



Nova Classical Classical Education

A **classical education** teaches children the art of learning and trains their minds to think well.

Classical education has a long and distinguished history, beginning in ancient times and maturing in the Middle Ages. It was the prominent model of education in this country until the early 20th century when progressive, child-centered education became the dominant model. ***Classical education is not a nostalgic desire to return to the past.*** It has endured so long and is now enjoying a renaissance precisely because it is adaptive and equips students with the skills and knowledge to go forward and live interesting, thoughtful, and productive lives.

Classical education is ***language intensive***; it is ***knowledge-centered*** rather than child-centered; it ***trains the mind*** to collect and analyze information and to draw conclusions based on that information; it ***demands self-discipline and instills virtue***—the ability to do what is right despite one's baser inclinations. Classical education produces intelligent, literate, curious young adults who can read, write, calculate, think, understand, solve problems, and follow through on a ***wide range of interests***. It requires a student to ***examine moral and ethical issues***. A classical education is ***multicultural*** in the best sense of the word. Because it takes ***history as its organizing principle***, students learn the place of their lives, families, and communities in the broad landscape of human existence and achievement.

Classical education imparts the skills and ***passion for thinking and learning*** that allow a person to ***teach themselves*** for the rest of their life. Classical education is ***systematic and rigorous***; it has purpose, goals, and a method to reach those ***goals***.