



Philosophy of Education

A hybrid school, also known as a “University-Model” school, combines the positive qualities of traditional schooling with all the benefits of traditional homeschooling and integrates them into one model. The result is quality, cost-effective, college-preparatory education that gives parents more time to disciple their children in their own faith and values. In a unique partnership, parents and the Academy work together toward a mutual goal: to produce wholesome, competent, and virtuous followers of Christ who model Jesus in servant leadership. This model recognizes that parents should be the primary influencers of their child’s character and faith development. Practically, the school meets as a traditional school with an experienced classroom teacher 2 days a week students learn at home on the remaining days (with the parent co-teacher following the teacher's assignments).

Arrows Academy’s educational philosophy is based on the work of 19th century British education reformer Charlotte Mason. A contemporary of Maria Montessori and other educators forming foundational ideas during industrialization, Mason held a firm belief in the child as a person, not merely a mind to be filled. From that stemmed the conviction that children are capable of doing the work of learning themselves, and teachers best fill the role of guide and framer, not interpreter and entertainer. Mason believed that the best education encounters and engages the whole person with careful attention not only to the information they are mastering, but also to the formation of the person they are becoming. Her three-pronged approach to education includes **attention to the child's educational atmosphere** (primarily making it one of joy and ready discovery, not rote drudgery), **the discipline of good habits** (emphasizing full attention, best effort, and learning for the sake of learning, in addition to habits of personal virtue), and **living ideas** (meaning exposing children to content that makes a subject come alive, not just dry facts). Mason's motto for students was, "I am, I can, I ought, I will," and her hallmark is developing mature, whole persons, centered on rightly ordered relationships and fueled by a feast of excellent material. Ideas are paramount in the Charlotte Mason philosophy, and each student is taught not what to think, but how to think. Nature study, dictation, art study, music, and narration all play a part in instilling in students a rich love of learning, and thoughtful engagement in the world.

We ask that all parents take time during the first year of having their child(ren) at Arrows Academy to read “For the Children’s Sake,” a 158 page book by Susan Macaulay. In this book, Susan Macaulay shares a philosophy of an ideal Christian education (including the perspective that education must be founded on the principle that each child is uniquely created by God and therefore is worthy of respect). It also is a summary of Charlotte Mason's philosophy on education.