



## Classical Education in the Library at PCA

Our library contains a large collection of **great books** classics that have met the standards of beauty, goodness and truth and have stood the test of time.<sup>[1]</sup> Adults will recognize many titles on the shelves as being books they read growing up or in school. While there are some junior editions of some of these classics in the elementary library, in the upper school library, the classics are the classics, not paraphrased or modernized versions.

This is not to say that we have only old books! We also include the best of what is being published today. Using a variety of reviewing tools, we choose new books that are relevant to our students and uphold the Biblical values mentioned in **Philippians 4:8**. This does mean that there are popular books and series of books that we choose not to include in the library.

Our library has more non-fiction **history** titles than other schools, especially primary source texts. These books are aligned to be at appropriate reading levels for the grade levels that study that time period in history.

During library time, students will be **interacting with all kinds of texts** in the library, picture books, novels, nonfiction books, biographies and reference books, internet research, newspapers and magazines. In our lesson time and checkout time, we ask questions of each other and of the texts we read, building a solid foundation of facts in the first few years. Later, we continue to ask questions for the purpose of discussion and independent thought.

As we learn to use our library in elementary, we sing songs, recite chants, and practice skills that can be transferred to any library. Because of that, I may not always tell students the answers to the questions they ask. Instead, I teach them the skills they need to find those answers,<sup>[2]</sup> giving them **tools for a lifetime of learning**. This continues into middle and high school with the skills of research and writing.

<sup>[1]</sup> Perrin, Christopher A. *An Introduction to Classical Education*. Classical Academic Press. 2004.

<sup>[2]</sup> Buzzeo, Toni. *Our Librarian Won't Tell Us Anything!* Upstart Books. 2006.