

The Stonehaven School

Teacher Certification Program

Overview:

The purpose of our Teacher Certification plan is to ensure that teachers at The Stonehaven School are systematically well trained in classical Christian educational philosophy and methodology. Parts of this training are distinctly classical or distinctly Christian. This training includes teaching and training in the philosophy of Christian education (without reference to classical training) and biblical mandate which behind lies as a foundation beneath all Christian education. There will also be training of topics and from sources that are classical, but not Christian in order to give faculty members a deeper understanding of the history, philosophy, methodology, and aims of classical education. This reading training will be done critically – always looking to understand what we must correct in pagan sources as we bring their wisdom to bear in a distinctly Christian environment, while recognizing and affirming that because of God's grace even those who do not know Him often are given great insight and wisdom.

This training has three levels—Provisional, Permanent, and Master's levels. Permanent Certification is to be achieved by all teachers completing their third year at Stonehaven. For Permanent Certification, each teacher must complete all of the content listed under Permanent Certification below. Provisional Certification will be conferred on a teacher completing the first year of the three year cycle of material involved in Permanent Certification. They will maintain the status of Provisional Certification until they complete the three year cycle and, thereby, achieve Permanent Certification.

All full-time teachers at Stonehaven must complete Provisional and Permanent levels of certification which will be a part of our faculty meeting training (monthly independent professional development sessions) and as scheduled throughout the year. We will, as a school, interact with this material in faculty meetings and during the summer retreat for teachers in July. During the first trip through this cycle teachers will have to complete the written work required (whether it be questions to answer, or brief reaction papers) in order to receive their Provisional and eventually their Permanent certifications. On subsequent rotations, the teachers will review and revise their work, but will not be expected to redo their work. (Normally, it will take three years to reach the level of Permanent Certification, but the Head of School does have the right to have accelerated classes led by an approved administrator so that teachers can work more quickly toward Permanent Certification.)

As a teacher works through the material for the Provisional and eventually the Permanent certifications, she will be paired with a mentor teacher from the faculty of Stonehaven who has completed the three year Permanent certification. The mentor teacher and the teacher working on her Permanent certification will have opportunities to meet throughout the year to provide support and direction to the teacher working on her Permanent certification for the first time.

Masters Certification, the more advanced level of certification, is encouraged, but not required of teachers. There are two ways to achieve Masters Level Certification. Teachers can either work through an approved reading list and activities that will deepen and expand their understanding of classical and Christian educational history, philosophy, and methodology. Teachers will complete their reading under the guidance and oversight of a school administrator.

Teachers can also achieve Masters Level Certification by completing an approved project or an approved Thesis paper that will focus on a particular subject or area of our school's life. These projects or papers must have substantial value for Stonehaven's growth and depth and should be beneficial to our school—and to the broader community of classical and Christian schools and homeschoolers.

Once a teacher achieves the Masters Level Certification he or she will be rewarded with an additional salary increase during the next academic year in recognition of their work and deeper levels of usefulness in our community.

These levels of certification must be completed sequentially.

Level 1: Provisional Certification

Provisional Certification is achieved when a teacher completes the material from the first year of their work toward Permanent Certification. Teachers will begin working toward Provisional Certification and Permanent Certification whenever they arrive, so they might complete year 1, 2, or 3, during their first year at Stonehaven. Completing the material from any one of the year's listed below will suffice to achieve Provisional Certification.

Level 2: Permanent Certification

All faculty members are expected to reach this level of certification by the end of their third year. The assignments listed for each quarter are to be completed by each teacher by the end of the quarter. A faculty meeting will be held during the end of each quarter to discuss the assignment. Any papers or assignments resulting from the reading are

due two weeks after the faculty meeting unless otherwise noted. All faculty members will review these works on a repeating three year cycle. Teachers must continue to read these works every three years. During the first reading of each of these books the teacher will write a two page reaction paper explaining what he learned from his initial reading of this book. During each subsequent reading, each teacher will revise his paper adding any subsequent insights that he has received from this reading.

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
Quarter 1	Biblical References supporting Christian Education	<i>Seven Laws of Teaching</i> Gregory	Pedagogical Selections (Hair on Fire; Teach Like a Champion)
Quarter 2	<i>Recovering the Lost Tools of Learning</i> and Sayer's <i>Lost Tools of Learning</i> Essay	<i>Classical Education</i> Veith and Kern <i>On Secular Education</i> R. L. Dabney	<i>Repairing the Ruins</i> (selected chapters)
Quarter 3	<i>Shepherding a Child's Heart</i> Tripp	<i>Westminster Confession</i> (selections)	<i>Standing on the Promises</i> Wilson
Quarter 4	Talks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "What is classical Christian Education?" - Wilson • "Augustine's Theology of Wonder" - Grant • "The Heart of Covenant Discipline" - Whitling 	Talks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "What is a Christian Worldview?" - Wilson • "Dumb and Dumber" - Grant • "The Trivium Defined and Applied" - Garfield 	Talks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Does Classical Mean Reformed?" - Wilson • "The Paideia of God" - Wilson

Masters Certifications

Master's Level Certification: The Reading Option

The purpose of Master's Level Certification is to demonstrate mastery of classical Christian education interacting with substantial material on classical Christian education or by producing material or writing that will benefit the academic or cultural life of Stonehaven—and, normally, by extension the educational community of classical and Christian education.

Masters Certification: The Reading Option involves a substantial reading list in classical and Christian educational philosophy, and methodology, as well as reading for historical study in the history of education. To complete this level a teacher must complete the reading and submit a thesis paper as outlined below.

Reading list: Complete the first book in each list and a total of 2 books in each category:

Philosophy of Christian Education	Philosophy of Classical Education	Historical Study of Education	Other
<i>Creation Regained</i> Walters	<i>The Marriage of Philology and Mercury</i> Martanius Capella	<i>Underground History of American Education</i> Gotto	The following selections from Wilson's Family Series: <i>Reforming Marriage, Standing on the Promises, Her Hand in Marriage and Future Men</i>
<i>Paideia</i> Jaeger	<i>The Well Trained Mind</i> Susan Wise Bauer	<i>Albion Seed</i> (selections) David Hackett Fischer	<i>Abolition of Man</i> C.S. Lewis
<i>On Christian Doctrine</i> St. Augustine	<i>Norms and Nobility</i> David Hicks	<i>Education in Ancient Rome</i> (selections)	<i>Introductory and Intermediate Logic</i> Nance and Wilson
<i>Institutes of Divine and Secular Learning</i> Cassiodorus	<i>Wisdom and Eloquence</i> Littlejohn and Evans		

Paper or Completion:

After completing the reading, a teacher is to write a short thesis paper (20 to 30 pages) on the following question: "How has this reading informed and changed my thinking and teaching as a classical Christian educator?"

Process:

A teacher should follow the following steps when they want to pursue Masters Certification

(the Reading Option):

1. Inform the Head of School that they wish to pursue Masters Certification.
2. The Head of School will either oversee the teacher's progress or assign the teacher to another overseer who will be an administrator or a teacher with Masters Level Certification.

3. The overseer will periodically schedule short meetings with the teacher pursuing Masters Certification to encourage the teacher and get an update on the progress of their reading.
4. When the teacher completes the paper, they are to hand it in to their overseer.
5. The overseer and the Head of School will read the paper and give editorial commentary to the teacher seeking Masters Certification. (If the paper is not acceptable, the teacher will be informed that the paper should be radically changed or perhaps set aside completely.) The overseer might require additional reading, as needed, to complete or alter the paper.
6. There will normally be at least one round of editorial commentary and improvement by the teacher, but there might need to be multiple rounds of editorial work before the paper is acceptable.
7. When the paper is complete, the teacher will be informed by the Head of School that he has completed the work for Masters Certification.
8. The teacher's accomplishment will be recognized at the end of the year in which their work is completed and the teacher will receive a salary increase during the next academic year.

Masters Level Certification: The Project or Thesis Option

Masters Level Certification: The Project or Thesis Option is another way for a teacher to achieve Masters Level Certification. This option allows teachers achieve this level of certification by completing an approved project or writing a thesis on an approved topic that will demonstrate the teacher's mastery of classical and Christian educational content, philosophy, and methodology; and which will benefit the life of Stonehaven and, normally, the broader community of classical Christian schools and homeschoolers.

Examples of these project and paper would be:

- Creating or substantially improving Writing Curriculum for our school.
- Writing a thesis on the applicability of the services of the Medieval monastic communities to the life of our school.
- Creation of a math program that could be used by interested advanced students to further increase their skills and abilities.
- Writing a thesis on the educational factors that caused an explosion of literary and artistic talent in 14th through 16th century Florence and their implications for our day.

Process:

A teacher should follow the following steps when they want to pursue Masters Certification:

The Project or Thesis Option:

1. When a teacher wants to begin pursuing Masters Level Certification, he should submit a two to three page proposal for the project or thesis that he wishes to pursue to the Head of School. This proposal should include the following:
 - a. The topic or question that the teacher wishes to explore
 - b. A preliminary reading list for studying the topic.
 - c. How the completion of this project or thesis will improve the life, culture, or thinking of The Stonehaven School.
 - d. How the completion of this project or thesis will improve or bless the broader educational community of classical and Christian schools and/or homeschoolers.
2. The Head of School will review the proposal. He will then approve the proposal, require the proposal be revised, or reject the proposal.
3. The Head of School will oversee the work of a teacher who is pursuing Master's Level Certification.
4. The Head of School will convene a committee to assist him in the oversight of a teacher's work, as necessary. This committee will be made up of administrators at Stonehaven, Master's Level Teachers at The Stonehaven School, experts in the field of study that the teacher is pursuing, or administrators or teachers from the broader classical Christian educational community.
5. The Head of School will periodically schedule short meetings with the teacher pursuing Master's Level Certification to encourage the teacher and get an update on the progress of their reading. These meetings might include members of the committee overseeing the teacher's project or thesis.
6. When the teacher completes a draft of their project or paper, they are to submit it to the Head of School. (This is an academic thesis. Its length should be substantial—normal 200 to the 300 pages.)
7. The Head of School will forward the draft of the project or paper to the committee. The committee will give editorial commentary to the teacher. (If the project or paper is not acceptable, the teacher will be informed that the project or paper should be radically changed or perhaps set aside completely.) The

committee might require additional reading, as needed, to complete or alter the project or paper.

8. There will normally be at least one round of editorial commentary and improvement, but there might need to be multiple rounds of editorial work before the paper is acceptable.
9. When the project or paper is judged to be complete, the teacher will be informed by the Headmaster that he has completed the work for Master's Level Certification.
10. The teacher's accomplishment will be recognized at the end of the year in which their work is completed and the teacher will receive a salary increase during the next academic year.