



About One Classroom Logo

The one room school is a nice concept to reflect upon when thinking about many different types of students under one roof, one general-ed teacher providing for all of them, and students helping each other out as one community. The one room school house was the original “inclusive” school. While we have gained much with the development of modern school structures and specialization, we have also lost some of our ability to teach to all students.

Have you ever notice how similar the architecture of a one room school house and a church are? In fact many such structures served the purpose of both. This spiritual and educational duality is yet another interesting concept on which to build our message of inclusive Catholic education.

We wanted to create some ambiguity in the logo between a one room school house and a church based on their similar structural elements. The idea is to conflate the dual purpose of our Catholic schools, academic and spiritual, in the logo. Here is how we achieved that:

- The dimensions, angles and proportions most closely follow those of a one room school house.
- Other structural elements like windows and the bell cupola communicate the duality.

For example:

- The cupola itself is suggestive of a church.
- The a bell in the cupola suggests a one room classroom
- Notice that the window panes are subdivided with a cruciform, rather than an even subdivision, suggesting a Christian and spiritual purpose.

“Snap the Whip”



Perhaps the most recognizable depiction of a one room school house is Winslow Homer’s “Snap the Whip”, 1872. At first glance the painting seems a gentle and sentimental depiction of children at play. In actuality the development of schools and the requirement for children to attend them in the late 1800s was not without controversy. Upon further study we see Homer’s artistry at work as he brilliantly takes on themes of spirituality and the natural world versus discipline and formal education.

Notice how the uniform and rigid school structure contrasts with that of its natural environment. One room classrooms, and eventually modern schools, had/have a deliberately rigid solid structure that suggests conformity, discipline, and even lack of inclusivity. Homer cautions us by contrasting the wildness of the boys to the school structure, by having the entrance of the school dark, by having those boys furthest away from the school face the sun, and by having those closest to the school wear shoes/have their faces hidden/and lay on the ground while the others struggle against the “pull” of the school. By bathing some children and nature in the light of God, and juxtaposing this against the relative darkness of a man made construct, Homer challenges the viewer to be aware of the costs and risks of formal education and the abandonment of God’s natural creation. Pretty profound stuff!

Inspired by Winslow Homer we looked to incorporate similar themes into our logo.

- We choose a “hand drawn” style to counter the rigidity of formal structure and eschew conformity.
- The colors, curviness, and the irregularity of the lines are suggestive, welcoming, informal, playful and child friendly.
- Unlike a firmly rooted structure we wanted to create a sense of movement. Our perspective is where the viewer is below the level of the structure which gives the school a gentle sense of moving “up” like a ship on a wave imparting an aspirational and spiritual tone.
- Unlike Homer’s “dark door”, ours is bright, and the entire structure is illuminated by the light of our Lord Jesus Christ.