



THE AMBROSE SCHOOL

OPPORTUNITY PROFILE:
HEAD OF SCHOOL



At Ambrose, we seek to work in harmony with the family, helping prepare young people to think with depth, believe with courage, and serve with compassion.

Founded in 1995, The Ambrose School serves the growing community of Boise, Idaho. Since our founding, we have been dedicated to the recovery of the classical Christian form of education that once perpetuated Christian culture. In our first year we had only three students in a single room. We grew through several rented church facilities over the next decade. Today, The Ambrose School serves over 525 5-day students and around 100 shared instruction students. The school resides in a nearly complete 83,000 square foot building that features state of the art classrooms, science labs, orchestra rooms, two gymnasiums, and an inspiring library. Our facility is purpose built and has been recognized for its beauty and warmth. The Ambrose School has grown to become one of the most developed and leading classical Christian schools in the country. We lead with innovations in letters, Latin, common-placing, Socratic teaching, and student House programs. Our academic program includes over 100 great books, and we give teachers the freedom to inspire students as they cover about 50 great ideas.

MISSION STATEMENT

To mature students in Christ as we integrate faith and reason through classical Christian education.

OUR COMMUNITY

We are a close-knit community of like-minded Christian families representing over 80 local churches. We offer fellowship and service opportunities to bring families together in the love of Christ. Our families are highly involved and help drive many of our events, service opportunities, and classroom functions. We have a prized team of faculty members dedicated to the classical Christian tradition who have been drawn here from around the country by our reputation in the cCe community of schools. Our administration works to support and lead teachers and families in their work of training up a child in the way he should go.



Our academic program begins with one goal: to unite all knowledge, understanding, and wisdom under Christ. This unity of knowledge combines with a school culture intentionally designed to cultivate virtue and rightly ordered affections among students. These affections include aesthetics, the intellectual virtues, and great literature. We realize that to truly accomplish this vision, we must retool nearly every aspect of conventional education. We frame our programs in a way that truth, goodness, and beauty speak where our educational philosophy may not be understood.

The Ambrose School's "Humane Letters" curriculum for grades 7-12 is published by Classical Academic Press and supports a teacher-oriented model of integrated history, literature, philosophy, theology, and art based in primary sources. As part of this curriculum, students begin a "great books" oriented program beginning in the 5th grade.

We intend to give further attention to the Quadrivium and to our music programs. Our music program has been a strength of the school since our annual televised Christmas concert's popularity grew between 2005 and today.

The Ambrose School embraces the Christian tradition of classical education inspired by the medieval trivium.

SCHOOL OF GRAMMAR (GRADES K - 6)

During the grammar phase of learning, students are especially adept at memorizing large amounts of information and we challenge them with facts that span all subjects from Bible to history to science. Songs, chants and rhymes are especially useful for memorizing and help students enjoy the experience. These years build a solid framework of knowledge that will serve them for life. Because we are dedicated to a classical education, the grammar curriculum is integrated across all subject areas.

In addition, each grade provides an educational experience that transports the child into specific historical experiences. Students live the life of an Egyptian, a pioneer, a knight or lady, and a Greek Olympian. In 5th grade, students perform an abbreviated Shakespeare play.

Every grade in the grammar school has a grade level theme. Like a treasure hunt, students look for these ideas in Scripture, in history, in stories, and in how they interact with each other.

GRADE THEMES

Kindergarten: Obedience
1st Grade: God's Perfect Plan
2nd Grade: The Fruit of the Spirit
3rd Grade: The Seven Virtues

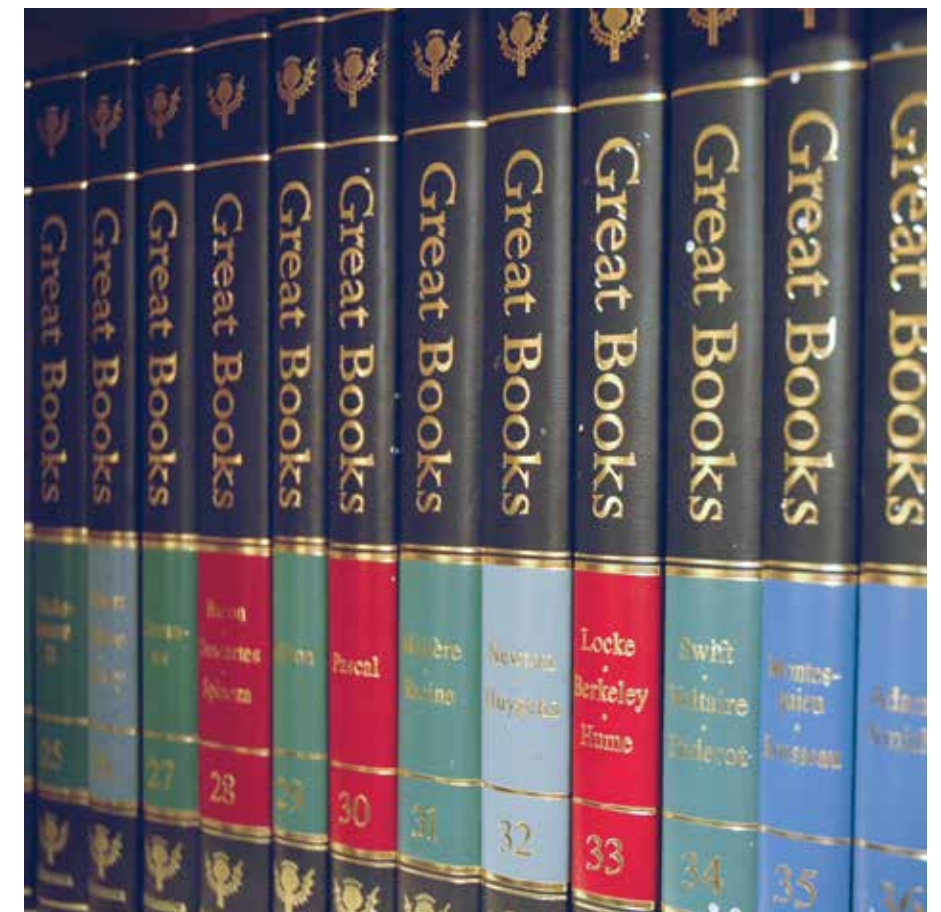
4th Grade: The Four Loves
5th Grade: The Great Ideas
6th Grade: The Good Life

SCHOOL OF LOGIC (GRADES 7 - 8)

7th and 8th grade students begin to learn through Socratic teaching which guides them through the use of logic toward thoughtful and defensible conclusions. By studying formal logic, students learn how to discern fallacies and construct valid arguments. This skill is practiced throughout all subject areas in the School of Logic and beyond. In 7th grade, students are inducted into our House program which continues through high school. This program provides mentorship and camaraderie between older and younger students, a smaller, more intimate community for every student, and service to the wider Boise community.

SCHOOL OF RHETORIC (GRADES 9 - 12)

In high school, students are focused on learning, integrating, and communicating truth. Rhetoric training allows students to refine the ability to recognize ideas, form an argument, and communicate eloquently and convincingly. These skills culminate in the defense of a 20-page senior thesis. Through our concurrent credit program, high school students have the opportunity to earn up to 33 college credits. At the beginning of senior year, our students take a 12-day trip through the historical sites in Europe and see their studies come to life. Because we believe in the importance of this trip, we contribute a portion of the cost and give students many fundraising opportunities to earn their





Our entire program is designed around our mission and the six goals listed below. With these attributes in mind, we have constructed a unique and successful academic program beginning in Kindergarten. By considering these goals every time we make improvements, we continue to develop students who will impact the world for Christ.

Successful graduates will possess:

1. Virtue and mature character

This includes heart-obedience rather than mere rule-following, good manners, honorable relationships, self-control, and Christian leadership. We help students rightly order their affections (the classical Christian definition of virtue) through the study of the great literature of the West and the Bible. Above all else, we teach students to live in accordance with Coram Deo– as though they were in the presence of God at all times.

2. Sound reason and sound faith

We expect students to realize a unified Christian worldview with Scripture as the measure of all Truth. We expect them to exhibit the wisdom to recognize complex issues and to follow the consequences of ideas.

3. A masterful command of language

Because language enables us to know things that we have not directly experienced, nothing is more important within Christian education. Without a strong command of language, even Scripture is silent. As people of “the Word,” Christians should be masters of language. We expect our students to master uncommon vocabulary, grammar, usage, and translation through our study of Latin, English, and Greek.

4. Well-rounded competence

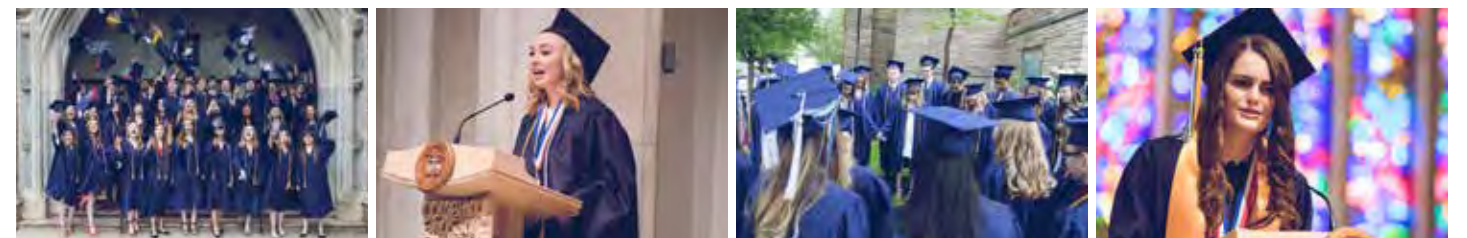
Educated people are not specialists who know little outside of their field of specialty. Educated people have competence in a variety of areas including fine art, drama, music, physical activity, math, logic, science and arithmetic. Throughout our program, skills are introduced that are essential for an educated person. We expect our graduates to be well-rounded.

5. Literacy with broad exposure to books

Educated people are well-read and able to discuss and relate to central works of literature, science, art, architecture, and music. We expect our graduates to be well-read in the important literature and ideas of Christian theology and the West.

6. An established aesthetic

Further, educated people have good taste, formed as they are exposed to great aesthetic masterpieces, particularly at a young age. We expose our students to the great artists to develop their aesthetic and cultural appreciation.





6100 N. LOCUST GROVE
MERIDIAN, IDAHO 83646
PH: (208) 323-3888
THEAMBROSESCHOOL.ORG

CEEB CODE: 130061

CARL WARMOUTH
*Interim Head of School
Grammar School Dean*
(208) 323-3888
cwarmouth@theambroseschool.org

JOE GERBER
Upper School Dean
(208) 323-3888
jgerber@theambroseschool.org

MELODY TRACY
Bridge Program Dean
(208) 323-3888
mtracy@theambroseschool.org

KARA WEST
College Counselor
(208) 319-7929
kwest@theambroseschool.org

ANGELA JOHNSON
Registrar
(208) 323-3888
ajohnson@theambroseschool.org

The Ambrose School is
accredited through the
Association of Classical
Christian School (ACCS).

School Profile

THE AMBROSE SCHOOL

2019 - 2020

The Ambrose School is a K-12 liberal arts co-educational school that teaches students how to learn through a classical and Christian approach to education. We seek to educate the whole student by fostering virtue and mature character, sound reason and sound faith, a masterful command of language, well-rounded competence, literacy with a broad exposure to books, and an established aesthetic.

CURRICULUM DISTINCTIVE

Great Ideas | Our teachers engage students in Socratic discussions of great works of history, literature, poetry, art, music, and science. Students study over 115 original works including the *Iliad* and the *Odyssey*, *Antigone* and *Oedipus Rex*, the *Bible*, *Divine Comedy*, the *Koran*, *Beowulf*, *Hamlet*, *Paradise Lost*, *Pride and Prejudice*, the *Communist Manifesto*, and *Origin of Species*.

Senior Thesis and Rhetoric | One of the main ends of our students' education is the ability to winsomely persuade others through clear and purposeful writing and speaking. Students take a year of logic instruction and read Aristotle, Cicero, and Quintilian's works on rhetoric. As the culmination of their Ambrose education, students research and write a 20-page thesis on a political, theological or cultural issue, and then defend it before a panel of community members.

House Leadership and Community Service | Students in grades 7-12 are members of one of eight school Houses. Through our House Program students serve in leadership roles, mentor younger students, compete against one another in athletics, and partner with community service organizations. Our student body completes 2500 to 3000 hours of community service yearly.

Senior Trip | Our seniors spend two weeks encountering the art, architecture and history of London, Paris, Florence, and Rome. From the Roman Colosseum to the Louvre to the Churchill War Rooms, our students experience first-hand the history and heritage of Europe.

Well-Rounded Core Classes | Ambrose students gain a strong foundation in the humanities, mathematics, the natural sciences, and world languages; additionally, students take four years of performing or applied arts, including theater, choir, orchestra, art, and broadcast media.

STUDENTS AND SCHOOL

- Top 25 CLT school (Classic Learning Test)
- 182 students in grades 9-12
- 627 total student body
- 97% college matriculation rate in 2019
- School founded in 1995
- Graduated first class in 2006
- 242 alumni from 2006 to present

NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM SINCE 2012

- 9 National Merit Scholars
- 1 Semifinalist
- 9 Commended Scholars
- 2 National Hispanic Scholars

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Strong, mission-minded board
- Committed to classical Christian ethos
- 15 years tenure for more than half of the board
- With an average tenure of 10 years

CLASS OF 2019 ACT SCORE AVERAGES

Total Tested	17
Composite	27.9
English	29.4
Math	25.7
Reading	29.6
Science	26.1

2018 NATIONAL LATIN EXAM

106 out of 170 students examined received honors.

FACULTY

- 22 teaching faculty
- 13 have advanced degrees
- Average class size: 18
- Remarkable stability in grammar school teacher retention, with an average tenure of eight years.
- Strong retention and increasing stability in upper school humanities, with all but two of our faculty having taught for five or more years.
- Average upper school tenure is five years.

CURRICULUM

(Courses in **bold** are required for graduation)

HUMANITIES

Letters III, IV, V, and VI are two-hour daily courses integrating the literature, history, art, and philosophy of a time period. Freshmen study American history and culture, sophomores the ancient Greeks and Romans, juniors the Middle Ages, and seniors the early modern through contemporary periods. Additionally, students take **Comparative Civilizations** and **20th Century Art and Culture**. Students participate in Socratic discussions of original sources. We study these works in their historical and cultural contexts and for their lasting influence on our world.

We have also added a newly developed tutorial program in grades 10 - 12. By adding tutorials to lectures and seminars, students get to experience learning in three different modes. Each mode of instruction benefits students differently: in lecture, teachers share their expertise with students; in seminar, students discuss great books and great ideas; and in tutorials, students receive coaching through personalized instruction and mentorship.

RHETORIC COURSES AND THESIS

Freshmen in **Writer's Rhetoric** focus on persuasion through the written word. Sophomores in **Rhetoric I** practice oral persuasion through public speaking. Juniors in **Summa Theologica** and seniors in **Summa Civitas** research, write, and defend thesis papers. Recent thesis titles include "Gene-Editing Technology and the Imago-Dei," "Interpretation in Question: The Supreme Court and Judicial Activism vs. Judicial Restraint," and "Cruel and Unusual Punishment: The Problem with Three Strikes Laws."

PRECEPTORIALS AND TEACHER APPRENTICESHIPS

Our one-credit preceptorial courses are electives on a wide variety of subjects. Teaching assistantships (TA) give students experience helping in a classroom. Students in a teaching apprenticeship (TAp) help run the classroom and gain teaching experience.

SCIENCE

- **Biology**
- **Chemistry**
- **Conceptual Physics** or **Physics**
- Human Biology

MATH

- **Algebra I**
(typically taken in 8th)
- **Geometry**
- **Algebra II**
- **Trigonometry** or **Pre-calculus**
- Calculus

LANGUAGES

- **Latin IV**
- Latin V
- Greek I
- Greek II
- French I
- French II

ARTS ELECTIVES

- Orchestra
- Choir
- Art
- Drama
- Mock Trial
- Broadcast Media
- Graphic Design
- Teacher Apprentice (TAp)

(Courses in **bold** are required for graduation)

THE AMBROSE FACILITY

The facility is a reflection of our values of Truth, Goodness, and Beauty. It was designed in the Tudor architectural tradition reminiscent of Oxford University and includes:

- 38 classrooms, including two science labs, a rhetoric room, two art rooms, an orchestra room, and a choir room.
- A library (with a full computer lab) as the centerpiece for the main facility.
- Dedicated tutorial rooms where students receive coaching through personalized instruction and mentorship.
- A community gathering room for parents, faculty, and upper school students. It houses a coffee bar, dining tables, sofas, and a fireplace.
- A regulation soccer field, outdoor half basketball court, and two gymnasiums with regulation basketball and volleyball courts.
- Our Great Hall will feature dining, assembly, and performing areas and is currently in progress.



The Opportunity



INTRODUCTION

The Ambrose School seeks a faithful Christian leader committed to furthering the classical Christian tradition and vision of The Ambrose School.

- The Head of School will create enthusiasm for the vision of the school by parents, orchestrate and assess practices which further the vision in the classroom, and provide a public face for the school with donors and the community.
- The Head of School will have a deep comprehension of classical education and will personally practice his own love of learning.
- The Head of School will have strong, visional leadership that enables the school to thrive and grow into existing and new areas of focus.



OPPORTUNITY

- Recruit strong teaching staff from a national pool of leading classical teachers around the country.
- Support teachers through a comprehensive training program in Ambrose-specific practices.
- Cast a compelling story of our vision and our purpose with donors, students, parents, and friends of the school.
- Foster a community within the school that supports the cultivation of virtue and right ordering of affections.
- Inspire a culture of wonder and learning among the student body.
- Experiment with deeper classical practices to refine our existing academic framework.
- Remain engaged in the lives of students through daily contact with them.
- Regularly engage classically minded teachers in missionally inspired conversation.
- Partner with the administrative and teaching staff to build upon the strong fiscal, academic, co-curricular, and community foundations that The Ambrose School enjoys.
- Lead and partner with the loyal Ambrose community as we raise our children to love God and all that He has created.



RESPONSIBILITY

- Complete the development of our teaching methodology in the upper school, including coursework in the quadrivium and a fuller implementation of our tutorial and Socratic teaching models.
- Mature our Bridge Program (shared instructional model) to a K-12 school in its own facility. (Currently to grade 10.)
- Take every opportunity to rethink and transform common educational models into classical Christian models. For example, establish facility use that accomplishes our goals for a graduate. This will include building a meal structure in our new Great Hall that facilitates beauty, order, and joy while training students in manners and good habits.
- Inspire support and involvement among parents, donors, and the community for a broad vision with significant impact locally and nationally.
- Raise funding to finish out the interiors of the Great Hall and retire about \$1 million in financing on the main facility. Also, to sustain our annual fund and successfully fund programs that will make an Ambrose education affordable for missionally-aligned families.
- Distance the school from those who would promote “college preparatory” as a primary focus of the school.
- Oversee the gatekeeping of our admissions to enhance our conservative Christian and classically appreciative internal culture.
- Focus the school's resources on missionally-aligned activities so that tuition may remain as low as practical, while maintaining excellence.
- Improve and expand a model classical Christian school
- Top priorities are to serve the parents, lead the administration and faculty, shape student life, and ensure operational excellence.

QUALIFICATIONS

First and foremost, the Head of School is a humble spiritual leader and should exhibit the qualifications of a church elder as articulated in Titus and Timothy.

- The ability to partner with the parents, lead the administration team, faculty and students, and serve the Board of Directors.
- Administrative experience at a classical Christian school preferred.
- A deep understanding and natural grasp of classical Christian philosophy and principles.
- Oriented to Christian theology and apologetics, and displaying the fruit of a Christian life.
- Strong leadership presence with an ability to speak publicly about classical education.
- Strategic leadership experience.
- Strong budgeting and reporting background.
- Bachelor's degree, with a master's or higher helpful.
- Adept at operational execution. Able to see the details as easily as managing through delegation.
- Experience in fundraising for specific campaigns, including for building growth to support the robust and growing student population or financial aid for families experiencing hardship.
- Problem solving skills and the ability to think wisely on one's feet.
- People-oriented; available to interact, meet with, and support the parents, teachers, and the administration team.

ABOUT THE BOISE AREA

Located in Idaho, Boise ranks as one of the fastest growing and most desirable places to live in the nation as noted by Livability.com (#1 Best Places to Live) and Forbes magazine (#2 Best Place to Raise A Family).

And we don't blame people for moving here! We are in close proximity to many outdoor activities such as skiing, mountain biking, camping, boating, hiking, and more. The city boasts many theater groups, a philharmonic orchestra, ballet, and art exhibits. Idaho's conservative electorate combined with the valley's traditional family culture attracts many who are seeking an ideal place to raise children. In addition, the Boise area is ranked among the top 10 safest cities in the nation.

The greater metro area includes the communities of Boise, Meridian, Eagle, Star, and Nampa with a combined population of just over 700,000. The Ambrose School is desirably located at the nexus of Meridian, Boise, and Eagle. Parents are employed in healthcare, large company headquarters, and several technology companies in the area including Micron, Hewlett Packard, and Albertsons. The school's location was purposely set in the population center of the valley, making it easy to access from a number of neighborhoods with differing socio-economic status.



PROCESS OF CANDIDACY

If you sense that the gifts and experience God has given you are a good match for The Ambrose School, we invite you to begin the inquiry process. We handle all candidate information and conversations confidentially. You may contact Scott Yenor at any stage of the process for more information and to ask questions.

Please provide a cover letter and current resume or a curriculum vitae summary and curriculum vitae (CV) for review. (Email or mail to the address below.)

SEARCH TIMELINE

All candidate information will be reviewed upon receipt and candidate review will continue until a Head of School is selected. Our goal is to make a selection by December 2019, with the selected candidate assuming duties in June 2020.

SUBMIT YOUR INFORMATION TO:

Scott Yenor
Chairman of the Board
6100 N. Locust Grove Rd. | Meridian, Idaho 83646
(208) 323-3888 | chairman@theambroseschool.org



Our Providence Room



6100 N. Locust Grove Rd.
Meridian, Idaho 83646

(208) 323-3888
office@theambroseschool.org

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LEARN MORE ABOUT
OUR SCHOOL