



## 4<sup>th</sup> grade at PCA

*Do you ever wish you were a fly on the wall in your child's classroom? In the fourth grade at Providence Christian Academy, you will see and hear Classical education everywhere you turn. As part of the grammar stage of the trivium, we believe that if it is important enough for students to know certain material, then we must expose them to it continually. Repetition, repetition, repetition! Through songs, chants, drills, motions, dances, and more, we continually reinforce the grammar of each subject taught.*

*Our goal is for students to remember! Singing songs, memorizing poems and jingles, chanting timelines, clapping and counting, drilling facts, and moving our bodies are several of the fantastic ways we help our subjects "stick." Not only that, but we have a heavy focus on reading classic literature, which helps us remember and understand our history.*

*The study of history is an essential piece of the information we sing, chant, and perform. Writing about all we've learned is also an important aspect of the fourth grade. To develop strong writing skills, we imitate classic authors. Again, with repetition, we practice copying their style. Above all we believe that the Bible is our greatest tool for learning, and we integrate it into all we do. From the Bible, we learn that we are to be imitators of Jesus. In the grammar stage, imitation is what we do best. We reinforce our need to imitate because of the bible's admonition to imitate Christ.*

*Finally, because in fourth grade we are nearing the end of the heavy focus on the grammar stage, we have our sights set on the next stage. In the next stage of the trivium (Logic), quick recall of the truth in every area of study is necessary to wrestle with the logic of each area. In preparation for their formal Logic studies, we do all we can to ensure that by the time they leave us, students are brimming over with facts with which to wrestle. And although we are heavily focused on laying a solid foundation of the grammar of each area, we regularly expose students to the opportunity to safely discuss their thoughts and opinions on facts learned (practicing logic), as well as present their thoughts and opinions to others (practicing rhetoric).*

*Our fourth graders are given many opportunities to share, perform, serve and create what they have learned. For example, they give speeches about Vikings, Outer Space, prophets in the Old Testament, main characters of books they have read, and more! They perform fairy tales that*

*they have studied, recreate medieval feasts, recite poems from long ago, make mach purchases from catalogs, and proclaim long passages of God's Word by memory.*

*Creating flashlights and instruments, inventing automobiles out of K'Nex, dissecting electronics, building detailed castles with simple machines, as well as picking up trash in downtown Murfreesboro are all more examples of ways our fourth graders show the grammar, logic and rhetoric of what they have learned. Not only do these projects specifically provide opportunity to grow in the final stage of Classical education, Rhetoric, they also affirm the beautiful and varied learning styles of our students (visual, auditory, kinesthetic). Come be a fly on the wall of our world and discover again the joy of learning!*