



You are invited to attend our next **Elder Exchange**

Thursday, April 13, 2023 / 6:30-8:00 p.m. / Detwiler Auditorium, VMRC

## “Value of Christian Elementary Education: Three Perspectives”

**Dialogue:** Maria Archer, K-8 Principal, Eastern Mennonite School  
 Karen Shomo, Head of School, Blue Ridge Christian School  
 Ron Hoch, Head of School, Redeemer Classical School

### A Monthly Academic Assembly Deliberating Over Issues of Christian Faith & Life

**The Format:** This month three invited guests dialogue and share their unique perspectives on a common theme, Christian Elementary Education. Following the presentations, the remainder of the time will be open for audience Q&A with the presenters.



**Maria Archer:** Eastern Mennonite Elementary School offers an elementary experience with a focus on the arts, outdoor experiences, development of peacebuilding skills and an emphasis on following Jesus in their everyday lives. We aspire to reflect Christ’s light as a learning community where every student belongs, thrives and lives God’s call.

Maria has over 30 years of teaching experience in K-8 schools. She earned a BA in Music Education from Temple University and an M.Ed. in Curriculum & Instruction from EMU. Maria loves spending time with her grandchildren, watching baseball and crocheting.



**Karen Shomo:** Blue Ridge Christian School partners with families and churches to provide a Biblically-based education that is rooted in Christ, joyful in learning and faithful in service. Our elementary program builds a strong academic and spiritual foundation through differentiated instruction, enrichment classes, weekly chapels and service opportunities.

Karen’s career includes elementary teaching, university mentoring and school leadership. She earned a B.A. in English from Bowdoin College and an M.Ed. in Educational Administration from Boston College. Karen enjoys time with her husband and son (BRCS Class of 2022), reading theology and historical fiction, learning to play piano and cheering for Boston sports teams.



**Ron Hoch:** Harkening back to Ancient Greece, Classical Christian education embraces the Trivium as both paradigm and methodology for nurturing wisdom and virtue in students to the glory of God.

Ron Hoch is Head of School at Redeemer Classical School and co-author of “Old School, New Clothes: The Cultural Blindness of Christian Education.” He and his wife, Julianna, have four children.

Free. No registration required.

VMRC residents, staff and community neighbors are welcome to attend.

**Elder Exchange, an initiative of VMRC residents, is sponsored by private individuals and VMRC.**

Audio recordings of some of the recent Elder Exchange presentations downloaded at <https://RichardLBowman.com/elderexchange>