



# REGENTS ROAR

2021



**EARLY  
EDUCATION**



**THE  
IMAGINATION**



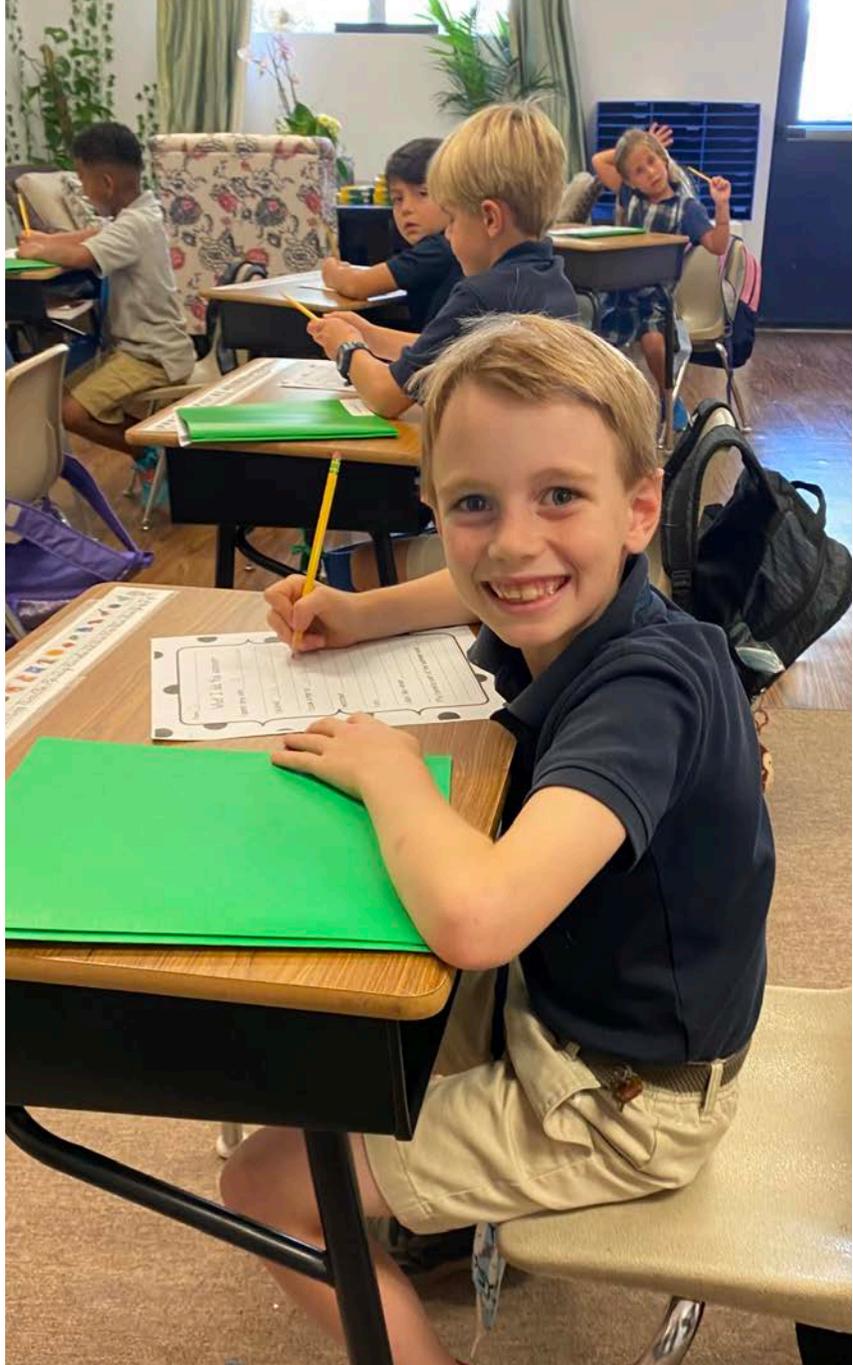
**PARENT  
TESTIMONIAL  
MOLLY TURNER**

# OUR MISSION

The Mission of Regents School of Oxford, aspiring to be a leader in classical Christian education, is to disciple our students to love, serve, and glorify God in order to become godly men and women through a classically-driven, gospel-centered school committed to:

Rightly using the inherent tools of learning

Cultivating a challenging and joyful environment that encourages them to think logically and communicate their conclusions persuasively



INFUSING  
CHRISTIAN  
THEOLOGY  
IN ALL WE DO.

# DEAR REGENTS COMMUNITY,

As your headmaster, I am full of hope as I reflect upon the impact Classical Christian education is having on your children. In the face of powerful cultural forces, Regents presents a clear, alternative educational choice in the cacophony of popular culture and entertainment. I believe Classical Christian education can offer a world to our students that sees the experience of school as a calling, worthy of their full investment. That calling may not be fully shaped at their young age; however, they can understand they are being developed as people to serve in the kingdom of God. The clear understanding of our service to God in response to His loving grace is what separates our educational model from all others. In essence, it is the desire to humbly return blessing to the Savior and show forth His virtue to the fallen and broken world.

By understanding this purpose, we will be able to provide for our students a deeper meaning for being at school that goes well beyond what schooling can do for them and focuses on what they can do for others. We express this clearly in our mission as we unapologetically profess that Regents School of Oxford exists to disciple students to love, serve, and glorify God through a Classical Christian education. Through the process of this education, students learn to embrace their calling and service to the kingdom of God.

With this in mind we thank you for your love, support, and service to the school. We seek to stand shoulder to shoulder with parents in the educational process, and we are thankful for such a wonderful community of believers.

**In Christ,**  
**Jason W. Wood**  
Head of School



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**THE CLEAR  
UNDERSTANDING  
OF OUR SERVICE TO  
GOD IN RESPONSE  
TO HIS LOVING  
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# EARLY EDUCATION

By Meredith Meurrier

It has been such a blessing and a joy to serve our school and families as the Director of Early Education this year. Our number one goal in Regents Early Ed is to create a safe and joyful environment for our youngest students. In doing this, our hope is to create life-long learners, with the ultimate goal of discipling children to love, serve and glorify God.

Each morning as I watch children get out of their cars, the big smiles on their faces tell me all I need to know about how they feel about coming to school. They know when they walk in the building, they are safe and loved. Parents are also confident that while their children are in our care, they are going to be loved and cared for just as they would be if there were at home.

A huge advantage we have at Regents is our small class size. This allows for individual needs and learning styles to be met, as well as giving students the opportunity to participate in lots of hands-on activities, which would be more difficult to do with a larger class. When learning is fun, it sets a child up to love school long term. It is important for us to lay a solid foundation of children loving coming to school as well as learning how to “go to school.” Beginning in 3K and 4K, students learn how to stand in line, say the pledges, walk in the hallway, respect their teachers and friends, and a host of other lessons. These small things will pay large dividends as they progress to the next grade.

Here at Regents Early Ed, we have a high quality of care and communication. My goal as a director is to over-communicate so there are never any surprises when it comes to your child and their education. As far as a high quality of care, I delight in seeing how much our teachers invest in caring for their students. They faithfully come to work every day and give one hundred percent, working hard to connect and meet the needs of each individual student.

Finally, we truly feel that we are partnering with parents as we begin building a strong spiritual and academic foundation. I love working with parents as we talk through a behavior or academic problem. It is a perfect opportunity to encourage parents as well as help point the student that may be struggling to the gospel. School is important, but our bigger goal is to shepherd childrens’ hearts and point them to Jesus in all things.





# REGENTS

## ATHLETICS

### ATHLETICS WE OFFER

- ✓ Golf
- ✓ Tennis
- ✓ Lacrosse
- ✓ Basketball
- ✓ Baseball
- ✓ Swim
- ✓ Archery
- ✓ Cheerleading
- ✓ Track
- ✓ Cross country
- ✓ Volleyball

Athletics at Regents are aimed at more than short term winning. We are aimed at developing humble, confident men and women who grow up to be great employees, citizens, husbands, and wives.

We want our coaches to teach sound fundamentals and develop skills in each individual athlete, but more importantly, we want to point our athletes to Christ.

- Brandon Beckett, Athletic Director



Learn More At: [RegentsSchoolofOxford.com](http://RegentsSchoolofOxford.com)

# SCHOOL CULTURE: THE CURRICULUM UNDER THE CURRICULUM

By: Jill Bell



School culture is a powerful force. The learning process, the maturity, the spiritual growth, the social development, the mental health, the worldview, and the list continues are greatly affected and shaped by school culture. A healthy, safe, joyful, and challenging school culture is essential for a great educational experience.

As the Director of Marketing and Admissions at Regents School of Oxford, I have clearly seen that a healthy school culture, one of support, partnership, and challenge is what families are looking for. Yes, a great academic curriculum is essential; yes, athletic and fine arts opportunities are great; yes, small class sizes make teaching more effective; BUT school culture is the soil in which everything grows and either thrives or withers.

So I ask you, potential families, who and what do you want shaping your child? As you will read later in this magazine, there is no objective education. At Regents our leadership and teachers are committed to discipling, encouraging, educating, and shaping our students' hearts and minds to glorify God, be rooted in him, and serve his world.

What more could you ask for in a school?

# LORD, THIS IS YOUR SCHOOL

By Dr. Matt Schroeder

I think we can all agree that the school year for 2019-20 was a year unlike any other. As the administrative team sat in a meeting in March 2020, we were unsure about the method of teaching, the number of students for the fall semester, or when we would return to school. We talked, we strategized, and most importantly, we prayed. We prayed for wisdom, health, and as always, we turned over Regents to our Heavenly Father. In that same meeting in late July, though still nervous, we were excited about returning to “normal” operations. We prayed again and turned our school over to the Lord. Now writing this article in January and reflecting on the fall semester, the Lord has been so faithful and provided for our beloved school. Our mission as a school is to partner with families to disciple students to love, serve, and glorify the Lord. We all worked together to keep our school open and operational to accomplish this mission. The students have been asked to wear masks in all common areas and social distance from one another, the teachers have learned new and innovative methods of teaching while maintaining relationships with students, and parents have been so gracious, patient, merciful, and understanding as we seek to educate students. Through it all, the Lord provided and sustained our school, He deserves all the praise.

The verse that has stuck with me throughout this pandemic is Psalm 46:10, “Be still, and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!” At times during these last eight months, we have all been scared, nervous, anxious and uncertain. However, through all the turmoil, **I see a Regents School of Oxford that is stronger and more united than ever before. Even in the storms, the Lord is with us and is sustaining us.** My prayer for our school for spring 2021 comes from Matt Papa in his song “Christ the Sure and Steady Anchor.” It says, “In the suffering, in the sorrow, when my sinking hopes are few, I will hold fast to the Anchor, It shall never be removed.” Regents has and always will be His school, let us hold fast to that truth.



# THE IMAGINATION

By Jacob Skogen

It may seem odd to read such lyrics in a Christian School newsletter! Especially considering that Lennon thought that religion was the problem, not a solution. It is also interesting that the song is called Imagine.

The lyrics call upon the imagination. We are invited to imagine no heaven; we are invited to imagine no hell. This is strange really, because it is the capacity to imagine that enables something like music in the first place!

**IMAGINE THERE'S NO HEAVEN  
IT'S EASY IF YOU TRY  
NO HELL BELOW US.  
ABOVE US ONLY SKY**

**- JOHN LENNON**

The imagination is a power unlike anything else that we possess. In the words of Shakespeare, "Imagination apprehends far more than cool reason comprehends." It is indeed our imaginations that fill us with a sense that there is more than only sky.

However, there can be the temptation to think that when we speak of the "imagination" we are dealing with fantasy. We may naturally think that "imagination" means pretend things, or made up things. We may assume that "using our imagination," means slip sliding into things that are not real.

But we would be horribly and dreadfully wrong.

What would your reaction be if you were told that the primary goal of Regents School of Oxford to be a place where students and teachers should be trained to use their imagination? Do we recognize that the nurture of the imagination is foundational to classical education? Do we understand the primacy of the imagination in education because the imagination is intrinsic to what it means to be human? Perhaps before going any further we should articulate the question more succinctly: what is the imagination, and why does it matter?

Let's go to the beginning.

In Genesis 1:1 we read "In the beginning..." and hopefully you are familiar with what follows. In the beginning God created light and everything else all the way to the creation of man and the day of rest. However, a more accurate, or at least a robust understanding of creation would be to say that God imagined the world.

God did in fact, imagine, everything that he created. The giraffe, the pomegranate, the sea lion, the walking stick, the rhinoceros, the sea pig, the poison dart frog, the bald eagle, the blob fish, the hippopotamus, the hammer head shark, the octopus, and the bee! (Wait till I get going!)

All creation, everything you see on the popular shows Life or Planet Earth, or National Geographic, everything that exists is an act of the imagination of God.

The hagfish is an eel like creature which, when hungry, attaches itself to another fish and makes its way into the body of said fish so that it can eat that fish, from the inside out!

The star-nosed mole (this thing is disgusting) has twenty-two tentacles on its nose, and it looks something from the show Stranger

Things! The tarsier has huge eyes. (Feel free to imagine a cross between a very athletic kola bear and Gollum!) This creature catches birds in mid air while doing flips from tree to tree. The dumbo octopus, well it looks just like you would "imagine."

All these are acts of God's imagination. He imagined them and created them. The stars, galaxies, the single cell organisms; bacteria, the asteroid belts, black holes are all acts of God's imagination. But "let us" continue...

The covenant, the idea of entering into a relationship with Abraham and Israel; the creation of a nation of priests out of a band of runaway slaves; the incarnation of the Godhead in human flesh; the destruction of death's power; the inclusion of gentiles into the covenant (which includes those of us gentiles in the "velvet ditch!") All of these are imaginative acts on God's part.

These realities exist and are revealed to us because God imagined them. Having said all this, perhaps it would be helpful to posit a working definition of imagination. Imagination is the capacity to envision the existence of something that does not yet exist.

Imagination may not be the way, but it is at least a way, that we are like God. We have the capacity to envision the existence of things that do not yet exist. Music is an imaginative act; sculpting, painting, story telling; Narnia, The Lord of the Rings, Harry Potter, are all acts of the imagination!

In biblical translation the Hebrew word that we often find translated heart, as in "Love the Lord your God with all your heart;" more literally and more fully refers to what we call the imagination!

In Genesis 6:5, we read that God saw that the wickedness of man was great on the earth and that the thoughts of his imagination were evil continually. Man was able to envision the existence of something that did not yet exist. The horrors of modern warfare: mustard gas, nuclear weapons etc. are acts of imagination.

In the Jacob and Esau story we read that "Esau hated Jacob because of the blessing wherewith his father blessed him: and Esau said in his heart (we could translate: Esau said in his imagination), the days of mourning for my father are at hand; then will I slay my brother Jacob."

Esau is imagining, preparing for the moment when he will kill his brother; he is planning something out that does not yet exist.



"Love the Lord your God with all your imagination and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your imagination." (Deut. 5:5)

When you celebrate an anniversary or your child's birthday you begin to imagine ways to express love and adoration. Likewise, your angry thoughts of how you can hurt others the way you have been hurt, how you can exact revenge, are acts of the imagination. We could go on and on. Maybe some of you worship in churches that employ what is known as the Sursum Corda: "Lift up your hearts! We lift them up to the Lord!" What are we saying? "Lift up your imaginations!" And the response: "We lift our imaginations up to the Lord!" The biblical imperative is to give God our imagination: to love him with all our imagination.

If we, if our entire Regent's community, gave God our imaginations, fully gave him our imaginations... What could we imagine for our family? What kind of life could we imagine for our churches? What kind of relationships could we develop? What couldn't we accomplish?

**Perhaps, if we truly gave God our imagination, we could imagine a unity of brothers and sisters in Oxford, MS that would cause the unbelieving world to believe that Jesus is the Son of God.**

**What would happen if our imaginations were lifted up to the Almighty, the King of creation? What would happen if our imaginations were fully controlled by the Holy Spirit? Well perhaps, God's kingdom might come on earth as it is in heaven.**

As a school: as teachers, as parents, and as staff, we want to encourage, nurture and tend the imaginations of our students so that they may envision a reality that does not yet exist; we want to enable them to create a future that resembles the kingdom of heaven and manifest the rule of Jesus, here and now.

# ESSAY: ABBY ATCHLEY, 12<sup>TH</sup> GRADE

By Abby Atchley

If you asked the average high school senior how they felt about graduating, they would most likely express a strong desire to leave, get out of town, and head to college as soon as possible. It is an understandable response, and in a lot of ways I believe it is healthy for students to be ready for the next major point in their lives.

The interesting thing that I have found this year is that I am not anxious to leave. In fact, despite all the curveballs this year has thrown at me, I have genuinely enjoyed my senior year. I would not say this for the sake of making Regents sound great, as much as I consider it a second home. I say it because it is true.

I have attended Regents since I was in preschool. I still vividly remember spending time in Ms. Trepdall's Pre-K class in what is currently a third grade classroom. Every year since, I have found comfort in the familiar halls and buildings of Regents. My teachers have likewise had a tremendous impact on me. Through every stage of my education, they have been present and involved in both my academic and spiritual growth. They have acted as mentors and leaders in countless ways, for which I am immensely grateful.

While I am naturally thankful for the guidance of my teachers and the support of the Regents community as a whole, it is my classmates for whom I am most grateful. They have been with me since the very beginning. They have supported my pursuits and are unafraid to call me out on ways I have drifted astray from the Bible's teachings. Their involvement in my life has truly blessed my childhood.

All of these things have made my experience at Regents wonderful. As I reflect on the new journey upon which I am about to embark, I realize this is a surprisingly good thing. I instinctively believe loving Regents so much can only cause me to fear leaving the place I know and love. This is not the case. While I will certainly miss the community at Regents, my time here has prepared me for the next step so I am looking forward to it rather than fearful of the changes to come.



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# GRIT: THE FOUNDATION OF A REGENTS EDUCATION

By Jason W. Wood, Head of School

One of the most important outcomes of a K-12 education is the development of a strong work ethic and character in the student. Often at Regents we refer to this as the curriculum underneath the curriculum. We provide our students with high quality content, focusing on the historical, literary, and scientific roots of classical education from a Christ-centered worldview. Additionally, we strive to shape the hearts of our students to pursue education with passion and perseverance, which we call the development of grit.

A student with grit does not bow at the first sign of trial or strife. Learning, studying, and becoming educated takes hard work. We train our students to move toward hard work, not away from it. Training a student to work hard with passion and to persevere when learning is hard (having grit) is essential for succeeding in all areas of life.

As we work with students in the classroom, we are looking to develop grit in their character which manifests in two major ways. First, we want to develop students who are intrinsically motivated. It is our desire to see their curiosity, passion, and love of learning be the motivating force in their educational endeavors. Second, we want to develop students who are engaged with the material, their peers, and their teachers. Engagement is the outward behavior of perseverance, attention, and commitment to completing the assignments in the classroom. These two components, motivation and engagement, form the basis for the development of grit in the soul of the students.

Motivation is fostered in the classroom through the vibrancy of teaching and the relational commitment of the teacher to the students. When a student experiences a teacher who is genuinely excited about teaching the subject matter, and they are deeply committed to the success of the student, the student is inspired to learn. Every good teacher knows you are not able to force a student to learn. The student must engage the process internally through his or her own decision-making process. When intrinsic motivation is cultivated by teachers who believe in the abilities of their students and can enthusiastically relay material, teaching becomes highly relational, and students become excited to learn.

Engagement is a habit that can be formed in students at even the youngest of ages. At Regents we teach proper engagement through the way students answer questions, sit in class, and respond during class discussions. Engagement is the process by which students learn how to look and act in a proper classroom setting. Over time students learn quality study habits, attention spans, and conversational skills that give them an edge in our society today and for the rest of their lives.

The formation of grit, through developing motivation and engagement, is essential for the proper equipping of our students today. With the development of this type of character in the hearts and minds of students, Regents graduates will stand out because of their passion and perseverance in completing the calling that is before them. I am eager to see how God uses the students who graduate from our school to transform our culture for Christ.

# NATE MCMANUS / CLASS OF 2015

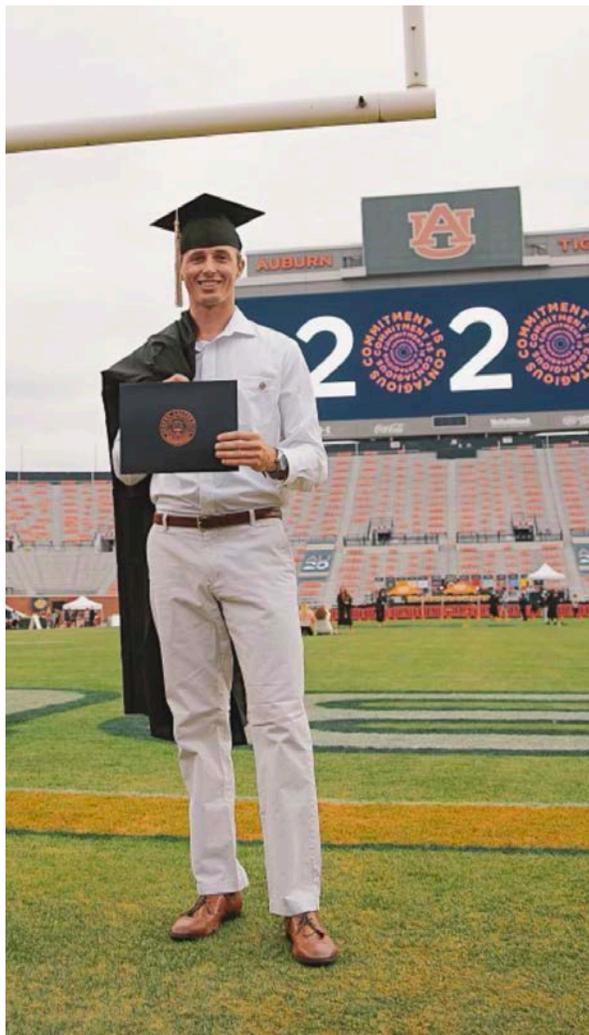
By Nate McManus

Upon recently graduating from Auburn University, I have had the time to reflect on the impact Regents School of Oxford had on my education, my life, and my worldview. Regents instilled many Christian values and morals in me that I lean on everyday and especially leaned on throughout my college career.

Whether engaging in the classroom or competing on the field, Regents expected nothing less than the best from me. The intense academic curriculum gave me the foundation that fully equipped me for the challenges of college and beyond. The close-knit classrooms invited an environment of critical thinking, where I was pushed and challenged to my full potential. The constant interaction with peers and teachers allowed for a more personal learning experience that I'll always be thankful I had. Being involved in multiple extracurricular activities, taught me time management in order to balance sports and schoolwork; this is something practical that I still use everyday.

By competing in sports at Regents, I developed leadership skills, purpose, and grew in my relationships with my teammates and coaches. I remember playing football and being challenged well beyond the capabilities I thought I had and finding strength I never would have known was there. All the coaches at Regents were very encouraging and supportive and invested in my life both on and off the field. Because I faced adversity on the court, field, and even in the classroom, I formed many amazing relationships with my classmates, my coaches, and the faculty that I still value today.

Regents is a place where you are given the opportunity to create lifelong relationships with not only peers but mentors as well. By attending RSO you not only join a school, but you join a family. I was blessed and am beyond grateful to have been immersed in a community with intentional teachers and classmates who cared for each other and wanted each and every student and athlete to succeed.





# FINE ARTS WE OFFER

- ✓ Upper School Choir
- ✓ Lower and Upper School Drama
- ✓ Lower School Spring Production
- ✓ Shakespeare in a Week Production
- ✓ Middle School Ukulele
- ✓ Art lessons K-12
- ✓ Fine Arts Night
- ✓ Praise Band
- ✓ Master Music Academy Band
- ✓ Music History
- ✓ Art History



# A NEW SCHOOL

By John Warner Alford

Switching over to Regents was fun. I got to meet new people this year and experience the Regents life. I barely knew any people when I first got here, but I made friends pretty quickly. Everyone was so welcoming and nice and made me feel right at home. My teachers are pretty cool too!

I have had a great time here at Regents this year, and I know anyone else that comes will too.



# PAINT FOR THE PANTRY

Paint for the Pantry was a Fundraising color run (service project) our upper school put on benefitting The Oxford Food Pantry.



# THERE IS NO OBJECTIVE EDUCATION

By Micah Messersmith

I was sitting in a conference room thick with the smell of coffee and people dressed in business casual (complete with lanyards) listening to yet another talk by an expert in the field. Chances are you know the environment I'm talking about. It's one of those settings where, unless you take scrupulous notes, everything you hear begins to run together and ends up in a blob labeled, "Too Much Good Information To Ever Be Useful." Then through the podium microphone I heard the speaker say, "There is no objective education. You can't just send your child to a school to be educated objectively." It was like someone took hold of my shoulders and shook me out of a daze. It was the kind of experience where one second you're in between daydreams and the next you think you just heard something really profound, but then you look around quickly and everyone is still staring blankly at the person talking. I honestly don't remember anything else about that particular talk or who was speaking. All I knew was that what I just heard would revolutionize how I thought about education.

The more I thought about that statement the more I was reminded of what Jesus said in Luke 6, "A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone when he is fully trained will be like his teacher." The truth of the matter is, our teachers teach us more than subject material, they teach us how to think and how to live. They teach us worldview.

One of the troubling facts for Christians these days is that they take their children to a church that preaches the Gospel, they work to live out that gospel as they disciple their children at home, then they send their children to a school that either dismantles the worldview the parents and church have been laboring to instill or, at best, the school completely ignores it. It doesn't take kids long to pick up on the disunity. There is no such thing as a "God free" zone where you can go receive an education. If we ignore the One that created everything we know as reality, the gaping hole that remains will be filled by cheap man-made substitutes that will leave us disillusioned.



The older students get, the more their eyes are opened to the chaos and brokenness of this world. They are forced to sift through what is false and what is true, what is deficient and what is good, and what is chaotic and what is beautiful. The beauty of a school like Regents is that students learn from teachers whose instruction is in harmony with the Gospel and whose lives reflect the humility of a broken sinner redeemed to new life in Christ.

The speaker that shook me out of my slumber was spot on. Teachers teach with their whole lives, they don't just relay information objectively. Parents of Regents students can rest assured that their children's teachers aren't working against them. Teachers are working alongside parents to help their children delight in the Lord and be in awe of who He is. Not only are Regents teachers giving instruction in history, math, science, grammar, and logic, they are teaching worldview. As Christians, we live with the understanding that "The earth is the Lord's and fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein..." Everything belongs to the Lord, especially our education. There is no objective education. I am thankful my kids get the kind of instruction that harmonizes with the rest of our lives.



# PARENT TESTIMONIAL

# MOLLY TURNER

By Molly Turner

If you had asked me eight years ago about my children's education, I would have told you that I really had no intentions of sending them to a private school. Both my husband and I went to public schools growing up. We both received a fine education, played varsity level sports, had great friend groups, and stayed out of trouble. Besides that, our then four-year-old daughter was having a great experience with her Pre-K class in our public school system. With our backgrounds in public school being what they were, the tuition cost of a private school just didn't seem necessary to us. But, God had other plans.



In 2014 I took a job teaching at Regents School of Oxford, and moved my two oldest children to RSO with me. Anna began Kindergarten, and Caroline started Pre-K. And so our adventure began. After our first year, we were hooked!

I couldn't begin to tell you the value of a Christian education in one short article, but I can tell you a few things. Seven years into this journey, my children are thriving. They know who they are and why they exist and who made them and what He made them for. They see the world and all of education through the lens of scripture. This is God's world, and education is simply us learning about His world. All three have sweet

friends whose parents are on the same journey with us and with the same goal...to raise humble confident servants of the Lord. All three of my children participate in extracurricular activities such as drama, basketball, and cross country. They are getting what they need and more. Most importantly, they are hearing the gospel and watching it being lived out by their coaches and teachers everyday.

Is Regents perfect? Far from it. But has it been the perfect place to come alongside my husband and me in raising our children? Yes. School choice is difficult sometimes, but if I had to do it all over again, I'd choose Regents again. Regents is family, and I am beyond thankful for it.

If you are looking for a unique learning experience in Oxford, MS but don't know where to find it, let me suggest Regents School of Oxford. After our journey, I believe the Classical Christian Education that RSO provides is the best approach for a 3K-12th grade education.



**Regents School of Oxford**

Gospel Centered, Classically Driven

14 CR 130 Oxford, MS 38655

**[RegentsSchoolofOxford.com](http://RegentsSchoolofOxford.com)**

Call: 662-232-1945

Serving grades Pre-K thru 12th