

Contact

3301 S. 20th Street Philadelphia, PA 19145 www.philaclassical.org (267) 990-2698

CEEB Code: 395489

School Mission

The Philadelphia Classical School exists to provide a timeless academic experience rooted in the gospel of Jesus Christ and the historic beliefs of the church, centered in the classical tradition, fostering intellectual, moral, and spiritual virtues so that students are prepared to lead and serve in any vocation or calling.

Leadership

Katharine Savage Head of School

Beth Lansner Head of Lower School

Jody Martin **Business Director**

Mindi Popovich-Schneider College Advisor

Affiliations & Accreditations

- ➤ Association of Classical Christian Schools (ACCS)
- ➤ Educational Records Bureau
- ➤ Society for Classical Learning (SCL)

PHILADELPHIA CLASSICAL SCHOOL

2023 - 2024 Upper School Profile

Philadelphia Classical School at-a-glance

➤ Classical School for grades K-12

➤ Founded in 2013

➤ Average class size of **14**

>175 students

≻67% of Upper School faculty have or are pursuing advanced degrees

>Classical curriculum with emphasis on the Great Books, rhetoric, logic, and classical languages

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS:

Humanities 8 credits Rhetoric 5 credits Math 3 credits Science 3 credits 2 credits Languages Fine Arts 2 credits **Physical Education** 1 credit

GRADING AND TRANSCRIPTS:

- ➤ 4-pt grading scale for most courses
- > 5-pt grading scale for honors courses
- > Due to small class sizes and the caliber of students. PCS does not create class rankings.
- > PCS offers 5 honors courses

Total 24 credits

Overview & Admissions

Philadelphia Classical School is an independent, co-educational school enrolling students in grades K-12. Philadelphia Classical School is a classical school in terms of both pedagogy and curricula and provides a rigorous, traditional liberal arts education.

The core curriculum taught in the Upper School emphasizes:

- Classical languages, the Great Books, mathematics, and natural sciences
- Formal coursework in the liberal arts of grammar, logic, and rhetoric
- Socratic seminars combining a study of history, literature, and philosophy
- Laboratory experimentation in all science courses
- Music and theater coursework each year, along with art electives

Admission to Philadelphia Classical School is based on academic records, teacher recommendations, entrance exam scores, and parent and student interviews. Philadelphia Classical School does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, or national origin. Philadelphia Classical School maintains an aggressive tuition assistance program to ensure socio-economic diversity; each year, approximately two-thirds of students receive financial aid.

Student Leadership

Students engage in community building throughout the year, serving in student government, organizing social events, and putting on the Upper School Musical. Students also have opportunities to participate in club sports and enrichment courses such as tennis, yearbook, theater design, and strings and chamber music.

CURRICULUM

(9th-12th grade; courses not in bold are electives)

Math	Science	Rhetoric	Language	Fine Arts
Algebra I (usually taken in 8th grade)	Biology Chemistry	Logic Writer's Rhetoric	Latin II Latin III	Theatre Choir
Geometry Algebra II Trigonometry or Pre-Calculus	Conceptual Physics or Physics Human Biology	Classical Rhetoric Summa Theologica/ Junior Thesis Summa Civitas/Senior	(Note: students are required to take	Art Orchestra Music
Statistics Calculus		Thesis	Latin from 3rd to 8th grade)	

Humanities

Humane Letters III, **IV**, **V**, and **VI** are two-hour daily honors courses integrating the Great Books, primary sources, theology, history, art, and philosophy of a time period. Freshmen study American history and culture, sophomores the ancient Greeks and Romans, juniors the Middle Ages, and seniors the early modern through contemporary periods. Students participate in Socratic discussions of original works. We study these works in their historical and cultural contexts for their lasting influence on our world.

Rhetoric Courses & Summa Civitas

Students begin with a high school level course in informal and formal Logic during the 8th grade year to prepare them with a foundation for the high school rhetoric curriculum. Students in 8th-11th grade work through Cicero's five canons of Classical Rhetoric: invention, arrangement, style, memory, and delivery, culminating in a senior thesis. **The Summa Civitas** (senior thesis and oration) project is required of all students and contains two parts. The first is a well-researched, academically-written and -formatted thesis, which must be defended in front of a panel of faculty members. The second is a 20-minute original oration, which is delivered to all Upper School students and faculty members and is followed by a 15-minute Q&A with the audience.

Excerpts from the Humane Letters Reading List

The Epic of Gilgamesh
The Iliad, Homer
The Odyssey, Homer
Oedipus the King, Sophocles
The Histories, Herodotus
The Republic, Plato
The Aeneid, Virgil
Roman Lives, Plutarch
The City of God, Augustine
The Consolation of Philosophy,
Boethius
Rule of St. Benedict, Benedict of
Nursia
Nicomachean Ethics, Aristotle

On the Incarnation, Athanasius
Summa Theologica, Aquinas
The Divine Comedy, Dante
Julius Caesar and Hamlet, William
Shakespeare
Paradise Lost, John Milton
The Social Contract, Jean Jacques
Rousseau
Democracy in America, Tocqueville
Common Sense, Thomas Paine
Reflections on the Revolution in
France, Edmund Burke
Candide, Voltaire
Meditations on First Philosophy,
Descartes

Narrative of the Life of Frederick
Douglass
The Communist Manifesto, Karl
Marx
Beyond Good and Evil, Nietzsche
Billy Budd, Herman Melville
The Scarlet Letter, Nathaniel
Hawthorne
The Brother Karamazov,
Dostoyevsky
Animal Farm, Orwell
The Abolition of Man and
The Great Divorce, C. S. Lewis
To Kill a Mockingbird, Harper Lee
Gilead, Marilynne Robinson