

### AUSTIN CLASSICAL SCHOOL

Opportunity profile for the position of **Head of School** Start Date: Summer 2025



## **MISSION STATEMENT**

Austin Classical School (ACS) exists to glorify Jesus Christ by co-laboring with families to cultivate wise, virtuous, and humble students through an excellent classical, Christian education.

# **OUR STORY**

Austin Classical School began at a birthday party in early 2012. Over cupcakes, a few long-time friends were discussing the limited Christian school options available in Austin's central urban core. When someone suggested that they start their own school, the group never dreamed that God would take them down that path over the next year.

Partnering with other like-minded families along the way, the founding group of parents researched educational models that aligned with their desire to educate within a Christian worldview, while also allowing for character formation and time together as families. They soon concluded that the framework of classical education, paired with a blended home and school schedule, could provide both—the best of both worlds.

After a year of planning and praying, God blessed the founders with a central Austin location, and Austin Classical School opened in 2013 with 10 "First Families" and 13 students in grades K,1st, 2nd, and 4th.

#### LOOKING AHEAD

In our twelfth year, ACS has grown to almost 180 families and more than 340 students in Pre-K through 12th grade. In May 2025, our first graduates will walk across the stage and begin their journeys toward college and beyond!







## CHRIST-CENTERED CLASSICAL COLLABORATIVE

A DETAILED LOOK AT OUR MODEL

#### **CHRIST-CENTERED**

ACS's first missional priority is to foster faith in Jesus Christ in every aspect of the school's community, curriculum, and culture. We are a welcoming, multi-denominational collection of families whose theological roots are grounded in the historic Nicene Creed. See our <u>Statement of Faith</u>

#### CLASSICAL

At ACS, we agree with our friends at the Circe Institute that "education is the cultivation of wisdom and virtue, and since wisdom and virtue are cultivated when a soul is nourished on truth, goodness, and beauty, we must teach our children truth, goodness, and beauty."

Classical education involves introducing a student's mind to "great ideas" through the "great books" to equip students to effectively join the "great conversation" of the ages. To this end, ACS employs the medieval trivium, which is comprised of three educational stages and areas of study: Grammar, Logic, and Rhetoric.

To reflect our commitment to classical curricular priorities and instructional methods, our school divisions are named after the elements of the trivium: the School of Grammar (grades PreK-4), the School of Logic (grades 5-8), and the School of Rhetoric (grades 9-12). See our <u>Classical Education Basics</u>

#### COLLABORATIVE

ACS's most unique feature is our commitment to partnering with parents (we call them co-teachers) to implement our curriculum and lesson plans at home and at school.

On-campus classroom instruction is tiered to provide increased classroom time for older students. The School of Rhetoric students are on campus 4 days each week, the School of Logic students are on campus 3 days each week, and the School of Grammar students are on campus 2 days per week. During non-campus days, students remain at home to complete their lessons with guidance and instruction from co-teaching parents.

The collaborative schedule is a way for parents to provide a Christ-infused classical education for their children with the support of qualified Christian educators. It truly is the "best of both worlds." *See our <u>Schedule</u>* 



## THE ACS WAY Insight into our community

As part of our journey to find the next ACS Head of School, our search facilitator, BetterSchools LLC, had the privilege of speaking with dozens of ACS parents, faculty, staff, and students. These community insights help paint a beautiful picture of what makes the ACS experience so special.

Students in grades 7-12 emphasize the close relationships with their peers and teachers ("Teachers are very focused on our well-being; you can tell they care."); the classical curriculum ("The education is very solid and advanced."); and their enthusiasm about being partners in a project ("I'm close to my friends; we're finishing building what we started.")

A majority of parents cite the following benefits to their families and their children:

- Proximity to and influence on their children's education ("I love the extra time with my kids. We're learning together.")
- Focus on each student as a whole person ("It feels like the school fits to my students more than my students fit to the school.")
- The like-minded community of families ("The families are great. We feel safe with our kids being friends with whoever is here.")
- Encouragement from and collaboration with teachers and other parents ("It was easy to get myopic homeschooling. My kids' teachers challenge me and expand insights.")

Faculty and staff note the following as reasons that they have invested themselves at ACS:

- Professional opportunity and ministry ("I have a chance to enact a vision in a place that is flexible and winsome.")
- Strength of the culture and community ("I never saw a school so sweet!")
- Ability to be with their children at school and at home ("The collaborative model gives me time with my kids. I have proximity and discipleship opportunities.")









With its first graduating class of seniors, ACS is moving into its second generation of serving students and families. The next few years will be crucial to both the application of the mission to new cohorts of families and students and strategically designed growth.

The next Head of School should be prepared to execute on these top priorities:

- Build on the strengths and effectiveness of the current faculty and staff.
- Solidify the School of Rhetoric as an attractive option for Schools of Logic and Grammar families and students, focusing on increased enrollment and performance targets.
- Articulate persuasively the benefits of both our classical and collaborative schooling model.
- Contribute to a multi-year financial plan, including compensation policies and staff retention plans.
- Provide an executable vision for future facility needs and solutions.
- Establish a systematic approach to major fundraising for future capital needs.

Austin Classical School's next Head of School should demonstrate:

- A clear commitment to faith in Jesus Christ and active discipleship through church attendance and personal devotion.
- Commitment to the primary role of parents to disciple and educate their children.
- Skill in empowering families in the extraordinary commitment to co-teach their children alongside ACS's professional instructors.
- A deep understanding of and experience with the practical implementation of classical schooling.
- Executive level leadership and management skills, based on experience in a senior leadership role at a Christian school or another complex organization.
- Comfort with leading a Christian school located in the center of a growing, unchurched city.
- Academic aptitude by having obtained a master's degree or higher.

## **READY TO SERVE?**



We would love to meet you. To begin the application process, please submit a letter of interest and an up-to-date resume or CV to <u>hossearch@austinclassical.org</u>. Upon review of these materials, the Head of School Search Committee will follow up with next steps, which may include a formal application.

Since ACS is engaged in a facilitated search process, please do not contact the school directly regarding the posting.

