

Classical School

3310 North Durkee Street

Appleton, WI 54911

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www.classicalcharter.com

Goals for Tonight

- Share information about Classical School and classical education
- Provide a glimpse inside the day of a Classical School student
- Explain the application procedure
- Acknowledge resources for further learning
- Answer any questions
- Tour for those interested

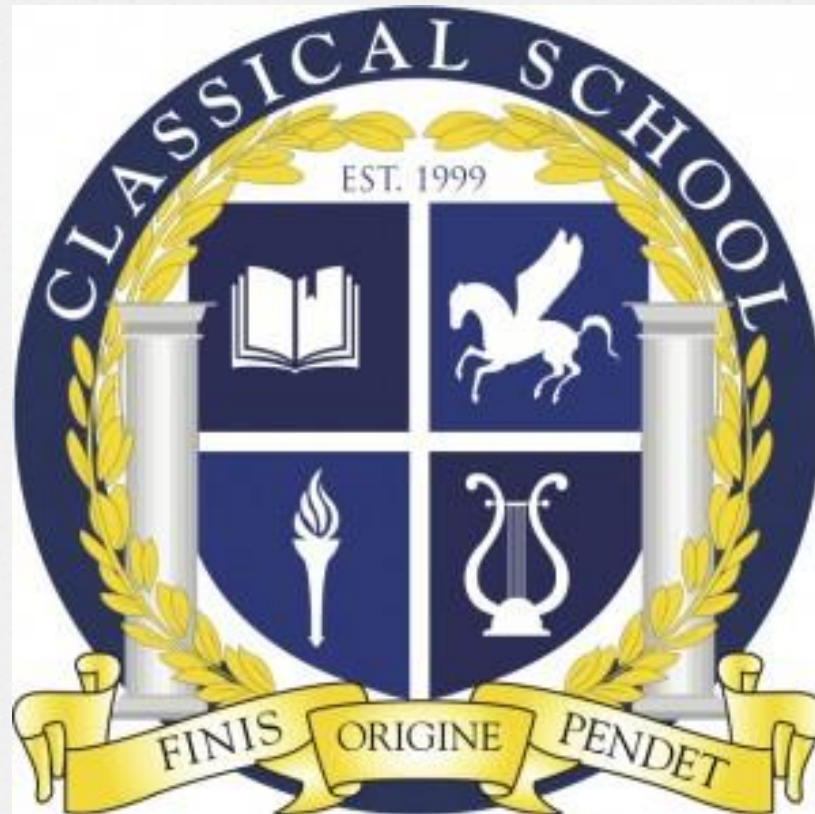
Classical School Mission and Motto

- o Building a just and excellent educational foundation
- o Latin Motto: Finis Origine Pendet
 - o The End Depends Upon the Beginning.

School Philosophy

- o We believe in the importance of:
 - o Knowledge-centered education, rather than learner-centered education
 - o Every educational minute
- o We acknowledge:
 - o The leadership of teachers in the classrooms
 - o The responsibility of each student for his or her academic effort

School Seal or Crest



School Mascot and Emblem



History

- Founded by a group of like-minded parents
- Opened in 1999; 2nd charter school in the AASD at the time
- 1st classical school in Wisconsin

What is a charter school?

- o Public, tuition-free school
- o Created through a contract or “charter” between the governing body of the school and the school district
- o Offer an educational choice that varies from neighborhood schools and other charter schools
- o In Wisconsin, charter school students take the same state-mandated tests as other public school students and benefit from licensed teachers

What is classical education?

- o Initiated by the Greeks and Romans over 2000 years ago
 - o Links our modern world experience with the great thinkers of the past who mentally grappled with the very same human concerns
- o Based on a methodical approach to education, the Trivium, developed in the Middle Ages
 - o Consists of three stages of learning that coincide with the development of a child
 - o Grammar Stage (grades K - 4)
 - o Logic Stage (grades 5 - 8)
 - o Rhetoric Stage (grades 9 - 12)

General Information

- o Classical School is a charter school in the Appleton Area School District (AASD)
- o 490 students in grades K – 8; two classrooms per grade
- o Participate in 7th & 8th grade athletics with Einstein Middle School
- o Musical ensemble offerings:
 - o Orchestra beginning in 4th grade
 - o Band beginning in 6th grade and
 - o Choir beginning in 7th grade

General Information

- Variety of other activities: mythology club, chess club, forensics, ski club, student council, running club, and many more
- Students choose their high school from North, East, or West high schools without having to go through the open enrollment process
- No transportation (bussing) is provided

Leadership

- o Administration:
 - o Thomas Bomann, Principal
 - o Support Specialists
 - o Kathy Diedrich, Program Support
 - o Joanne Bielmeier, Enrollment Support
- o Classical Charter School Association (CCSA) Board
 - o A Wisconsin not-for-profit corporation
 - o Governs the school in accordance with the charter with the AASD

Results

- o Classical School graduates are wise and virtuous:
 - o Critical thinkers
 - o Coherent writers
 - o Confident speakers
 - o Thoughtful leaders
 - o Virtuous citizens
- o “Significantly Exceeds Expectations” on 2016-17 DPI Report Card

What Distinguishes Classical School?

- o Our content-rich curriculum
- o Our time-honored educational practices
- o Our committed K-8 community

Committed Community

- o Similar to most charter schools – we choose to be here, families and staff working together toward common goals
- o Involvement from parents is integral to the success of students and the school:
 - o Reinforce their children's growth
 - o Ensure homework is complete
 - o Supplement learning at home
 - o Support the teacher and school
 - o Volunteer at school 20-hours per year/family
 - o Respect the teachers and staff

Content-rich Curriculum

- o Core Knowledge® (CK) sequence:
 - o Developed by the Core Knowledge® Foundation
 - o Outline of specific content to be taught at each grade level
 - o Covers language arts, history, geography, mathematics, science, and the fine arts
- o World language instruction (Spanish – daily, Greek/Latin vocabulary exposure beginning in kindergarten)

Time-honored Educational Practices

- o Academic rigor
- o Classical Trivium-based learning stages
 - o School of Grammar (grades K – 4)
 - o Teacher-led instruction
 - o Skill-based groupings in reading and math
 - o School of Logic (grades 5 – 8)
 - o Socratic method of discussion and questioning
 - o Study of logic
 - o Latin graduating honors for grades 7 and 8
- o Other time-honored program elements
 - o Grammar and spelling instruction beginning in first grade
 - o Cursive handwriting instruction beginning in third grade
 - o Letter grades are awarded beginning in second grade

What is academic rigor at Classical School?

- o Students are expected to strive for excellence.
- o Homework – there will be homework, more for some students than others
- o Participation in class – students become comfortable answering questions and talking in front of classmates
- o Logic and Greek/Latin are rigorous subjects; however, they are both favorites of many students
 - o different and challenging = interesting

Classical School Kindergarten

- o Classes begin at 8:00 am and conclude at 2:49 pm (7:50 am – 3:00 pm for grades 7 and 8)
- o Reading instruction begins in kindergarten
 - o Taught using Direct Instruction method to develop a common base
 - o Goal is to produce readers capable of comprehending unabridged classical literature in later grades
- o Saxon Math is used to deliver the math standards in the CK sequence for grades K – 8
- o Reading and math programs rely heavily on worksheets in grades K – 3 and are grouped by skill level, which is determined by placement testing

Classical School Kindergarten

- o Spanish is taught for 25 - 30 minutes daily (45 minutes daily in grades 7 & 8)
 - o Instruction is delivered in Spanish
 - o Begin by learning vocabulary and grammar to build upon in later grades
- o Greek/Latin vocabulary exposure begins in kindergarten
- o Daily class time is utilized to cover additional areas outlined in the CK sequence
- o Instruction includes physical education, art, and music scheduled throughout the week

Preparing for Classical School

- o Kindergarten:
 - o [Kindergarten Orientation Packet](#) on website
 - o Math, reading, penmanship
 - o Tying shoes, zipping coats
 - o Summer School Kindergarten Readiness
- o All grades:
 - o Preview Core Knowledge® [sequence](#)
 - o Read literature identified in the sequence or on summer reading list
 - o Schedule classroom observation time

Application Procedure

- o Application period: December 1 – February 16
 - o Applications in English, Hmong, and Spanish are available outside the office and online
 - o Applications received after February 16 are processed in the order in which they are received
- o The lottery is held by the end of February,
 - o Families are notified of their enrollment or waiting list status by mid-March.
- o See the [school website](#) for additional information.

Resources

- o School website: www.classicalcharter.com
 - o Family Handbook
 - o Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)
- o Core Knowledge Foundation:
www.coreknowledge.org
- o Books by E.D. Hirsch
 - o *Cultural Literacy*
 - o *The Schools We Need and Why We Don't Have Them*
 - o *The Knowledge Deficit*
- o "Understanding the Classical School Choice"
document



Questions?

Thank you!