



The Dayspring Story

Dayspring Christian Academy is a
Preschool Through Grade 12 Principle Approach® School



www.DayspringChristian.com

The Dayspring Story begins with God, Who is the center of all knowledge. With God and His Word at the center of all subjects, students learn to understand the world from God's perspective and, so, a biblical worldview is shaped.



With God at the center. . .

...students learn they are unique individuals created in the image of God. With God at the center, students study the miraculous design of His creation and learn to view history through the eyes of Providence discovering how God uses people and nations to carry out His plans. With God at the center, students learn to see themselves as being infinitely creative. With God at the center, students learn to think and reason from His Word and apply it to every area of life.

In short, the Principle Approach is America's historic, Christian method of education that lays Christ as the center of every subject, teaching students how to reason from Biblical principles and then apply them to every area of life.

*For by Him all things were created.... And He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.”
(Colossians 1.16-17)*



“A nation which is humble enough to begin with its children in the constructing of its foundations for liberty may once again have the opportunity to lead nations to Christ.”

— Rosalie Slater, Founder of the Principle Approach®



Dayspring Christian Academy:

A Principle Approach® School

The Principle Approach examines and instructs students in the biblical principles of government, teaching them to think governmentally, from cause to effect, from internal to external. Students recognize that the degree of liberty individuals enjoy in our nation is directly connected to the degree in which the biblical principles of God's Word are embraced and followed.

The Principle Approach is the kind of education that prevailed during America's first 200 years. This method of education produced men and women who were able to reason from biblical principles of government to form the world's first Christian constitutional federal republic—the United States of America. This great experiment was built upon the Christian ideas of God, man, and government, and it afforded the greatest degree of liberty for the individual experienced up to that time—and to today.



The Principle Approach is historically based and is not crafted on the latest academic whim.



Dayspring Christian Academy: A Principle Approach School

The Principle Approach encompasses the idea of God, man, and government and teaches the value of each individual and the need for self-government under God. It is these principles that undergird the founding of our nation and enabled the world's first Christian constitutional federal republic.

The Seven Foundational Principles of the Principle Approach

The Biblical Principles Upon Which America Was Founded

God's Principle of Individuality:

There is one God who is sovereign over all Creation. Everything in God's universe is an expression of His character, His nature, His infinity, and His individuality.

The Principle of Christian Self-Government:

Allowing Christ to rule in one's heart internally. The amount of liberty one enjoys is directly related to the degree to which that individual governs himself according to God's Word.

The Seed Principle:

Moving from cause to effect, the seed of local Christian self-government is planted internally in the heart of the individual and then moves outwardly to affect the family, the church, and the civil spheres.

The Principle of Christian Character:

A self-governing republic requires a virtuous people in order to endure.

The Christian Idea of Civil Government:

Civil government takes into account man's sinful nature and exists to secure the God-given rights of the individual. Civil government is based upon God's law, not the will of the people.

The Christian Principle of Property:

That for which one labors, becomes his property. The individual has a property in his thoughts and beliefs, as well as in his physical possessions. "Conscience is our most sacred property."¹

The Principle of Unity:

Unity with diversity is a reflection of the nature of God, revealed in the Trinity and creatively expressed in the universe. Internal unity produces external union. These and other biblical principles are vital for maintaining the integrity of our republic. If we forget or abandon these principles, we will become, as colonial governor John Winthrop said, "a byword among the nations."²

¹ James Madison, Chief architect of the U.S. Constitution.

² John Winthrop, A Model of Christian Charity, 1630.



Deep in Thought

What is the Principle Approach? It has been said that whoever educates our children disciples our children. Education is not neutral, as such it is either man-centered or God-centered. Secular classrooms today elevate man attributing all advancement to man's efforts. The Principle Approach classroom teaches students to see God's Hand moving to fulfill His plans and purposes—making God the center of all things, giving Him, not man, the glory. This is the Principle Approach.

In a Principle Approach school, students learn through a method of scholarship that teaches them to think and reason from biblical principles. Students learn to develop the skill and habit of reflective thinking and deductive reasoning derived from Scripture. This technique develops a skill, a habit, a way of thinking, and, ultimately, shapes the worldview of the student. This process lays the truth of God's Word at the center of learning, which helps teach students how to think—not what to think—while it illuminates the understanding and consecrates the mind.



"Since America's Christian Republic came about as a consequence of biblical scholarship and subsequent application, then the restoration of this Republic requires that there be a return to a similar American biblical scholarship

"Self-education and self-government are close relatives. By means of individual Christian scholarship every sphere of human activity is brought under the subjection and authority of biblical principles. The principles eliminate the gap between philosophy and practicality, Bible and subject, and the written Word and the living Word. That bridge is constructed from the purity of Christian scholarship."

--A Guide to American Christian Education for the Home and School.

On a Mission





Our mission is to partner with churches and families in equipping students to:

- Develop the lordship of Jesus Christ in every area of life
- Develop a biblical worldview
- Develop excellence in character and scholarship
- Restore the biblical foundation of America





The purpose of logic is to direct the intellectual powers in the investigation of truth, and in the communication of it to others. So, logic and rhetoric go hand in hand.

Logic • Rhetoric • Hermeneutics • Greek • Latin • Literature



The Classics

Dayspring Christian Academy employs a classical curriculum that adds to the depth and breadth of the Principle Approach education. Students learn through the classical discipline of **logic**, which exercises students in the mechanics of truth and enables them to work through ideas and develop mature views.

In **rhetoric**, students learn to communicate persuasively to better defend their faith and position themselves as leaders wherever God may call them.

Hermeneutics provides an explanation and interpretation of the original texts of Scripture.

As a Principle Approach school, Dayspring teaches students to use primary and original sources. So, the classical languages of **Latin** and **New Testament Greek** are taught.

As students learn New Testament Greek, they are able to go in to the original Greek text and read as Scripture was written, while Latin forms the basis for understanding many English words. It provides good structure for categorizing English words and understanding meanings, suffixes, prefixes. It supports the English language.

Differences in Classical Methods

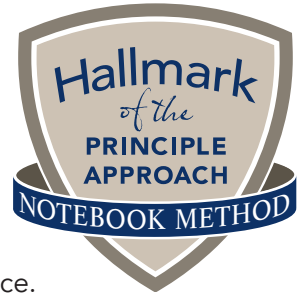
The Principle Approach springs out of the early American model of classical Christian education, whereas the more common classical education is based in the medieval European system. There are broad philosophical similarities between the two approaches, but there are more substantial differences in methods. While the American colonial and founding generations knew and drew from the classics, they drew much more

directly from the Bible as it relates to various aspects of civil life, including government, personal property, and Christian character development. This was especially important in America as a new system of civil government (and its related institutions) was born out of a Christian view of life that took shape during the Reformation. Americans had to cast off the old formulas from Europe and forge a new mindset that was based on Christian self-government, which maximized liberty for the individual. The Principle Approach is truly an American endeavor—part of our exceptionalism.



Note Worthy

The Notebook Method and the 4Rs



As a technique within the Principle Approach, the Notebook Method is a method of scholars. It is counterintuitive to today's culture of quick returns, instant information, and learning at the surface. It takes discipline and work ethic.

The Notebook Method is the product of the student's creativity and a permanent record of his productivity. It assists parents and teachers in overseeing progress and visually demonstrates the character development, diligence, and responsibility of the student.

Dayspring students use technology as a tool in keeping electronic notebooks. Electronic notebooks must be orderly, with separate folders for each subject. The same principles of the Notebook Method apply to electronically kept notebooks!

Traditional schools employ methods that often involve regurgitation of learning with the end goal of test mastery. After the test is over, there may be little record of learning. The Notebook Method is in keeping with the Principle Approach's philosophy of "consistent and ordered teaching and productivity." When a child is finished with a subject, he has a complete record of what he has learned, and has a visual representation of his accomplishments.



4Rs: Research, Reason, Relate, Record

As a method of scholarship, Dayspring uses Word Study to put the student on the pathway of developing habits of reflective thinking and deductive reasoning derived from Scripture. The Word Study places the truths of God's Word at the center of all learning. The steps of the Word Study are referred to as the 4 Rs: Research, Reason, Relate, Record. Students use Webster's 1828 Dictionary to begin the process, then search Scripture for reference. Students record their understanding in their own words and make application in their lives through principles they deduce from study. They master the idea and their written work becomes a permanent record in their notebooks.





DAYSPRING

— CHRISTIAN ACADEMY —

Speak for Yourself

The Oration



One of the distinctive attributes of a Principle Approach education at Dayspring Christian Academy is the annual writing and presenting of the oration. The oration is a two-step process, the writing phase and the public speaking phase. It is challenging, but it is one of the hallmarks of the Principle Approach and an element that makes a Dayspring education distinct. Dayspring's oration founding document states the purpose of the oration process this way: "In order to be prepared to give a sound and noble defense of the hope that lies within him or her, each Dayspring student learns the art and science of oratory. This engages the student in the rigors of 'taking [his or her] every thought captive to the obedience of Christ,' expressing his position in written form, then presenting his or her well-reasoned biblical worldview before an audience so that his or her listeners will contemplate a change of viewpoint, thereby reconciling them to God in fulfillment of The Great Commission."

(II Corinthians 10:5b; II Corinthians 5:20; Matt. 28:18-20)

Noah Webster defines an oratory this way:

The art of speaking well, or of speaking according to the rules of rhetoric, in order to persuade. To constitute oratory, the speaking must be just and pertinent to the subject; it must be methodical, all parts of the discourse being disposed in due order and connection; and it must be embellished with the beauties of language and pronounced with eloquence. Oratory consists of four parts, invention, disposition, elocution, and pronunciation.

—Webster's 1828 American Dictionary of the English Language



Take the Long View

A Providential View of History



There are two ways to view history: through the secular lens or through the lens of God. The secular view of history holds the view that man is in control. The opposite view is that God is in control and is actively involved in the lives of men. The latter is often referred to as the providential view of history.

Our study of history becomes truly Christian when students learn to recognize the hand of God as the cause of events. From this perspective, students understand that God has a plan for each nation . . . and each person. Students learn to see that because God used ordinary people in the past, He is doing the same now. Students learn to ask, if that was God's plan for these people, then what is His plan for me?

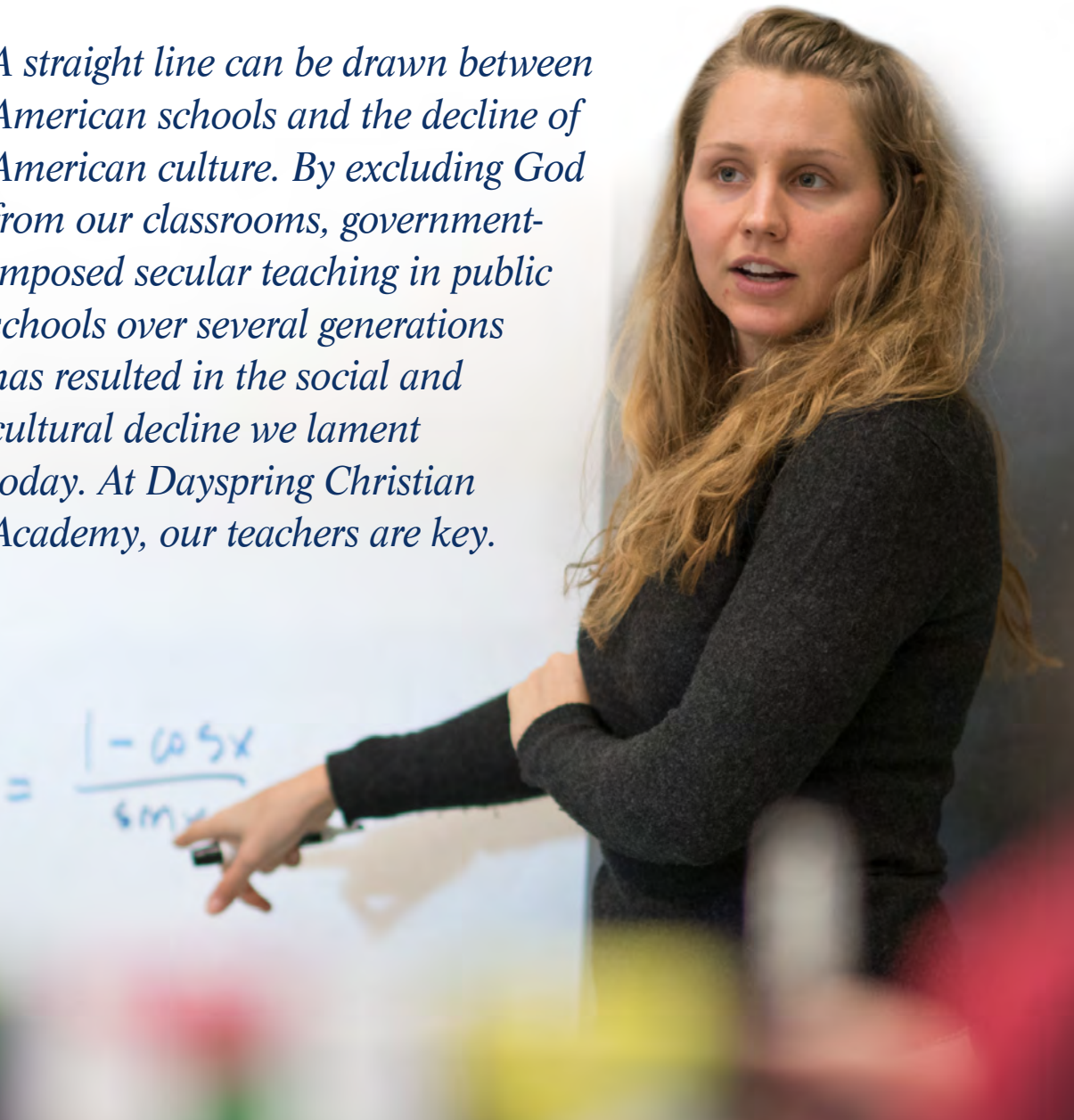
At Dayspring Christian Academy, the Principle Approach teaches history from the providential perspective. “After Christ brought Christianity, Christianity through God’s divine direction moved westward with its effect in civil liberty. This westward march of Christianity produced America, the world’s first Christian Republic established with a Christian form of government.”

– A Guide to American Christian Education

The Teacher

Dayspring teachers are subject experts and can, therefore, teach deep into subjects and inspire curiosity, learning, and exploration of knowledge. As teachers in a Principle Approach curriculum, our teachers become a living curriculum and have completed extensive research in their subjects. This not only makes them excellent teachers, it gives them expertise to teach the research process. Additionally, teachers begin their subjects in God's truth, which provides the context of "why" for students and reveals God's Hand in the world around us.

A straight line can be drawn between American schools and the decline of American culture. By excluding God from our classrooms, government-imposed secular teaching in public schools over several generations has resulted in the social and cultural decline we lament today. At Dayspring Christian Academy, our teachers are key.





STEM: *The Application of Knowledge*

Made in the image of God, Dayspring students learn they have infinite ability to create. That's why the school developed the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math program, which begins by laying down principles, facts, and laws of nature. From there, students conspire new ideas and bring them to life by trial and error—learning that failure is a great teacher.

Students in Kindergarten through Grade 5 participate in STEM classes, while students in 8th grade take a physical science class taught from a STEM perspective. Students in Grades 10 and 12 take a STEM course, and Dayspring's science and math teachers work with the STEM classes to develop comprehensive learning. Coursework ranges from developing an indoor garden—from concept to harvest—building turbine engines, robotics, and much more.



Fast Facts

Past Five Years SAT Average	1102
Number of college credits available through AP courses and our Cairn University dual enrollment program.	30
Students earning college credit while at Dayspring	89%
Students earning at least 12 college credits at Dayspring	17%
Graduates who attend a Christian college or university	74%
Dayspring students who score in the Christian worldview category and above in the PEERS test	89%
Number of Dayspring field studies each year	49
Dayspring Christian Academy retention rate	92%

In America, 90% of Christian students who attend public schools have a secular worldview according to the PEERS test.



P139

I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made. — Psalm 139:14

Dayspring Christian Academy strives to provide each student with a Principle Approach education that points each child to Christ. At Dayspring, we see each child as a unique individual, created by a loving Creator, and valued as such. It is because of this that Dayspring has created the P139 program, named for Psalm 139:14, and designed to teach students at all levels who require alternative or differentiated methods of instruction, so they may work to their potential.

The P139 program serves students in various levels including:

Daybreak: Students with mild to moderate learning needs receive support at four levels.

Illumine: Students who have formally tested as academically gifted on a formal evaluation participate in the Illumine program.

Bright Horizons: Students who receive services in this program have profound learning and functional needs.

Our highly qualified P139 staff works with teachers and parents to develop the best, most effective learning support plan, which has produced remarkable results for students.

Honors High School

Dayspring's Honors High School is an important element in its mission to prepare students to develop as *citizens of excellence in Christian character and scholarship*. Classes in the program are specially designed to meet the needs of academically gifted and high-performing students. Honors High School courses differ from traditional courses in that they foster a greater degree of independent scholarship grounded in inquiry, a crucial skill associated with scientific discovery, creative design, and life-long learning.

Students must apply for admission to Honors High School.



Taking the Field

"...Tell to the coming generation the glorious deeds of the LORD, and his might, and the wonders that he has done." Psalm 78.4

In His Word, God reveals the importance of passing down His story from generation to generation. At Dayspring Christian Academy, seeds of truth are sown into hearts through lessons taught in classrooms and through seeds sown in field studies that take our students from Plymouth Rock to the rocky shores of the Sea of Galilee. It is one thing to read about our Founders in a textbook. It is another matter, for example, to walk the same hallway that Founding Father John Adams strode each morning at 4 a.m. as he went from his bedroom to his study to read Scripture.

A Principle Approach education relies on original source material. That's why, in total, Dayspring students participate in more than 40 field studies each year, learning first-hand as close to the source as possible.

Dayspring's rich field studies are an integral part of a Principle Approach education and include:

- Five-day field student to Plymouth, MA (history)
- Sea Grant Consortium in Sandy Hook, NJ (science)
- Adventure Aquarium in Camden, NJ (science)
- Two-day study to Gettysburg, PA (history)
- One-day study to University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology (history)
- Four-day study to the Creation Museum in Petersburg, KY. This trip includes a day at the Carnegie Museum in Pittsburgh, PA (science)
- Five-day field study to New England, including Boston, Lexington, and Plymouth, MA (history)
- Thirteen-day field study to Israel (bible, history)





Athletics

"But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified." 1 Corinthians 9.27

Both Godly and bodily exercise, in their proper balance, are needed in order for one to be an obedient disciple of Christ with spirit, soul, and body in good working order. It is precisely this understanding: that bodily exercise is a servant to the godliness formed by Christ in the life of the individual that sets our philosophy apart from the world. This is understanding athletics from a Principle Approach perspective . . . when we begin with God there is context and foundation for every area of life.

If a sport is not offered at Dayspring, through cooperative sponsorships, athletes may be able to participate in sports programs at other local schools.



Varsity

Boys Soccer
Girls Volleyball
Golf
Cross Country
Boys Basketball
Girls Basketball
Girls Lacrosse
Track & Field

Middle School

Boys Soccer
Girls Volleyball
Boys Basketball
Girls Basketball
Track & Field



The Arts

The Lord has created each child with unique abilities and talents. Dayspring Christian Academy provides the setting for those gifts to be discovered, fostered, and refined in the classroom, in athletics, and in fine arts. Students learn to play the recorder in third grade, the violin in fourth, ukulele in fifth. Joyful Noise Choir for students in Grades 3-5 enables elementary students to develop their voices and glorify God with the gifts He has given.

Many Upper School students participate in choir during middle school and high school years. While the High School and Performance choirs offer credit for participation, students in all choirs enjoy being a part of special events ranging from Christmas and spring concerts to the Remember America Speaker Series.

Art and music are an important part of the Principle Approach curriculum. Students survey the Bible and God's mandates for the careful and artful work of craft and develop artistic skills in art, music, and drama. Students perform in the school's annual musical presentations and also showcase their skills and compete in the Association of Christian Schools International Fine Arts Festival, where they often take home top awards.







BOLD. DISTINCTIVE. BIBLICAL.



120 College Ave
Mountville, PA 17554

717.285.2000

www.DayspringChristian.com