Evening of Protocol at The Oaks Classical Christian Academy

The Evening of Protocol is right around the corner, and we thought it would be helpful to share the heart behind this special and much-loved tradition at The Oaks. It is an evening that faculty, staff, parents, and students alike have come to enjoy, as it reflects the shared values, joyful fellowship, and educational vision of our community. Our aim is not simply to host an event, but to invite our students into an experience that helps shape their hearts, habits, and affections toward what is true, good, and beautiful.

This evening is not a high school prom, nor is it meant to imitate modern social customs. Rather, it is a studied orchestration of a formal dinner, dance, and Godly fellowship thoughtfully designed to help students learn how to carry themselves with grace, respect, and consideration in a formal setting. In this way, we seek to honor the Scriptural exhortation: "Let all things be done decently and in order" (1 Corinthians 14:40).

As a formal event, an important part of this is proper dress. Students are asked to dress formally and modestly, not according to modern standards that often prize attention to self or passing trends, but in a manner that honors the occasion and shows care for others. Scripture reminds us, "Adorn yourselves… with what is proper" (1 Timothy 2:9), and again, "Let your adorning be… the imperishable beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit" (1 Peter 3:3–4). When rightly understood, attire becomes another way students learn that how we present ourselves communicates respect for ourselves, for our neighbors, and for the setting in which we gather.

In preparation for, and throughout, the evening, students are gently taught that manners and modesty are not burdens, but gifts. From entering the room, to engaging in table conversation, to dancing with poise and self-control, students practice habits that reflect love of neighbor and reverence before God in tangible ways.

The Evening of Protocol is, therefore, an act of joyful formation. It is both reverent and celebratory—a time when students learn that beauty has order, celebration has purpose, and Christian maturity is displayed through gracious conduct, thoughtful restraint, and appropriate dress, always seeking to live "to the glory of God" (1 Corinthians 10:31).

At The Oaks Classical Christian Academy, protocol matters because formation matters. In a culture that often confuses self-expression with freedom, we seek to train students to love what is fitting and good. An Evening of Protocol helps form rightly ordered affections by teaching truth through what is proper, goodness through thoughtful consideration of others, and beauty through ordered celebration; reminding our students that even an evening of dinner and dance can be joyfully offered to the glory of our kind and generous Heavenly Father.

Mr. Trotter