

# Four Guiding Principles of Education at WCA

## What is Classical Education at WCA?

There is a curricular approach to classical education, but more importantly is the philosophical Approach, which bears out every day with every child and every teacher at WCA. There are four guiding principles to classical education at Watermark Classical Academy.

### 1. We believe that all children and all people are created bearing the likeness of God.

*Imago Dei*: we are all bearing God's image. That is something that our teachers are charged to celebrate, explore, and recognize. Our students are brimming with potential. This is the first and defining idea at WCA - our students are fully persons, fully bearing God's image. When this truth is the starting point for each day and lesson, every student is worthy of being recognized and celebrated.

### 2. Learning happens most effectively in the context of relationships.

WCA gives time, space, and thought to the environment we create in order to allow relationships to flourish. *Personal relationships* with peers, teachers, church, community, and ultimately, our Creator play an important role in the life of students. We also aim for students to have *imagined relationships* with authors, artists, scientists, historic figures, and the like as they explore various disciplines. Lastly, we hope WCA students develop an ongoing relationship with *ideas* - with subjects, concepts, and ultimately, with learning. We want to create an atmosphere that is rich in all three of these relationships.

### 3. We lead students in seeking truth, beauty, and goodness.

WCA educators are thoughtful about what is placed before students - we want content to lift student's vision to the heroic and to what they can aspire to be, to think, and to do. We also believe that truth, beauty, and goodness are reflections of a God who is true, beautiful, and good, and we invite students to seek Him as the source of these ideals.

### 4. Education should renew us as individuals and students.

An education at WCA is not about self-aggrandizement or utilitarian ends. Rather, a classical education should cause us to look outward and to bring renewal to families, neighborhoods, and the wider community. We pray students will respond in worship as they grow an appreciation for the world God has given us.

