

Annual Report  
on Curriculum, Instruction  
and Student Achievement  
for  
Nova Classical Academy  
4098-07



2010-2011

## Table of Contents

Introduction _____	1
Student Background/Demographics _____	1
Student Attendance Percentages _____	2
Governance _____	3
School Finances _____	5
Accountability Data _____	5
Program Successes and Best Practices _____	7
Academic and Non Academic goals for 2010-11 _____	8
Academic and Non Academic goals for 2011-12 _____	9
501(c)3 status _____	10

Annual Report on Curriculum, Instruction and Student Achievement  
Nova Classical Academy District #4098-07  
2010-2011 School Year

The purpose of this report is to provide a general update on the progress made by the school in the past academic year in terms of student achievement, fiscal management, and legal compliance. Nova Classical Academy is proud of its work and feels a sense of duty to report on it to the community and to the public at-large, as we are a public school in Minnesota.

**Introduction**

**1. School Vision, Mission Statement, Educational Philosophy, and Sponsor Information**

**A. Vision**

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

**B. 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 moral character 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.

**C. 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.

**D. 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.

**E. Authorizer Information**

Authorizer: Friends of Education  
Authorizer Contact: Beth Topoluk  
Authorizer Address: 319 Barry Ave. South  
Wayzata, MN 55391

Authorizer Contact Duration: Expires June 30, 2012.

**2. Student Background/ Demographics**

**A. Number of Students Enrolled**

Nova began in the fall of 2003 with 166 students enrolled in kindergarten through 6<sup>th</sup> grade, with two sections of kindergarten and one section each in 1<sup>st</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup>. By the 2010-2011 school year, Nova had 631 students in kindergarten through 10<sup>th</sup> grade and had three sections K-4, two sections in 5-9, and one section in grade 10. Even with the expansion in sections, Nova continues to have a long waiting list, especially

in kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grade. The on-time, enrollment wait list began for the 2011-12 school year at 659 children.

### B. Key Demographic Trends

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	52	54	54	53	45	34	16	0	11.4%

Demographic Information	2007-08 Enrollment (Oct 1)	2008-09 Enrollment (Oct 1)	2009-10 Enrollment (Oct 1)	2010-11 Enrollment (Oct 1)
Percent Qualified for Free/Reduced Meals	15%	14%	14%	14.5%
Percent Special Education Program	8%	8%	6.3%	8.2%

### 3. Student Attendance Percentages

	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
All	96.95%	94.70%	96.76%	96.28%

### Teacher Staffing Information

Name	File Folder Number	Assignment/ Subject	Left During 10-11	Not Returning 11-12
Kristina Alton	442531	Latin	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jeanie Anderson	437857	Music	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jason Belter	432080	Science	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Patricia Bodenstab	209167	First Grade	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Nancy Broen	397048	History	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Marsha Bunge	408232	Special Education	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Laura Burkhardt	375931	Art	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Laura Buri (Heuett)	441724	Fifth Grade	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Richard Champ	998021	Latin	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Yifu Chen	442735	Math	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
George Dalbo	454577	History	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Megan Daoust	397162	Second Grade	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Brandon Foat	408188	History	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Joshua Garvin	433596	Latin	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lisa Greenberg	437894	Special Education	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Steven Gruber	338261	Science	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jo Jacobson	445885	Kindergarten	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Benjamin Justin	442751	Math	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Kim Keller	397559	Third Grade	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Andrew Kennedy	450008	Science & Math	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Annie Knier	455253	Fourth grade	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Annie Lewine	458683	Latin	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Chad Long	410502	Third Grade	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Christine Long	435010	First Grade	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rebecca Lund	389883	Second Grade	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Maria Marchand	411039	Fourth Grade	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jonathan Martin	446476	Physical Ed.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Margaret McCarney	456216	Language Arts	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kathleen McLarn	412625	Fifth Grade	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Karen Pettinger	349765	Third grade	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Christian Rovn	372404	Phys. Ed./Health	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tracy Roy	Comm. Expert	French	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Bonnie Schlank	389951	Fourth Grade	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Julie Snider	Comm. Expert	Spanish	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Michelle Steingraeber	433863	First Grade	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sarah Taylor	421853	Language Arts	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Traci Taylor	398736	Second Grade	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Suzannah Toso	434232	Kindergarten	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Katie Tuma	290613	Art	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rebecca Urbrock	408803	Music	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Samantha West	447286	Math	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Susan Whalen	447286	Language Arts	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Regina Zelinka	410775	Kindergarten	<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, Project Manager, 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.

Nova employed two personnel in administration:

Name	File Folder Number	Assignment	Years Employed by the School	Left During 10-11	Not Returning 11-12
Brian Bloomfield	443123	Executive Director	3	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Miranda Morton	438376	Lower School Director	3	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

For 2010-11, the Executive Director, Brian Bloomfield, had goals approved by the Board of Directors at the September 2010 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 2011 and presented his final report on the goals in June 2011.

#### 4. Governance

For the 2010-11 School year Nova Classical Academy had ten members on the Board of Directors.

**2010-11 School Year Charter Public School Board**  
*This table contains information for ALL board members.*

*2010-11 Election Date: May 2010*

*2011-12 Anticipated Election Date: May 2011*

<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>	14/14-100%
Sarah Dumont Brown	Director	Parent	8/2010	(651) 690-1660	<a href="mailto:sarahbrown29@gmail.com">sarahbrown29@gmail.com</a>	11/11-100%
John Bujan	Director	Community Member	7/2009	(612) 823-0007	<a href="mailto:jmbujan@msn.com">jmbujan@msn.com</a>	14/14-100%
Tom Corrigan	Director	Parent	7/2009	651-736-6885	<a href="mailto:corrigan@mmm.com">corrigan@mmm.com</a>	12/14-86%
Brandon Foat	Director	Teacher, 408188	7/2009	(612) 724-0762	<a href="mailto:bfoat@novaclassical.org">bfoat@novaclassical.org</a>	11/14-79%
Damon Fraser	Director/ Treasurer	Parent	7/2010	(612) 721-0061	<a href="mailto:damonfraser@msn.com">damonfraser@msn.com</a>	11/14-79%
Kirsten Hornseth	Director	Parent	7/2009	(651) 699-8845	<a href="mailto:kirsten@hornseth.com">kirsten@hornseth.com</a>	14/14-100%
Dianne Krizan	Director/ Chair	Parent	7/2008	(651) 645-7067	<a href="mailto:dianne.krizan@gmail.com">dianne.krizan@gmail.com</a>	11/14-79%
Becky Lund	Director/ Secretary	Teacher, 389883	7/2008	(651) 295-2570	<a href="mailto:blund@novaclassical.org">blund@novaclassical.org</a>	13/14-93%
Wendy Swanson-Choi	Director	Parent	7/2009	651-681-8742	<a href="mailto:wendy@tizacademy.com">wendy@tizacademy.com</a>	12/14-86%

## 6. School Finances

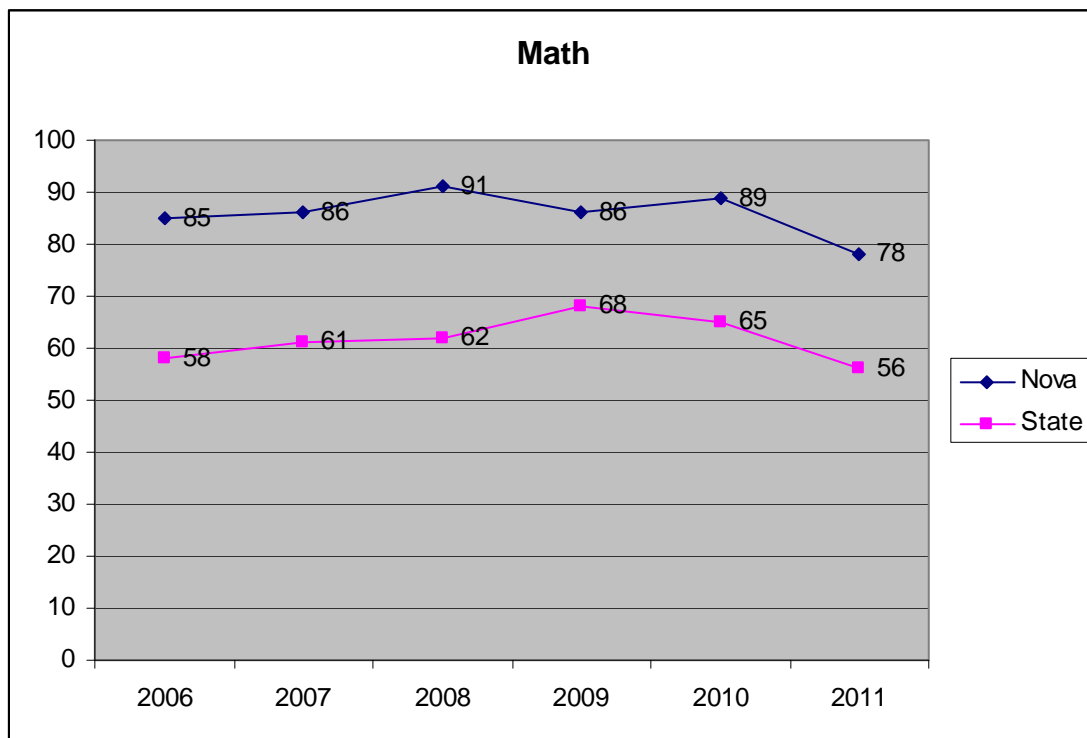
In 2011-12 Nova continued to implement best practices in our financial systems and control mechanisms. Nova ended 2011 with an increase to the fund balance totaling (unaudited) 26.6%. Nova also won the MN Finance Award for the 2010-11 school year (second year in a row) as well as had a clean (no findings) external audit by our new auditors, Larson Allen.

## 7. Accountability Data: Review of Testing Program

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

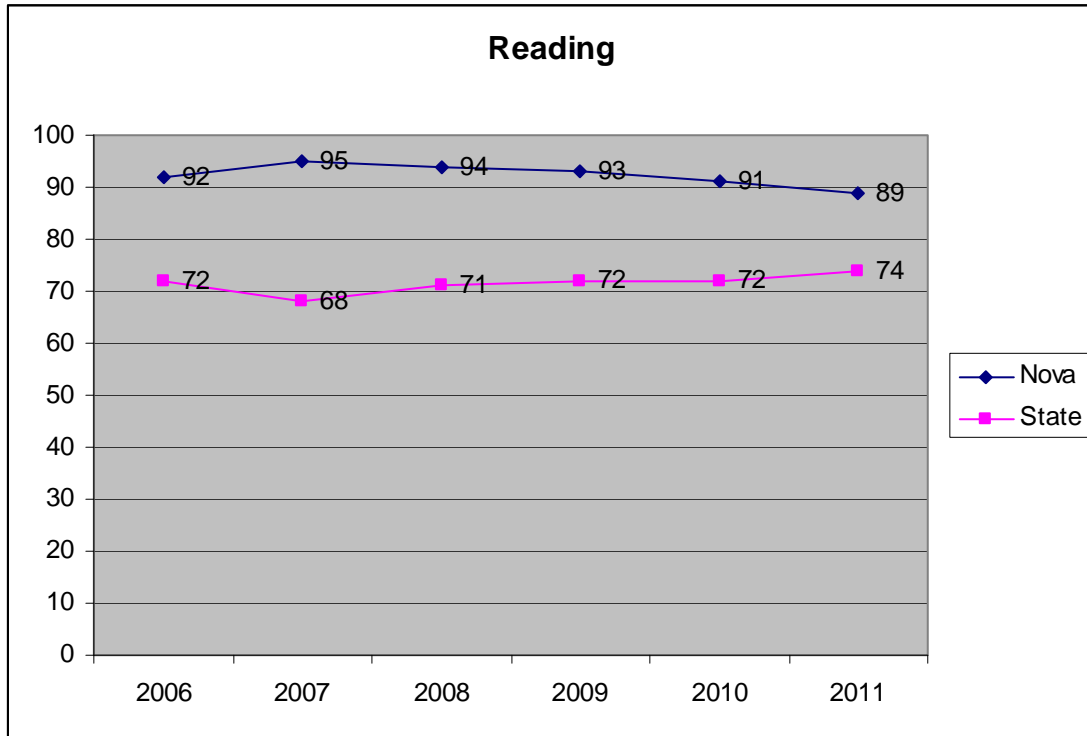
**Figure 7a**

Trend in Student Math Proficiency 2006-11 as Measured by MCAs



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

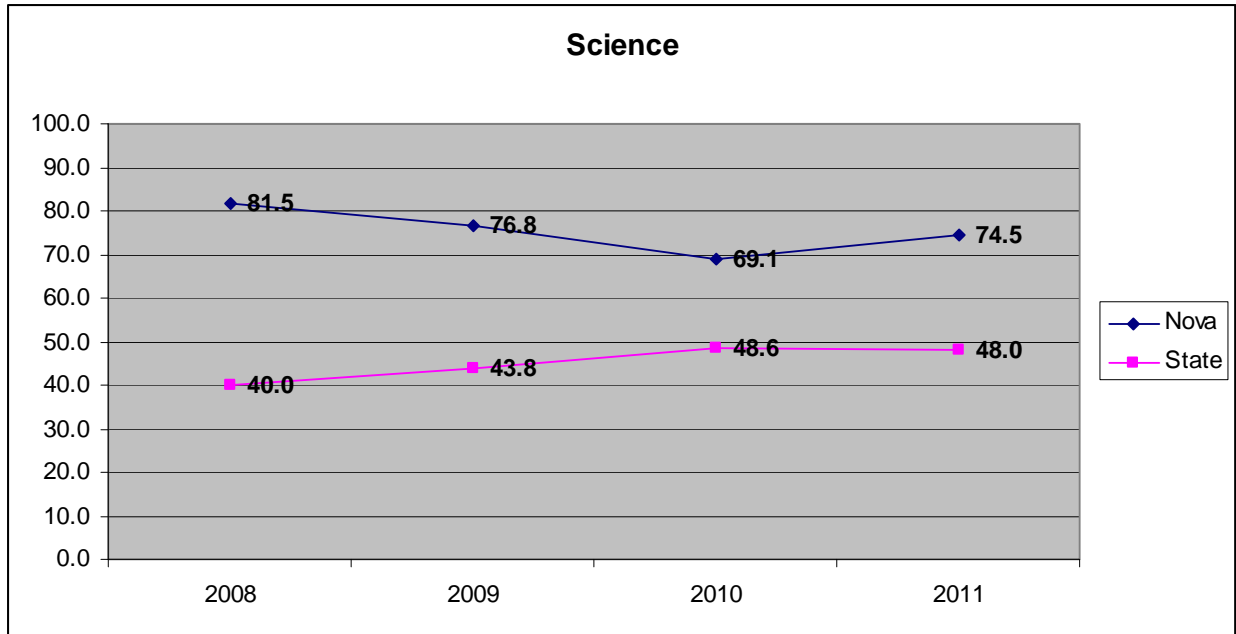
**Figure 7b**  
Trend in Student Reading Proficiency 2006-11 as Measured by MCAs



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

**Figure 7c**  
Trend in Student Science Proficiency 2008-11 as Measured by MCAs





*Science proficiency at Nova Classical Academy exceeds state proficiency averages and has since 2008.*

## 8. Program Successes and Best Practices

### A. Enrollment

Enrollment increased 11% from 571 in 2009-10 to 631 in 2010-11 through the continued growth of the academy into high school. Enrollment continues to increase at Nova Classical Academy as the program expands to add a third section in grades 5-8 and to admit the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade classes.

### B. Parent Involvement/ Satisfaction

Nova Classical Academy actively encourages the parents of students to volunteer for the school. Families make a commitment to the school for 20 hours of volunteer service each year. Parents volunteer at Nova on a regular basis in a wide variety of activities, including through the very active Nova Parent Teacher Organization (“NPTO”). The NPTO has structures in place to organize the parents’ efforts including a Room Parent Program for parents at the lower campus and a Parent Work Group Program at the upper campus. Parent volunteer participation is very high at Nova as opportunities are offered to meet parent interest and availability. Volunteer service is valued and recognized at all levels including participation on the Board of Directors, in the classroom, at school events, and projects that can be done from home. Several school activities are enhanced by the support of parents including the athletic program, the drama productions, and extracurricular clubs such as Math Team, Mock Trial, and Lego Robotics. In the 2010-2011 school year, approximately 10,222 hours of parental volunteer time were contributed to Nova Classical Academy. Of the 293 families at Nova this past year, 236 families (81%) volunteered time for the school and 203 (86%) of these families completed 20 or more hours in the year

### C. Test Results: 2011 MCA

MATHEMATICS
% students meets or exceeds expectations

	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5	Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8
Nova	81.9%	64.9%	71.2%	85.2%	88.9%	76.9%
State	70.1%	67.2%	53.6%	50.3%	51.7%	53.2%

<b>READING</b>						
<b>% students meets or exceeds expectations</b>						
	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5	Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8
Nova	93.5%	79.4%	96.2%	88.9%	87.1%	94.3%
State	78.5%	75.2%	80.3%	75.1%	69.6%	68.1%

<b>SCIENCE</b>			
<b>% students meets or exceeds expectations</b>			
	Grade 5	Grade 8	Grade 9
Nova	71.1%	76.9%	75.6%
State	46.0%	44.4%	53.8%

## 9. Academic and Non-Academic Goals for 2010-11

### A. Academic Goals for 2010-11

1. **Goal:** Increase the percentage of students who “Exceed Standards” in Reading as measured on the MCA-II to 73%.

**Measure:** MCA-II results, spring 2011

**Outcome:** Did not meet. 69.6% of Nova’s students achieved at the “Exceed Standards” mark for 2011 in reading.

2. **Goal:** Increase the percentage of students who “Exceed Standards” in Math as measured on the MCA-III to 49%.

**Measure:** MCA results, spring 2011

**Outcome:** Did not meet. 33.5% of Nova’s students achieved at the “Exceed Standards” mark for 2011 in mathematics.

### B. Non Academic Goals for 2010-11

1. **Goal:** Create 3 year funding plan to support securing a permanent facility.

**Measure:** Financial plan approved by Authorizer and Nova Board of Directors.

**Outcome:** Goal met: Nova has completed a successful Review and Comment period with MDE and is working with various financial agencies, community members, and lenders to secure financing to build a permanent facility.

2. **Goal:** Report on success and extension of the Classical Education Certification (CEC) program as a training tool for faculty at Nova and at other classical schools.

**Measure:** Report submitted to Nova's Board of Directors by June 2011.

**Outcome:** Goal met. The CEC program was installed, reviewed, and reported on, and is in preparation for its second year.

## 10. Academic and Non-Academic Goals for 2011-12

### A. Academic Goals for 2010-11

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

**Measure:** MCA results, spring 2012

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

**Measure:** MCA results, spring 2012

### B. 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.

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



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[Lori Swanson](#)

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55101

(651) 296-3353  
(800) 657-3787

TTY:(651) 297-  
7206

TTY:(800) 366-  
4812

**Search Results**

Organization Name	<a href="#">NOVA CLASSICAL ACADEMY</a>
Organization Type	<a href="#">TRUST</a>
Contact Person	<a href="#">ATTN BRIAN BLOOMFIELD</a>
Address	<a href="#">1668 MONTREAL AVE</a>
City	<a href="#">SAINT PAUL</a>
State	<a href="#">MN</a>
Zip Code	<a href="#">55116-</a>
IRS Code 501 (c)	<a href="#">03</a>
Purpose or Description	<a href="#">Provide rigorous, thorough, systematic, challenging primary school education to grades K-5 in the classical tradition, to expand as facilities permit to grades K-12.</a>
Phone Number	<a href="#">(651) 227-8622</a>
Status	<a href="#">ACTIVE</a>
Extension	<a href="#">None</a>

What year would you like to see information for?

**Charities**