

Nova Classical Academy

Know Yourself. Know The World.

Classical Education

We believe that classical education is participation in the Great Conversation which links humanity in trying to discern what is universally True, Beautiful, and Good. Classical education utilizes the Trivium — the Grammar, Logic, and Rhetoric subjects of learning — as well as the Quadrivium — the subjects of Arithmetic, Music, Astronomy, and Geometry — as the best way to prepare students to participate by thinking for themselves and being liberated from blindly following others.

Within each stage of the Trivium, students practice knowing (didactic instruction), reasoning (logic/coaching instruction), and generating (rhetoric instruction) information, as classical education focuses on training thinkers. Additionally, virtues are embedded in all instruction because knowledge without virtue is meaningless in the search for Truth, Beauty, and Goodness.

The goal of our classical education is engagement in the higher ideals of making deep thinkers who seek to live life well and effective citizens who are wise, moral, and ethical. Thus, the end of Nova Classical Academy's approach to classical education is the *eudaimonia* of each of its students. Loosely translated as “happiness,” or more literally “good spirit,” *eudaimonia* refers in Aristotelian philosophy as the highest human good. Like *arête* (virtue) and *phronesis* (practical or ethical wisdom), *eudaimonia* can be difficult to define, which makes it an excellent topic for the Great Conversation.

Mission

In a supportive community and through a systematic, accelerated college-preparatory education in the classical tradition, Nova Classical Academy challenges its students to develop intellect, to attain the habits of learning and mastery, and to live a virtuous life of duty and ideals.

History

Nova Classical Academy was the first public charter classical school in Minnesota, and was founded by three parents who believed a public education could challenge all children to strive towards excellence. The Academy opened its doors in St. Paul in the autumn of 2003 with grades K-6. Additional grades have been added yearly to achieve a goal of providing a complete K-12 classical education.



Grade 6-12 students receive letter grades based on a 100-point scale. Honors, CIS, and AP course receive 1.25 points on a 5.0 scale. We do not class rank.

24 credits and 80 service hours are required for graduation.

Percentage Score	Letter Grade	GPA Points
97-100%	A+	4
93-96%	A	4
90-92%	A-	3.7
87-89%	B+	3.3
83-86%	B	3.0
80-82%	B-	2.7
77-79%	C+	2.3
73-76%	C	2.0
70-72%	C-	1.7
67-69%	D+	1.3
63-66%	D	1.0
60-62%	D-	1.0
0-59%	F	0
Incomplete	I	0

Subject	Requirements
English	4 credits
History	4 credits
Mathematics	3 credits
Science	3 credits
Rhetoric	2.5 credits
Language	2 credits
Fine Arts: Music	0.5 credit
Fine Arts: Art	0.5 credit
Health/Physical Education	0.5 HS Health 0.5 HS PE
Other Required	3.5 credits
TOTAL	24 credits

Testing/Graduate Overview

AP TESTING

2022-23 – 65 students, 145 exams

ACT AVERAGES COMPARISON

2020-21 – Average Composite Score: 27

PSAT AVERAGES COMPARISON – Test taken in January 2021

Junior Average: 1206

NATIONAL MERIT

2023-24 – Finalists: TBA, Semifinalists: 5, Commended: 2

2022-23 – Finalists: 1, Semifinalists: 1, Commended: 5

2020-21 – Finalists: 1, Semifinalists: 1, Commended: 5

GRADUATION/COLLEGE SUMMARY – 2021-22

95.5% graduation rate

92% attending a 2- or 4-year college

5% completing gap year activities

High School Core & Elective Courses

English Language Arts

ELA 9: Ancient Literature* (H)
ELA 10: Medieval Early Modern Lit.* (H)
ELA 11: American Literature* (H)
ELA 12: Post-Enlightenment World Lit.* (H)
AP English Literature and Composition

History

History 9: Up to Year 1,000 CE* (H)
History 10: From 1,000 CE to Present* (H)
History 11: American History*(H)
History 12: Economics and Civics*
AP Human Geography

Mathematics

Intermediate Algebra* (H)
Geometry* (H)
Advanced Algebra* (H)
Pre-Calculus (H)
CIS Calculus I
AP Calculus II (BC)
AP Statistics
Math Theory (H)

Science

Pre-AP Biology (H)
Pre-AP Chemistry (H)
AP Biology
AP Chemistry
AP Physics C (Calculus-based)
Astrophysics (H)
Comparative Anatomy
Anatomy and Physiology

Rhetoric

Rhetoric 9: Classical Rhetoric* (H)
Rhetoric 10: Early Modern Rhetoric* (H)
Rhetoric 11: Modern Rhetoric* (H)
AP Capstone: Seminar
AP Capstone: Research

Language

Latin I
Latin II
Latin III
Latin IV
Latin V (H)
Latin VI (H)
CIS: Latin VII
CIS: Latin VIII
CIS: Greek
Spanish I
Spanish II
Spanish III (H)
AP Spanish Language and Culture

Fine Arts

American Music
Choir
Music Theory
Music Composition
Comparative Art* (H)
Drawing
Painting
Sculpture
Ceramics
AP 2-D Studio Art
AP 3-D Studio Art

Physical Education and Health

High School Physical Education*
High School Health*
Personal Fitness and Team Sports

KEY: *Required (H) Honors level course available

Extracurricular Activities

Fostering self-expression, teamwork, and fortitude, more than 75% of students share their talents and expertise with Nova Classical and the broader community.

Competitive Athletics

Baseball	Girls Volleyball ^f
Boys Basketball	Boys Soccer ^f
Girls Basketball	Girls Soccer ^f
Boys Cross Country ^{of}	Boys Tennis ^o
Girls Cross Country ^f	Girls Tennis
Football	Boys Track & Field ^f
Boys Hockey ^f	Girls Track & Field ^f
Boys Lacrosse	

Academic and Fine Arts

Debate	National Honor Society
FIRST Lego League	Speech
FIRST Tech Challenge	Theater & One Act Plays
Mock Trial ^o	Yearbook

^o Denotes state championship titles

^f Denotes conference championship titles



Enrichment Opportunities

The enrichment opportunities build upon and complement classical education, focusing a student's attention beyond the classroom to see the world in a rich compilation of history and humanity. Students expand their own lives, intellect, and passion for learning.

Service Hours for Graduation

As part of our virtue based education and emphasis on character development, all students are encouraged to participate beyond the 80 required service hours.

Educational Travel

Classroom learning is augmented by numerous opportunities to travel beyond the school. Travel includes field trips during the school day, Camp St. Croix – a teambuilding overnight for students completing 8th grade, a week-long trip to Washington, D.C., and the Capstone Greece and Rome project for students in grades 11 and 12.

Hallmarks of a Nova Classical Student

At a minimum, every student completes a total of 24 credits, with:

- 4 years of English literature and writing
- 3 years of lab sciences including biology and chemistry
- 3 years of mathematics through calculus or the equivalent
- 4 years of history including world & U.S. history, civics, and economics
- 2 years of world language (in addition to a Latin 4 requirement)
- 2.5 years of rhetoric
- 2 semesters of fine or performing arts
- 1 semester each of health and physical education
- 3.5 years of electives
- Completion and defense of a senior thesis
- 80 service hours

The typical Nova Classical student goes far beyond those requirements:

- 97% complete 4 years of lab science
- 97% complete 4 years of mathematics
- 96% complete 4 years of history, including 30% at honors level
- 91% study a world language through level 4

In the classroom:

- Class sizes averaging 22 students support strong student-faculty connections and student responsibility
- Course load is seven academic courses each semester
- Nova Classical does not report class rank

All students are given the opportunity to enroll in honors courses in all subjects and available CIS & AP courses.

Nova Classical Academy

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College & University Acceptance

2013-2023

Amherst College*	Evergreen College*	North Dakota State University*	University of Connecticut
Annapolis College	Fordham University	Northeastern University*	University of Iowa
Arizona State University*	Franciscan University*	Northwestern University-Illinois	University of Kansas*
Augsburg College*	Georgetown University	Oberlin College	University of Manitoba*
Augustana University*	Georgia Institute of Technology*	Occidental College*	University of Miami*
Babson College	Grinnell College*	Ohio Wesleyan University	University of Michigan*
Bard College*	Guilford College	Oklahoma University*	University of Missouri*
Barnard College	Gustavus Adolphus*	Pace University*	University of Minnesota-Twin Cities*
Bates College	Hamline University*	Pitzer College	University of Minnesota-Duluth*
Baylor University*	Hampshire College	Point Loma Nazarene University*	University of Minnesota-Morris*
Beloit University	Hampton University	Pomona College	University of Notre Dame
Bethel University*	Harvard College	Portland State University	University of Pennsylvania
Boston College	Haverford College*	Princeton University*	University of NC School of the Arts
Boston University*	Hillsdale College	Reed College*	University of North Dakota
Bowdoin College*	Hofstra University	Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute*	University of Portland
Bradley University*	Howard University	Rhodes College	University of Puget Sound*
Brandeis University	Illinois Institute of Technology	Ritsumeikan University* (Japan)	University of Redlands*
Brown University*	Inver Hills Community College	Rochester Institute of Technology	University of Rochester*
Bryn Mawr University	Iowa State University*	Russel Sage College	University of Southern California*
Bucknell University	Kenyon College*	Sage College of Albany*	University of St. Francis
California Academy of Art	Kettering University	Santa Clara University	University of San Francisco*
Cardiff University* (Wales)	Knox College	Sarah Lawrence College	University of Seattle
Carleton College*	Lake Superior College	Simmons College	University of St. Thomas*
Carnegie Mellon University	Lasalle University	Scripps College	University of Vermont*
Case Western Reserve*	Lawrence University*	Smith College*	University of Virginia
Carthage College	Long Island University	St. Catherine's University*	University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire*
Clark University	Loyola University Chicago	St. Cloud State University*	University of Wisconsin-Madison*
Coe College*	Loyola University New Orleans*	St. John's University	University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
Colby College University	Macalester College*	St. Mary's University*	University of Wisconsin-River Falls
College of St. Benedict*	Manhattan School of Music	St. Olaf College*	University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point*
College of St. Scholastica	Marquette University*	St. Paul College*	University of Wisconsin-Stout
College of Wooster*	McGill University* (Canada)	Swarthmore College	University of Wisconsin-Whitewater*
Colorado College*	Metro State University	Texas A&M University	University of Texas
Colorado School of Mines	Michigan Tech University*	The Evergreen State College	Vassar College*
Columbia College*	Middlebury College*	The New School* (NY)	Villanova University*
Columbia University*	Montana State University*	Tufts University*	Viterbo College
Concordia University*	Moorhead State University	University of Alabama*	Washington University-St. Louis*
Cornell College*	Michigan Tech University*	University of Arizona*	Wheaton College*
Creighton University	Minneapolis Community College*	University of British Columbia	Whitman College*
Dartmouth College*	Minnesota State	University of British Columbia*	William Patterson University
DePaul University*	University-Mankato*	University of California-Berkeley*	Willamette College
Drake University*	Morgan State University*	University of California-Davis	Williams College
Drexel University	Mount Holyoke College*	University of California-Los Angeles*	Yale University*
Eckerd College	National Louis University	University of Chicago*	
Emerson College*	New York University*	University of Colorado-Boulder*	
Emory University*	Normandale Community College	University of Denver*	

*Indicates where a Nova graduate has chosen to attend.

- Out of 241 applications, the students in the class of 2021 were accepted to 163 colleges and universities.

- 92% of 2021 Nova Classical graduates are attending a 2- or 4-year college or university.