THE A CLASSICAL CHRISTIAN ACADEMY
OAKS
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Happy Summer Incoming Freshmen,

Welcome to Modern Traditio III: Literature, History, and Scripture interwoven into one synthesized, immersive class. Christians are told that Christ is before all things, and in Him all things consist (Col 1:17). Since Christ holds together all things, Christians should expect to revel in the interconnectedness of the whole cosmos. Traditio is designed to do exactly that. It shows both how the whole world is under the lordship of Christ, and how integrated the disciplines truly are. History, Bible, Literature, Philosophy, Art, Science, Poetry all integrate to paint a glorious portrait of our Father's world. The overarching goal: to become more human (What we love, we pay attention to; what we pay attention to, we remember; what we remember, we imitate; what we imitate, we become" Andrew Kern, ACCS lecture).

You can look forward to a survey of American roots, history, and literature this year, reading: *Henry V* to *To Kill a Mockingbird*. The more contemporary our studies become, the more sharp the antithesis between faithfulness and wickedness also becomes. So, we will be considering the bad guys and how Christians have responded. As we say in Cantabile, "God is good and He does good." This year will be a hunt to see God's handiwork and respond righteously as modeled in the Old Testament Prophets.

Before we come together in September... Can you imagine a world where you could not read the very Word of God? Not that you *did* not, but that you *could* not. In England in the early 1500's, the Bible was an expensive commodity. You certainly could not afford it. But even if you could afford it, it was not written in English. This is a problem. How can you love and obey God's Law without knowing it? William Tyndale prayed, "Lord, open the King of England's eyes," because during his ministry translating and printing a Bible in English was a capital offense. Scott O'Dell captures this reality in his book: *The Hawk that Dare Not Hunt by Day*. This is your summer reading. Enjoy the story.

Here are a few things it will be helpful to know reading

- *Manifesto* is a public declaration of policy and aims.
- *Diet* is not in this context an eating choice, but rather a formal meeting of the church. Usually they are named for the town they met in. For example, The Diet of Worms is a church court that met in Worms, Germany.
- Names of ships are capitalized and italicized.
- There are a lot of places all over Europe travelled to in the story. Grab a map!

Over the summer, consider a few suggestions to delight you and whet your appetite:

- Re-read *The Lord of the Rings*.
- *The Last of the Mohicans* if you are up for a challenge.
- *The Old Fashioned Girl* by Louisa May Alcott for a breath of fresh air.
- Sherlock Holmes for a lark.
- *The Chosen* by Chaim Potok, if you want to read Miss Hartke's favorite.

As you read *The Hawk that Dare not Hunt by Day*, and other excellent books over the summer, annotate! Talk to yourself and the author in the margins. Mark significant words. Underline important sentences. Write your own questions and comments.

I expect you to have thoughtfully read and annotated *The Hawk that Dare not Hunt by Day* by the first day of school. Should you be unable to annotate in your copy, please take faithful notes on a separate sheet of paper. Record worthy quotes in your quote book. This will aid you in reflection and discussion at the beginning of the year.

Should you have any questions as you read (or about the class itself), please send me an Annasis message! I look forward to being with you in the fall. The hill, though high, we covet to ascend.

Best
-Mrs. Holly Thomas
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