



**Praise Academy**

**Strategic Plan**

**(2021-2026)**



## PRAISE ACADEMY HISTORY

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Praise Academy was founded by Praise Tabernacle Church as a part of a vision to educate a child through a biblical worldview and prepare him or her for the next step in life as he or she leaves Praise Academy. As envisioned by Dr. Tommy Chapman, Praise Academy is located on the property of Praise Tabernacle. This vision has been accomplished and now Praise Academy looks for opportunities to become more stable financially and expand to reach more people. Praise Academy will celebrate its 37<sup>th</sup> year in 2020.

## PRAISE ACADEMY MISSION STATEMENT

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Partnering with Christian families to provide a Christ centered educational system where students can achieve academic excellence, a lifelong commitment to Christ, and a passion for success.

## PRAISE ACADEMY VISION STATEMENT

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“Growing Disciples to make Disciples through Christian Education” (Luke 2:52; Matthew 28:19).

## PRAISE ACADEMY CORE VALUES

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**1. The Bible:** Based on 2 Timothy 3:16, we believe that the Bible gives direction to every aspect of life, especially our spiritual development. We encourage board members, administration, faculty, parents, and students to use the Bible as a tool in their everyday lives. Additionally, Praise Academy will govern itself according to biblical principles in:

- All aspects of school life.
- Using financial resources.
- Developing academic curriculum.

**2. Christlikeness:** 1 John 2:6 tells that we should walk in the same manner that Christ did before His crucifixion. Consequently, Praise Academy will employ or appoint board members, administration, faculty, and staff whose attitudes and actions model Christ to those around them. Praise Academy will also:

- Encourage students to apply the qualities of Christ to their own lives.
- Base its discipline and behavior standards on biblical principles.
- Train students on how to communicate their faith to others.
- Challenge parents to demonstrate Christ-like character in their lives and before others.



**3. Christian Family:** According to Deuteronomy 6:6-9, the Christian family is God’s training ground for future generations in knowing and serving Christ. Considering that truth, Praise Academy will:

- Develop policies and procedures that allow us to honor and partner with Christian families.
- Make resources available to help parents build a Christ-honoring home.
- Provide a Kingdom education that is accessible to those families.
- Train faculty and staff to provide different teaching techniques to help students with different learning styles and abilities.

**4. Church:** Praise Academy acknowledges the importance and role of the Church. Acts 2:42-47 tells us that the Church is the expression of God’s kingdom to the world. Praise Academy recognizes the following:

- Praise Academy is a ministry of Praise Tabernacle Church.
- Praise Academy operates under the authority of the Church.
- As one of its goals, Praise Academy seeks to strengthen the Church.
- Praise Academy will honor the Church through its policies, procedures, and practices.

**5. Excellence in Education:** It is our desire to know God’s truth and walk in it (Psalm 86:11). It is Praise Academy’s goal to continually provide an educational program that is based the truths provided by God’s Word and the preeminence of Jesus Christ. To provide that program in a safe and comfortable learning environment where students are actively engaged and challenged in their learning, Praise Academy will:

- Employ and develop teachers who model godly wisdom and Christian virtue in their lives.
- Challenge students to develop a biblical worldview.
- Provide an education that combines formal methods of teaching with a biblical emphasis.

**6. Service:** Jesus was the true model of a servant leader and in Matthew 20:26-28, He tells us about the true quality of servanthood. At Praise Academy, we will encourage students to follow that example of leadership by:

- Involving students in activities that encourages them to serve others.
- Teaching students the value and joy of service that flows out of a heart that has experienced God’s love.
- Training students to glorify God through service in their school, local church, and community.



**7. Stewardship:** As followers of Christ, we have a steward responsibility that should flow out of thankfulness and gratefulness (Psalm 79:13). Providing students with the best possible education that will develop the whole child (spiritually, mentally, physically, and socially) is a steward responsibility given by God. This mean Praise Academy will:

- Develop and operate a budget that reflects biblical principles of stewardship.
- Maintain all facilities in a way that honors the Lord and meets the needs of the students.
- Partner with families to assist them in providing their children with a quality Christian education.
- **STATEMENT OF FAITH**
- We believe the Bible to be the inspired, infallible, inerrant, and authoritative Word of God (2 Timothy 3:16, 2 Peter 1:21).



September 15, 2020

*Praise Academy Family,*

*Scripture encourages Christians to carefully plan, commit our ways to the Lord, and depend on God to help us accomplish our goals.*

*“Unless the Lord builds the house, its builders labor in vain. Unless the Lord watches over the city, the watchmen stand guard in vain.” (Psalm 127:1)*

*“In his heart a man plans his course, but the Lord determines his steps.” (Proverbs 16:9)*

*This strategic planning document reflects the plans of the Praise Academy Head of School and School Board over the next five years. After prayer, reflection, and discussion, we have formulated eight goals, each having specific objectives. We have set the bar high and desire to meet these significant accomplishments. We also realize that we desperately need God’s help, otherwise we labor in vain. We seek to be faithful stewards of the school God has entrusted to us, Praise Academy.*

*We are committed to remaining faithful to our mission, vision, and core values. We anticipate the many amazing things we will see God accomplish through our graduates in the years to come.*

*Go Lions,*

*Daniel Youngblood  
Head of School, Praise Academy*



## **STRATEGIC GOALS**

**Goal 1: Spiritual Climate**

**Goal 2: Faculty and Staff**

**Goal 3: Academic Program**

**Goal 4: Financial Health**

**Goal 5: Student Enrollment**

**Goal 6: Student Activities**

**Goal 7: Facilities**

**Goal 8: School Board**



## STRATEGIC GOAL #1: SPIRITUAL CLIMATE

*Maintain our focus on Jesus Christ so that He remains the center of all we do*

### Objectives

- establish a strong Biblical studies curriculum and philosophy that teaches the truths of the Bible and God's redemptive plan through understanding and the tangible application of God's Word.
- build a strong chapel program that involves Praise Academy faculty and staff, local church leaders, dynamic worship music, and passionate prayer.
- develop and implement a small group program that will take place one Wednesday each month to replace large group chapel.
- teach each subject from a distinctively Christian discipleship perspective.
- help students form a Christian discipleship worldview where they learn to read, listen, think, and communicate as Christian disciples in all areas of life.
- continue to focus on a strong relationship with Praise Tabernacle Church.



## STRATEGIC GOAL #2: FACULTY AND STAFF

*Retain, hire, and develop outstanding teachers*

### Objectives

- offer competitive salaries and benefits to faculty and staff.
- retain and recruit well-trained and state certified faculty and staff.
- enable faculty to continuously grow through professional development opportunities.
- continued emphasis on higher level education.
- consistent focus on staff morale.
- persistent effort on faculty and staff formal and informal observations focused on student engagement that provides candid feedback for reinforcement and growth to the instructor.
- offer merit bonuses and public recognition when available or applicable to build TEAM spirit and a feeling of value.
- empower teachers in decision-making processes of Praise Academy.





## STRATEGIC GOAL #3: ACADEMIC PROGRAM

*Provide an excellent academic program*

### Objectives

- achieve joint re-accreditation through the Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI), AdvancED (formerly the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) and remain recognized by the State of Georgia Department of Education.
- stay ahead of the mean with regards to technology (to include smart boards, tablets, projectors, document cameras, clickers, and other technological advancements).
- continue with a focus on our Fine Arts Programs (art, music, drama).
- continuing to review all curriculum areas.
- continue to hire the highest caliber of certified instructors.
- continue effort to discover support programs to assist students in areas of math and reading (Mosaic program, Math specialist).
- continue emphasis on STEM and LEGO programs.
- continue to design and implement an academic plan for struggling students.



## STRATEGIC GOAL #4: FINANCIAL HEALTH

*Strengthen the Academy's financial health*

### Objectives

- meet all basic financial needs through tuition and fees.
- establish a plan for limited, yet strategic fundraising to meet specific needs, such as building projects, technology, or financial aid.
- hire a full-time Director of Development.
- offer generous financial aid to families demonstrating financial need.
- maintain a cash reserve.
- establish a quasi-endowment fund by 2023.



## STRATEGIC GOAL #5: STUDENT ENROLLMENT

### *Increase student enrollment*

#### **Objectives**

- maintain our focus on the product (environment focused on the characteristics of Christ, extraordinary instruction and academic program, cutting-edge technology, outstanding extra- curricular programs).
- sustain marketing focus on re-enrolling current Praise Academy families at 95% each year.
- effectively promote the school to families in Cobb, Paulding and Douglas counties through strategic marketing and events.
- maintain effective and efficient website.
- continue emphasis on communication with current families.
- Head of School continues to build relationships with local pastors.



## STRATEGIC GOAL #6: STUDENT ACTIVITIES

*Expand our student activities to enhance the school experience for students*

### Objectives

- continue excellence in athletics and fine arts programs.
- continue emphasis on adding extra-curricular programs.
- continue to focus on after school clubs to reach the interests of more students.
- promote unity within the high school body through off-campus retreats.
- focus on student leadership through curriculum development, chapel services and small groups.



## STRATEGIC GOAL #7: FACILITIES

*Continued vision on expansion and maintenance of facilities*

### Objectives

- continue attention to cleanliness and maintenance of the Praise Academy facilities.
- concentration on school security with addition of concealed carriers, internal first response TEAM, and improved security measure
- add a building that will house elementary classrooms.
- create a strategic plan to acquire more property for campus expansion.



## ***STANDARD #8: SCHOOL BOARD AND HEAD OF SCHOOL***

*Refine the purpose and function of the Head of School with relation to the School Board*

### **Objectives**

- ensure the Head of School and School Board remain faithful to Praise Academy's mission, vision, and values.
- prayerfully practice policy governance.
- Administration will continue to have communication with the School Board via the monthly board meetings.
- strategically enhance the board and its ability to lead the school.