

living

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PRESTONWOOD CHRISTIAN ACADEMY NORTH

PCA NORTH MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS BEGIN THE SCHOOL YEAR ON A TWO-DAY RETREAT FOR TEAM BUILDING AND DISCIPLESHIP



PRESTONWOOD CHRISTIAN ACADEMY NORTH

BY MEREDITH KNIGHT PHOTOGRAPHY BY DONNA LEADFORD

Learning at Prestonwood Christian Academy's north campus is hands-on, interactive, and engaging, as teachers and administrators partner with students, their families, and the church to educate the entire child—mentally, spiritually, physically, emotionally, and socially. As the adage goes: "Tell me and I'll forget. Show me and I'll remember. Involve me and I'll understand." PCA North students are truly involved.

Case in point—a recent school-wide project dubbed "Mini-Golf Day" during which middle school math teacher, Angela Tutt, and kindergarten teacher, Natalie Velez, divided middle school students into nine groups of two or three to plan,

design, and build a mini-golf course employing basic math, geometry, and physics skills.

Choosing a theme from topics they'd learned that year, the students designed their own blueprint and constructed their own course. Parents stepped in to help with construction, measuring, cutting, and building. Then middle school and lower school students played the courses, which required them to answer a review question at each hole, helping them review the things they'd learned throughout the year. Talk about taking learning beyond the walls of the classroom.

It's innovative learning like this that's helped PCA North grow, adding a

new grade each year. 2017-18 will be particularly exciting, as they expand to seventh grade and prepare for eighth grade next year. With this middle school expansion, PCA North is extending their offerings in athletics, fine arts, and their Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) program.

CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT

At PCA North, learning is taught with a Biblical world view where the student's character is of utmost importance. Students are encouraged to demonstrate highest standards of honesty, courtesy, and respect for others. In middle school, students learn to be servant leaders, through

participation in service projects in school, church, and out in the community. Middle school students are taught to lead by example, that their actions speak louder than words, and ultimately that leaders are those who reflect the glory and character of God.

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

The PCA mission statement says it best, "In pursuit of excellence in education, the mission of Prestonwood Christian Academy is to assist Christian parents by helping equip students to embrace Biblical truth, strive for academic excellence, and model Christ-like leadership to influence their homes, churches, and communities for Christ."

The PCA North middle school science department provides students with cutting-edge STEM experiences, in and out of the classroom, to prepare them for the changing world of science, technology, engineering, and math. Specific activities are implemented in each middle school grade level, to integrate liberal arts with real-world applications, with the goal of teaching students to apply their knowledge in a way that glorifies God and benefits others, as well as themselves. PCA North students compete in STEM-related competitions as well as spelling bees, math Olympics, speech meets, and art competitions.

ONE-TO-ONE COMPUTING AT PCA

Each PCA student has access to a school-provided electronic device—iPads for kindergarten through sixth grade then graduating to MacBooks in seventh—which becomes their textbook, notebook, binder, and so much more. "We see this one-to-one computing as a tool to enhance the students' learning experience," said Principal Donna Leadford. "We're living in an information-based society

and one-to-one computing opens up that world of information to every student, in every classroom."

LEARNING OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM

Because learning can take place in many locations, PCA North students from Pre-K through seventh grade participate in fun-filled and educational retreats and field trips both on and off campus, explore the arts through an expanded fine arts program, and compete in volleyball, basketball, and track teams.

Students who participate in sports that require larger numbers of participants such as football, soccer, baseball, and softball can shuttle to the PCA Plano campus to be a part of those programs there. The PCA North swim team trains and competes at The Colony Aquatic Park and PCA North golfers can participate in the spring middle school golf tournament.

A LEGACY OF LEADERSHIP

For twenty years, Prestonwood Christian Academy has partnered with parents and the church to foster character, leadership, and integrity, turning out young people prepared not only to succeed in high school and college but in life. Four years ago, they expanded that legacy with PCA North in Prosper, continuing the mission of imparting a Christ-centered world view on the next generation while challenging them with rigorous academics, providing a well-rounded school experience, and nurturing the whole child—body, mind and spirit. If this is the environment you want for your child, find out more at PrestonwoodChristian.org or call (972) 798-6780 to schedule a school tour.

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Prestonwood Christian Academy North is fully accredited through AdvancED, and the Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI).

PARENTS ARE PART OF THE PCA NORTH TEAM

Parents are a vital component of the success of Prestonwood Christian Academy North. Each year, the school conducts a survey of parents and uses their feedback to shape the PCA North school experience. The Parent/Teacher Fellowship group is active on campus, in the classroom, and at extracurricular activities.

From PreK through seventh grades, PCA North seeks to nurture the whole child through their CARE framework:

- C** – Character Development
- A** – Academic Excellence
- R** – Relationship Navigation (Discipleship, Chapel, and Guidance)
- E** – Extra-Curricular (Co-curricular) Opportunities