







**“We can only be said to be alive in those moments  
when our hearts are conscious of our treasure.”**

**–Thornton Wilder**



**St. Paul Christian Academy integrates academic excellence with a passion for Christ to develop a strong foundation for young leaders who uniquely shape the world in which they live.**

**St. Paul Christian Academy, located in the center of Green Hills,** is a non-denominational school serving students from junior kindergarten through sixth grade. St. Paul provides families with the highest academic standards in Nashville within a Christ-centered environment. Since the elementary years are the most critical time in a child's intellectual and spiritual formation, we walk alongside families to lay the foundation for each child's journey—invigorating intellectual curiosity and preparing each boy and girl to be a leader and a light in their communities.







## Our Pillars

### Academic Excellence

St. Paul students and faculty pursue academic excellence in a loving and challenging environment where children learn to work hard while at the same time maintaining the wonder of childhood. We hold high expectations for our students, and believe it our charge to help each one reach their highest potential.

### Passion for Christ

We believe children are the image bearers of God Himself. We desire our students to come to know and to love God, to understand His Word and to develop the wisdom, courage, and strength to walk in His ways. We seek to be an authentic Christian community, characterized by a passion for Christ. This passion is reflected in the curriculum and culture of our school through daily devotions, weekly chapel led by students, interactions between teachers and students, Bible classes, and a variety of ministries to the community.

### Leadership Development

We believe that God is calling all of our students to become Christian leaders in their homes, at their schools, in their future careers, and throughout their lives. We give our students opportunities to help them understand Christian leadership, and we give them opportunities to lead.







**How does St. Paul educate the whole child? We provide ample opportunity for a child to flourish in multiple disciplines,** all the while, enhancing the mind, exercising the body, and enriching the spirit.

Our robust co-curricular program including fine arts, foreign languages, physical education, and library, gives children an opportunity to expand their horizons through experiences. The faculty has designed classes that are purposeful, using their understanding of developmental stages, to integrate new skills and life lessons as each child grows.

The strong partnership between homeroom and co-curricular teachers further reinforces our belief that a child's education extends beyond the foundational pieces of reading, writing, and arithmetic. From the playing field to the studio, co-curricular classes enrich the St. Paul experience and foster creativity, independence, and a spirit of discovery.



**At St. Paul we strive to shape young men and women** who will uniquely shape the world in which they live. That purpose directs everything we do from curriculum planning to weekly chapel to the naming of our buildings and rooms.

There is a long tradition among schools and colleges of naming places after an institution's benefactors. We, too, have buildings and rooms named for families that have been especially generous. But most of the places on our campus are named for a different kind of benefactor. Our buildings and rooms are name for those who have brought a Christian worldview to bear on our culture, broadening and deepening the reach of God's kingdom in this world where we live. As our children walk through these buildings and rooms, they are reminded that the God of Scripture is still on the move, working through people who are passionate for Christ, committed to excellence in every field of endeavor, and prepared to lead.

- ① McGuffey Hall  
Admissions & Lower School
- ② Dining Hall
- ③ Schaeffer Hall • Library & Arts
- ④ Rochford Center • Gymnasium
- ⑤ Marshall Hall • Jr. Kindergarten
- ⑥ Kuyper Hall  
Administration & Upper School
- ⑦ Massey Athletic Complex
- ⑧ Liddell Track
- ⑨ Sage Dining Gardens
- ✱ Playgrounds









**Mathematics** Beyond simple calculations, our teachers encourage students to have a deeper understanding of mathematics and how it intersects with their lives. Our curriculum is rich in real-world problem solving opportunities and stretches critical-thinking skills. Students are encouraged to explore different ways of solving problems while using routines and algorithms that provide continued practice to build and solidify skills from year to year.

**Science** With their natural curiosity about how the world works, children are born scientists. Nurturing curiosity through hands-on activities, our teachers cultivate the skills of discovery and direct students to greater understanding. As students grow, they are given new opportunities to stretch their skills of observation, research, and inquiry. Students apply both skills and knowledge to solve problems, learning about the engineering process, and discovering what they can design and create.



**Language Arts** With the goal of developing lifelong readers and writers, our students read great books, build critical thinking skills, and learn to communicate their ideas to others. Award-winning literature forms the backbone of our curriculum. Formal study of grammar, mechanics, spelling and vocabulary, beginning in the lower school, develops writing skills that culminate in mastery of the five-paragraph essay in the upper school.

**Social Studies/History** Beginning with basic geography in the earliest grades and culminating with the study of world history in 5th and 6th grade, social studies helps students to grow in their understanding of what it means to be a citizen of the world. The content also provides more opportunities to develop skills in research and critical thinking.





**Bible** From acting out Bible stories in junior kindergarten to discussing what it means to be a follower of Christ in everyday life during 6th grade, the Bible curriculum at St. Paul familiarizes students with the Bible and helps them connect the dots, seeing the themes of God's love, faithfulness, and forgiveness through the Old and New Testaments.

**Physical Education** We believe in the importance of daily physical education class because of the strong correlation between physical activity and peak brain performance. We stress the importance of movement while also placing a heavy emphasis on teamwork, resiliency, sportsmanship, and leadership development. Students are challenged at a developmentally appropriate level to be the best that they can be and to always give their best effort.

**Technology** We are very proud to have been one of the first elementary schools in the nation to provide one-to-one technology access to our students. Resources such as smartboards, Apple TVs, laptops, and iPads are used in a variety of ways to support teaching and learning.

### World Languages & Cultures

Each year students explore a world languages and cultures class that reflects our mission and uniquely prepares our students for the 21st century world, helping students to engage other cultures with understanding and sensitivity. Each year, the students explore what life is like in four different countries and learn portions of the country's primary language. This practice gives them experience with pronouncing various languages and helps them make connections between different languages.







**The Center for Student Success** at St. Paul Christian Academy creates individualized education plans for each student. Child-focused teams collaborate to identify and develop each child's unique strengths as part of a school committed to creating progressive classrooms. Data from assessments, anecdotal evidence of perceived strengths and concerns from all stakeholders will culminate with an individualized Student Success Plan. Research based practices that foster academic and behavioral success will be portrayed in this working document. This document will move with each child through the elementary years, evolving as a child grows and changes to ensure the plan is a clear representation of each child as a learner and as a person. When students are intentionally taught to apply their strengths to the learning process, high levels of engagement and productivity result, culminating in each child achieving personal excellence.



**As we partner with each family** to provide a loving environment in which every child can learn, each classroom in the lower school serves as a stimulating backdrop where students grow through playing, listening, expressing, and questioning. The habits and values formed in the earliest grades are relevant and long lasting, preparing students for a lifetime as active and creative learners.

The first years of formal education in a child's life are the foundation. To build a strong foundation requires deep knowledge of the whole child and the whole family. St. Paul is a relational school, and the partnership formed between parents and teachers is critical to our success. With each child as our focus, we are able to hone in on specific strengths and needs and use the partnership with parents to have a shared purpose between home and school.

The world is changing, and we continue to evaluate how time in early elementary school can lay the groundwork for future success in ways that are developmentally appropriate. We challenge children to grow not only in academic skills, but also in life skills, by purposefully creating opportunities that stretch students in diverse areas such as STEM, leadership, management, public speaking, and working with others.

Academic skill and relational connections built in the nurturing environment of the lower school help students to develop the foundation they will need to tackle the challenges that lie ahead with confidence.





**The St. Paul upper school** experience is thought-fully designed to compliment and extend the foundation laid in our lower school. Our program is characterized by new challenges and opportunities, but, most importantly, it is rooted in loving relationships that inspire our students to see themselves as image bearers of Christ.

In the upper school, our academic curriculum remains anchored in the four core disciplines of mathematics, language arts, science, and history, but our students experience these subjects by rotating through discipline-specific faculty rather than a self-contained classroom with a single teacher. Each upper school homeroom teacher also serves as a subject-matter expert in a core discipline.

This structure allows us to focus more intently on each subject in order to meet the challenge of preparing our students for entrance and success into the most rigorous and selective preparatory schools in Nashville.





**We are passionate about elementary education.** One of the main differences between St. Paul and other independent schools that continue through high school is that our focus is 100% on educating young children

The academic, social, and emotional development of the childhood and preteen years creates a foundation for the future. The safe and nurturing environment we cultivate is the perfect place for students to try new things and discover their gifts and passions. Students have opportunities to lead and serve, developing skills and putting the values they are taught into action.

With preschool through sixth grade on one campus, the childhood years are cherished. Though older students have more opportunities and responsibilities, they are still seen as children and are not pressured to grow up too fast.

As students progress toward middle school, their strengths, interests, and learning styles become more defined. This knowledge helps parents choose the right fit for their child from among Nashville's excellent secondary school options.







**Child Focus Conferences** During the first week of school, parents sit across from their child's teacher in the classroom and share their insights about their child. The insights parents communicate about their child's personality, preferences, strengths, and challenges help teachers serve their students well from the first weeks of school. Having the opportunity to share and pray together as the year begins lays the groundwork for a true partnership between parents and teacher.



**Choice Morning** Each year, St. Paul invites next-level schools from around Nashville to campus, giving 6th grade parents and students an opportunity to ask questions and begin the process of narrowing down their lists of schools to consider for seventh grade. Beyond that, it is a moment of preparation on familiar turf for the admissions process. Our students gain confidence through the Choice Morning experience that they carry with them as they visit, apply, and interview at Nashville's leading preparatory schools.



**Art** We strive to create an environment where students learn to appreciate art and to creatively express themselves through art making. Projects and classroom activities provide students the opportunity to explore basic art vocabulary, concepts, and skills.

**Music** Our music faculty aim to inspire students to be lifelong lovers of music, whether as appreciative listeners, skillful participants, or inspired creators. Students experience music through singing, playing instruments, moving, listening to music, and music reading. They learn songs with scripture, study composers, and explore numerous genres of music, using a variety of methodologies and techniques.

**Theater** From performing an original play in 3rd grade to participating in St. Paul Players in 5th and 6th grade, St. Paul students have the opportunity to gain confidence, hone their acting skills, and gain invaluable experience in the performing arts. In the fall, St. Paul Players present An Evening with the Arts, and in January they begin preparing for the annual spring musical production.

**Athletics** St. Paul students have the opportunity to participate in Football, Cross Country, Golf, Spirit Team, Basketball, and Track & Field. About 70% of eligible 4th through 6th graders participate in St. Paul athletics. We believe that every student who wishes to participate in a particular sport should be given an opportunity.

Athletics teaches lessons and values that transcend the playing fields and courts, allowing students to experience the three pillars of St. Paul as they strive for excellence, learn to lead, and play in a way that demonstrates their passion for Christ. We believe competition is healthy, and our coaches stress the importance of resilience, effort, attitude, teamwork, and sportsmanship in an effort to glorify God.





**Chapel** Each week the entire school community gathers to worship and enjoy a class-led chapel. Each student plays a role in writing, preparing, memorizing, and performing the chapel assigned to their homeroom. As students gain confidence in speaking to a crowd and work together to share their chapel message, they are hiding the truth of God's Word in their hearts.

### Servant Leadership Opportunities

Students at St. Paul are given opportunities to serve as a vital part of living out our passion for Christ and servant leadership pillars. Students experience how being the hands and feet of Christ to others transforms their hearts. It is only through following Christ's example and being empowered by God's Holy Spirit that our students will truly learn to lead as Christ led—as one who serves those around him. These experiences culminate in a formal sixth grade leadership program, giving students greater responsibilities that prepare them to lead in middle school and beyond.



“St. Paul teachers claim their students as their own and not for just one year, but for every year the student is at St. Paul and beyond. Once you have had a child in class, paused during in-service with the faculty to lift that child’s name in prayer and taught and prayed for them all year, they have a special place in your heart and will forever stay there.”

—Amy Nickels, Lower School Division Head

St. Paul Christian Academy is the school it is because of the experienced and loving individuals who teach here. Teachers bring their own gifts and talents to our school, but they all desire to see each child grow in Christ. This means knowing the child, speaking their language, and as in parenting, trying again and again to reach the child on their level. With an average of 16 years of experience, we are blessed to have a mix of youthful innovation and wisdom among our educators. Seeing them collaborate for the benefit of the students is a gift.

St. Paul teachers invest with such heart that every child they have in their classroom becomes theirs. Teachers continue to support students and families long after they move on to the next grade. St. Paul faculty is family, and this connection is felt among the students. At in-service each August, the faculty and staff gather to pray for each student by name. This spirit of prayer and seeking God’s guidance continues throughout the school year.

St. Paul parents have confidence that the teachers who are with their children all day take seriously the responsibility they have to academically prepare the students and to make God known through their actions as they seize opportunities for growth and to offer love and grace.







**Beyond the Classroom** Many of our families utilize Beyond the Classroom (BTC) care, which provides students of St. Paul Christian Academy with a loving and safe environment outside of school hours in a setting that is comfortable and familiar. BTC care is available after school until 6 p.m. and on selected half days and full days when school is not in session.

The sky is the limit to what St. Paul students can create, imagine, or dream, during the school day or after school. Beyond the Classroom also coordinates exciting enrichment opportunities for students after school. Recent offerings have included cooking classes, engineering, Legos, dance, music lessons, science club and Taekwondo club. Chess club has been a popular offering for students from 1st through 6th grade for many years. St. Paul has active Cub Scout and Boys Scout troops led by parent volunteers that meet after school, as well as Daisies, Brownies, and Junior Girls Scouts.

Parents have a long tradition of organizing teams for basketball and other sports for students too young to play for the St. Paul teams. Many grades have Bible studies for boys and girls, organized by parents or teachers, that meet before or after school on a regular basis.



**For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.**

–Matthew 6:21



St. Paul  
Christian  

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