



THE CHESTERTON SCHOOLS NETWORK

JOYFULLY CATHOLIC, CLASSICAL HIGH SCHOOLS

Starting a Chesterton Academy Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

“A dead thing can go with the stream, but only a living thing can go against it.”

– G.K. CHESTERTON

www.ChestertonSchoolsNetwork.org

Contents

I. MODEL AND GOVERNANCE..... 3

What is the Chesterton Schools Network?.....3

How do we become a member?3

What are the benefits of being sponsored by the Society?.....3

What is the relationship between schools and the Society?.....3

II. CURRICULUM AND APPROACH..... 4

What is the Chesterton Academy High School model?.....4

Why classical education?.....4

Chesterton emphasized the humanities, but what about math and science?4

How does Chesterton prepare students for college and employment?.....4

Is Chesterton Academy accredited?4

III. ADMISSIONS..... 5

What if a student has not received a K-8 classical education?5

What activities are offered at Chesterton Academy?5

Can a non-Catholic student attend Chesterton Academy?5

What is Chesterton Academy’s stance on technology?.....5

How much homework is assigned to students at Chesterton Academy?5

IV. GETTING STARTED..... 6

We want a Chesterton Academy in our city. How do we get started?6

What does a typical Chesterton Academy charge for tuition?.....6

Can we design our own model and call it ‘Chesterton Academy’?6

I. Model and Governance

Q. WHAT IS THE CHESTERTON SCHOOLS NETWORK?

A. The Chesterton Schools Network is a project of the **Society of Gilbert Keith Chesterton**, a lay apostolate dedicated to evangelization, Catholic education, and the social teaching of the Church. The Network inspires, encourages, and supports the establishment of parent-led, affordable Catholic high schools around the world. Member schools utilize the Chesterton Academy packaged curriculum, marketing materials, training and development resources, and ongoing support to launch and operate a Chesterton Academy school.

Q. HOW DO WE BECOME A MEMBER OF THE NETWORK?

A. In order to become a member of the Chesterton Schools Network, a prospective school must be formally sponsored by the Society of Gilbert Keith Chesterton. After an initial introduction, aspiring schools enter a five-phase process that will see them through initial evaluation to ongoing operations. Prospective schools submit a business plan and formal proposal for sponsorship to the Society of Gilbert Keith Chesterton at the end of Phase II in the school start-up process.

Q. WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF BEING SPONSORED BY THE SOCIETY?

A. Each member of the Chesterton Schools Network is a sponsored organization of the Society of Gilbert Keith Chesterton. Sponsored organizations play a critical role in carrying out the mission of the Society. In turn, sponsorship offers organizations spiritual and other benefits including Catholic designation, natural synergies, and expertise.

Q. WHAT IS THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SCHOOLS AND THE SOCIETY?

A. Sponsored organizations operate substantially independently but the Society formally grants sponsorship and monitors on an ongoing basis in order to fulfill its canonical obligations. Each sponsored organization is separately incorporated, with its own bylaws, Board of Directors, and 501(c)3 status. Each organization is required to file a 990 with the IRS each year and must file a charitable organization annual report form and annual registration with the state.

II. Curriculum and Approach

Q. WHAT IS THE CHESTERTON ACADEMY HIGH SCHOOL MODEL?

A. The Chesterton Academy model is based on delivery of an integrated, Catholic, classical high school education offered at an affordable tuition. Our goal is to equip a new generation of joyful leaders and saints, educated in the classical tradition and the truths of the Catholic faith. Our rigorous, integrated curriculum unlocks student potential and prepares students to succeed in college and professional life, and to excel in service of family, of country, and of Christ our Lord. Chesterton Academy schools rely on the active involvement of parents and work to create a joyful community united in faith and prayer.

Q. WHY CLASSICAL EDUCATION?

A. Classical education can be described as the cultivation of wisdom and virtue through meditation on the good, the true, and the beautiful. Chesterton's integrated, classical curriculum combines a broad, liberal arts education with a strong emphasis on the development of Christian virtues and an appreciation of beauty. It is our hope that our students will be able to proclaim the truth, goodness, and beauty of the Catholic faith as they encounter an increasingly dark and skeptical world that is so desperately in need of Jesus Christ.

Q. CHESTERTON EMPHASIZES THE HUMANITIES. BUT WHAT ABOUT MATH AND SCIENCE?

A. Math and science are cornerstones of Chesterton Academy's classical, liberal arts education. Advanced mathematics and science offerings are available through our *Catholic-STEM* track for qualified students.

Q. HOW DOES CHESTERTON PREPARE STUDENTS FOR COLLEGE AND EMPLOYMENT?

A. Chesterton Academy students fare very well on college entrance exams. Our alumni are accepted at top Catholic and secular universities, and receive valuable scholarships. Chesterton students receive a solid foundation in the humanities, fine arts, and math and science, which provides an academic advantage in further study after graduation. Business leaders seek out Chesterton graduates because they are well-rounded and demonstrate an ability to reason, problem-solve, and communicate well.

Q. IS CHESTERTON ACADEMY ACCREDITED?

A. The Chesterton Schools Network guides its member schools through a joint accreditation and recognition process with the National Association of Private Catholic and Independent Schools (NAPCIS) and the Cardinal Newman Society.

III. Admissions

Q. WHAT IF A STUDENT HAS NOT RECEIVED A K-8 CLASSICAL EDUCATION?

A. No previous classical education is necessary to be successful at Chesterton Academy.

Q. WHAT ACTIVITIES ARE OFFERED AT CHESTERTON ACADEMY?

A. Students participate in well-rounded offerings of sports and extracurricular activities. Sports and clubs are student- and parent-driven based on interest. Additional opportunities for healthy and fun competition and servant leadership are found through Chesterton Academy's House system, drawn from the 1,000-year-old tradition of Christian education exemplified in the colleges at Oxford and Cambridge.

Q. CAN A NON-CATHOLIC STUDENT ATTEND CHESTERTON ACADEMY?

A. Yes. All students are required to participate in the life of the school, including daily Mass and theology classes.

Q. WHAT IS CHESTERTON ACADEMY'S STANCE ON TECHNOLOGY?

A. Computers are typically not used by students in the classroom at Chesterton Academy. Computers are used for independent study and guided projects and, naturally, students use computers at home for papers and other assignments. Teachers use technology when it facilitates or augments learning.

Q. HOW MUCH HOMEWORK IS ASSIGNED TO STUDENTS AT CHESTERTON ACADEMY?

A. Chesterton Academy works to limit assigned homework. We seek to be efficient in the learning process such that students have time in the evenings to spend with their family and to commit to extracurricular activities and after-school jobs.

IV. Getting Started

Q. WE WANT A CHESTERTON ACADEMY IN OUR CITY. HOW DO WE GET STARTED?

A. The Chesterton Schools Network has developed a multi-phase process for groups wishing to start and operate a Chesterton Academy. Each phase has deliverables that we will supply, and milestones that you have to complete to progress to the next phase. There is a fee for the services that we provide in each phase, beginning with \$99 in Phase I.

Q. WHAT DOES A TYPICAL CHESTERTON ACADEMY CHARGE FOR TUITION?

A. Network schools typically charge \$6-\$8K for tuition, plus book and supply fees.

Q. CAN WE DESIGN OUR OWN MODEL AND CALL IT 'CHESTERTON ACADEMY'?

A. No. The name Chesterton Academy is trademarked and copyrighted, as are all materials provided through the Network. Materials are the intellectual property of the Network.