

Shared Instruction and 5-Day Model Under One Roof (?!)

Presenter:

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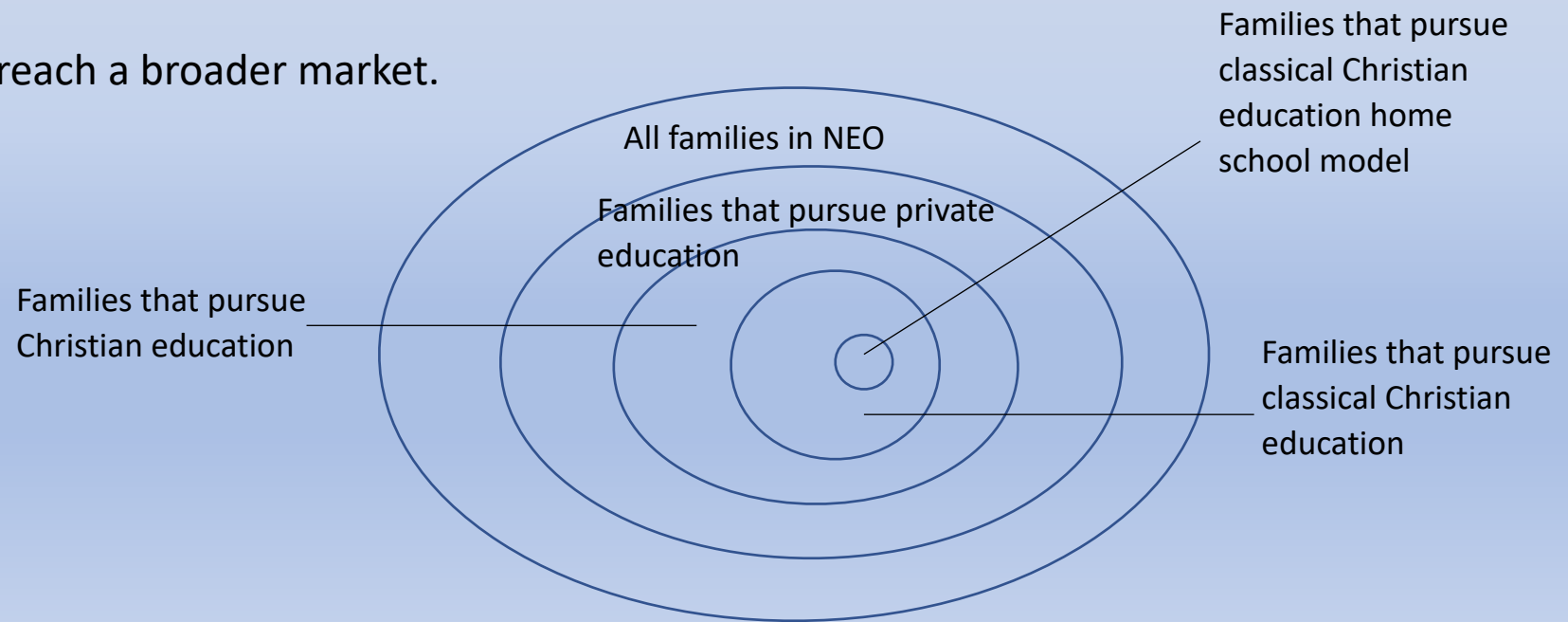
Heritage Classical Academy | Cleveland, Ohio

Aims:

- Share some of the HCA story of how & why we operate both models in the same location
- Answer the following questions:
 - Why should your school offer a shared instruction model?
 - What financial questions should your school ask as you consider the model?
 - What does the admissions process look like as you operate 2 models in the same location?
 - What are some considerations for operating (day to day) both a 5-day model and a shared instruction model in the same building?
 - What mistakes should you avoid as your school roles out a shared instruction model?
 - What challenges does HCA continue to face in operating both models?

Aim:

- Share some of the HCA story of how & why we operate both models in the same location
 - We call it the Study Center
 - HCA started in reverse of most of your schools. . .
 - Yet, goals and rationale for adding the model are probably similar:
 1. We want HCA to be a thriving Classical Christian school for our grandchildren and great grandchildren.
 2. We want to reach a broader market.



Aim:

- Why should your school offer a shared instruction model?
 1. Stewards of existing space
 - Empty rooms?
 - PT PreK rooms?
 2. Make CCE more affordable for families
 - No matter how good your FA program, there will be some families that are scared off by the sticker price of the Academy program
 3. New Market of families for your school
 - Some families want to homeschool but also:
 - Want more socialization for their children
 - Don't want to figure out the curriculum
 - Want to know that their kids are on par with their peers
 - Want help!
 4. Another “feeder” for your Upper School

Aim:

- What financial questions should your school ask as you consider offering both an Academy program and a Study Center program?
 1. How large of a distinction do we want to have between the Study Center and the Academy programs?
 - For HCA, this starts with number of days offered for each.
 2. How will you get the most out of your physical space?
 - If you only offer 2 days per week, what will you do with the classrooms on the other 3 days?
 3. Will the Financial Aid program operate the same way for both Academy and SC?

Aim:

- What does the admissions process look like as you operate 2 models in the same location?
 1. Sell the differences between the 2 programs!
 - Curricular differences
 - Co-curricular differences
 - Operational (days per week, start/end time) differences
 2. Sell the pros and cons of the differences between the Study Center and Homeschooling.
 - 2 edged sword for families who have been homeschooling:
 - You don't have to pick the curriculum / You don't get to pick the curriculum
 - You don't have to drive the timing / You don't get to drive the timing
 - You have accountability from teachers / You have accountability from teachers
 3. Admissions procedures are the same. They are full HCA families
 4. Sell and explain the differences on your website: <https://heritageclassicalacademy.org/>

Aim:

- What are some considerations for operating (day to day) both a 5-day model and a shared instruction model in the same building?
 1. How will you ensure that the Study Center students gain the complete benefits of a classical Christian school environment and culture?
 - Include them in all school virtue formation, pageantry, special events as much as possible – morning convocation, chapel, choirs, etc. THIS CAN BE RESTRICTIVE TO THE CALENDAR. Many special days for HCA end up on M/W because those are our Study Center days.
 2. How will you include Study Center students in friendships with academy students and with the flow of the day?
 - Consider combined lunches
 - Consider common arrival times
 - Consider scheduling of popular after school clubs on SC days
 3. It is imperative to keep the curriculum as uniform as possible between the two programs.

Aim:

- What mistakes should you avoid as your school roles out a shared instruction model?
1. Do not give yourself less than a year to message to your current families. They need time to accept the change and to see that this is not mission drift. Adding the second program allows you to deliver your mission to MORE families.
 2. Do not try to have a Study Center class and an Academy class operate in the same room. Study Center students have class together with their teacher, and Academy students have class together with their teacher.
 - This can create headaches for teachers.
 - This does not apply for co-curriculars and specials that do not meet daily.
 3. Do not make the Study Center and Academy options so similar that you incentivize choosing the “cheaper” option.

Aim:

- What challenges does HCA continue to face in operating both models?
 1. We cannibalized our own student body when we first started the Academy. We continue to have families change their mind in mid-summer—changing from Study Center to Academy or vice versa.
 2. Convincing the previously existing program that we do not value them lesser.
 3. Class size discrepancies between the 2 programs.
 4. Reminding ourselves and families that running them differently is OK! The reality is that these 2 offerings are distinct and quite different, and it is alright to treat them that way in terms of price, course offerings, schedule, calendar, volunteer requirements, etc.

Questions?

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