



# ANNUAL SPRING GALA

April 27, 2024, 6PM

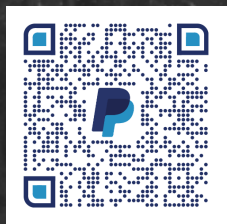
2530 Victory Pkwy, Cincinnati

Save the date for St. Edmund Campion Academy's annual Spring Gala. Join us April 27th for dinner, drinks and our speaker Mother Seraphina, FDM. Doors open at 6:00PM!

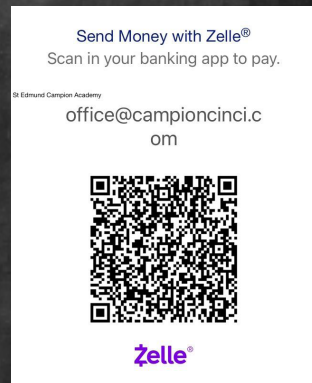
### TICKETS

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# CAMPION'S

ST. EDMUND CAMPION ACADEMY



# BRAG

CINCINNATI, OHIO

Enemies of Edmund Campion disparagingly referred to his apologia as "Campion's Brag," the title by which his "Challenge to the Privy Council" is most commonly known today, is perhaps the earliest defense of the faith to appear in English during the Reformation.

SPRING 2024

### WHAT IS TRUE EDUCATION?

“We don't teach facts at Harvard, the facts change. We teach our students how to think!” This statement may seem like an accusation made by a disgruntled opponent of the Ivy League but is a direct quote from the Dean of the Harvard School of Education. This quote was my introduction to the education wars. How could a full professor of education spout such nonsense. If you never learned the 1st set of facts how would you ever know they changed, and more importantly, if you never learned a set of facts what did you have to think about?



“Education is critically important to the individual, the nation, and the Church. It is also the ultimate responsibility of the parent to educate and form their children.”

-Dr. Kunath

grave concerns about the future of my own seven children. This concern led my wife and I to begin homeschooling and eventually to found St. Edmund Campion Academy in 1997.

You might be asking, why found a new school instead of just homeschooling or supplementing the normal curriculum at home? Education is critically important to the individual, the nation, and the Church. It is also the ultimate responsibility of the parent to educate and form their children. My wife and I felt deeply convicted that there needed to be an option for parents who recognize the serious problems with the modern system and want to do something about it for their own children.

Reflecting on the last twenty-seven years I want to share some of the foundational elements of our educational philosophy that I believe make Campion a part of the solution rather than just another school.

1. No true education can take place that is not rooted in the teaching and practice of a faith in Jesus Christ who is the way, the truth, and the life. This one principle has been the rise and fall of countless civilizations. If your child is not being formed in the Faith by practice, prayer, and the sacraments he will be unprepared to receive the grace of the theological virtues of Faith, Hope, and Charity.

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2. Reading and more precisely, reading with comprehension is the most important and fundamental skill. Without true mastery of reading and then comprehension one will always be behind. English is a phonetic language and is best and most efficiently learned through a program of systematic and intensive phonics. No other method has ever proven to be remotely as effective. If the student struggles to read, he will struggle in all other subjects.

3. True reading comprehension is directly related to a student's breadth of knowledge. This includes vocabulary, mastery of grammar, geography, mythology, history as well as an understanding of idioms and aphorisms. Without the possession of these facts reading with comprehension becomes very difficult if not impossible. The inability to comprehend what is read makes reading a chore and much less enjoyable. Great readers have a great fund of general knowledge.

4. Many schools have abandoned the writing of cursive replacing it with either block printing or typing. It has been demonstrated that there is greater cognitive engagement when one combines auditory, visual, and musculokinetic inputs. Learning cursive promotes the use and control of fine muscle movements and enhances learning while allowing students to read the cursive writing in letters, notes and older historical documents.

5. Physical texts are being eliminated in favor of all digital platforms. This transition is fraught with challenges: reading on a computer screen is more visually tiring, digital platforms can be rife with distractions and class time can be absorbed with handling technical glitches. Many studies show that the physicality of books enhance the appeal of reading and studying.

6. To obtain mastery of a subject is one of the most important goals of education. Whether it is science and mathematics, or history and literature, grammar and spelling, writing or speaking it takes time and effort. Students will need to devote themselves to hard work in order to achieve mastery of any subject. The curriculum of a school should be constructed so that subjects are reinforced and time is provided to promote mastery.

All the above elements have been incorporated and refined in our curriculum at St Edmund Campion Academy over the last 27 years. We are proud to offer a curriculum based in the Catholic

faith with daily prayer as a group at the beginning, middle, and end of the day, intensive and systematic phonics, a comprehensive roster of subjects aimed at mastery and all effort directed Ad Maiorem Dei Gloriam: to the greater glory of God.

If you are interested in learning more about our curriculum, prayer practices or educational philosophy or would like to enroll a student please reach out to our office via email: [Office@campioncinci.com](mailto:Office@campioncinci.com)

St. Edmund Campion Academy is dependent on donors like you, please consider making a tax deductible monetary contribution using the included donation form. If you know anyone else who would be interested in learning more about us please send us their mailing information.

Arthur M. Kunath M.D., Headmaster

**TODAY'S SCYLLA AND CHARYBDIS**

As an alumnus of Campion my vocabulary is filled with allusions to old, dusty books. One of my personal favorites is the phrase "Between Scylla and Charybdis." It is a reference to a particularly harrowing passage Homer's epic poem, "The Odyssey". In this passage Odysseus is forced into a tragic decision: he must sail through a narrow strait. On one side is Charybdis, a bottomless whirlpool eager to swallow his vessel whole and drown his entire crew. On the other is Scylla, a six headed sea monster who will pluck his men from the deck of the ship and devour them whole. Odysseus chooses to sail close to Scylla, knowing some of his men will perish but that he will save the ship and the bulk of his crew.

We find ourselves in a similar strait today. On one side of this treacherous passage is the Charybdis of athletic achievement. A seemingly bottomless whirlpool that will eat a family's schedule whole, pulling them inexorably deeper and deeper into tournaments, select teams, personal coaches, and endless practices.

On the other side is the Scylla of academic excellence. A hungry, many headed beast intent on snatching up the brightest among us to drag into the dark pit of the Ivy League and the elite levels of academia where the soul is devoured in favor of success and recognition.

It is a harrowing thing to watch the modern family attempt to navigate. Everyone wants their child to succeed, to do better than they did, to have an easier, more prosperous life. Why shouldn't we encourage our children to be the best and the brightest, or to pursue their passion for sports?

My point is not that academic or athletic excellence is bad. Both are a gift from God. It is when we let them devour our children that there is an issue. It is the responsibility of the Catholic faithful to be the voice of reason, to warn the captains of these family ships that they need to navigate between these two monsters, not towards them. Each child is unique and has different aptitudes and interests. It is our job to encourage them to grow and use the talents God has given them, in the way God intends. We must remind them always to pursue things not for the thing itself but in service to God's will.

If we can impart that understanding to the next generation, that they need to try to slip through the middle passage and be guided by their desire to fulfill their end and make it to Heaven then we, like Odysseus, can help them make it through to the other side.



Alumni visit the school to keep in touch and share the joy of their growing families.

Current student Eamon Gerrity catches up with Alumnus and former drama teacher Eddy Scott.

**EPIPHANY 2024**

At Campion we strive to harmonize the student experience with the liturgical calendar. One way we do this is an emphasis of the Epiphany as a day of celebration and excitement. To celebrate our students put on a play celebrating the Nativity story and the visit of the Magi.



Our students using the final moments before showtime to practice their singing.

The whole family gets in on the act. One of our future students is already dressing the part.



Alumnus Aidan Kunath brought his daughter Anya to cheer for her cousins enrolled at Campion.



Students make their way to the stage as the play gets under way.



The angels visit Mary and Joseph after the birth of the Christ Child.