



ST. NICHOLAS

ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN ACADEMY, K-12

Uniquely Nurturing the Next Generation of Orthodox Christians.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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St. Nicholas Orthodox Academy Earns Cognia Accreditation

Reno, NV– February 3, 2022 – St. Nicholas Orthodox Academy announced today that it has earned accreditation by Cognia™, a nonprofit organization that provides quality assurance for schools, school districts, and education service providers.

Cognia, formerly AdvancED, nationally recognizes districts that meet rigorous standards focused on productive learning environments, equitable resource allocation that meets the needs of learners, and effective leadership. Earning accreditation from the Cognia Global Accreditation Commission means that the school is accredited and that St. Nicholas Orthodox Academy is recognized across the nation as a school that meets Cognia Standards of Quality, and maintains a commitment to continuous improvement.

“School Accreditation as conferred by the Cognia Global Accreditation Commission provides St. Nicholas Orthodox Academy a nationally recognized mark of quality for our school,” shared Janet Cummings. “It demonstrates to our community our commitment to excellence, our openness to external review and feedback, and our desire to be the best we can be on behalf of the students we serve.”

To earn Cognia accreditation, a school also must implement a continuous process of improvement, and submit to internal and external review. Schools in good standing can maintain their accreditation for a five-year term.

Dr. Mark A. Elgart, president and CEO of Cognia, stated, “Cognia Accreditation is a rigorous process that focuses the entire school and its community on the primary goal of preparing lifelong learners in engaging environments where all students can flourish. St. Nicholas Orthodox Academy is to be commended for demonstrating that it has met high standards and is making progress on key indicators that impact student learning.”

Cognia is the parent organization of the North Central Association Commission on Accreditation and School Improvement (NCA CASI), Northwest Accreditation Commission (NWAC) and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Council on Accreditation and School Improvement (SACS CASI). Parents and interested community members can learn more about the Cognia Accreditation at cognia.org

About Cognia

Cognia offers accreditation and certification, assessment, professional learning, and improvement services to institutions and other education providers. The result of the merger of AdvancED and Measured Progress, Cognia was formed to bridge the gap between school evaluation and student assessment. As a global nonprofit working in over 80 countries, our 36,000 institutions serve and support nearly 25 million students and five million educators every day. Cognia serves as a trusted partner in advancing learning for all. Find out more at cognia.org.

St. Nicholas Orthodox Academy is operated as an exempt school under the provision of NRS 394.211 and as such is exempt from the provisions of the Private Elementary and Secondary Education Authorization Act.

Our curriculum, exclusive of religious instruction, provides equivalent instruction of the kind and amount approved by the State Board of Education (NRS 392.070, 394.125, 394.130, NAC 389 Standards).



16255 S. Virginia St., Reno NV 89511



775.544.5565



www.OrthodoxSchoolReno.com



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About St. Nicholas Orthodox Academy

Hello, I'm Dr. Janet (Barbara) Cummings, the Executive Director of St. Nicholas Orthodox Christian Academy, and I would like to introduce you to our school.

We had our humble beginning with the 2016-2017 school year, in a small amount of office space donated to us in the Caughlin Ranch area of Reno. It soon became apparent that we would outgrow that space, so we began a search for a permanent location. In April 2018, we moved to our newly remodeled space on 14 acres just south of Reno. Now we have plenty of room to grow.

However, it is our plan to cap enrollment at 100 students total in our Kindergarten through 12th Grade program. This way, we can continue to educate each student as a unique individual with his/her own set of strengths, weaknesses and learning styles, as we are doing currently.

As a mother, I have had a very difficult time finding schools to educate my children. I have pulled my children out of several Christian schools in two states for various reasons. In one case, my child was being bullied daily, and the administration refused to intervene appropriately. In another, my children were being exposed to such a negative environment that they both started showing signs of depression.

There were times when I resorted to homeschooling, out of sheer desperation. Although homeschooling was an excellent choice academically, it quickly became a lonely existence for my children. I struggled to find opportunities for socialization, but my children were not able to form significant friendships when they only saw other children occasionally in after-school activities or in weekly home-school meetings.

For years, I complained because there were no Orthodox schools in the vicinity or close enough that my children could board without being too far from home. In talking with my parish priest, I realized that I had the ability to start the Orthodox school that I had been wanting. I had started and managed a number of successful for-profit and non-profit businesses, including a fully online university. *So, why couldn't I start an Orthodox school?*

I received a blessing from my parish priest and our bishop, recruited very dedicated and talented people to work with me, and about five months later, St. Nicholas Orthodox Academy opened its doors to our first cohort of students.

I have had the pleasure of seeing my children thrive and blossom at the Academy, my younger child was a student and my older child is a classroom aide and music teacher. However, the Academy isn't just for my children. It's for all other children who don't fit well into other school settings, and who want to spend their school days in a loving, nurturing, accepting, bully-free Orthodox Christian environment.

I would love to speak with you and give you whatever information I can to help you decide if St. Nicholas Orthodox Academy is right for your child. You can reach me via email at Barbara@OrthodoxSchoolReno.com, or on my cell phone (775) 848-3677.

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