



The Standard

A publication of St. Andrew's Academy

From The Headmaster

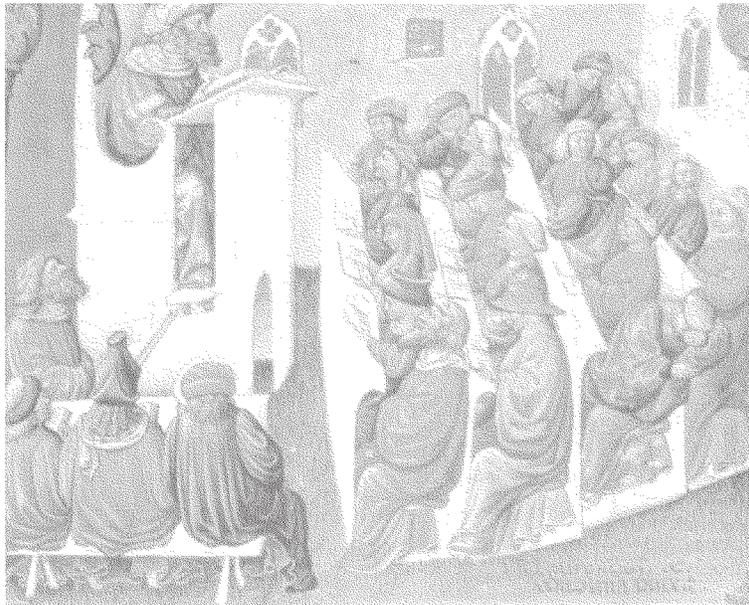
Here we are winding up August already! If you've checked the web site lately, you've seen the new look. Let us know what you think. Also, please forgive the unfinished aspects. We're moving as fast as we can. Some things get relegated to the bottom of the list, not because they are unimportant, but because other things just absolutely can't wait.

Just in case some of you haven't heard, St. Andrew's will be a full time private school in the fall. We have three full time faculty for the fall. Mr. Dean Baender will be moving up in September to teach in the Math and Science subject areas. Mr. Baender studied Computer Science at California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo and has been working in the computer industry in the famed Silicon Valley. He joins, of course, myself and Mrs. Foos. We look forward to the addition to the St. Andrew's family!

Speaking of faculty, we all just recently returned from Moscow, Idaho where we attended a teachers' conference. This is some of the reason for the relative silence from us during July. It was a week long and took some preparation to get there and some recuperating time once home! We certainly didn't get much sleep that

week. It was, however, a very fruitful week. The conference was geared for classical, Christian schools like ours. Check out the article on the conference in the next issue of The Standard.

We come to September fairly quickly. So, please, check the web site (www.standrews.place.cc), download the



Medieval Classroom. This illustration shows a classroom in fourteenth-century Germany. As you will notice, St. Andrew's Academy students need to pay better attention than these students do!

admissions packet, fill it out and send it in if you are at all interested in your child(ren) attending the Academy in the Fall. Alternately, you can email and request the packet via email, or regular old snail mail.

If you have friends or acquaintances that you think might be interested in St. Andrew's, please let them know of us. Give them my number or email and the address to the web pages.

We now have a small office and school site in Hamilton Branch at which we will be doing admis-

sions interviews, and starting classes in later September. Hope to see you there soon!

In His Service,

The Rev'd Brian Foos

Learning the Basics at St. Andrew's

Some people who see or hear something about St. Andrew's Academy may be wondering what a traditional, "college prep" education looks like. Especially when they hear the word classical, many people tend to think of a student freezing in a cold room working with a quill and having his knuckles rapped once in a while just for good measure. Or perhaps they see a picture of a student struggling with her studies and never having any fun. When some people see the particularly classical subjects of Greek and Logic being taught, they think that this education is beyond their child's abilities.

Let me be the first to assure you that a. we do turn on the heat (though not too hot or the students and teachers then all want to fall asleep!), b. we don't rap anyone's knuckles, c. we have lots of fun, and d. a classical, traditional, "college prep" education is not beyond the abilities of your child. (In fact, it wasn't that long ago that you found Latin and Greek taught in most public schools.)

The basic curriculum for St. Andrew's Academy looks very similar to the basic curriculum in all schools. The differences are seen in

the way the material is approached, what is expected of the student, the working together of teachers, students and parents and truthfully, a whole host of other issues. The basic subject matter, however, is the same in the broad sense. Yes, we teach material that will not be found in many schools. For instance, in English, the students must read, analyze and interact with some of the greatest literature ever created. They encounter what one great poet and critic called the "best that has been thought and said."

The "basics" are called the basics because they are foundational. Reading the "classics" lays, for the student, a foundation in the thought of man. It also gives him the best examples of writing to imitate. English class is also the class where the middle school student learns to compose and write down his arguments. Younger students are still learning to put sentences together to form paragraphs, or words together to form

sentences or letters together to form words. Older students are refining their writing skills, honing them to a sharp edge that they may communicate clearly and with appropriateness. These are basics. Without the ability to communicate, the education has failed.

Math is another basic. Think of the things that must have Math as their foundation. Music is one example that comes to mind. Even the most "romantic" or "emotive" of musicians must still deal with hard edged math. The study and performance of music cannot happen without math. Science is another subject that needs math as its basic foundation.

To have primary, or more important classes—what we tend to call the basics—has always been a tenet of classical education. St. Andrew's continues in this tradition by focusing on the basics: Math, Literature, Composition, Science, History. The goal is to train the student to think and to discern, to have wisdom. From there she can learn and delve into any topic or subject that interests her.

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