



CINCINNATI CLASSICAL ACADEMY

FORMING HABITS OF MIND, HEART, AND SOUL

2026–2027 School Profile

10200 Reed Hartman Highway • Cincinnati, OH 45242 • cincyclassical.org • (513) 554-0285 • CEEB Code: 859605

About Cincinnati Classical Academy

Founded in 2022, Cincinnati Classical Academy (CLASSICAL) is a member of the Hillsdale College K–12 Education Network and offers a rigorous, content-rich classical education grounded in the liberal arts and sciences.

The school follows a planned grade-level expansion model. In the 2026–27 school year, CLASSICAL serves students in kindergarten through grade 10. We will add one grade level each year until reaching its full K–12 program in the 2028–29 school year.

CLASSICAL's first graduating class—the Class of 2029—will be among the first students to complete a secondary education at a school designed from its founding according to classical principles. Students in the upper school pursue a curriculum that emphasizes great works of literature and history, formal study of Latin, the development of logical reasoning, and the practice of Socratic discussion.

Cincinnati Classical Academy draws students from 72 zip codes across six counties in the greater Cincinnati region. The student body represents a diverse cross-section of southwestern Ohio families who share a commitment to academic excellence, character formation, and civic responsibility.

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

The Classical Tradition

An education at Cincinnati Classical Academy is structured around Hillsdale College's content-rich K–12 curriculum in the classical liberal arts and sciences. Students progress through a carefully sequenced program that cultivates graduates who read with comprehension, think with precision, and communicate with clarity and conviction.

In the upper school (grades 9–12), this formation culminates in the Senior Thesis. Each student selects a significant question related to human nature, the human good, or the natural order, constructs a reading list to explore that question, composes a substantial argumentative essay, and publicly defends the thesis before faculty and peers. The Senior Thesis serves as the capstone of a Cincinnati Classical education, embodying the school's commitment to rigorous intellectual and moral formation.

MICHAEL ROSE

Head of School

mrose@cincyclassical.org

ISAAC JOHNSON

Assistant Head of Upper School

ijohnson@cincyclassical.org

COLLEGE & CAREER READINESS

occr@cincyclassical.org

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.

SCHOOL FACTS

- **Type:** Tuition-free public charter school
- **Founded:** 2022
- **Grades Served:** K–12 (High School opened Fall 2025)
- **First Graduating Class:** 2029
- **2026–27 Enrollment:** 1,050 students in grades K–10
- **Location:** Cincinnati, Ohio (Southwestern Ohio)
- **Curriculum Partner:** Hillsdale College K–12
- **Motto:** *Scientia est libertas*
- **Student Mascot:** Sentinels
- **Address:** 10200 Reed Hartman Hwy Cincinnati OH 45242

Core Courses — All Courses Are Required Except Where Noted*

DEPARTMENT	GRADE 9	GRADE 10	GRADE 11	GRADE 12
English & Literature	Ancient Greek & Roman Literature	British Literature	American Literature	Modern Literature and Senior Thesis
History	History of the Ancient World: to 500 A	History of Western Civilization: 500–1815	American History: 1607–Present	History of the Modern World: 1815–Present
Mathematics	Algebra I or Geometry	Geometry or Algebra II	Algebra II or Pre-Calculus	Pre-Calculus or AP Calculus AB or BC
Science	Biology I	Chemistry I	Physics I	Astronomy
Science (Electives)	–	AP Biology*	AP Chemistry*	AP Physics*
Latin	Latin I, II, or III	Latin II, III, or AP Latin*	Latin III or AP Latin*	AP Latin*
Modern Languages (Electives)	French I*	French I* / French II*	French II* / French III* Ancient Greek*	French III* / AP French * Ancient Greek*
Philosophy & Social Sciences	Formal Logic & Rhetoric	Economics and Moral & Political Philosophy I	Personal Finance and Moral & Political Philosophy II	American Government

ELECTIVES: In addition to the 13 elective AP course we offer, electives are available from the following: Classical Architecture, Drawing & Painting, Sculpture, Ceramics, Printmaking & the Art of the Book, Schola Cantorum, Shakespeare for the Stage, Fencing, Archery, and Advanced Fitness. Fitness for Life is the required health course for Grade 9.

DISTINCTIVE FEATURES OF OUR PROGRAM

Latin & Ancient Greek

Latin is required of all students from grade 7 through at least grade 10; AP Latin is available in grades 10–12. Ancient Greek is offered as an elective in grades 10–12. Students graduating from Cincinnati Classical Academy possess an uncommon foundation in classical languages.

Socratic Seminar

Across disciplines, students engage in structured Socratic discussion, learning to read closely, argue from evidence, listen actively, and revise their thinking. This method of instruction is integrated throughout the four-year curriculum.

Complete Works, Not Excerpts

Literature and humanities courses are built around whole works — Homer, Dante, Shakespeare, Dostoevsky — read in their entirety. Students write extensive essays and engage in oral argument rather than preparing for standardized rubrics.

The Senior Thesis

Every senior completes a lengthy original thesis on a significant question in philosophy, history, or literature, drawing from an approved reading list of great works. The project concludes with a public oral defense before a faculty panel — a genuine rite of intellectual passage.

Citadel Life (House System)

Students are assigned to one of four "citadels" — houses modeled after traditions found in European schools — which compete in academics, arts, athletics, and service. The system fosters camaraderie, leadership, and a deep sense of belonging.

Hillsdale College Partnership

As a member of the Hillsdale College K-12 network, our curriculum has been developed in partnership with one of the nation's most academically rigorous liberal arts institutions. The partnership ensures ongoing curricular oversight of exceptional quality.

OUR REQUIRED READING LIST

Students at Cincinnati Classical Academy in grades 9–12 will all read the following full-length works of literature, history, and philosophy, in addition to some shorter works—short stories, historical speeches, and poetry.

- *Oresteia* by Aeschylus
- *Politics, Nicomachean Ethics* by Aristotle
- *Confessions* by Augustine
- *Jane Eyre* by Charlotte Bronte
- *My Antonia* by Willa Cather
- *Canterbury Tales* by Geoffrey Chaucer
- *Inferno* by Dante
- *Tale of Two Cities* by Charles Dickens
- *Crime and Punishment* by Fyodor Dostoevsky
- *Murder in the Cathedral* by T.S. Eliot
- *The Scarlet Letter* by Nathaniel Hawthorne
- *Old Man and the Sea* by Ernest Hemingway
- *The Odyssey* by Homer
- *The Abolition of Man* by C.S. Lewis
- *Second Treatise on Government* by John Locke
- *Death of a Salesman* by Arthur Miller
- *1984* by George Orwell
- *Gorgias, Meno, Apology, Crito, Phaedo* by Plato
- *The Federalist Papers* by Publius
- *Julius Caesar* by William Shakespeare
- *Macbeth* by William Shakespeare
- *The Tempest* by William Shakespeare
- *Hamlet* by William Shakespeare
- *The Oedipus Cycle* by Sophocles
- *Gulliver's Travels* by Jonathan Swift
- *Democracy in America* by Tocqueville
- *Death of Ivan Ilyich* by Leo Tolstoy
- *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* by Mark Twain
- *The Aeneid* by Virgil
- *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight* by Gawain Poet

ADVANCED COURSEWORK & OUR APPROACH TO AP COURSES

We offer a carefully selected portfolio of Advanced Placement courses in subjects where the AP framework aligns with genuine mastery and does not require us to compromise curricular depth. Specifically, we offer AP courses in mathematics, science, French, Latin, and the arts — areas where the AP exam tests objective knowledge and skill.

We do not offer AP courses in history, philosophy, or literature, where the College Board's framework favors breadth over depth and standardized rubric-writing over genuine humanistic formation. In these subjects, our core courses surpass the AP standard in rigor, depth, and the demands placed on student thinking and writing.

Cincinnati Classical Academy approaches advanced study differently from most schools. Academic rigor begins in kindergarten and deepens continuously through twelfth grade. Our upper school curriculum, developed in partnership with Hillsdale College, is designed to challenge students at a college-preparatory level across every discipline.

AP COURSES OFFERED

- AP Latin (Grades 10–12)
- AP Biology (Grades 11–12)
- AP Chemistry (Grades 11–12)
- AP Physics: Algebra-Based (Grade 12)
- AP Calculus AB and BC (Grade 12)
- AP Statistics (Grades 11–12)
- AP French (Grade 12)
- AP Spanish (Grade 12)
- AP Art History (Grades 11–12)
- AP Art & Design (Grade 12)
- AP Music Theory (Grades 10–12)
- AP Music Composition (Grades 11–12)

COMPARABLE NON-AP COURSES (CLASSICAL CORE)

- Ancient Greek & Roman Literature (Gr. 9)
- British Literature (Gr. 10)
- American Literature (Gr. 11)
- Modern Literature (Gr. 12)
- History of the Ancient World (Gr. 9)
- History of Western Civilization (Gr. 10)
- American History (Gr. 11)
- History of the Modern World (Gr. 12)
- Moral & Political Philosophy I & II (Gr. 10–11)
- American Government & Politics (Gr. 12)
- Senior Thesis (Gr. 12)

GRADING, GPA & CLASS RANK

GRADING SCALE

A 93–100 (4.0)	C+ 77–79 (2.3)
A– 90–92 (3.7)	C 73–76 (2.0)
B+ 87–89 (3.3)	C– 70–72 (1.7)
B 83–86 (3.0)	D 60–69 (1.0)
B– 80–82 (2.7)	F 0–59 (0.0)

GPA POLICY Cincinnati Classical Academy uses a single weighted GPA scale for all courses. We do not inflate grades. Our grading reflects genuine academic achievement and is applied with consistency across departments. Admissions officers should read our grades with confidence that they represent honest evaluations of student performance.

CLASS RANK is calculated and reported. Given the rigorous and uniform nature of our curriculum, GPA differences among top students are often small and reflect genuine differences in performance. We encourage colleges to consider our students' transcripts in the full context of this profile when evaluating academic achievement.

ACADEMIC AWARDS & DISTINCTIONS

The following school-sponsored awards are recorded on student transcripts. Descriptions of each award are available from the Office of College and Career Readiness upon request.

AWARD	CRITERIA	AWARDED
Sentinel Scholar	Cumulative GPA of 3.9 or above, sustained across all four years	At graduation
Summa Cum Laude Honors	Semester GPA of 4.0	Per semester
Magna Cum Laude Honors	Semester GPA of 3.7-3.99	Per semester
Latin Honors	Demonstrated excellence in Latin language and classical literature	Annually, Grades 9-12
Senior Thesis Distinction	Exceptional thesis rated outstanding by the faculty panel	Grade 12
Citadel Leadership Award	Outstanding leadership within the house system	Annually
Virtue Award	Exemplary demonstration of the school's core virtues	Annually, per citadel
National Honor Society	Academic excellence, leadership, and service	Grades 10-12

EXTRACURRICULAR LIFE

ACADEMIC CLUBS

- Chess Club
- Latin Club / JCL
- Creative Writing
- National Honor Society

PERFORMING ARTS

- Choral / Schola Cantorum
- Orchestra
- Symphonic Band
- Drama Club / Theatre
- Art Guild

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)

COLLEGE & CAREER OUTCOMES

Cincinnati Classical Academy's first graduating class will be the Class of 2029. As our students progress through the upper school, the Office of College and Career Readiness will track and publish full outcomes data, including college acceptances and matriculations, scholarship dollars earned, and longitudinal success in college coursework.

Our college counseling program emphasizes self-governance, academic excellence, and individualized guidance. Students work with our Director of College and Career Readiness beginning in tenth grade, with intensive one-on-one counseling beginning in eleventh grade.

For information about outcomes at other Hillsdale College K-12 member schools, we encourage admissions officers to contact our Office of College and Career Readiness or visit the Hillsdale College K-12 website.

A Note to Admissions Officers

The graduates of Cincinnati Classical Academy will not always have the longest AP list or the most familiar profile. What they will have is something harder to produce and more enduring: the ability to read carefully, reason logically, write with precision and force, speak with confidence, and engage the great questions of human life with genuine intellectual seriousness.

We invite you to read our students' essays, ask them about their Senior Thesis, and consider the depth and breadth of a curriculum that has been working on them for many years. We are confident that the comparison will speak for itself.

MICHAEL ROSE
Head of School