



Great Thought
Inspiring Great Thinkers

School of Rhetoric/ High School Information Night

26 October 2010

Intellect, Character, and Ideals in the Classical Tradition



Agenda for Evening



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1. Presentation
2. Discussion with Nova freshmen
3. Students retire to SoRRce
4. Adult Q&A

Topics in Presentation



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1. Academics
2. Extra-curricular
3. College-Prep
4. The High School Experience

Academics



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- Challenging curriculum which nurtures the young-adult's mind
 - Gives a well-rounded look at Western culture
 - Encourages students to explore their interests
 - Introduces critical research skills

Academics



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- Fulfills the *trivium*
 - Instruction and practice in the art of public speaking
 - Opportunities in every class to articulate one's point of view and to defend it with logic, conviction, and poise
 - More participatory than traditional high schools
 - High-level seminars (versus typical high school seminars)
 - High school students speak monthly on virtues

Academics



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- Partnering with Twin Cities resources
 - Field trips to MIA
 - Attendance at Macalester College Mock Trial and Classic Debate
 - In discussions with MN Opera and Orchestra
 - Band and Strings programs
 - Drama/Musical Directors



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Academics



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		Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12
1	Literature	Humanities I:	Humanities II:	Humanities III:	Humanities IV:
2	History	1000 BC – 1400 AD	1400-1800 AD	1800-present	U.S. Culture
3	Science	Biology	Chemistry	Physics	Scientific debates or 2 J/S electives
4	Math	Algebra II	Geometry	Trig/Statistics	Calculus or 2 J/S electives
5	Language**	Language*/ F/S Rotation	Language*/ F/S Rotation	Language/Elective	Economics/ Language/Elective
6	Rhetoric	Rhetoric F/S Rotation	Rhetoric F/S Rotation	Rhetoric Elective	Ethical Philosophy
					Senior Thesis

Extracurricular



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- Athletics program
 - Growing rapidly
 - New sports league (EMAC)
 - More practices and more games
 - New sports (fall volleyball, spring baseball/softball)
 - Increased enrollment in returning sports (spring volleyball, soccer, basketball, badminton)
 - Grow to varsity and junior varsity programs

Extracurricular



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- Non-athletic program
 - Growing rapidly
 - Growth in Nova clubs (split to two choirs, more in-school performances, yearbook, newspaper)
 - New clubs (First Tech club, Fencing club, Old Movies club, and many more)

(see Extracurriculars on website)

College-Preparatory



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See College Prep presentation

- Aligning Nova's program with five schools:
 - Macalester College (local, liberal arts)
 - MIT (national, science-engineering)
 - Brown University (Ivy League, liberal arts)
 - U of MN (local, research)
 - U Michigan (national, research)

College-Preparatory



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- GPAs
 - Less critical in admissions, but SoR grades based on Nova standards as well as peers at other schools
- Standardized tests
 - ACT and SAT prep for students, including PSAT and PLAN

College-Preparatory



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- AP (Advanced Placement) and IB (International Baccalaureate) program competitive
 - Nova's rigorous courses are college-level work
 - Students in AP classes have to take the same AP test for college credit (\$87 per test)
 - IB is not recognized by as many schools for credit
- PSEO (Post-Secondary Education Opportunity)
 - Not recognized at all colleges; more stewardship at Nova

High School Experience



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- Choice
 - Academic freedom to choose electives of interest
 - Use of the Joust program
 - Specific projects within classes
 - Honors-level course work using inclusion model
 - Earn out-of-uniform days via social action

High School Experience



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- Leadership
 - Student Senate
 - Political Voice, Social Action, Social Events, Administration
 - Honor Code
 - Sports
 - Captains and managers of teams, assistant coaches
 - Clubs
 - Captains of teams, Founders of activities, long-term leadership

High School Experience



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- Social Life
 - School dances
 - Homecoming, Snow Days, and Spring Ascot
 - High School advisory
 - Snow Days Court
 - Prom and Jr. Prom

High School Experience



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- What makes us unique
 - Integrated instruction
 - Personal relationship with teachers and administrators
 - (1:12 teacher student ratio)
 - Instructional purpose: School of Rhetoric
 - Integrated virtue education
 - End of year games (*disputatio*, et cetera)
 - Incorporated Mock Trial into Rhetoric class

Vision statement



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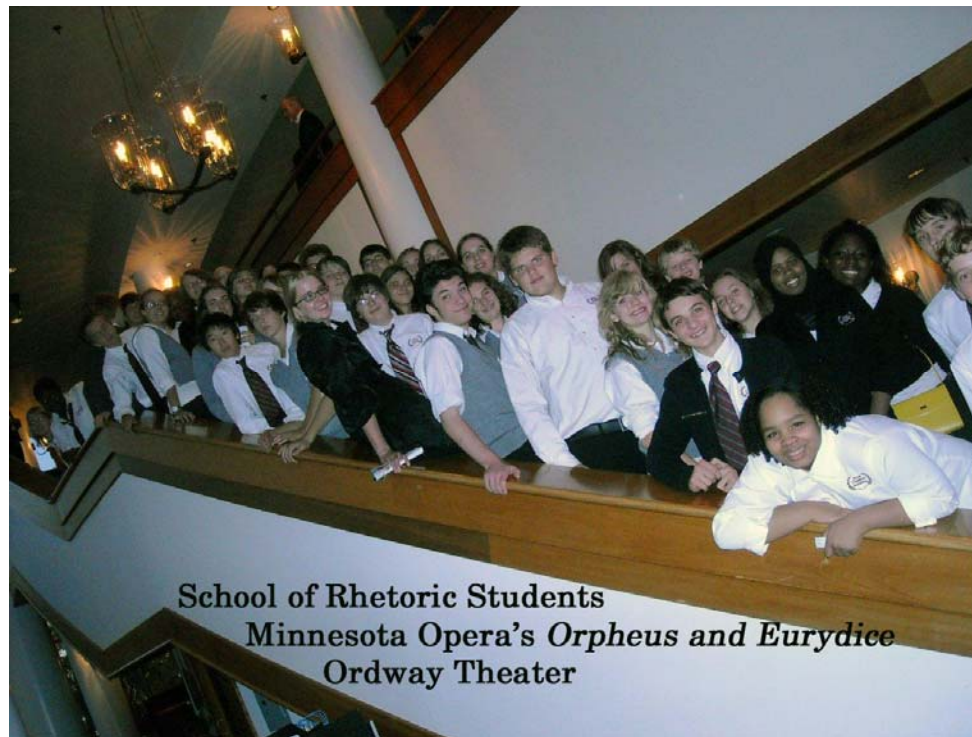
We believe that classical education at Nova will allow us to graduate a young adult who is a rational thinker, a self-motivated learner, and who demonstrates him/herself to be a person of character.

Conclusion



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Questions?



School of Rhetoric Students
Minnesota Opera's *Orpheus and Eurydice*
Ordway Theater

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