



Annual Report  
on Curriculum, Instruction,  
and Student Achievement  
for  
Nova Classical Academy

4098-07

2011-2012

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Annual Report on Curriculum, Instruction and Student Achievement  
Nova Classical Academy District #4098-07  
2011-2012 School Year

## **INTRODUCTION**

### *Vision*

Within a decade of opening its doors, Nova Classical Academy will be recognized in Minnesota as providing a high quality K-12 classical education in the western tradition. Nova will continue to be led by a strong parent-led board and skilled school management. The faculty and parents will fully support and practice the principles of classical education. Nova will reside on a campus that fully supports the K-12 program while maintaining its small school environment. The school will graduate a class of seniors who embody Nova's educational aim. The school's faculty will be highly qualified to teach the classical model and the school's financial stability will support the growing needs of a reputable classical education in the public domain.

### *Profile*

Nova Classical Academy was started by three parents who wanted a more rigorous education for their children. The school they founded was the first public school in Minnesota to offer a classical education where the students would not only learn subjects, but virtue as well. Most importantly, Nova was created to be a school where students are taught how to think and how to apply their knowledge in different situations.

### *Mission Statement*

In a nurturing, small-school environment, and through the use of an academically accelerated and enriched curriculum, Nova Classical Academy will offer its learners a rigorous, thorough, systematic, challenging, K-12 college-preparatory education in the classical tradition.

### *Educational Philosophy*

Nova Classical Academy seeks to form young adults who possess the moral virtues (Prudence, Justice, Fortitude, and Temperance) and the intellectual virtues (Wisdom, Understanding, and Science) as articulated in the western tradition in order that they may readily take up the responsibilities of adulthood.

### *Authorizer Information*

Authorizer: Friends of Education

Authorizer Contact: Beth Topoluk

Authorizer Address: 200 East Lake Street, Wayzata, MN 55391

Authorizer Contact Duration: Expires June 30, 2017.

## ENROLLMENT

### *Number of Students Enrolled*

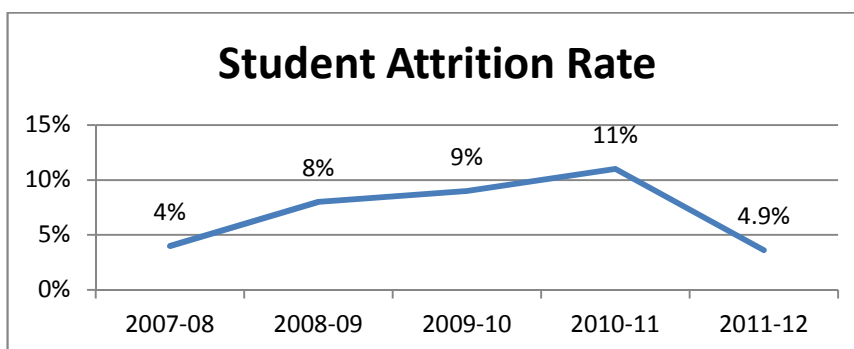
Nova began in the fall of 2003 with 166 students enrolled in kindergarten through grade 6 grade, with two sections of kindergarten and one section each in grades 1 through 6. By the 2011-2012 school year, Nova had 693 students in Kindergarten through grade 11 and had three sections K-5, two sections in 5-10, and one section in grade 11. Even with the expansion in sections, Nova continues to have a long waiting list (600+ students), especially in kindergarten through grade 8.

### *Key Demographic Trends*

Membership														
School Year	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Attrition Rate
2007-08	40	44	44	48	48	24	42	33	33	0	0	0	0	4%
2008-09	40	44	44	48	48	48	52	51	32	0	0	0	0	8%
2009-10	60	72	72	78	52	53	54	54	48	28	0	0	0	9%
2010-11	60	72	72	78	78	52	54	54	53	37	21	0	0	11%
2011-12	60	72	72	78	78	78	54	54	53	42	37	15	0	3.6%
Projected 2012-13	80	78	78	78	78	78	78	78	78	50	35	32	15	n/a

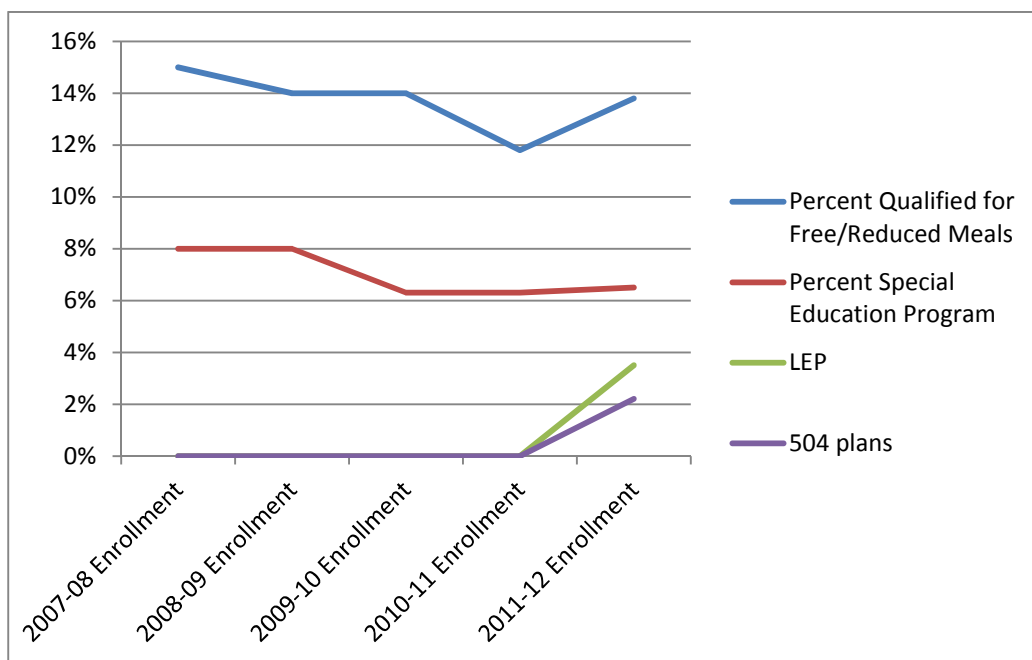
## STUDENT ATTRITION

School Year	Attrition Rate
2007-08	4%
2008-09	8%
2009-10	9%
2010-11	11%
2011-12	4.9%
Projected 2012-13	n/a



2011-12 Student Attrition Rates by grade												
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
1	2	3	2	3	4	6	1	5	3	4	0	<b>34</b>
1.6%	2.8%	4.2%	2.6%	3.8%	5.1%	11.1%	1.9%	9.4%	7.3%	11.8%	0%	4.9%

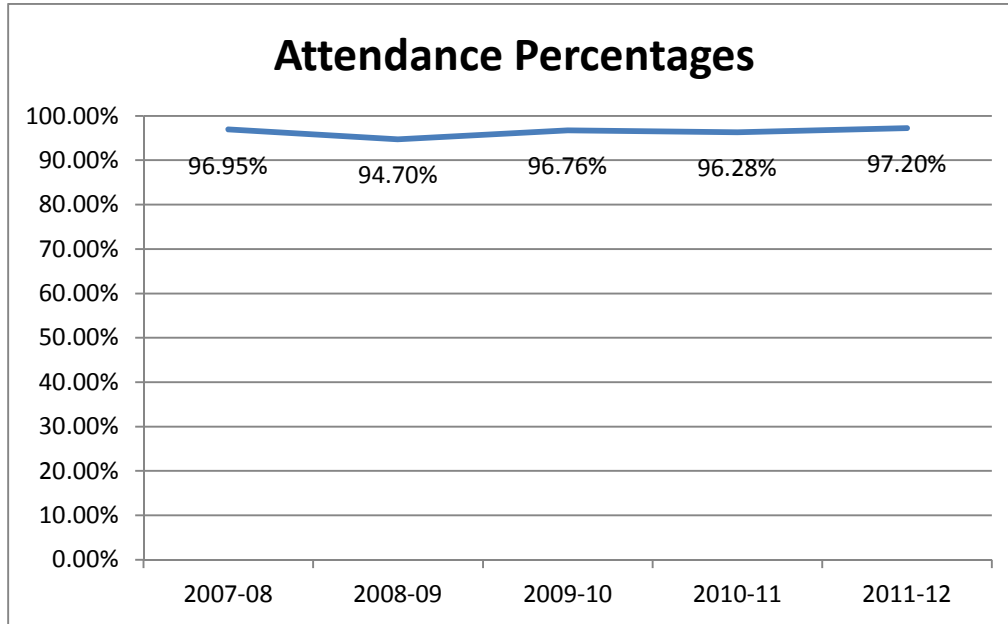
<b>Demographic Information</b>					
	<b>2007-08 Enrollment</b>	<b>2008-09 Enrollment</b>	<b>2009-10 Enrollment</b>	<b>2010-11 Enrollment</b>	<b>2011-12 Enrollment</b>
Percent Qualified for Free/Reduced Meals	15%	14%	14%	11.8%	13.8%
Percent Special Education Program	8%	8%	6.3%	6.3%	6.5%
LEP	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	3.5%
504 plans	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	2.2%



<b>State Aid categories</b>					
	<b>American Indian</b>	<b>Asian/Pacific</b>	<b>Hispanic</b>	<b>Black</b>	<b>White</b>
2011-12	0.1%	7.5%	3.1%	5.1%	84.2%

*Student Attendance Percentages*

	<b>2007-08</b>	<b>2008-09</b>	<b>2009-10</b>	<b>2010-11</b>	<b>2011-12</b>
All	96.95%	94.70%	96.76%	96.28%	97.2%



## GOVERNANCE

For the 2011-12 School year Nova Classical Academy had eleven members on the Board of Directors.

### **2011-12 School Year Charter Public School Board** *This table contains information for ALL board members.*

*2011-12 Election Date: May 2011*  
*2012-13 Anticipated Election Date: May 2013*

<b>Name</b>	<b>Board Position</b>	<b>Group</b> (if teacher, file folder #)	<b>Date Seated</b>	<b>Phone Number</b>	<b>E-Mail Address</b>	<b>Member Meeting Attendance Rate</b>
Jason Belter	Director	Teacher, 432080	7/2010	(651) 428-5185	<a href="mailto:jbelter@novaclassica.org">jbelter@novaclassica.org</a>	100%
John Bujan	Director	Community Member	7/2009	(612) 823-0007	<a href="mailto:jmbujan@novaclassical.org">jmbujan@novaclassical.org</a>	84.2%
Tom Corrigan	Director/Treasurer	Parent	7/2009	651-736-6885	<a href="mailto:tcorrigan@novaclassical.org">tcorrigan@novaclassical.org</a>	94.7%
Brandon Foat	Director	Teacher, 408188	7/2009	(612) 724-0762	<a href="mailto:bfoat@novaclassical.org">bfoat@novaclassical.org</a>	63.2%
Damon Fraser	Director/Chair	Parent	7/2010	(612) 721-0061	<a href="mailto:dfraser@novaclassical.org">dfraser@novaclassical.org</a>	94.7%
Karen Groppe	Director	Parent	7/2011	(651) 264-0119	<a href="mailto:kgroppe@novaclassical.org">kgroppe@novaclassical.org</a>	84.2%
Andrea Johnson	Director	Parent	7/2011	(612) 729-6627	<a href="mailto:ajohnson@novaclassical.org">ajohnson@novaclassical.org</a>	83.3%
Dianne Krizan	Director/Chair-Elect	Parent	7/2011	(651) 645-7067	<a href="mailto:dkrizan@novaclassical.org">dkrizan@novaclassical.org</a>	94.7%
Roxanne Lehman	Director	Community Member	4/2012	n/a	<a href="mailto:rlehmann@novaclassical.org">rlehmann@novaclassical.org</a>	100%
Becky Lund	Director/Secretary	Teacher, 389883	7/2011	(651) 295-2570	<a href="mailto:blund@novaclassical.org">blund@novaclassical.org</a>	100%
Teresa Taggert	Director	Parent	7/2011	(651) 308.4443	<a href="mailto:ttaggert@novaclassical.org">ttaggert@novaclassical.org</a>	84.2%

## MANAGEMENT

Name	File Folder Number	Assignment	Years Employed by the School	Left During 11/12	Not Returning 12/13
Brian Bloomfield	443123	Executive Director/ Upper School Director	4	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Miranda Morton	438376	Lower School Director	4	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jennifer Danforth	364011	Counselor	2	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

For 2011-12, the Executive Director, Brian Bloomfield, had goals approved by the Board of Directors at the September 2011 board meeting. Those goals include specific accomplishments within the general areas of student achievement, human resource and personnel management, financial management, legal and compliance management, effective communication, and board, authorizer, and community relationships. Mr. Bloomfield was reviewed on his goals in February 2012 and presented his final report on the goals in June 2012.

## STAFFING

### *Staffing Information*

Name	File Folder Number	Assignment/ Subject	Left During 11-12	Not Returning 12-13
1. Kristina Alton	442531	Latin (3-6)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Jeanie Anderson	437857	Music (6-9)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Jason Belter	432080	Science (7-12)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Patricia Bodenstab	209167	First Grade	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Nancy Broen	397048	History (8-9)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Marsha Bunge	408232	Special Education	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Laura Burkhardt	375931	Art (6-9)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Laura Buri (Heuett)	441724	Fifth Grade	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. Jenna Cushing-Leubner	462651	ESL	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
10. George Dalbo	454577	History (7-10)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11. Megan Daoust	397162	Second Grade	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12. Brandon Foat	408188	History (6-7)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
13. Lindsey Garelick	459741	Spanish (9-12)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
14. Joshua Garvin	433596	Latin (9-10)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
15. Lisa Greenberg	437894	Special Education	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
16. Hannah Greschner	435010	First Grade	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
17. Steven Gruber	338261	Science (7-10)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
18. Jennifer Howe	463730	Fourth grade	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
19. Melissa Johnson	462224	Latin (6-9)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
20. Andrew Kennedy	450008	Science (6, 8)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
21. Annie Knier	455253	Fourth grade	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
22. Jin-Seop Lee	456168	Math (6-10)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
23. Annie Lewine	458683	Latin (6-8)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
24. Chad Long	410502	Third Grade	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
25. Rebecca Lund	389883	Second Grade	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
26. Maria Marchand	411039	Fourth Grade	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
27. Jonathan Martin	446476	Physical Ed. (K-5)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



28. Margaret McCarney	456216	Language Arts (6-7)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
29. Kathleen McLarn	412625	Fifth Grade	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
30. Emma Miles	439105	PE/Health (6-10)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
31. Karen Pettinger	349765	Third grade	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
32. Christian Rovn	372404	Phys. Ed./Health (6-10)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
33. Diane Rude	446587	Math	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
34. Ted Sexton	452355	Language Arts	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
35. Jo Shultz	445885	Kindergarten	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
36. Michelle Steingraeber	433863	First Grade	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
37. Sarah Taylor	421853	Language Arts (7-8)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
38. Traci Taylor	398736	Second Grade	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
39. Sherry Tokkesdal	380423	Third Grade	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
40. Suzannah Toso	434232	Kindergarten	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
41. Katie Tuma	290613	Art (K-5)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
42. Rebecca Urbrock	408803	Music (K-5)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
43. Samantha West	447286	Math (6-9)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
44. Laura Westrum	401216	Fifth grade	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
45. Susan Whalen	447286	Language Arts (9-10)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
46. Regina Zelinka	410775	Kindergarten	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
47. Rachel Zinter	406160	Math (6-11)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

In addition to the licensed teachers listed above, Nova Classical Academy also employed nine Education Assistants and administrative and support personnel (Business Manager, two Assistant Project Managers, Operations manager, college counselor, Lunch coordinator, and two Office Managers). Nova contracted with ISES for additional Special Education services and with Hill Murray for Band.

## **FINANCES**

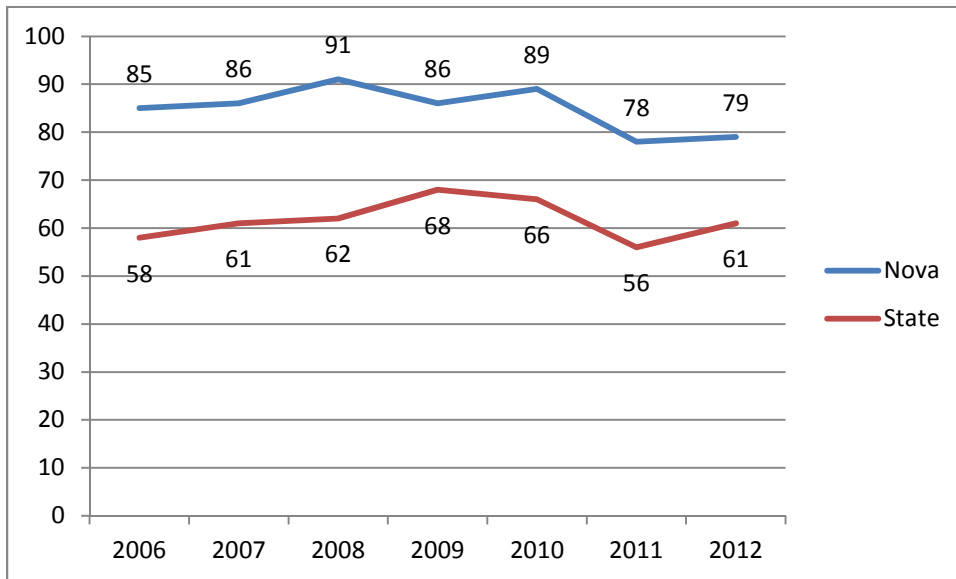
Nova ended 2012 with an estimated 24.6% fund balance and had set a goal of having at least 20%. Nova had also set a goal of winning the 2012 MN Finance Award as well as having a clean (no findings) external audit: in June 2012 we were alerted that we had been awarded the Finance Award (for the third consecutive year) and Larson Allen issued a clean audit with no findings of any kind in October 2011.

## ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE

Nova Classical Academy administers the MCA-II to all students in grades 3-8 to measure math and reading proficiency relative to Minnesota State Academic Standards over time.

**Figure 7a**

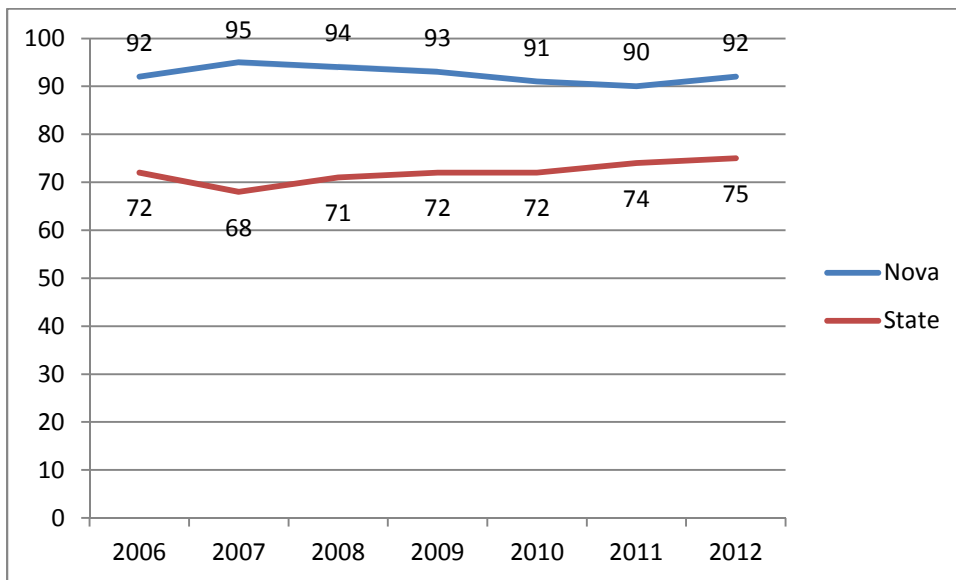
Trend in Student Math Proficiency 2006-12 as Measured by MCA-II/III



*Math proficiency at Nova Classical Academy exceeds state proficiency averages and has since 2006.*

**Figure 7b**

Trend in Student Reading Proficiency 2006-12 as Measured by MCA-II



*Reading proficiency at Nova Classical Academy exceeds state proficiency averages and has since 2006.*

### ***ERB data***

In addition to the MCAs, Nova tests and benchmarks students in grades 3-8 through the ERB test (Education records Bureau). The test is administered twice per year: once in the autumn and once in the spring. Students test in 7-8 areas and their scores are compared against those of their peers in four groups:

1. Nation
2. Suburban schools
3. Independent schools
4. Nova itself

Data is use to track individual student growth and target grade-level program initiatives. A sample report (from Spring 2012) is attached to this Annual report.

## **OPERATIONAL PERFORMANCE**

### ***Reporting Requirements***

Nova Classical Academy submitted all reporting documents (MARSS, EDRS, Compliance) in a timely manner to MDE. One submission, the newly required, Assurances, went through several drafts and final sign-off did not happen until after the deadline, but the original submission was on time.

### ***Legal Issues***

A formal complaint (#11-069C) was filed against the Academy on behalf of three students receiving special Education services. The school participated fully in the investigation process. The conclusion was that Nova had not violated FAPE for any of the students, but the inquiry yielded results indicating some areas lacking in Nova's documentation of process. Nova took these findings, updated our TSES manual with the aid of an attorney, and has a more robust process in place.

Throughout the year several issues were raised by Nova constituents to the Authorizer (Friends of Education), either alleging or inquiring about whether Nova has violated process, procedure, or MN law in its operations. Friends of Education investigated the complaints and found each to be based on a misunderstanding of applicable law by the complainants.

The Nova Board worked throughout the Spring and Summer to create a compliance dashboard to be employed moving forwards (2012-13).

## **INNOVATIVE PRACTICES & IMPLEMENTATION**

Charter schools were created to develop innovative educational practices, stabilize them, and pass those learnings on to mainstream schools for improvement. Nova continues in this tradition by building competence in our classical mission. In 2012 this mission was pushed forward in two significant ways:

- Direct Instruction: The Reading program at the School of Grammar (K-5) was re-visioned by our Lower School Director to move away from learning through experience

and return to classical roots: direct instruction. The Reading Mastery curriculum was piloted and tested, and will be deployed fully in the K-5 program in 2013.

- **Classical Education Certification:** This program, created at Nova, trains teachers in the tactics and philosophies behind classical education. This year, in addition to Nova's new teachers (for whom the full-year course is a requirement), teachers from a sister classical school attended the program. The program meets twice per month all year for 2-hour sessions at night.

## **FUTURE PLANS**

### *Academic Goals for 2011-12*

1. **Goal:** Increase the percentage of students who "Exceed Standards" in Reading as measured on the MCA-II from 69.6% to 71%.

**Result:** Goal met. Results from the 2012 MCA-II show that 72.5% of Nova students were proficient in Reading.

2. **Goal:** Increase the percentage of students who "Exceed Standards" in Mathematics as measured on the MCA-III from 33.5% to 40%.

**Measure:** Goal not met. Results from the 2012 MCA-III show that 39.8% of Nova students were proficient in Mathematics.

### *Non Academic Goals for 2011-12*

1. **Goal:** Secure financial and operational plan in support of Nova's new facility at Victoria Park.

**Measure:** Move in to facility in time to start the 2012-13 school year.

**Result:** Goal met. Financial plan present to the Nova Board in February 2012. Nova has combined both campuses and moved into our new facility at Victoria Park in time to begin the 2013 school year.

2. **Goal:** Develop and implement a revised K-12 Child Find process to help Nova administration and faculty identify early and program for students with special learning needs.

**Measure:** Report to the Board of Directors in June, 2012

**Result:** Goal met. Nova introduced a more robust Child Find Process, RtI, in the 2012 school year at the Lower campus and is deploying it to the full school in 2013.

### *Academic Goals for 2012-13*

1. **Goal:** The percentage of all students in grades 3-5 at Nova Classical Academy who are proficient on the Mathematics MCA (all accountability tests) will increase from 78.6% in 2012 to 81.7%.

**Measure:** MCA-III

2. **Goal:** The percentage of all students in grades 3-5 at Nova Classical Academy who are proficient on the Reading MCA (all accountability tests) will increase from 90.6% in 2012 to 92.6%.

**Measure:** MCA-II

3. **Goal:** The percentage of all students in grades 6-8 and 11 at Nova Classical Academy who are proficient on the Mathematics MCA (all accountability tests) will increase from 76.1% in 2012 to 80.0%.

**Measure:** MCA-III

4. **Goal:** The percentage of all students in grades 6-8 and 10 at Nova Classical Academy who are proficient on the Reading MCA (all accountability tests) will increase from 94.5% in 2012 to 95.9%.

**Measure:** MCA-II

*Non Academic Goals for 2012-13*

1. **Goal:** Increase knowledge, awareness, and effectiveness around Nova’s Special Education program.

**Measure:** Parent survey and teacher/staff feedback.

2. **Goal:** Increase student involvement in extracurricular activities.

**Measure:** % of students in grades 6-12 participating in extracurricular programs increases from approximately 32% to 45%.

*Other Future Plans*

During 2011-12, Nova was heavily engaged in the building project to construct its K-12 facility in Saint Paul. In order to support the school at its full capacity (900), Nova created a Year One plan which outlined how new lateral entry students in grades 7 & 8 would be supported, how cross-age programming would be implemented, and how long-term budgeting would operate. Without the sustained growth Nova has experienced in the past years, budget management will come to the fore as the vanguard to guard against staff attrition and to create program priorities. These are the operational priorities that will be the focus of Nova’s administrative team this year.

**TRAINING ATTENDED BY EACH BOARD MEMBER**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Employment Law Training</b>	<b>School Finances Training</b>	<b>Board Governance Training</b>
Jason Belter	12/2009, MDE	11/2009, MDE	6/2010, Ratwick, Roszak, & Maloney
John Bujan	12/2009, MDE	11/2009, MDE	6/2010, Ratwick, Roszak, & Maloney
Tom Corrigan	12/2009, MDE	11/2009, MDE	6/2010, Ratwick, Roszak, & Maloney
Brandon Foat	12/2009, MDE	6/2010, Beltz, Kes, & Darling	6/2010, Ratwick, Roszak, & Maloney
Damon Fraser	12/2009,	11/2009,	6/2010,

	MDE	MDE	Ratwick, Roszak, & Maloney
Karen Groppe	8/2011, MSBA	8/2011, MN Nonprofits Assistance fund	8/2011, MSBA
Andrea Johnson	9/2011, Tubbs-Booth	8/2011, MN Nonprofits Assistance fund	2/2012, Ratwick, Roszak, & Maloney
Dianne Krizan	12/2009, MDE	12/2009, MDE	6/2010, Ratwick, Roszak, & Maloney
Roxanne Lehman	None	None	None
Becky Lund	12/2009, MDE	12/2009, MDE	6/2010, Ratwick, Roszak, & Maloney
Teresa Taggart	9/2011, Tubbs-Booth	8/2011, MN Nonprofits Assistance fund	2/2012, Ratwick, Roszak, & Maloney

**DOCUMENTATION OF IMPLEMENTATION OF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT  
PLANS FOR UNLICENSED ADMINISTRATORS**

In 2011-12, Nova Classical Academy employed no unlicensed Administrators.