



PHILADELPHIA CLASSICAL SCHOOL

2023 - 2024 Upper School Profile

Contact

3301 S. 20th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19145
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(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
mindi@philaclassical.org

Affiliations & Accreditations

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

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
Languages	2 credits
Fine Arts	2 credits
Physical Education	1 credit

Total

24 credits

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

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

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

<i>The Epic of Gilgamesh</i>	<i>On the Incarnation</i> , Athanasius	<i>Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass</i>
<i>The Iliad</i> , Homer	<i>Summa Theologica</i> , Aquinas	<i>The Communist Manifesto</i> , Karl Marx
<i>The Odyssey</i> , Homer	<i>The Divine Comedy</i> , Dante	<i>Beyond Good and Evil</i> , Nietzsche
<i>Oedipus the King</i> , Sophocles	<i>Julius Caesar and Hamlet</i> , William Shakespeare	<i>Billy Budd</i> , Herman Melville
<i>The Histories</i> , Herodotus	<i>Paradise Lost</i> , John Milton	<i>The Scarlet Letter</i> , Nathaniel Hawthorne
<i>The Republic</i> , Plato	<i>The Social Contract</i> , Jean Jacques Rousseau	<i>The Brother Karamazov</i> , Dostoyevsky
<i>The Aeneid</i> , Virgil	<i>Democracy in America</i> , Tocqueville	<i>Animal Farm</i> , Orwell
<i>Roman Lives</i> , Plutarch	<i>Common Sense</i> , Thomas Paine	<i>The Abolition of Man</i> and <i>The Great Divorce</i> , C. S. Lewis
<i>The City of God</i> , Augustine	<i>Reflections on the Revolution in France</i> , Edmund Burke	<i>To Kill a Mockingbird</i> , Harper Lee
<i>The Consolation of Philosophy</i> , Boethius	<i>Candide</i> , Voltaire	<i>Gilead</i> , Marilynne Robinson
<i>Rule of St. Benedict</i> , Benedict of Nursia	<i>Meditations on First Philosophy</i> , Descartes	
<i>Nicomachean Ethics</i> , Aristotle		