

Chesterton Academy of Notre Dame

What is the genesis of Notre Dame?

Notre Dame began with the laity. For some time, parents and parishioners at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Lourdes entertained informal conversations about the possibility of having a high school option in Spokane that is both Catholic and classical. A more formal conversation took place in November of 2018 with Bishop Daly at which time he gave permission for these parents to research possibilities. An initial advisory council formed consisting of three parents and the rector of the Cathedral. Bishop has since expanded the advisory council to include seven members. The council works closely with the Director of Catholic Schools who serves as liaison with the Bishop.

Who are the members of the Notre Dame School Advisory Council?

Dr. Christopher Dewing and his wife are Cathedral parishioners with five children ages 5-13. They are enrolled in Mother of Divine Grace distance learning school which is an accredited Catholic classical homeschool program. Regarding classical education, Chris states, “We have watched our children grow in mind and spirit through the classical pedagogy and their exposure to the great works of the Western canon. We love how all of the subjects, both humanities and sciences, are taught through the lens of the Catholic faith.” Chris is an orthopedic surgeon who currently serves as Medical Director of Integrated Sports Medicine, Rockwood Health Systems.

Laura Kolbe and her husband are Cathedral parishioners and the parents of four children ages 15 months to 8 (with one more on the way!). For her own children, Laura believes classical education is the best avenue for shaping young hearts and minds that seek the glory of God through pursuit of the true, the good, and the beautiful. Laura is a teacher and has served on the faculty at both Eastside Catholic High School and Gonzaga Preparatory School where she taught theology. She is currently on the faculty of Healing the Culture, a pro-life advocacy organization.

Stacy Harrington and her husband are Cathedral parishioners and the parents of five children. Four of their children are enrolled at Cataldo Catholic School in 7th grade, 6th grade, 2nd grade and preschool. One toddler is still at home. Stacy is currently the President of the Cathedral Parish Pastoral Council. She is a Clinical Pharmacist at Northern Idaho Advanced Care Hospital.

Zach Mallahan and his wife Cheri have six young boys. He and his family are parishioners at the Cathedral where Zach serves as a member of the Finance Council. He also serves as a member of the Diocesan Finance Council. He believes that Notre Dame is a work of the Holy Spirit and he is excited that his boys will have the opportunity to attend a classical school and for what Notre Dame will mean for the community at large. Zach has a background in banking and management. He is currently employed as a software engineer with Avista Utilities.

Brian O’Rourke and his wife Therese have four children and are members of St. Augustine Parish. One daughter is a sophomore at Fordham University, one son is a sophomore at Gonzaga Preparatory School, and their two youngest sons attend Cataldo Catholic School. Brian is involved in Spokane Youth Lacrosse as a board member, coach, and director of youth officials. He has been on the Lacrosse coaching staff at Gonzaga Prep for the last 3 years. Brian is a retired Air Force Major currently flying the Boeing 777 for FedEx Express.

Fr. Darrin Connall is the rector of the Cathedral of Our Lady of Lourdes and an *ex officio* member of the Notre Dame School Advisory Council. He currently serves on the Board of Governors for Cataldo Catholic School.

What is the origin of the name “Notre Dame”?

The patroness of the Diocese of Spokane is Our Lady of Lourdes – *Notre Dame de Lourdes*. The school is placed under the intercession and protection of the Blessed Mother. The title, therefore, captures this relationship between students/faculty and our mother in heaven.

We already have a Catholic high school in Spokane, why do we need another one?

Evidence suggests that approximately 60% of our 8th grade parochial students go on to attend Gonzaga Preparatory School. This leaves 40% of parochial students as well as a number of public school Catholic kids and over 100 Catholic home-school families in the Spokane area. These numbers indicate there is definitely room for growth in the number of students under Catholic high school instruction.

While Catholic high schools share much in common, there are also unique charisms present in individual institutions. Parents often make choices depending on the charism of the school in relation to the individual needs of their children. There is a growing desire among many for a high school with a classical charism. Educational diversity and choice enrich our family of faith.

What makes Notre Dame classical?

The three skills at the heart of classical education are: how to read (grammar), how to think (logic), and how to speak (rhetoric). These three skills are called the “trivium” and find their roots in classical Greco-Roman civilization. Classical Catholic curriculum involves a broad study of the liberal arts through the lens of Catholic faith and culture. This integration is seen in the school’s pedagogical approach as well as in content matter such as the study of classical language.

The classical Catholic curriculum at Notre Dame is developed, supported, and evaluated by the Chesterton Network.

What is the Chesterton Network?

From the Chesterton Network website: “The Chesterton Schools Network aims to inspire and encourage parent-led Catholic schools across the nation. The Network offers consulting services; templates for evaluating interest and operating a school; and the Chesterton Academy curriculum framework.

The Chesterton Academy curriculum framework includes a four-year, sequential, integrated curriculum overview with high level day-to-day lesson plans, reading lists, and sample tests. The framework provides school founders with a blueprint for marketing, hiring and evaluating faculty, resource acquisition, scheduling, and assessing state requirements.”

What are the distinctive characteristics of the Chesterton Network?

Catholic Identity – daily Mass, curriculum integrated with Catholic faith and culture, direct service to the homeless and marginalized, faculty oath of fidelity to the Magisterium, etc.

Classical Curriculum – study of the liberal arts through the lens of Catholic faith and culture with an emphasis on grammar, logic, and rhetoric using the Socratic Method (discourse between students wishing to establish truth through reasoned argument).

Affordable – a Chesterton Academy is committed to providing a strong, classical Catholic education that is affordable for any middle or working class family, large or small, living on a single income. This often means education takes place in a spirit of thrift, frugality, and a humble environment.

What is the Chesterton curriculum?



CHESTERTON ACADEMY

A JOYFULLY CATHOLIC, CLASSICAL HIGH SCHOOL

A RIGOROUS FOUR-YEAR CURRICULUM TAUGHT
THROUGH THE LENS OF THE CATHOLIC FAITH

	FRESHMAN YEAR THE ANCIENT WORLD	SOPHOMORE YEAR THE EARLY MEDIEVAL PERIOD	JUNIOR YEAR HIGH MIDDLE AGES TO THE RENAISSANCE	SENIOR YEAR THE MODERN WORLD
HUMANITIES				
LITERATURE	Homer, Sophocles, Virgil G.K. Chesterton: Orthodoxy	Augustine, Chaucer, Shakespeare G.K. Chesterton: St. Francis	Dante, Shakespeare, Cervantes G.K. Chesterton: St. Thomas Aquinas	Goethe, Dickens, Dostoyevsky, Orwell G.K. Chesterton: The Everlasting Man
HISTORY	Early Civilization, Greece, Rome	Early Church History, Early Medieval, Crusades	High Middle Ages, Renaissance, Reformation, Counter-Reformation	American Revolution, French Revolution, Civil War; Industrial Communist, Sexual Revolutions
PHILOSOPHY	Pre-Socratics, Intro to Plato and Aristotle, Formal Logic, Rhetoric	Plato and Aristotle	Aristotle, St. Thomas Aquinas, Early Modern Philosophy	Economics/Philosophy (Hobbes, Rousseau, Locke, Smith, Marx, G.K. Chesterton, Belloc)
THEOLOGY	Catechism; Old Testament	Old Testament; New Testament	Catechetical Topics I	Catechetical Topics II
COMPOSITION & RHETORIC	Integrated Writing Program	Integrated Writing Program; Debate	Integrated Writing Program	Integrated Writing Program
LANGUAGE	Latin I	Latin II	Latin III, Spanish I, or Italian I	Latin IV, Spanish II, or Italian II
MATH AND SCIENCE				
MATHEMATICS	Euclidean Geometry, Analytical Geometry	Algebra II / Trig	Pre-Calculus	Calculus or Statistics
SCIENCE	Physical Science	Biology	Chemistry	Physics
THE FINE ARTS				
MUSIC	Choir, Music Theory and Appreciation	Choir, Music Theory and Appreciation	Choir, Music Theory and Appreciation	Choir, Music Theory and Appreciation
ART	Ancient Art History, Calligraphy, Drawing	Late Roman, Early European, Byzantine, Pastels, Color	Late Gothic, Renaissance, Baroque, Oils	Classical, Romantic, Modern, Oils, Watercolors
DRAMA		Full Length Play (Comedy)	Full Length Play (Drama)	Full Length Play (Shakespeare)

Where is Notre Dame located?

Notre Dame is located on the campus of the Cathedral of Our Lady of Lourdes. The school makes use of three dedicated classrooms, two offices, a large multi-purpose room, auditorium, stage, full kitchen and cafeteria.

Students attend the regularly scheduled daily Noon Mass at the Cathedral with parishioners and members of the community.

What is the anticipated tuition?

Tuition will be dependent upon the enrollment numbers. The ND School Advisory Council is anticipating tuition to be \$7,300.

When will the school open?

Plans are underway to accept students for the 2020-2021 school year.