

Educational Philosophy



The Classical Academy

"The Classical Academy exists to assist parents in their mission to develop exemplary citizens equipped with analytical thinking skills, virtuous character, and a passion for learning, all built on a solid foundation of knowledge."

TCA Core Values

As stated in our Mission Statement above, The Classical Academy exists for the primary purpose of developing exemplary citizens. The remainder of the Mission Statement explains what our founders believed to be the qualities of an exemplary citizen: Analytical Thinking Skills, Virtuous Character, a Passion for Learning, and a Solid Foundation of Knowledge. TCA was founded on the belief that the best education provides students with opportunities to grow in both wisdom and virtue. Parents look to The Classical Academy as a skilled and passionate partner in the educational journey of their school-age children—a journey toward becoming thoughtful, wise, and virtuous individuals. We believe that ideas nourish the soul and endeavor to build relationships that cultivate and unleash the natural curiosity of every learner through a stimulating, classically inspired curriculum that honors the whole child.

Classical education is steeped in the liberal arts tradition and is guided by the Trivium, which consists of three stages: grammar, logic, and rhetoric. During the grammar stage, students learn the basic elements of language and concepts and how to use them correctly. In the logic stage, students learn how to reason and consider ideas critically. The rhetoric stage prepares the student to communicate effectively and persuasively. The classical education model emphasizes the study of quality, time-tested literature, history from primary sources, mathematics, science and the arts. This approach to education focuses on the teacher guiding students to contemplate great texts for truth, appreciate the beauty of great works of music and art, and find the good in becoming an exemplary citizens.

In his book, *Norms and Nobility*, David Hicks defines Classical Education as “the cultivation of wisdom and virtue by nourishing the soul on truth, goodness, and beauty by means of the liberal arts.” At TCA we approach education with this idea in mind and have articulated this philosophy in our Core Values. The big ideas that flow through this document inform our instructional approach. We are Whole Person Focused, Relationship Based, Idea Centered, and Classically Oriented.

Whole Person Focused

We see children honestly and realistically for who they are. We endeavor to foster a learning environment characterized by compassion, encouragement, and thoughtfully formed habits of mind, body, and spirit that inspire continual growth and self-discipline on the journey toward becoming an exemplary citizen. We cannot simply teach subjects, or information; we must teach the child as a whole person in pursuit of the true, good, and beautiful.

Relationship Based

Teachers masterfully facilitate and support healthy relationships in students' personal and academic lives. Our curriculum and approach to education foster a joy in learning and a desire for a life-long pursuit of truth, beauty, and goodness. As we build relationships with students and facilitate their relationships with one another, their community, and the curriculum, we cultivate the intrinsic motivation and natural inclination to learn and grow.

Idea Centered

Inspirational ideas and truths are recognized to be the real food for minds. We guide our students to do the work of learning by engaging with rich texts, primary source documents, classical art and music, and nature studies. Through guided exploration, students are prepared to enter the marketplace of ideas and examine the principles that influence society and their place in it.

Classically Oriented

According to Plato, "Education is most fundamentally concerned with conduct, not with knowledge. The problem with knowledge is that it can be used for good or for ill." Therefore, we believe the most significant outcome of education is not what a student has learned, but how they have learned to live. TCA is committed to building wisdom and virtue in our students through classic books, rich historical content, and the study of classical art and music. Teachers foster engagement and promote student voice through thoughtful questioning and a classical, discussion-based approach to education.