

# Classical School

3310 North Durkee Street

Appleton, WI 54911

920-832-4968

[www.classicalcharter.com](http://www.classicalcharter.com)

# Presentation Goals

- 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



# Classical School Mission and Motto

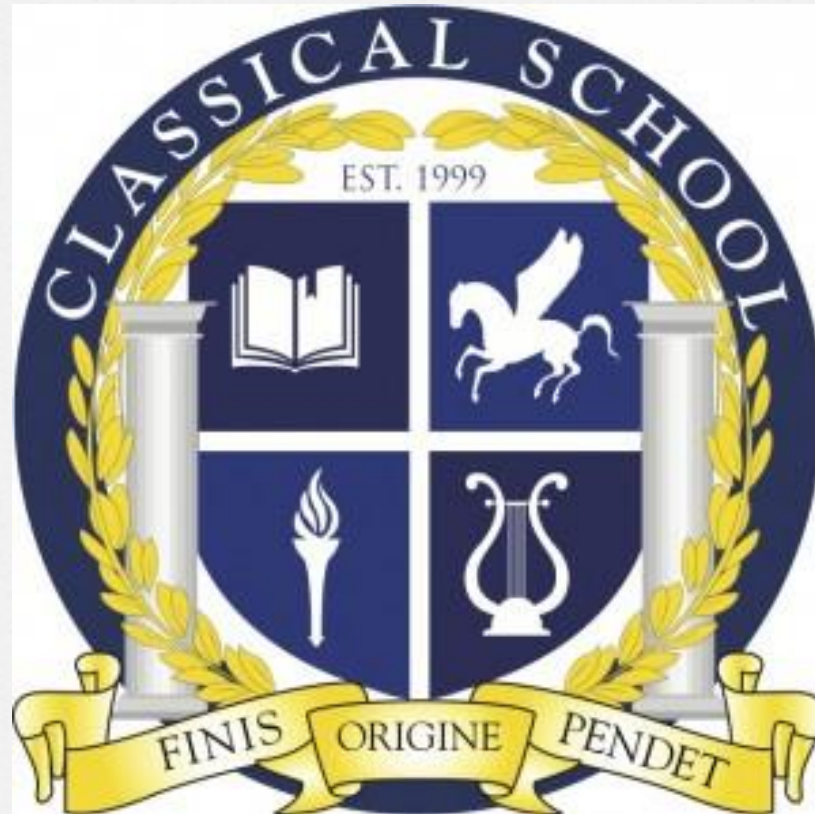
- Building a just and excellent educational foundation
- Latin Motto: Finis Origine Pendet
  - The End Depends Upon the Beginning.

# School Philosophy

- We believe in the importance of:
  - Knowledge-centered education, rather than learner-centered education
  - Every educational minute
- We acknowledge:
  - The leadership of teachers in the classrooms
  - 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; 2<sup>nd</sup> charter school in the AASD at the time
- 1<sup>st</sup> classical school in Wisconsin

# What is a charter school?

- Public, tuition-free school
- Created through a contract or “charter” between the governing body of the school and the school district
- Offer an educational choice that varies from neighborhood schools and other charter schools
- 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?

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

# General Information

- Classical School is a charter school in the Appleton Area School District (AASD)
- 490 students in grades K – 8; two classrooms per grade
- Participate in 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade athletics with Einstein Middle School
- Musical ensemble offerings:
  - Orchestra beginning in 4<sup>th</sup> grade
  - Band beginning in 5<sup>th</sup> grade and
  - Choir beginning in 7<sup>th</sup> 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

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



# Results

- Classical School graduates are wise and virtuous:
  - Critical thinkers
  - Coherent writers
  - Confident speakers
  - Thoughtful leaders
  - Virtuous citizens
- “Significantly Exceeds Expectations” on 2018-19 DPI Report Card

# What Distinguishes Classical School?

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



# Committed Community

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

# Content-rich Curriculum

- Core Knowledge® (CK) sequence:
  - Developed by the Core Knowledge® Foundation
  - Outline of specific content to be taught at each grade level
  - Covers language arts, history, geography, mathematics, science, and the fine arts
- World language instruction (Spanish – daily, Greek/Latin root words and phrases beginning in 4<sup>th</sup> grade)

# Time-honored Educational Practices

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



# What is academic rigor at Classical School?

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

# Classical School Kindergarten

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



# Classical School Kindergarten

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



# Preparing for Classical School

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

# Application Procedure

- Application period: December 1 – February 19
  - Applications in English, Hmong, and Spanish are available outside the office and online
  - Applications received after February 19 are processed in the order in which they are received
- The lottery is held by the end of February,
  - Families are notified of their enrollment or waiting list status by mid-March.
- See the [school website](#) for additional information.

# Resources

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





Thank you!