



CINCINNATI
CLASSICAL ACADEMY

State of the School

Report 2026

2022

Founded

933

Enrollment

K-9 (→ K-12 by 2029)

Grades

Scientia est libertas



State of the School 2025-26

Program Overview

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MR. MICHAEL ROSE, HEAD OF SCHOOL

School Profile Overview

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MRS. KAREN PUGLIELLI, DEAN OF FACULTY

Lower School Review & Projection

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MR. MATT MCGRORY, DEAN OF THE MIDDLE SCHOOL

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MR. ISAAC JOHNSON, DEAN OF THE UPPER SCHOOL

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MR. JOSH WELLEN, DIRECTOR OF ATHLETICS

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MR. WILL MERIWETHER, DIRECTOR OF FINE ARTS

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MR. PATRICK GIROUX & MS. BRIANNA LAMBRECHT, CO-DIRECTORS

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DR. JED HARTINGS, PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

CLASSICAL By the Numbers



School Profile: Who We Are

OUR MISSION

To develop the minds and nourish the hearts of our students through a content-rich curriculum in the classical liberal arts and sciences, with instruction in moral character and civic virtue.

Forming Habits of Mind, Heart, and Soul



Hillsdale College K–12 Member School

TYPE

Tuition-free
public charter school

LOCATION

Cincinnati, Ohio
(SW Ohio)

REACH

72 zip codes
6 counties

FIRST CLASS

Class of 2029

PARTNER

Hillsdale College K–12

MASCOT

Sentinels

What Sets CLASSICAL Apart



Latin & Greek

Latin required Gr. 7–10+. AP Latin Gr. 10–12. Ancient Greek as elective. Graduates possess an uncommon foundation in classical languages.



Senior Thesis

A capstone of genuine intellectual passage: original question, reading list of great works, substantial essay, public oral defense before faculty.



Socratic Seminar

Structured discussion integrated across all disciplines — reading closely, arguing from evidence, listening, and revising one's thinking.



Citadel Life

Four houses compete in academics, arts, athletics, and service. Fosters camaraderie, leadership, and a deep sense of belonging.



Complete Works

Literature and humanities built entirely around whole texts. No excerpts chosen for rubric training.



Hillsdale K-12

Curriculum developed with one of America's most rigorous liberal arts institutions, ensuring ongoing exceptional quality.



Core Courses, Grades 9–12

All courses required except where noted (*elective).

Department	Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12
Literature	Ancient Greek & Roman Lit.	British Literature	American Literature	Modern Lit. & Senior Thesis
History	Ancient World (to 500 AD)	Western Civ. (500–1815)	American History	Modern World History (1815–Present)
Mathematics	Algebra I or Geometry	Geometry or Algebra II	Algebra II or Pre-Calculus	Pre-Calculus or AP Calculus AB*/BC*
Science	Biology I	Chemistry I	Physics I	Astronomy
Latin	Latin II or Latin III	Latin III or AP Latin*	Latin III or AP Latin*	AP Latin*
Philosophy	Logic; Rhetoric	Economics & Moral Philosophy I	Personal Finance & Moral Philosophy II	American Government

Latin required through Latin III. AP Latin available Gr. 10–12. Ancient Greek offered as elective Gr. 10–12.



Elective Courses, Grades 9–12

All elective courses are optional except Fitness for Life. Grade availability shown per column.

Department	Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12
Science	–	AP Biology	AP Biology / AP Chemistry	AP Chemistry / AP Physics
Modern Languages	French I	French I / French II Advanced Rhetoric	French II / III Advanced Rhetoric	French III / AP French Advanced Rhetoric
Ancient Greek	–	Ancient Greek	Ancient Greek	Ancient Greek
Visual Arts	Drawing & Painting; Sculpture; Ceramics; Printmaking	Drawing & Painting; Sculpture; Ceramics, Printmaking	All previous plus Composition & Design, AP Art History	all previous plus AP Art & Design, AP Art History
Architecture	Intro to Classical Architecture	Intro to Classical Architecture	Intro to Classical Architecture Renaissance Architecture	Intro to Classical Architecture Renaissance Architecture
Performing Arts	Schola Cantorum Shakespeare for the Stage	Schola Cantorum; Shakespeare for the Stage; Classical Theatre; AP Music Theory	Schola Cantorum; Shakespeare for the Stage; Classical Theatre; AP Music Theory	Schola Cantorum; Shakespeare for the Stage; Classical Theatre; AP Music Theory
Mathematics	–	–	AP Statistics	AP Statistics
Health & PE	Fitness for Life* Archery & Marksmanship	Fencing; Archery & Marksmanship; Advanced Fitness	Fencing; Archery & Marksmanship; Advanced Fitness	Fencing; Archery & Marksmanship; Advanced Fitness



The Required Reading List, Grades 9-12

Every student reads these complete full-length works — literature, history, and philosophy — not excerpts.

Aeschylus	<i>Oresteia</i>	Eliot	<i>Murder in the Cathedral</i>	Publius	<i>The Federalist Papers</i>
Aristotle	<i>Politics; Nicomachean Ethics</i>	Hawthorne	<i>The Scarlet Letter</i>	Shakespeare	<i>Julius Caesar; Macbeth; The Tempest; Hamlet</i>
Augustine	<i>Confessions</i>	Hemingway	<i>The Old Man and the Sea</i>	Sophocles	<i>The Oedipus Cycle</i>
Brontë	<i>Jane Eyre</i>	Homer	<i>The Odyssey</i>	Swift	<i>Gulliver's Travels</i>
Cather	<i>My Antonia</i>	Lewis	<i>The Abolition of Man</i>	Tocqueville	<i>Democracy in America</i>
Chaucer	<i>Canterbury Tales</i>	Locke	<i>Second Treatise on Government</i>	Tolstoy	<i>Death of Ivan Ilyich</i>
Dante	<i>Inferno</i>	Miller	<i>Death of a Salesman</i>	Twain	<i>Adventures of Huckleberry Finn</i>
Dickens	<i>A Tale of Two Cities</i>	Orwell	<i>1984</i>	Virgil	<i>The Aeneid</i>
Dostoevsky	<i>Crime and Punishment</i>	Plato	<i>Gorgias; Apology; Crito; Phaedo</i>		



Extracurricular Life



Academic Clubs

- Chess Club
- Latin Club / JCL
- Speech & Debate
- National Honor Society
- Creative Writing



Visual & Performing Arts

- Choral / Schola Cantorum
- Orchestra
- Symphonic Band
- Drama Club / Theatre
- Art Guilds (various)



Athletics — Fall

- Football (Boys)
- Soccer (Boys & Girls)
- Golf (Boys)
- Volleyball (Girls)
- Cross Country (Coed)



Athletics — Winter/Spring

- Basketball (Boys & Girls)
- Softball (Girls)
- Track & Field (Co-ed)
- Wrestling (Boys)
- Volleyball (Boys)

Students are organized into four Citadels (houses) that compete across many of these activities— fostering school spirit, leadership, and belonging.

LEADERSHIP

School Leadership 2026–27



HEAD OF SCHOOL

Mr. Michael Rose



School Leadership 2026–27

ASSISTANT HEAD OF SCHOOL - OPERATIONS

Mrs. Beth Martin

ASSISTANT HEAD OF SCHOOL – LOWER SCHOOL

Mrs. Karen Puglielli

ASSISTANT HEAD OF SCHOOL – MIDDLE SCHOOL

Mr. Matthew McGrory

ASSISTANT HEAD OF SCHOOL – UPPER SCHOOL

Mr. Isaac Johnson



School Leadership 2026–27

Dean of Student Life (Lower School)

Mr. Damon Gibbons

Dean of Boys (Grades 5–10)

Mr. Patrick Giroux

Dean of Girls (Grades 5–10)

Ms. Brianna Lambrecht

Director of Citadel Life

Mrs. Janet O’Callaghan



Other Directors 2026–27

Director of Fine Arts

Mr. Will Meriwether

Director of Enrollment

Mrs. Haley Metzger

Director of Safety & Facilities

Dr. Rob Robison

Director of Athletics

TBD

Director of College & Career Readiness

Mrs. Ann Schmidt



OUR MISSION

**To develop the minds and nourish the hearts
of our students** *through a content-rich curriculum
in the classical liberal arts and sciences, with
instruction in moral character and civic virtue.*

Forming Habits of Mind, Heart, and Soul



Lower School Review & Projection

Mrs. Karen Puglielli, Dean of Faculty

1

Deus Ex Machina

Deepening the academic rigor and coherence of our upper school course of study.

2

Deus Ex Machina

Expanding elective offerings as our upper school grows toward its full K–12 program.

3

Deus Ex Machina

Articulating what a CLASSICAL graduate looks like — intellectually, morally, and civically.

SIEBENTHALER CAMPUS



Mrs. Karen Puglielli, Dean of Faculty



SIEBENTHALER CAMPUS



Mrs. Karen Puglielli, Dean of Faculty





Middle School Review & Projection

Mr. Matt McGrory, Dean of the Middle School

1

Curriculum

Fostering integration of knowledge through integrated homeroom classes.

2

Cultural Norms

Ensuring continuity in expectations for our students as they arrive at the Summit Park campus.

3

Student Life

Naming the good and orienting students towards it.

MIDDLE SCHOOL



Year in Review

Mr. Matt McGrory, Dean of the Middle School





Year Ahead

Mr. Matt McGrory, Dean of the Middle School

1 The place of Latin

2 Science Fair

3 Excelsior Society

4 Consistency





Upper School Review & Projection

Mr. Isaac Johnson, Dean of the Upper School

1

Curriculum

Deepening the academic rigor and coherence of our upper school course of study.

2

High School Electives

Expanding elective offerings as our upper school grows toward its full K–12 program.

3

Portrait of a Graduate

Articulating what a CLASSICAL graduate looks like — intellectually, morally, and civically.



Year in Review

Mr. Isaac Johnson, Dean of the Upper School

1 Daily & Semester Schedule

2 Ninth Grade Curriculum

3 High School Electives

4 Office of College & Career Readiness





Year Ahead

Mr. Isaac Johnson, Dean of the Upper School

1 Tenth Grade Curriculum

2 Ancient Languages

3 New (and Advanced) High School Electives

4 College & Career Readiness: Next Steps



STRENGTH REJOICES IN THE CHALLENGE

Sentinel Athletics

Mr. Joshua Wellen, Director of Athletics





Fall Sports by the Numbers

Category	Count
Boys Soccer (K–5)	45
Girls Soccer (K–3)	19
Girls Volleyball (Gr. 3–9)	95
Co-Ed Cross Country	43
Boys Golf (Gr. 3–9)	20
TOTAL PARTICIPANTS	222



Winter Sports by the Numbers

Category	Count
Boys Basketball (Gr. 3–9)	77
Girls Basketball (Gr. 3–9)	47
Boys Winter Soccer (Gr. 6–9)	7
Girls Winter Soccer (Gr. 6–9)	11
TOTAL PARTICIPANTS	142





Spring Sports by the Numbers

Category	Count
Boys Baseball (K–6)	67
Girls Softball (K–9)	35
Co-Ed Rugby (Gr. 3–9)	12
Co-Ed Track & Field (Gr. 3–9)	89
Boys Volleyball (Gr. 3–9)	28
TOTAL PARTICIPANTS	231



Athletic Champions

1

Girls Volleyball — Three Champions

2

Boys Basketball — One Champion

3

New School Record — Girls XC

Sara Kappen finished second in the HS Girls XC Open, setting a new school record at 21:38.

Sentinel Fine Arts & More

Mr. William Meriwether, Director of Fine Arts





Extracurriculars by the Numbers

Schola Cantorum	52
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Orchestra	38
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Band	12
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Theatre	61
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CLASSICAL Dance	51
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Fra Angelico Art Guild	94
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Chess Club	74
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Drama Club	70
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Gardening Club	25
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Golf Club	20
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Fall Play

Arabian Nights





History Dress-Up Day



Fezziwig's Ball





The Miraculous Journey of
Edward Tulane





Citadel Life Update

Mr. Patrick Giroux & Ms. Brianna Lambrecht, Co-Directors of Citadel Life





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CITADEL LIFE

Citadel Life Update

Mr. Patrick Giroux & Ms. Brianna Lambrecht, Co-Directors of Citadel Life





CINCINNATI
CLASSICAL ACADEMY

By the Numbers

2025 – 26

BY THE NUMBERS



Enrollment & Reach

936

students

72 zip codes · 41 school districts

97.9%

retention rate
next year

Families drive from:

AS FAR EAST

Hillsboro

70 min. each way

AS FAR SOUTHEAST

New Richmond

45 min.

AS FAR WEST

Oxford

52 min.

COMMUNITY EVENTS



5th Annual

Classical Trivia Night

2026





Classical Renaissance Gala

Hall of Mirrors

\$410,000

Gross raised
from 172 donors

453

Total attendees

58 / 104

Faculty & staff
attendees

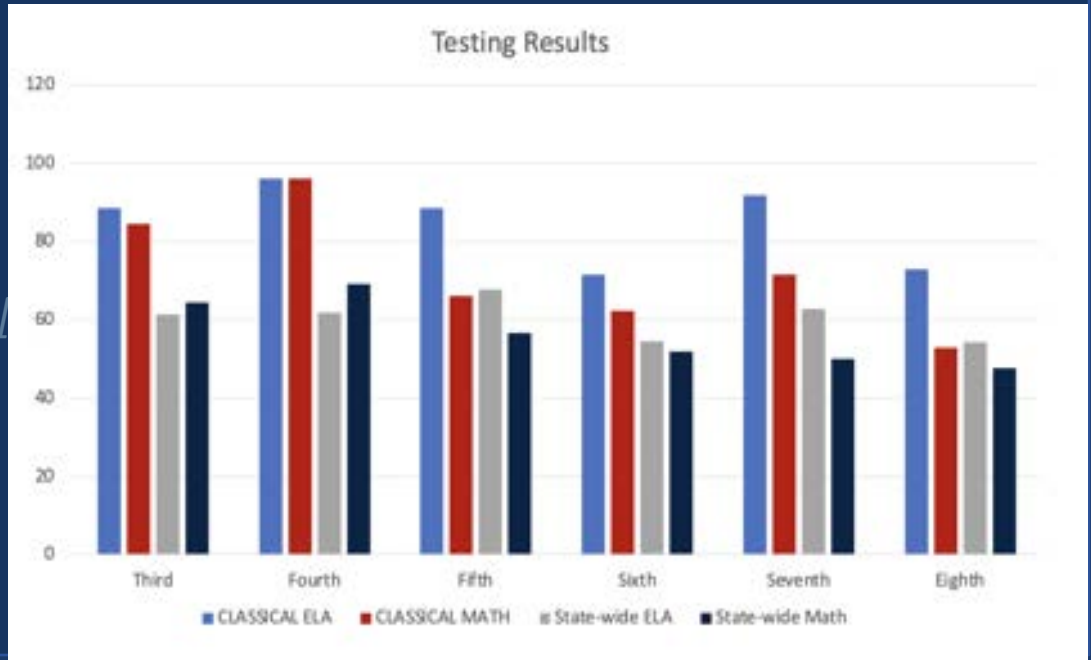
30

Student volunteers

Keynote Speaker: Mr. Michael Rose, Headmaster & Superintendent



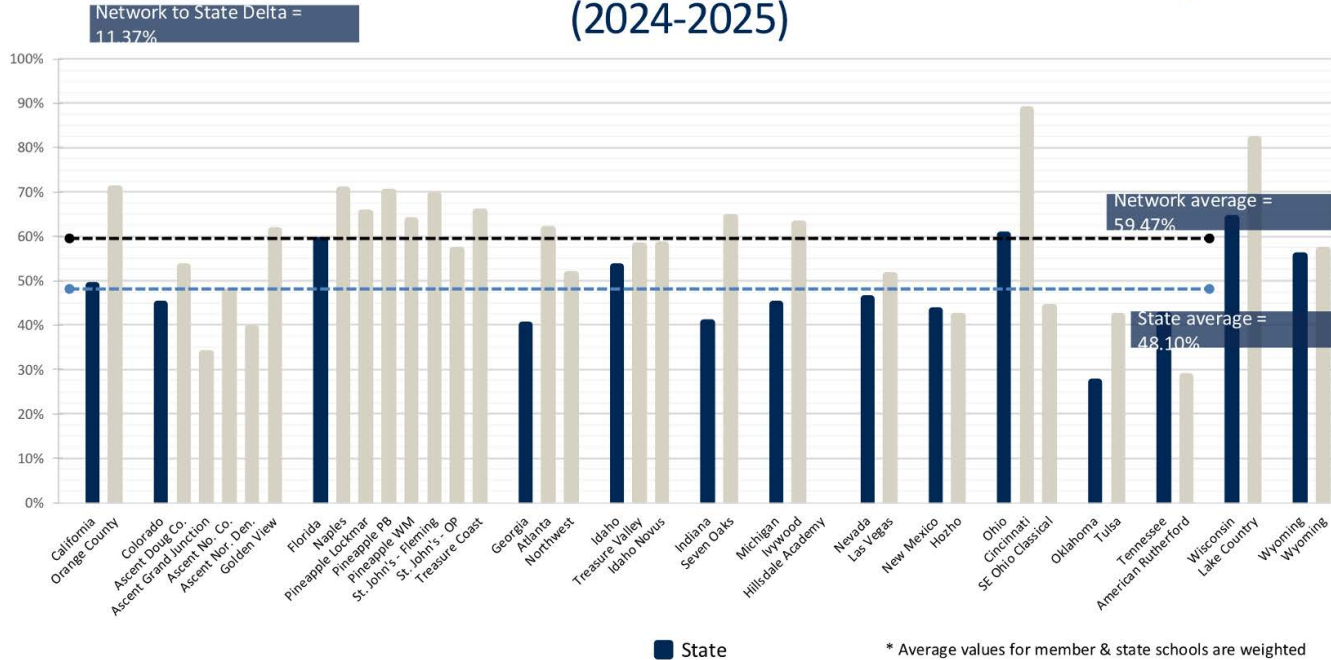
Ohio By the Numbers





Hillsdale By the Numbers

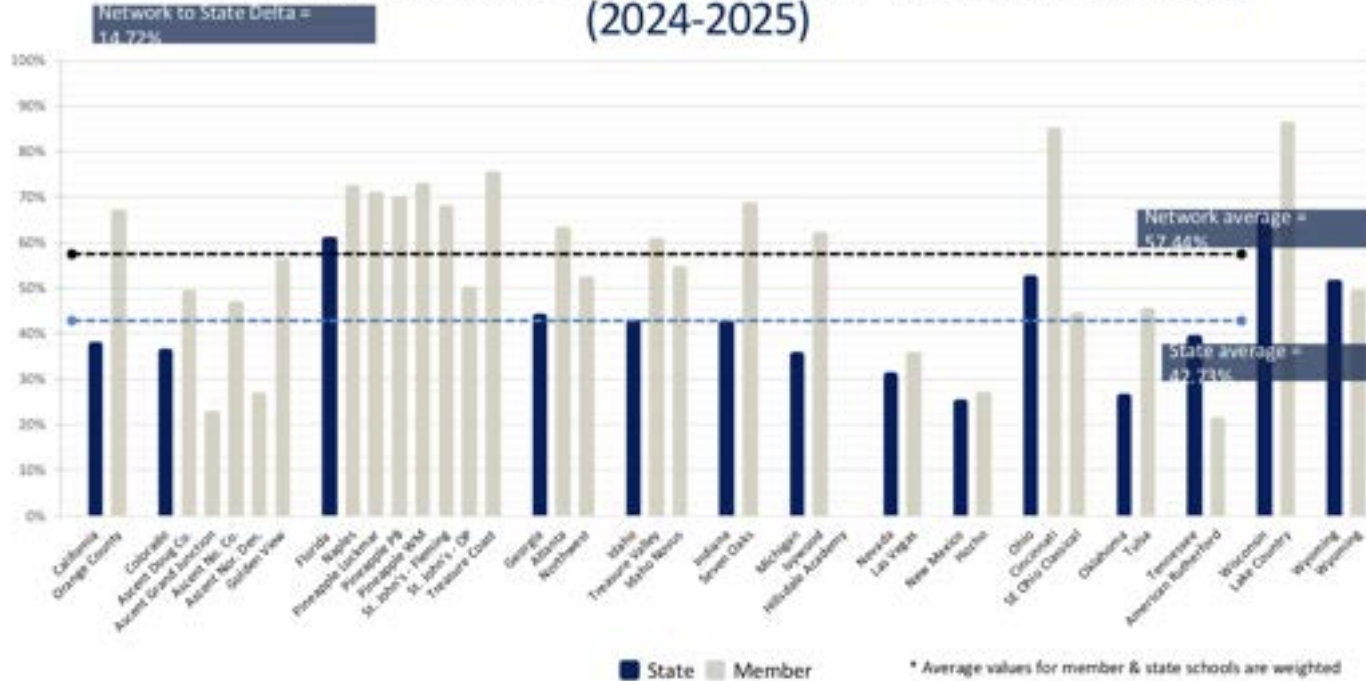
Hillsdale Network vs. State Schools - ELA Proficiency (2024-2025)





Hillsdale By the Numbers

Hillsdale Network vs. State Schools - Math Proficiency (2024-2025)

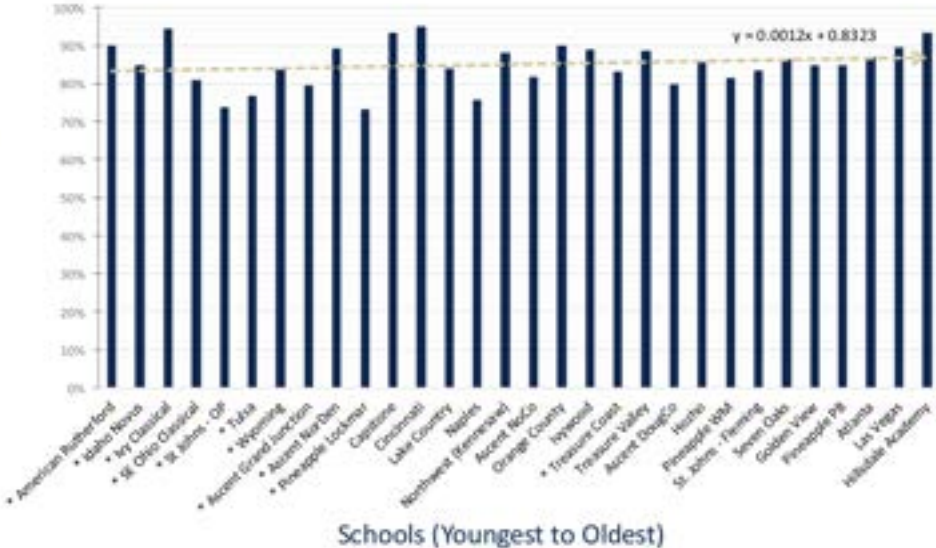




Hillsdale By the Numbers

Student Retention in Hillsdale Network Schools
(3-Year Average, Fall 2023 – Fall 2025)

Student Retention:
 Mean: 85.07%
 Median: 84.8%





Teachers By the Numbers

Category	Count
K–9 General Education Teachers	39
Art Teachers	4
Music Teachers	4
PE Teachers	4
Special Education Faculty	5
TOTAL TEACHERS	56



Aides & Staff by the Numbers

Category	Count
Grades K–2 Instructional Aides	11
Student Services Aides	6
Math Specialists	2
School Leadership	9
Staff	18
TOTAL FACULTY & STAFF	101



Student Achievements

Audrey Dillhoff and Anna Schmitt (Grade 8) advanced past several hundred contestants in the first round of the National Civics Bee competition.

Fourth grade chess team took third place at the Queen City Classic.

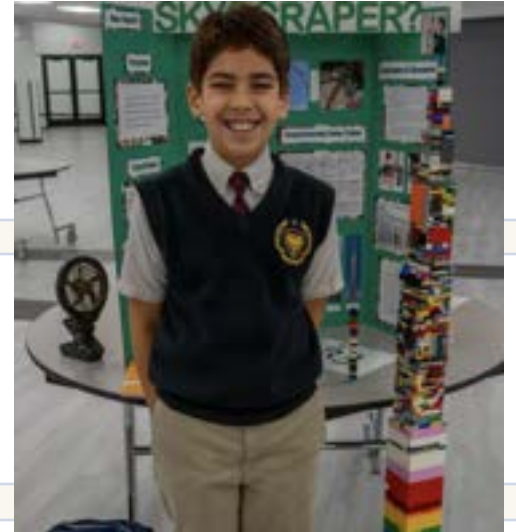




Student Achievements

9 students qualified to advance to the Ohio State Science Fair competition.

4 students won monetary awards.



Olivia Moy and Amy Shu earned perfect scores and have been nominated for the 2026 Thermo-Fisher Scientific Innovators Challenge — a national competition.



Robotics State Champions

Ohio VEX IQ State Championship — Excellence Award

Fifth grader Dhanvika Boopathy led her robotics team to the highest honor.

Ohio VEX IQ State Championship — Innovate Award

Fourth grader Eisa Karimkhan helped his team qualify for the world stage.





2025–26 Yearbook Cover Winner

Nearly 50 submissions to the yearbook cover contest this year.

Mr. Rose had the honor of choosing a winner from the top five.

This year's winner is eighth grader **Audrey Dillhoff**.





CINCINNATI
CLASSICAL ACADEMY

2026 – 27

What's Coming for Cincinnati Classical Academy

LOOKING AHEAD



By the Numbers 2026-27

1,068

Students Registered

At full capacity

427

Students on Wait Lists

Across all grade levels



Faculty & Staff Numbers 2026–27

Category	Count
K–4 Lower School Teachers	16 (+0)
5–10 MS/US Teachers	25 (+4)
Art Teachers	4 (+0)
Music Teachers	4 (+0)
PE Teachers	4 (+0)
Intervention Specialists	6 (+0)
TOTAL TEACHERS	59 (+4)



Staff Numbers 2026–27

Category	Count
Grades K–2 Instructional Aides	7 (-4)
Special Education Aides	5 (-2)
Math & Literacy Specialists	4 (+0)
School Leadership	7 (-1)
Support Staff / Directors	18 (+0)
TOTAL FACULTY & STAFF	106 (+2)



By the Numbers 2026–27

Lower School

Siebenthaler Campus

Grades K–4

496 students

20 homerooms

Middle & Upper School

Summit Park Campus

Grades 5–10

472 students

19 homerooms



CINCINNATI
CLASSICAL ACADEMY

Financial Review



2025-2026 Budget Comparison*

Revenue

	YTD Budget	YTD Actual	Variance
State Funds	7,190,080	7,024,524	165,556
Federal Funds	425,000	680,302	(255,302)
Quality School Funds	2,262,000	1,823,898	438,102
Restricted Grants	100,000	--	(100,000)
Miscellaneous	621,120	2,847,965	2,226,845
TOTAL	10,598,200	12,376,689	1,778,489



2025-2026 Budget Comparison*

Expenses	YTD Budget	YTD Actual	Variance
Salaries & Benefits	5,499,068	5,358,316	140,752
Rent	1,459,044	1,407,380	51,664
Utilities & Facilities	549,450	623,764	(74,314)
Supplies	419,067	356,224	62,843
Other	1,153,171	990,556	162,615
TOTAL	9,079,800	8,736,240	343,560
NET FLOW	Revenue - Expense	1,518,400	3,640,449
			2,122,049



End of Year* Cash Balance

Year	Cash Balance - School	Cash Balance – School + Friends	Days COH^ – School + Friends
2022	263,018		
2023	194,898		
2024	1,359,073		
2025	2,599,346	3,048,953	
2026 (Projected)	2,066,824	2,512,842	76
2027 (Projected)	2,362,726	3,439,472	95
2028 (Projected)	2,829,820	4,240,481	109

^ More than 30 days cash-on-hand is preferred by authorizer/sponsor



Facilities Costs

39 acres on 2 campuses

200,000 s.f. of instructional space with 60 classrooms (153 s.f./student at 1300 capacity)

2 gymnasiums, 1 baseball field, wrestling room, weight room, and music pavilion

Bonds Revenue	29,320,000
Change Orders and Addition Completion	3,025,000
Total Cost	32,345,000

Annual Long-Term Debt Service	1,902,000 (20→10% of annual budget)
Short-Term Debt	2,250,000 (due 2027-28)

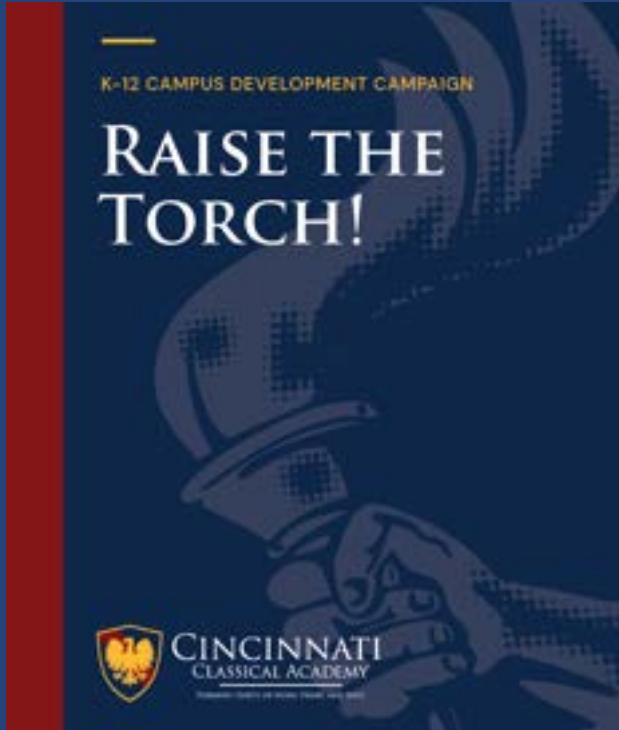


Additional Revenues (2023-2026)

Ohio Charter School Program Start-Up (FY23)	100,000
Federal Charter School Program Developer Grant (FY24-27)	2,000,000
Ohio Community School of Quality (FY24)	1,421,664
Ohio Community School of Quality (FY25)	1,774,811
Ohio Community School of Quality (FY26)	1,835,975
Friends of Cincinnati Classical Academy (FY25)	912,189
Friends of Cincinnati Classical Academy (FY26)	1,123,221
TOTAL	9,167,860



Building toward the Future



Major Financial Needs

- **Raise teacher salaries**
- **Facilities reserve fund**
- **Athletics fields**
- **Monuments**
- **Furnish library, other spaces**
- **Improvements at Siebenthaler**
- **Irrigation / grounds**
- **Beautification**



Congratulations!



Kelly Jones
Treasurer
Cincinnati Classical Academy





CINCINNATI
CLASSICAL ACADEMY

CAMPUS OVERVIEW

Summit Park Campus

Cincinnati Classical Academy — 2026–27

10200 Reed Hartman Hwy · Cincinnati, OH 45242



The Fieldhouse Addition

