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Greetings parents,

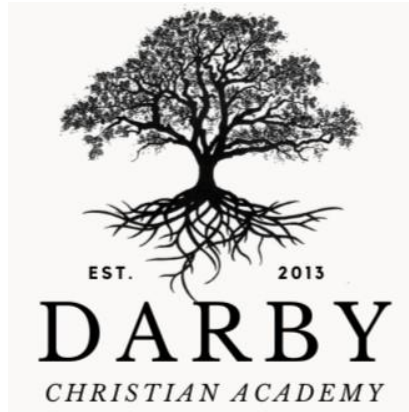
Thank you for your interest in Darby Christian Academy. We are thrilled to offer a unique model of schooling in Pasco County—the community school model. This hybrid approach combines homeschooling with traditional classroom learning to get the best of both worlds. We are a homeschool ministry that exists to resource (not replace) parents as the primary educators of their children, and we do this through Christian Classical education in the Charlotte Mason tradition. Our mission is to equip homeschool families and students to discern truth, pursue goodness, and delight in beauty through a robust Christian education.

Please read over the following information about DCA, the community school model, and Classical education. Discuss and pray as a family to see if this might be a right fit for you, and please contact us with any additional questions or to begin the registration process. Blessings to you and your family!

Sincerely,

Pastor Mark Narankevicius, Headmaster

Trina Narankevicius, Administrator



## **WHAT IS DARBY CHRISTIAN ACADEMY?**

- Darby Christian Academy (DCA) has been a ministry of Darby Community Church (DCC) since 2013. DCC is a small church in rural Dade City with the desire to ground believers in the historic Christian faith. As a part of that desire, DCA seeks to make God's ancient truths ever new in the lives of our students through an education grounded in the Christian worldview.

## **WHAT IS THE COMMUNITY SCHOOL MODEL?**

- A community school is a partnership between parents and teachers, bringing together the best aspects of homeschooling with the benefits of group schooling. The parent remains their child's primary educator, while receiving the support of teachers.
- Each of our teachers are educated and passionate about the subjects they teach. They will support your family by choosing curriculum and providing in-class instruction two days a week, weekly lesson plans for you to administer at home, feedback throughout the year, and report cards every quarter.
- Your child will attend campus classes two days per week, while homeschooling with you the remaining three days per week using the lesson plans crafted by their teachers. *We are not a two-day a week school; this is a five-day a week program that requires the student's parent(s) to diligently homeschool for three days of the week.*

- Campus class times for all grade levels will be Mondays & Wednesdays from 9:30am to 3:25pm. Homeschool schedules will be at the discretion of each family, but a K-2 student should ideally average no more than 2 hours each day, while Middle School and above should average no less than 4 hours each day.

## **WHAT IS THE ROLE OF THE PARENT AT DCA?**

- Scripture identifies parents as responsible for their child's training (cf. Deuteronomy 6:6-9; Proverbs 6:20-22; Ephesians 6:4). Whether a child is homeschooled or sent to a traditional school, the ultimate responsibility of training that child lies with the parents. DCA partners with parents who share this conviction, and we expect all our families to regularly study God's Word together, pray together, attend church together, and grow in their Christian faith together.
- Parents will teach lessons at home according to the take-home lesson plans provided by our teachers. They will assist students with questions, grade practice work, and review work that is to be returned to class. Our unique model will only work when parents take this homeschooling role seriously and perform it diligently and consistently.
- Parents also have an active on-campus role. Throughout the year we ask for parent volunteers in the following areas: classroom/cafeteria assistance, fundraising events, extracurricular activities, and campus projects. Together we can use our individual gifts to make a great impact on our children's lives!

## **WHAT IS THE AVERAGE STUDENT BODY AND CLASS SIZE AT DCA?**

- At this time, total student enrollment will be limited to 60 students from Kindergarten through High School. The average class size will be no more than 12 students. This allows us to maintain a personal classroom environment and strong communication with parents.
- DCA will have combined grade level groupings based upon actual enrollment figures.

## WHAT IS CHRISTIAN CLASSICAL EDUCATION?

- Christian Classical Education (CCE) is a liberal arts-focused education integrated with a strong Christian worldview. Some of the distinctives of this tradition include:
  - An emphasis on Christ. This includes a robust understanding of the message, history, and theology of **Scripture**, learning to see all reality through a biblical lens, cultivating virtue in the student's life, and defending the Christian faith.
  - An emphasis on the Trivium of grammar, logic, and rhetoric. In **grammar**, students focus on what something is by learning its elemental components. The main goal is *knowledge*. In **logic**, students focus on what something means by learning how to rationally think about it. The main goal is *understanding*. In **rhetoric**, students take what they have learned and produce something of their own. The main goal is *communication*. By mastering these three steps, students will be equipped to master any subject.
  - An emphasis on **Western Civilization**, and in particular the Great Books that have shaped Western thought. Students are exposed to the language and ideas that have shaped our world, and learn to critically engage these ideas.
  - An emphasis on the good, the true, and the beautiful. The **good** pertains to morality (how we live), the **true** pertains to rationality (how we think), and the **beautiful** pertains to aesthetics (how we wonder). All three find their source in God; all genuine goodness, truth, and beauty in the world is a reflection of Him.
  - An emphasis on the three-fold goal of worship, wonder, and wisdom. **Worship** is the love we have for God, **wonder** is the awe we feel over His creation, and **wisdom** is the way we live in proper relation to the Creator and within creation.

## WHAT IS THE CHARLOTTE MASON TRADITION?

- Charlotte Mason was an educator at the turn of the 20th century who emphasized the importance of cultivating wonder. Some of the distinctives of this tradition include:
  - Children are treated as whole souls and the holistic nature of the child is ministered to. Education is not merely filling the brain with data, but **forming the entire person**—their mental, physical, moral, and spiritual natures.
  - Children should have lots of **beautiful books** read to them, and learn to read beautiful books themselves. These books are “living”—not dry, mechanical, or fluffy, but rich with the best of the English language, and told in a narrative style. This develops a child’s palette for quality.
  - Children demonstrate knowledge through “telling back” what they’ve heard. Instead of merely memorizing lots of random facts, filling out worksheets, or trying to ace a test, **students narrate** what they’ve heard back to an adult.
  - Children should spend lots of time **outdoors in nature** (an important emphasis, especially in our screen-saturated culture). Here they encounter God’s creation first-hand. Their innate curiosity, when given the opportunity, will lead to discovery and wonder.
  - Children’s home lives are of the utmost importance. Parents ought to be their child’s primary educator, and should create a **household environment** of structure, discipline, belonging, and joy. In the home a child learns good habits, appreciates domestic simplicity, and cultivates close familial relationships.

## WHAT ARE THE NEXT STEPS TO JOIN DCA?

1. Request an enrollment packet by emailing [admin@darbycommunitychurch.com](mailto:admin@darbycommunitychurch.com) or by filling out a request form at <https://darbycommunitychurch.com/admissions>. Each packet includes a New Family Checklist, New Family Application, and Student Application (complete one student application for each child enrolled).
2. Submit a completed Family Application with \$150 non-refundable application fee for the first student, and \$100 for each additional student (checks should be made payable to Darby Christian Academy).
3. DCA will contact you to come in for a family interview. This will allow you to get to know us, and allow us to get to know you. We invite you to ask us questions about the school, and we will ask you questions about your family dynamic, educational journey, and church involvement. We will carefully observe student behavior and academic compatibility. We will also review our Statement of Faith and Mission, Model, and Methodology.
4. After the interview we ask families to discuss and pray together, while we do the same, to make sure it's a good fit between the family and the school.
5. We will notify you within several days if your student is accepted. At the time the \$400 curriculum fee (per student) shall be paid to secure their spot in the upcoming school year.