustration and increase a love of learning.
- 2 We want to serve the needs of parents seeking to provide an excellent Christian education to the children God has given them. Parents have a wide range of educational understanding and criteria they are looking for in a school as they seek the most appropriate learning environment for their children. We seek to eliminate the pressure and stress of finding the perfect school by offering a variety of options under one

unified educational umbrella. Like all schools, none of ours are perfect. They are all made up of imperfect people, in an imperfect world, in need of the one and only Savior, Jesus Christ.

- 3 We believe families are best served by staying together for school. Families with multiple children often have a variety of educational needs, but they are sometimes confronted with choosing the best school for the family as a whole rather than the best school for each individual child. We believe families are better when they can stay together in the same unified school system, so we offer multiple schools to serve the many needs of families with multiple children. We are currently investigating the addition of a special needs school, trades school, and college.



Why do our schools partner together?



- 1 Christian unity and cooperation to advance the gospel are good and noble commands given to us in the Bible. We believe our schools are stronger when we work together rather than operating separately. We know, in God's economy, these schools are not owned by us. These schools are God's schools, and we are stewards of the resources He has given to us as we seek to serve the families in our area that are seeking an excellent Christian education.
- 2 Sharing facilities and administrative resources allows for a greater percentage of the budget to be invested into areas that most directly impact our students and classroom learning. We love education as well as seeing children learn new things each day in the classrooms of our schools. We want to invest the majority of our financial resources into direct classroom learning. Partnering together with other Christian

schools allows us to practice and display good stewardship of the resources God has given to our schools.

- 3 Partnering together provides more co-curricular opportunities from which students can choose to participate. We know that education is always taking place, and school activities outside the classroom are every bit as impactful in the lives of students as the instruction they receive in the classroom. For this reason, we do not call these activities “extra-curricular” but refer to them instead as “co-curricular” activities. These activities are important to the education of many students at our schools, and we want to provide as many co-curricular opportunities as possible to the students attending our schools. Students have more sports, fine arts, clubs, and other activities to choose from resulting from Christian schools in partnership.

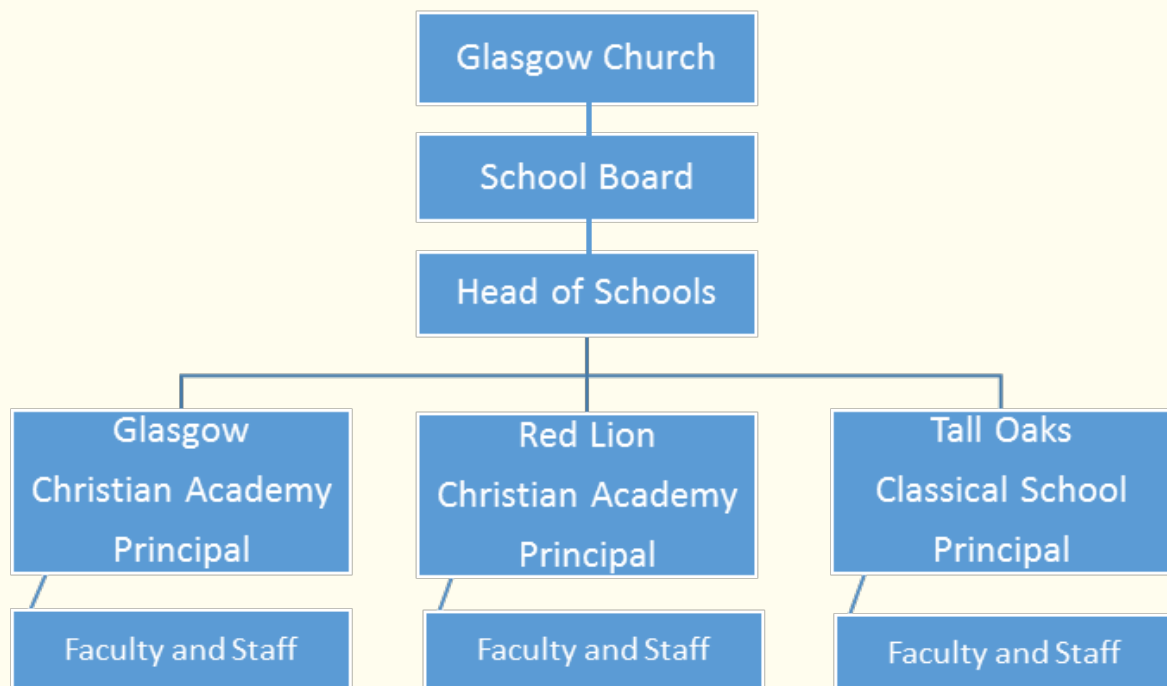


Governance



This section explains the organizational structure and governance of The Glasgow Family of Schools (Glasgow Christian Academy, Red Lion Christian Academy, and Tall Oaks Classical School). Although these three schools were started at different times and by different groups of people, each school is now a ministry of Glasgow Church. Glasgow Church is committed to shaping the culture for Christ and advancing the gospel through many helpful ministries to the local community. Providing Christian education is one of the major ministries this church provides to the community. The church has established one school board charged with overseeing these Christian schools. The school board is comprised of eleven individuals from several different churches in the area and is a great example of the Christian unity that exists throughout our schools. The school board hires one Head of Schools to

unify and lead the operation of the schools. There is also one unifying mission statement and one set of bylaws to guide the school board in the governance of these schools. Below is an organizational chart with the basic structure of the governance at the schools.



Mission Statement

The mission of these schools is to assist parents in preparing their children to excel in every duty and calling God has for them throughout their lives by providing a homeschool (GCA), contemporary (RLCA), classical (TOCS), and Christ-centered curriculum designed to equip graduates with the tools to acquire, process, express, and defend knowledge from a biblical worldview.

The Schools



This section briefly describes each school. For a better understanding of what God is doing at each school, plan to visit the schools in person and find time to talk to individuals involved in these schools.

Glasgow Christian Academy

Glasgow Christian Academy was founded in 1994 and provides a Christ-centered, homeschool education for parents seeking to be the primary educators of their children. Hundreds of students gather at Glasgow Church for one or two days each week to learn from a variety of teachers with special knowledge, training, and expertise in the subjects being studied. For the rest of the week, students study at home under the instruction and supervision of their parents.



The structure of this school allows families to retain the many benefits of homeschooling while gaining the benefits of a community of supportive and like-minded families. Along with great education, Glasgow Christian Academy also offers many social events for the students. Students have the opportunity to participate in prom, field trips, drama productions, and many other special events. There is also the option to participate in the Red Lion Christian Academy diploma program. This program allows students to take classes at Red Lion, participate in DIAA athletic teams, and earn a Red Lion diploma, while retaining the benefits of homeschooling within the GCA community.





Homeschooling is an educational approach that can be traced back to the beginning of time. The Bible calls parents to continually think about the education of the children God has given to them. We read in Deuteronomy chapters 6 and 11 that parents should always be teaching their children about the Lord. As modern public schools in America were prohibited from teaching about God and the Bible, homeschool education began to grow in popularity. Currently, there are more than one million K-12 students being homeschooled in America. Glasgow Christian Academy provides structure, resources, and a supportive community to the many homeschooling families in the northern Delaware region.

Red Lion Christian Academy



Red Lion Christian Academy was founded in 1980 and provides a Christ-centered, contemporary education. Most contemporary Christian schools use similar instructional methodologies to contemporary public schools. Instruction is divided into departments by specialty areas in an effort to focus learning on individual categories and interests of the students. This approach to education offers many more classes than education of the past. Contemporary education is child-centered and is influenced by theorists such as Rousseau, Dewey, and Piaget.

Unfortunately, these theorists and others were successful in their efforts to remove Christ as the unifying element of subjects taught in public schools. However, in the past 50 years, there have been over 8,000 new Christian schools started in America. Leaders of contemporary Christian schools have sought to keep the good elements of contemporary education while including

the Bible, prayer, and chapel services throughout the curriculum. Red Lion Christian Academy was on the forefront of this wave of schools seeking to redeem contemporary education by teaching students that Christ reigns supreme in all subjects and in every area of life.



Red Lion Christian Academy is a fully accredited member of the Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI). ACSI is the largest Christian school association in the world, and ACSI schools enroll 10% of the total private school students in America. The mission and vision of the ACSI are to advance public good by supporting Christian schools, staff, and students in the pursuit of learning and Christian faith formation.

Tall Oaks Classical School



Tall Oaks Classical School was founded in 1994 and provides a Christ-centered, classical education. The term “classical” refers to a period of time when the Greeks were the most powerful empire in the world and had honed the craft of education. Classical education can be traced back to Plato’s foundation of the Academy circa 385 B.C. Other philosophers in this same era, such as Socrates, Aristotle, Epicurus, and Isocrates, were also instrumental in the formation of educational ideas leading to the Trivium of classical education. Much like the contemporary educational theorists discussed previously, these men did not seek to develop Christian education. However, the writings of Cassiodorus, a Roman senator born in 480 A.D., uniquely merged Christian and classical education.



The 3 stages of age-appropriate K-12 learning discovered over 2000 years ago are referred to as the Trivium. The stages are grammar (grades K-5), logic (grades 6-8), and rhetoric (grades 9-12). The grammar stage of education is dedicated to a mastery of basic knowledge in all subjects and focuses on learning facts by chanting and singing. Teaching Latin in this stage is also a hallmark of classical education and gives children a tool to learn other romance languages. During the logic phase of classical education, an emphasis is placed on critical thinking and reasoning in all subjects. Specific classes in logic exist in classical schools at this stage, but all teachers educating students are encouraged to approach subjects from a critical perspective at this stage. The rhetoric stage is the culmination of Trivium education and focuses on teaching eloquent written and verbal expression of knowledge. Formal classes in rhetoric are offered at this stage, and students are expected to have mastered required material to the point of being able to teach others what they have learned.

Tall Oaks Classical School is a fully accredited member of the Association of Classical and Christian Schools (ACCS). ACCS schools seek to recover the lost tools of learning and are often known for their academic rigor, discipline, focus on teaching how to learn rather than what to learn, commitment to the truth of the Bible, and pursuit of Truth, Goodness, and Beauty.



The Schools at a Glance



The following chart is a short comparison of our schools. This chart is not exhaustive, but we hope it is helpful to parents seeking to find the best educational fit for their children.

	Glasgow	Red Lion	Tall Oaks
Founded	1994	1980	1994
Methodology	Homeschool	Contemporary	Classical
Accreditation	N/A	ACSI and MSACS	ACCS
Preschool	Yes K3 and K4 are shared between schools. Parents do not choose a school until kindergarten.	Yes K3 and K4 are shared between schools. Parents do not choose a school until kindergarten.	Yes K3 and K4 are shared between schools. Parents do not choose a school until kindergarten.

	Glasgow	Red Lion	Tall Oaks
Grades	K-12	K-12	K-12
Music	Not Specified	Praise and Worship	Hymns and Psalms
Events	Prom, Homecoming	Prom, Homecoming	Protocol, Reformation Day
Uniform	No	Yes There are several choices within the uniform. The uniform has a more casual look and feel.	Yes There is limited choice within the uniform. The uniform has a more formal look and feel.
Chapel	Yes Students and staff gather for praise and worship as part of the required curriculum.	Yes Students and staff gather for praise and worship as part of the required daily curriculum.	No Morning worship takes place before the school day begins and is encouraged but not required.
Languages	Yes	Spanish: Grades K-12 with Spanish I, II, III, and IV offered in high school	Latin: Grades 3-8 Spanish: Grades 9-11 Greek: Grade 12
College Credits and Dual Enrollment	Students can participate in the diploma program with Red Lion. This program offers the opportunity to earn college credit by taking AP classes and tests.	Students can enroll in AP classes and take an AP test at the end of each class to earn college credit. Also, there is dual enrollment with Wilmington University.	Students can participate in a dual enrollment program with Cairn University and earn an official college transcript with 33 college credits before graduation.

	Glasgow	Red Lion	Tall Oaks
Culture	Relaxed, welcoming, and Christ-centered	Informal, welcoming, and Christ-centered	Formal, welcoming, and Christ-centered
Community	Family gatherings fostered by homeschool community	Class unity fostered through games and competitions	Upper School unity fostered by a British-style House System
Churches	Over 40 local churches represented	Over 100 local churches represented	Over 60 local churches represented
Average SAT	N/A	1680	1910
Total Students	300	600	220
Tracks	Yes Parents and students design their own curriculum as part of the homeschool model.	Yes Students can choose from College Prep, Honors, AP, and elective classes each year.	No There is one liberal arts curriculum (with limited electives) required for graduation.
Technology	Technology is used as needed.	Technology is intentionally included to assist in the learning process.	Original texts and primary documents are preferred to technology.

School Websites

- Glasgow Christian Academy - www.gca-de.org
 Red Lion Christian Academy - www.redlionca.org
 Tall Oaks Classical School - www.talloaksclassicalschool.org

About the Author



Dr. Timothy Dernlan serves as Head of Schools for The Glasgow Family of Schools. He earned a B.A. in Education and Communication at Purdue University, an M.Ed. in Educational Leadership at Lehigh University, and an Ed.D. in Leadership Studies at Ashland University. Dernlan minored in Christian Theology during his doctoral studies, focused his dissertation on the spiritual formation of students attending K-12 Christian schools, and was named the Ashland University Outstanding Graduate of 2013. Much of his early life was shaped by the sport of wrestling. He won several state and national titles, earned NCAA All-American honors at Purdue University, and competed at the final Olympic Trials in 2000 and 2004. Dernlan coached dozens of NCAA All-Americans at Purdue, Ohio State, Penn State, Lehigh, and Ashland University and was named 2008 NCAA Region II Coach-of-the-Year before turning his focus to Christian education. He has experience teaching theater, math, rhetoric, physical education, personal finance, communication, leadership, and systematic theology in a variety of educational institutions ranging from public, charter, Christian, classical Christian, and college. He and his wife also homeschooled their children for four years. Dernlan is a visionary leader and is passionate about advancing Christian community and culture through education.