









# Welcome

At Oakdale Academy, our mission is to instill Character, Truth, and Wisdom in our students in order to prepare them for a life of service to God, family, community, and country through Classical Christian Education. We believe that classical education with an emphasis on rigor with joy is fundamentally the ideal way for students to gain knowledge and preparation for the good life to which God is calling them.

This book is intended to share the mission, values, and vision of Oakdale Academy. It will also help you gain perspective into our culture and why we are so excited about the future God has planned for our students, school, and surrounding community.

In Christ,

*Dr. David J. Stanton IV*

Dr. David J. Stanton IV  
Headmaster







## Our History

With a determination and a reliance on God's provision, a group of parents visited Hillsdale Academy in May 2011. They came back from that trip with a vision that God was inviting them to start a classical Christian school in the metro Detroit area.

After prayerful discussion, their reliance on the Lord was confirmed when, on June 11, 2011, it became clear they were called to create Oakdale Academy. This unanimous vote of the original eight families brought to fruition the calling to a rigorous academic program that would guide students to graduation and would develop them in the classical model where they would be intelligent, well-read, articulate, and of good character.

In what can only be described as providential, Oakdale Academy opened its doors in September 2011, only three months after this group faithfully embarked on their journey to found a classical Christian school. Since then, we have seen both growth and God's grace over our school as our enrollment has grown upwards of 200 students.

**2011**  
Oakdale  
Academy  
founded

**2013**  
The first senior  
class graduates  
from Oakdale

**2015**  
Oakdale  
purchases the  
property at  
3200 Beacham  
Drive

**2016**  
Oakdale wins  
the coveted  
Salatori Prize  
for Excellence  
in Teaching

**2021**  
Enrollment  
continues to  
grow, with  
Oakdale now  
over 200  
students

**2023**  
Oakdale creates  
three separate  
schools in  
one Academy  
(Grammar,  
Logic, Rhetoric)

**2024  
and beyond**  
Oakdale  
Academy will  
fulfill its mission  
and impact the  
world for Christ





## Our Mission & Vision

The Mission of Oakdale Academy is to instill Character, Truth, and Wisdom in our students in order to prepare them for a life of service to God, family, community, and country through classical Christian education.





## Our Daily Prayer

*Almighty God, we beseech You with Your gracious favor to behold Oakdale Academy, our faculty, staff, parents and students, that knowledge may be increased among us and all good learning flourish and abound. May we be a beacon of Your light in our homes and communities. Bless all those who teach and all those who learn and grant that in humility of heart we may ever look upon You, Who are the fountain of all wisdom, through our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.*





## Our Students

At Oakdale Academy, we believe students are created in the image of God. Our positive culture is fostered by this belief. Throughout each school day, we empower students to help create a positive school climate by fostering a unique culture that encourages respect and ensures everyone feels included. We also continue this spirit of fostering friendships through regular activities that take place outside of school. During school, Oakdale Academy activities include:

- Opening Ceremony – Students gather each morning to recite the Pledge of Allegiance, sing the national anthem, participate in an opening prayer and listen to recitations from one another
- Chapel – Students participate in a teaching and explore a response every Wednesday
- Lunch – Each month students rotate lunch assignments to sit with different students of all ages and a faculty member to enable mentoring and promote inclusion across all grade levels
- House – Oakdale Academy’s version of student council helps create structure and leadership opportunities for the students, as well as promote friendship and service
- Athletics – There is a growing number of sports for students to engage in
- After school programs like Drama Club, TrailLife & American Heritage Girls

*“The main hope of a nation lies in the proper education of its youth.” – Erasmus*





*“I love Oakdale and can’t express enough how comfortable I feel to drop my child off each day. I truly feel each staff member is so positive and constantly encouraging our children to be more Christ-like.” – Oakdale Parent*



## Our Parents

Oakdale truly feels like an extended family for most. There is a united purpose of instilling our foundational pillars inside and outside of the classroom. We believe that parents, as the primary educators of their children, play an indispensable role in forming both school and home communities to foster Character, Truth, and Wisdom. There are several ways for the parents to share their talents to strengthen our school community and include:

- OPA – Oakdale Parents Association focused on supporting the needs of our teachers, students and staff
- OakDads – A group of dads who are looking to become better husbands and fathers by sharpening each other through fellowship and finding ways to support the school
- Oakdale U – Parent and community classes to grow in understanding of classical education
- Culture of Generosity – Parents are key to help extend our mission and grow support for the school through fundraising, partnerships, and parent participation
- School Field Trips – There are several field trips each year that welcome parents to help chaperone





*“There is such a sense of community. I love how all the children know each other. I just feel blessed to be around so many great, like-minded people.”*

– Oakdale Parent



## Our Events

To further this sense of family, many events are held throughout the year to encourage family friendship and interaction, such as:

- Annual fund kickoff event – Our school kickoff event to raise awareness & resources to help advance Oakdale’s mission and vision
- Fall Convocation – Begins the school year by setting a tone of prayerful reflection and joyful friendship
- Concerts – To gather and present their musical gifts with gratitude to the Lord
- Service projects – To give back to our neighborhood and community, such as House service projects, helps to foster service above self
- Veterans Day – A wonderful event to honor those who have served our country
- Spring Convocation & Awards Ceremony
- Commencement Celebration







## Our Faculty & Staff

Our students are blessed by the incredible teachers who serve at Oakdale Academy. These Christian men and women are deeply committed to our Mission, are experts in their fields of study, and are passionate about nurturing students spiritually, academically, and socially. Together, our faculty has nearly 270 combined years teaching students, with an average of 15 years teaching. We are honored that families entrust Oakdale Academy staff with the solemn task of imparting knowledge, inspiring critical thinking, and helping to develop godly character in their children.

*“I like that Oakdale challenges the students, and the staff really seem to care. I like how the school has helped my child to become more confident and proactive.” – Oakdale Parent*





*“Education is the key to unlock the golden door of freedom.”*

– George Washington Carver



## Academics

Oakdale Academy is a top ranked Christian School in Oakland county and ranked in the Top 10 in the nation for the Classical Learning Test. We have an 11:1 student teacher ratio which allows us to create a deeply rich and meaningful learning environment. Our academic program focuses on:

- Dedication to a classical pedagogy that emphasizes growth in wisdom and virtue
- Development of fully human men and women poised to serve Christ in their lives
- A liberal arts curriculum that frees students to know God deeply







*“Music is a moral law. It gives soul to the universe, wings to the mind, flight to the imagination, and charm and gaiety to life and to everything.”*

– Plato



## Music & Fine Arts

The music and art programs at Oakdale Academy are designed to give students an appreciation for beauty and the tools to create artistic works that honor God. We have opportunities at various levels for students to grow their interest and appreciation through instrumental music, vocal instruction, drama club, and studio art education. Furthermore, there are several school performances for all to gather and include:

- Veterans Day
- Christmas Concert
- Spring Concert
- Commencement







*“No person has the right to be an amateur in the matter of physical training. It is a shame for a person to grow old without seeing the beauty and strength of which his body is capable.” – Socrates*

## Athletics

Oakdale Academy is a member of the Michigan Christian Schools Athletic Association (MCSAA) and currently offers the following school athletic teams:

- Basketball (Boys and Girls)
- Golf (Boys)
- Volleyball (Girls) – 2022 MACS State Champions
- Wrestling – 2015 MACS State Championship Runner-Up, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2021 MACS State Champions
- Soccer – (Boys and Girls) Boys 2016, 2017, and 2018 MACS State Champions, FBAC 2015 State Champions, Division 2

Oakdale Academy has been blessed with dedicated coaches who exemplify high character and personally engage with our athletes. Not only do they teach the skills necessary for success on the field or court, but they also lead by example with good sportsmanship and respect for authority.







*“Oakdale is a special place for families. It’s an honor to be a part of this community and the impact it’s having on both students and parents!” – Oakdale Parent*



## Our Community

Whether you are looking to join our community, desire for another family to attend, or simply seek to support Oakdale Academy with the gifts with which God has blessed you, we would love you to join our mission of instilling Character, Truth, and Wisdom in our students in order to prepare them for a life of service to God, family, community, and country through classical Christian education.



# Our Values

These foundational pillars are constantly reinforced in the classroom, in performances and sporting competitions, and with the partnership of our parents at home.



## *Mores ~ Veritas ~ Sapientia* Character. Truth. Wisdom.

**Character** is the specific nature of a person – an attribute that in past times was a simpler thing to describe. As our values in society and culture have changed over the past few decades, it is becoming increasingly more challenging to offer a definition. At Oakdale, our character is reflective of the cultivation of virtue in our lives.

**Truth** is the essential aspect of all we do here at Oakdale Academy. While we daily seek to guide our students to a life of service, we do so with the knowledge of a world that continues to devolve further and further from a moral tradition and further removes itself from truth by reinventing and reimagining what that term even means.

**Wisdom** is the outpouring of the character of a person that is mixed with the truth of God in their lives. It is so much more than simply knowledge but is the application of a life marked by a serious and determined disciple seeking after God's will for their life.

Together, these values support our work to guide our students to order their lives and their loves rightly – Augustine's concept of the Ordo Amoris.

# Common Questions



What does it mean to study the Good, the True, and the Beautiful?

How do we seek to instill Character, Truth, and Wisdom and cultivate virtue in our students at Oakdale Academy?

Our core and guiding goals are explained in the next pages that highlight our work to fulfill our mission. If you have further questions, please contact us directly.

# What is a Classical Christian Education?

*“The object of education is to teach us to love what is beautiful.” – Plato*



Classical Christian education is a learning process in which teachers disciple students in the appreciation of Truth, Goodness, and Beauty using the Greco-Roman Trivium and Quadrivium to support a distinctly Christian worldview. This process aims to inspire students to develop a life characterized by intellectual and spiritual pursuits and a sense of wonder.



# What does Rigor with Joy actually mean?

*“‘Joy’ as compared to ‘fun’ – the joy that comes with true accomplishment. To honor God with our very best efforts... This idea is found also in Aristotle’s definition of ‘happiness.’ Happiness is found in seeking excellence rather than pleasure alone.”*

– Dr. Ken Calvert, the former Headmaster of Hillsdale Academy



The school motto of Oakdale Academy is Rigor With Joy. During daily school life, this is lived out in the diligence of effort from our students in our challenging classical curriculum.

We seek students who strive for excellence in all they do, as we are preparing them for a life dedicated to service to God. As such, we desire for them to put their utmost effort into not only their studies, but into how they order their lives and habits.

It is through that diligence our students come to experience joy over time. It is the reward of a deep satisfaction that comes from knowing we have done all we can with all that we have to glorify the Lord with our lives.

# What does Rigor with Joy look like?

In seeking after joy, we are preparing students to the pursuit of the Good, the True, and the Beautiful. We do this to inspire a life characterized by a sense of wonder.



## Student Spotlight: Preston Allen

“In life, nothing comes easy – you have to put in the hard work. You have less appreciation of those things you don’t work hard for in life. Putting in the hard work, no matter how long it takes, once you accomplish it, you have that outstanding feeling not of accomplishment, but of joy. If there was an Oakdale Academy without *Rigor with Joy*, it would not be a classical school – it would be more like every other school.”



## Student Spotlight: Abby Di Dio

“I like reading. We are reading *Charlotte’s Web* in class and we get to discover a lot of new words with our teacher’s help. I also love to read at home and I get to read in Book Buddies to Junior Kindergarten. It brings me a lot of joy.”



One memory I have was going to the sixth grade and tenth grade class when we studied castles where we pretended to joust and got to taste some new foods they ate during the time of knights. It was fun!”



# What is a Culture of Generosity?



At Oakdale Academy, we seek to cultivate students in lives marked by virtue and wisdom. To do that, we partner with supporters and donors in the development of a culture of generosity to grow our ability to meet our goals. Here, that means we sacrificially give of our time, talent, and treasure to ensure the work of Oakdale Academy carries on in the present and long into the future.

We ask all who support Oakdale to consider us one of their top giving priorities where God leads them and to the ability they are able to do so. Rather than give to transient things and causes, we ask families, supporters, and donors to join with us to give to Oakdale, that we might accomplish our founding goal: that earth would be richer and heaven be fuller for the work of Oakdale Academy.

## Learn More

To learn more about Oakdale, please take a picture of the QR code below to be directed to our website.



## Stay Connected

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