



CINCINNATI CLASSICAL ACADEMY

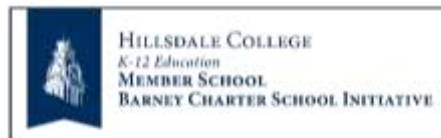
FORMING HABITS OF MIND, HEART, AND SOUL

Family Handbook 2024-25

For Students & Parents

Cincinnati Classical Academy
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Family Handbook 2024-2025
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Policy Updates since 2023-24

For returning parents especially, please peruse updates made to the following sections of the CLASSICAL Student & Family Handbook 2024-25 below.

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Welcome from the Headmaster

Dear CLASSICAL Families,

Welcome to Cincinnati Classical Academy, also known around here as CLASSICAL or Cincy Classical. We thank you for choosing us among the many schooling options available today. The mission of CLASSICAL is 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. It is a high calling and a difficult one. But it is a calling that can be realized if we are clear in our aims and joined together by common purpose.

Parents, in choosing a classical education for your child, you have chosen not only a rigorous and challenging path but one that brings great rewards for those who travel it well. CLASSICAL hopes not merely to care for our students but to help them fill their minds with knowledge. Our methods are the tried and true: we diagram sentences, we read the great classics of children's literature, we memorize and recite poetry, we do mathematical proofs. Yes, sometimes it will seem challenging and difficult, but we know there are no shortcuts when it comes to understanding, and we believe that the things we study are worth the effort.

At CLASSICAL, we believe that a liberal education in the sciences and humanities is inherently good—something worth having apart from the many good things that can come from it. Schools like ours produce impressive students, graduating seniors with high ACT and SAT scores, excellent college applications, and the opportunity to be doctors or lawyers, entrepreneurs or architects, once they finish college. We hope that our first graduates will be impressive as well, but we do not think that making them merely impressive is the primary mission of our school.

Of course we want our students to receive the highest academic accolades, but we also believe that our work is to help our students learn to be good, to teach them to be men and women with sound minds and well-formed characters. We hope to help them become thoughtful judges of their own happiness and forces for what is right in the world. Classical liberal education, education that is good for its own sake, is the education that makes human beings free—free to consider the world as it is and endeavor to understand it over time. Our school motto, *scientia est libertas* (knowledge is freedom) reflects this.

In choosing Cincinnati Classical Academy, you have chosen a very particular kind of place. To honor the choice that you have made, we promise to treat your children's education as an end in itself. We promise to help them learn to be virtuous, not just credentialed. We promise to educate them to be thinkers, not merely to train them for a particular profession. We promise to challenge

them to help them see what they are capable of. We promise to help your students know themselves, and to help them cultivate their minds and their characters in accordance with virtue.

We ask that you support our school in the community and to your children. This important and difficult education relies upon a close partnership between parent and teacher. Because a classical school aims for more than just supervising students, or training them for careers, we cannot go about our work without you. We ask that you get to know us, and get to know classical education. We encourage you to learn about our curriculum and the mission of our school by visiting our website and participating in the school's academic activities.

When you have questions about something your student is learning or a method used by a teacher, we hope you will ask us. Because, generally speaking, we do things for a logical reason. We hope you will display to your students the core virtues we teach—courage, gratitude, justice, humility, perseverance, prudence, and compassion. Help us teach them to develop the good habits that lead to moral virtue. Above all, help us demonstrate to them that learning is not just for young people. Show them through example that curiosity about the world along with the good judgment to understand it well is the truest and best source of human happiness.

I thank you for your support of our school, and I look forward to an excellent school year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'MR', followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Michael Rose
Headmaster
Cincinnati Classical Academy

Spirit of this Handbook

Cincinnati Classical Academy provides a unique classical experience that aims at human happiness. Instruction in moral character and civic virtue are crucial in this enterprise, and demand quite a bit from students and their families alike. By attending CLASSICAL, students and their families positively choose to embark on a traditional, tried and true educational path. This choice means that students should strive for the excellence of which they are capable and take delight and confidence in the successes of their friends and peers. All policies in this Handbook should be understood in light of a parent's and student's choice to pursue the vision, mission, and core virtues in common with the school.

About Our School

Cincinnati Classical Academy is a public community school operated by an independent Board of Directors and authorized by a sponsor approved by the Ohio Department of Education. Public community schools (sometimes known as "charter schools") are given flexibility to articulate a distinct mission, design a curriculum around the mission, and hire faculty who can best deliver mission-guided instruction. The result is a unique and innovative educational model that responds to the needs of students and families who have chosen CLASSICAL.

A principal value of all public community schools is that parents have the primary right, authority, and responsibility to direct the education of their children. CLASSICAL considers its work to rest upon a partnership between the family and the school.

A Hillsdale College K-12 Member School

CLASSICAL is one of many schools in the country that are part of the Hillsdale College K-12 network. The Hillsdale College K-12 mission is to assist with the founding of classical charter schools and to promote excellence in their teaching and operations, to the end that public-school students may be educated in the liberal arts and sciences and receive instruction in the principles of moral character and civic virtue. Because of our status as a Hillsdale College Member School, our teachers are provided ongoing professional development that supports the effective planning and implementation of classical education through resources provided by Hillsdale College. It is important to note, however, that Cincinnati Classical Academy received no financial support from the College and Hillsdale receives no money from the school.

Characteristics of a CLASSICAL Education

Cincinnati Classical Academy, assisted by Hillsdale College, presents a classical education that includes the following key characteristics:

- the centrality of the Western tradition in the study of history, literature, philosophy, and fine arts
- a rich and recurring examination of the American literary, moral, philosophical, political, and historical traditions
- the use of explicit phonics instruction leading to reading fluency and the use of explicit grammar instruction to master the English language
- the teaching of Latin
- the acknowledgement of objective standards of correctness, logic, beauty, weightiness, and truth intrinsic to the liberal arts
- a school culture demanding moral virtue, decorum, respect, discipline, and studiousness among the students and faculty
- a curriculum that is content-rich and balanced across the four core disciplines of math, science, literature, and history
- a faculty where well-educated and articulate teachers explicitly convey real knowledge to students using traditional teaching methods
- a school that uses technology effectively but without diminishing the faculty leadership that is crucial to academic achievement

Our Mission Statement

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

Our School Vision

To form our students with strong language and reasoning skills; an understanding of the natural world and our nation; and an appreciation of the good, the true, and the beautiful as revealed through our cultural inheritance of Western Civilization

Our Student Pledge/Honor Code

Students recite this pledge each morning: “As a member of the CLASSICAL community, I am respectful, responsible, and honest. I seek to know the truth, to do the good, and love the beautiful.”

Our Core Virtues

At CLASSICAL we believe that academic and personal integrity are essential to the success of our educational mission. We are responsible not only for developing the student’s intellect but also for developing character grounded in strong morals and responsible citizenship. We agree with Aristotle that one becomes good only by observing and practicing right behavior.

Discipline, ethics, and personal responsibility will be modeled by teachers and expected by students, both inside and outside of the classroom. Students will also be introduced to the virtuous

behavior of timeless heroes and heroines of literature and history. Moreover, Cincinnati Classical Academy defines a standard of behavior using the following seven core virtues to help students learn and develop virtuous behavior based on high moral standards:

Prudence | Justice | Courage | Humility | Gratitude | Perseverance | Compassion

School Hours

School Hours (Siebenthaler campus): Monday-Friday 8:15 AM - 3:15 PM

School Hours (Vine Street campus): Monday-Friday 7:55 AM - 2:55 PM

After-Care Hours: 3:30 PM – 6:00 PM

Front Office: Monday-Friday 7:30 AM – 3:45 PM

Closed weekends and during school holidays

Summer Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Phone: (513) 554-0285

Front Office email: front.office@cincyclclassical.org

Attendance email: attendance@cincyclclassical.org

Student Drop-Off and Pick-Up

We encourage parents to drop off their students between 7:45 AM and 8:10 AM (Siebenthaler campus) / between 7:25 AM and 7:50 AM (Vine Street campus). The school building will be unlocked each day at 7:30 AM (Siebenthaler) / 7:25 AM (Vine). Faculty, staff, and volunteers will be at the front of the campus in the morning to welcome students from their vehicles to the building. At Siebenthaler, all students will enter through the doors at the main school entrance under the blue awning. At Vine Street, all students will enter through the doors at the west entrance. Other staff will be inside to supervise students on their way to class. At 8:15 AM (Siebenthaler) / 7:55 AM (Vine) our doors will be locked to ensure the security of students and staff. Students who arrive after this time will have to wait in the main lobby until the end of morning announcements. Tardy students must first report to the front office or the attendant agent in the main lobby before going to their homeroom.

Car Line Procedures

Procedures for drop-off and pick-up give priority to the safety and security of all students.

Parents are expected to cooperate fully to ensure that the process is safe and orderly. The school will release students only to parents, legal guardians, or adult designees (in the case of carpooling).

The adults driving through the car line are expected to serve as role models by always exhibiting courteous behavior. Please share these policies and procedures with anyone who will be picking up your student as everyone in the car line is expected to know and follow the procedures.

The week before the start of school, each family should pick up its family placard from the front office or from the homeroom teacher on Meet-the-Teacher Day. This placard should be displayed in the lefthand-side driver's window when you drive onto campus for afternoon pick-up. We ask that you do this so that your family name can easily be identified by carline attendants, whose duty it is to get your students to your car as efficiently and safely as possible. This will assure carline efficiency. Car line drivers should heed the directions of those on traffic duty. When in front of the main entrance, cars may not be in motion until car line volunteers indicate the safe signal, which means that students are in their cars and the next wave of students is still in the building or under the entrance awning.

Please note that the car line traffic is one-way. Please do not pull into parking spaces at the front entrance to the school. (Parents needing to come into the Siebenthaler school building during dismissal must park in the designated areas in front of the Belltower Entrance and walk around to the Blue Awning Entrance.)

Please do not arrive on campus for student pick-up before 2:40 PM (Siebenthaler) / 2:20 PM (Vine), and please do not park directly on Siebenthaler Ave. / Vine St. A car-line attendant will take your family name as you arrive; he or she will then direct you into one of the pick-up lanes. Please follow the attendant's directions.

Full details of all specifics regarding car line traffic and procedures are available on our website and are sent directly to all our school families at least a week before the beginning of school. Any changes in carline procedures will be communicated to the entire CLASSICAL community and posted on the website.

Early Drop-off and Late Pick-up

Students may not be dropped off before 7:30 AM (Siebenthaler) / 7:25 AM (Vine) and must be picked up by 3:45 PM (Siebenthaler) / 3:25 PM (Vine) unless they are enrolled in our After-Care Program. Students with siblings in clubs or athletics must still be picked up or wait outside with a parent/guardian.

Students who are still on campus and not participating in a club or athletics at 3:45 PM (Siebenthaler) / 3:25 PM (Vine) must wait for a parent/guardian in the front office. The late fee for pick-up after this time is \$10 for the first minute and \$1 per minute thereafter.

Students who are enrolled in the After-Care Program (ACP) may be picked up anytime between 3:45 PM and 6:00 PM at the Cafeteria Entrance at the Siebenthaler campus. The late fee for pick-up after 6:00 PM. is \$10 for the first minute and \$1 per minute thereafter.

Parking

The school will communicate designated parking spaces. Employees and parents are asked to adhere to the parking plan. Parents and visitors should park in the designated visitor spots (at the Siebenthaler campus, in front of the Belltower Entrance and walk around the building and enter through the doors at the Blue Awning Entrance).

Attendance

Classical education is highly interactive and requires consistent and punctual attendance. Because the classical approach relies heavily on classroom discussion among students and teachers, most work done in class cannot be made up if a student is absent. For this reason, parents should exercise prudence and make every reasonable effort to ensure that students do not miss class, including restricting family trips to the allotted school holidays and vacation weeks. If students are sick, however, they must remain at home.

Parents must contact the front office each day a child is to be away from school. To notify the front office please either email attendance@cincyclclassical.org or call (513) 554-0285. Please include your child's name and the reason for his or her absence in your email or voice mail. Parents must make us aware of the child's absence *before* 8:15 AM (Siebenthaler) / 7:55 AM (Vine) on the day of the absence. If a parent fails to notify the office of a student's absence, the absence will be coded as unexcused.

Planned Absences

Planned absence during the school term is highly discouraged. Any such absence must be requested at least one week in advance and in writing and is subject to approval by the Dean of Student Life and the Headmaster. We discourage medical and dental appointments during the school day when avoidable. When those appointments are unavoidable, students are responsible for any make-up work during their absence. Assignments that are not made up, according to the time restrictions set by the teacher and school, will be reflected in their grades. According to the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce, missing two clock hours equals a one half-day absence and missing four clock hours equals one full day absence.

The school recognizes that students may have extenuating circumstances (e.g., medical, emotional, etc.) that necessitate them being absent from school for extended periods. The Dean of Student Life will address these circumstances on a case-by-case basis. Family vacations do not qualify as extenuating circumstances. Family vacations should be scheduled for the allotted school holidays and vacation weeks. In all cases, coursework must be completed in order to receive a passing grade.

Excused Absences

Absences due to the following will be excused:

1. Personal physical illness that prevents attendance at school (at the discretion of the Headmaster or his designee, a written statement from a physician may be required).
2. Personal mental illness such that the student will not benefit from instruction (at the discretion of the Headmaster or his designee, a written statement from a physician/mental health professional may be required).
3. Illness in the family necessitating the presence of the child (at the discretion of the Headmaster or his designee, a written statement from a physician and an explanation as to why the child's absence was necessary may be required).
4. Quarantine in the home (absence will be excused for the duration of the quarantine as determined by proper health officials).
5. Death in the family (absence will be excused for no more than eighteen (18) hours unless the Headmaster or his designee determines that a longer absence is reasonably necessary).
6. Medical, behavioral, or dental appointments (at the discretion of the Headmaster or his designee, a written statement from a physician, mental health professional, or dentist confirming the appointment may be required).
7. Observance of religious holidays or expression of religious beliefs consistent with the truly held religious beliefs of the child or the child's family for no more than three (3) school days (the Headmaster may require confirmation of the parent's signature requesting the absence).
8. College or university visits (at the discretion of the Headmaster or his designee, verification of the date and time of the visit may be requested).
9. Pre-enlistment reporting to military enlistment processing station (at the discretion of the Headmaster or his designee, a written verification confirming the date and time reporting may be required).
10. Absence due to a placement in or changes to a foster care placement or any court proceeding related to a student's foster care status.
11. Absences due to a student being homeless.
12. Absences due to deployment activities of a parent or custodian.
13. The existence of an emergency condition at home such as absence, illness, or death of the parent or custodian.
14. Necessary work in a family business or on a family farm (after proof of necessary absence is provided to the Headmaster or his designee).
15. Necessary work directly and exclusively for a child's parent, if the child is over the age of fourteen (14) and has been in regular attendance at school during the current school year (after proof of necessary absence is provided to the Headmaster or his designee).
16. Instruction at home from a person qualified to teach the branches of education in which instruction is required, and such additional branches, as the advancement and needs of the child may require (after adequate certification of home instruction has been provided to the Headmaster or his designee).

17. An emergency or set of circumstances which in the judgment of the school constitutes a good and sufficient cause for absence.

18. If a student is absent from school for the sole purpose of traveling out of state to participate in a school-approved enrichment activity or extracurricular activity, the school shall count that absence as an excused absence, up to a maximum of twenty-four (24) hours per school year that the school is open for instruction. The student must complete any classroom assignments he/she misses due to the absence. If the student will be absent for twenty-four (24) or more consecutive hours that the school is open for instruction, a classroom teacher must accompany the student during the travel period to provide the student with instructional assistance in order to count the student as in attendance.

The Headmaster or his designee reserves the right to verify statements and to investigate the cause of absence.

Excuses from future school attendance:

- Shall be limited to a period not to exceed thirty (30) school hours and can be renewed at the discretion of the Superintendent or his designee for thirty (30) additional hours. Absences shall not exceed sixty (60) consecutive hours unless the child's parent has recently died or become totally or partially incapacitated and there is no older sibling living in the home who is out of school. At the discretion of the Superintendent or his designee, a written statement from a physician may be required.
- May not materially endanger the child's educational welfare or scholastic advancement.

Withdrawal

A student who fails to participate in seventy-two (72) consecutive hours of learning opportunities will be automatically withdrawn, unless the student's absence is excused. Otherwise, a parent may withdraw a student voluntarily by signing a Voluntary Withdrawal form with the Headmaster or his designee.

Whenever a student withdraws from the school voluntarily, the student's teacher shall attempt to ascertain the reason for withdrawal and shall immediately inform the Superintendent or his designee of the reason for the withdrawal. If the student voluntarily withdrew from the school as a result of a change in residence, the Superintendent or his designee shall notify the superintendent of the district to which the student has moved of all essential information regarding the student, including the student's new address.

If the Superintendent or his designee becomes aware that a student who has withdrawn from the school for reasons other than a change of residence is not enrolled in another school, the Superintendent or his designee shall notify the registrar of motor vehicles and the juvenile judge of the county in which the school is located of the student's likely violation of the State's compulsory education laws. Notice shall be given within two (2) weeks and shall include the student's name, address, date of birth, school, and the district where the student resides. Any notice given in error shall be immediately rescinded by the Superintendent or his designee.

Truancy and Absence Intervention Strategies

The Headmaster or his designee may act as the school's attendance officer or delegate that duty as permitted by law. The school's attendance officer shall investigate possible school attendance violations, and is authorized under Ohio law, to serve warrants, to enter places where children of compulsory school age are employed, and to take such other actions as may be necessary to enforce the compulsory education laws.

A student is excessively absent from school if a student is absent from the school with or without legitimate nonmedical or nonreligious excuse for 38 or more hours in one school month or 65 or more hours in one school year. Within seven days of a student becoming excessively absent from school, the attendance officer shall notify the student's parents of the student's absences in writing. A student is habitually truant if the student is absent without a legitimate excuse for 30 or more consecutive hours, for 42 or more hours in one school month, or 72 or more hours in one school year.

Legitimate excuses for the absence of a student otherwise habitually truant include but are not limited to: (1) the student was enrolled in another school; (2) the student's absence was excused in accordance with applicable law or policy; or (3) the student has received an age and schooling certificate.

If the student is habitually truant and the student's parents have failed to cause the student's attendance, the school will assign the student to an absence intervention team ("AIT") within ten days. The Headmaster or designee selects the AIT members, who shall include a representative of the school who knows the child and the child's parent, guardian, custodian, guardian ad litem, or temporary custodian. Members may also include a school psychologist, counselor, social worker, or representative of a public or nonprofit agency designed to assist students and their families in reducing absences.

Within seven days of the school's determination that the student is a habitual truant, the school will make at least three reasonable, meaningful attempts to secure the child's parent, guardian, or custodian's participation on the AIT. If the parent responds to attempts but is unable to attend, the school will notify the parent of the right to participate by designee. In the event the parent does not respond to the attempts at all, the school will investigate whether the failure to respond triggers child abuse and neglect reporting requirements and instruct the other members of the AIT to develop a plan for the child.

Within 14 days after its formation, the AIT will develop a written plan ("AIT plan") to reduce or eliminate Student's further absences. The AIT plan will state that a complaint will be filed in juvenile court alleging that the child is an unruly child not later than 61 days after implementation if the child refuses to participate in or fails to make satisfactory progress on the plan or other alternatives to adjudication. The School will make reasonable attempts to provide student's parent with written notice of the plan within seven days of development.

If a student becomes habitually truant during the last 22 school days of the year, the school may assign one official to work with the parent and develop an AIT plan in lieu of forming a full AIT. The plan shall be implemented not later than seven days prior to the first day of instruction of the next school year.

AIT Exemption: The school shall be exempt from AIT procedural requirements if it has a chronic absenteeism rate of less than 5% of the student body per the last state report card. The school shall employ absence intervention strategies for all students who are excessively absent from school. Such strategies shall include the following, if applicable: (1) providing a truancy intervention plan for any student who is excessively absent from school; (2) providing counseling for a habitual truant; (3) requesting or requiring a parent to attend parental involvement programs; (4) requesting or requiring a parent to attend truancy prevention mediation programs; (5) notification of the registrar of motor vehicles of student's truancy status if the student misses sixty consecutive hours of instruction or ninety hours of instruction during the course of the school year; and (7) taking legal action under R.C. 2919.222, 3321.20, and/or 3321.38.

On the 61st day after the implementation of an AIT plan or other intervention strategy, the attendance officer shall file a complaint with the juvenile court against a student, if all of the following apply: (1) the student is a habitual truant; (2) the school has made meaningful attempts to re-engage the student through the AIT plan, other intervention strategies, and any other offered alternatives to adjudication; and (3) the student has refused to participate in or failed to make satisfactory progress on the AIT plan, as determined by the AIT, or any offered intervention strategies or alternatives to adjudication. If the 61st day falls during the summer months, at the school's discretion, the AIT or attendance officer may extend the implementation of the plan and delay filing the complaint for an additional 30 days from the first day of instruction of the next school year. If, however, at any time during the implementation phase of the AIT plan or other intervention strategy, the student is absent without legitimate excuse for 30 or more consecutive hours or 42 or more hours in one school month, the attendance officer shall file a complaint with the juvenile court against the student, unless the AIT has determined that the student has made substantial progress on the absence intervention plan.

The Headmaster or his designee is also authorized to establish a parent education program for parents of students who are habitually truant. Any parent assigned to the program who does not complete the program is to be reported to law enforcement authorities for neglect of parent education, a fourth class misdemeanor if found guilty.

Reporting

The school shall report to the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce, as soon as practicable, any of the following occurrences: (1) when a student is deemed habitually truant; (2) when a student is deemed excessively absent; (3) when a student has been adjudicated an unruly child for being a habitual truant and violates the court order regarding that adjudication; or (4) when an AIT plan has been implemented for a student.

Make-up Work

Students may complete homework and other assignments that they miss during excused absences. Excepting major assignments (see below), students returning from an excused absence will have two additional days for each absent day to make up work that was due during or immediately after the absence. For example, if a student has an excused absence on Monday, then he has until Wednesday to turn in any work due on Monday or Tuesday; if a student has an excused absence on Thursday and Friday, then work due on Thursday, Friday, or Monday is not due until Thursday of the following week.

An absence on the date of a major assignment, such as a test or major paper, will not extend the deadline of that assignment if the student is absent only on that day. In cases of a single-day excused absence, the student must complete the assignment the day of his or her return. In cases of a multi-day absence, teachers will work with students to determine an appropriate deadline for major projects and a makeup time for tests.

Parents may inform the faculty directly of a request to secure make-up work from the office. Parents who send this request before 8:15 AM (Lower School) or 7:55 AM (Middle School) may expect to be able to pick up their student's work from the office by the end of afternoon dismissal at 3:45 PM (Lower School) or 3:25 PM (Middle School).

Extended Excused Absences

CLASSICAL recognizes the individual nature of extended excused absences including, but not limited to, such situations as acute or chronic illnesses, injuries, a terminally ill family member, or a death in the family. Families can expect to be informed by the Dean of Student Life of the general expectation of the faculty related to the completion of assignments and, as applicable, to the student's status for promotion to the next grade.

Unexcused Absences

Absences are unexcused when parents do not follow the procedure to excuse absences noted above, when a student is unaccounted for, or if a student does not make a reasonable effort to come to school on time. Such absences are liable to disciplinary action, up to and including suspension.

At CLASSICAL, we believe that regular attendance is vital to each student's academic progress and overall success. It is essential for students to actively participate in classroom learning, engage in discussions, and keep up with their coursework. As such, we expect all students to be present during the scheduled school days when school is in session. Family vacations, defined as trips taken for leisure or recreational purposes during the academic year when school is in session, are considered unexcused absences.

We understand the significance of spending quality time with family, and while we encourage such opportunities during the 16 weeks during the year in which school is *not* in session, we also emphasize the importance of regular attendance for the benefit of each student's education. Therefore, students and their families are asked to plan vacations during scheduled school breaks to minimize disruption to their education and to maintain consistency in their learning progress.

Students who take family vacations during school days will be marked as having unexcused absences for the days missed. Unexcused absences will negatively affect the student's academic progress and academic standing; they may lead to a decline in their overall academic performance.

Students will not receive credit for homework, tests, and other assignments missed during unexcused absences.

If a student has more than seven unexcused absences in one month or 20 days in any year, the student will be classified as habitually truant according to Ohio law. When the parent does not explain sufficiently the reason for unexcused absences, a parent conference will be required, and credit will be withheld. Each unexcused absence will be entered on the student's record. The parents or guardian of the student receiving an unexcused absence will be notified by the school of the unexcused absence.

Late Arrival/Early Release

Each late arrival or early release prevents students from engaging their classes appropriately. In order to get the most from class, students must begin and end on time. Tardiness refers to any occasion in which a student arrives to the homeroom classroom after 8:15 AM (Siebenthaler) / 7:55 AM (Vine), or at the established school start time. Early release refers to any occasion in which a student leaves before 3:15 PM (Siebenthaler) / 2:55 PM (Vine), or the established school finishing time. Three late arrivals or early releases equates to one absence. These may be excused, but the total number does count against the 90 attendance record necessary for receiving credit in a class.

In order for a late arrival or early release to be excused, it must follow the guidelines for an excused absence. For an excused tardy, the front office must be notified prior to 8:15 AM (Siebenthaler) or 7:55 AM (Vine) on the day of the tardy, except in cases of extreme extenuating circumstances.

An unexcused tardy or early release is subject to the same provisions as an unexcused absence, and students will not be offered make-up opportunities for schoolwork missed during this time. Students who are habitually tardy will be referred to the Dean of Student Life for appropriate disciplinary action.

Dropping Off a Student at School

It is the primary responsibility of parents or guardians to ensure that their child arrives at school on time and is ready to disembark from the vehicle at the designated drop-off point. Parents are encouraged to facilitate a smooth transition by preparing their child for the school day ahead. Faculty and staff are strictly prohibited from forcibly removing students from their vehicles as a means to prompt attendance. If a student refuses to exit the vehicle upon arrival at the drop-off point, parents must pull over to a designated area, ensuring the safety of all parties involved. Parents are then required to accompany their child to the school's front door and provide necessary support to facilitate their entrance. School staff will work collaboratively with parents to address situations where a student refuses to enter the building. Staff members will engage in respectful and supportive dialogue with parents, aiming to understand the reasons for the student's hesitation and exploring solutions together. If a student remains reluctant to enter the building after parental support, parents are responsible for making the decision whether to take the child home or to continue to wait in the vehicle until the student agrees to enter the building. The student will be marked tardy for a late arrival and will be marked absent if the student is taken home.

Attendance Prerequisite for Athletes

Students are expected to attend a full day of school to be eligible for athletic practices and games later that day. To meet the full day requirement, a student must arrive to school no later than the established start time and complete the school day. Exceptions may be made for planned events, such as a funeral or a doctor's appointment, provided that the event constitutes an excused absence or tardy. Exceptions must be approved in advance by the Dean of Student Life.

Releasing a Student from School

Students will only be released to their parents or legal guardians, unless the school has received written permission to release the student to another adult, e.g. in the case of car-pooling situations. Students may *not* be taken from the school or playground. Parents must sign them out from the front office.

In the case of divorce or separation of the parents, both parents shall have full rights until legal notification is provided to the school limiting the rights of either parent.

School-sponsored activities require a teacher or sponsor to be responsible for the students. Students may only leave the activity or event with their own parent unless prior written authorization is given to the teacher or sponsor.

Uniform and Personal Appearance

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Uwf gpw'o wu'dg'k'p"wpkqto "k'p"qtf gt "v'j"cv'gpf "ercuuo0A violation of the uniform policy may result in disciplinary action in accord with the school's code of conduct."

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BOYS K-4		
	SUMMER UNIFORM	WINTER UNIFORM
Pants	khaki shorts or pants	khaki pants
Shirt	short-sleeve navy polo with logo	white oxford with logo (short-sleeve or long-sleeve) or white long-sleeve polo with logo
Shoes	conservative athletic or dress shoes: white, black, brown, or grey only	conservative athletic or dress shoes: white, black, brown, or grey only
Sweater	not required	navy v-neck cardigan sweater, navy v-neck vest or pullover sweater, or navy blazer with logo are permitted
Tie	not required	optional
Socks	white, black, brown, navy, or grey only (must show above the shoes)	white, black, brown, navy, or grey only (must show above the shoes)

BOYS 5-8		
	SUMMER UNIFORM	WINTER UNIFORM
Pants	khaki shorts or pants	khaki pants
Shirt	Short-sleeve navy polo with logo	white oxford with logo (short-sleeve or long-sleeve)
Shoes	conservative athletic or dress shoes: white, black, brown, or grey only	conservative athletic or dress shoes: white, black, brown, or grey only
Sweater	not required	navy v-neck cardigan sweater, navy v-neck vest or pullover sweater, or navy blazer with logo are permitted
Tie	not required	Hamilton plaid tie required
Socks	white, black, brown, navy, or grey only (must show above the shoes)	white, black, brown, navy, or grey only (must show above the shoes)

GIRLS K-4		
	SUMMER UNIFORM	WINTER UNIFORM
Jumper	Hamilton plaid	Hamilton plaid
Pants	khaki shorts permitted as alternative	khaki pants permitted as alternative
Shirt	white polo with logo or Peter Pan blouse	white Peter Pan blouse
Shoes	conservative athletic or dress shoes: white, black, brown, or grey only	conservative athletic or dress shoes: white, black, brown, or grey only
Sweater	not required	navy v-neck cardigan sweater, navy v-neck vest or pullover sweater, or navy blazer with logo are permitted
Tie	not required	Hamilton plaid crossover tie required
Socks	white, black, brown, navy, or grey only (must show above the shoes)	white, black, brown, navy, or grey only (must show above the shoes)

GIRLS 5-8		
	SUMMER UNIFORM	WINTER UNIFORM
Skort	Hamilton plaid	Hamilton plaid
Pants	khaki shorts permitted as alternative	khaki pants permitted as alternative
Shirt	white polo with logo	white oxford with logo (short-sleeve or long-sleeve)
Shoes	conservative athletic or dress shoes: white, black, brown, or grey only	conservative athletic or dress shoes: white, black, brown, or grey only
Sweater	not required	navy v-neck cardigan sweater, navy v-neck vest or pullover sweater, or navy blazer with logo are permitted
Tie	not required	Hamilton plaid crossover tie required
Socks	white, black, brown, navy, or grey only (must show above the shoes)	white, black, brown, navy, or grey only (must show above the shoes)

Additional Uniform Provisions

- Good personal hygiene is required at all times. This includes wearing neat, clean clothing. Clothes may not be ripped or torn.
- Students in grades 5-8 will change into their P.E. uniform for P.E. class. A CLASSICAL T-shirt and CLASSICAL gym shorts, available from Shaheen's, are required; CLASSICAL sweatpants are optional.
- Students may wear their own outerwear (coats, sweaters, vests) to school and on the playground. If a student is cold in the classroom, he or she should wear one of the long-sleeve uniform items or the uniform sweater.
- All students must be in uniform at all times. No other clothing other than uniform tops and bottoms is permitted. No outside tops, jeans, or bottoms are permitted in the building.
- All shirts must be tucked in.
- Skirts and shorts shall fall no higher than three fingertips (approximately two inches) above the knee as measured when the student is standing.
- Solid navy leggings or tights may be worn underneath skirts or jumpers but must be ankle-length or footed. Leggings are not to be worn without other bottoms on top.
- Girls may wear gym shorts or compression shorts underneath their skirt, so long as these are not visible when the student is standing.
- Students may use any backpack as long as it meets the following requirements: no wheels, no pop culture advertisements or references, and no slogans.
- Hair must be clean and neat. Only natural colors are allowed. No unusual or radical hairstyles are permitted. Hair accessories must be uniform colors (options available from Shaheen's). Boys' hair should not come lower than the eyebrows in the front or lower than the top of shoulders in the back. No facial hair is allowed.
- All girls and boys' polo shirts may have the top button buttoned. All other buttons must be buttoned.
- Modest jewelry is allowed. An object that has a purpose other than jewelry may not be worn as jewelry (e.g., chains or collars). Students may wear no more than two necklaces at a time. Necklaces must be worn in a manner that does not disrupt the learning environment or pose a safety risk to the wearer or others (e.g., chokers). All necklaces must be tucked into the student's shirt or clothing. Exceptions to this policy may be made for medical or religious reasons. Students or parents/guardians seeking an exception must submit a written request to the Dean of Student Life for review.
- Girls are permitted a maximum of two earrings per ear on the earlobe, and earrings must not be larger than a quarter. No stretched piercings (gauge) or holes may be visible.
- Boys are not permitted to wear earrings.
- Tattoos must be covered at all times. Temporary tattoos that are visible on the body or face are not permitted.
- Makeup (including lipstick and lip gloss) and nail polish must look natural. Colors such as black, red, yellow, orange, blue, green, rainbow, etc., are not acceptable. Makeup in grades K-4 is not permitted.

- Hats and sunglasses are not to be worn in the building. Hats include visors and bandanas. Religious headgear is permitted when worn for religious purposes.
- Non-marking tennis shoes are required for P.E. class and/or sports in the gym.
- Shoes, socks, and shoelaces should be one of the following colors: white, black, brown, or grey. Shoes must be closed-toed, closed-heeled athletic or dress shoes; we recommend wearing a comfortable shoe that can be worn in the classroom, in gym class, and outdoors at recess.
- The following footwear is NOT permitted: boots, sandals, moccasins, Crocs, and slippers.
- The use of perfumes, oils, and body sprays by students should not inhibit the learning environment, and smells should not be detectable in the course of a normal school routine. Smells of this nature that saturate a room often cause headaches, exacerbate allergies, and cause a disruption to the learning environment. Should this occur, students will be excused to the front office to call home.
- The chewing of gum is not permitted on school property.
- Should a student require reasonable uniform alterations based on religion, disability, or medical condition, please contact the Dean of Student Life. Please know that we will provide accommodations for these students.
- All school-sponsored events that occur during the school day, including field trips, are subject to school uniform policy unless parents are otherwise informed.
- All Fridays throughout the year are designated as “Spirit Wear Days.” On these days, students are permitted to wear Spirit Wear as tops. This includes CLASSICAL T-shirts, sweatshirts, hoodies, fleece pullovers, and quarter zips. Outerwear, including full-zip jackets are not permitted to be worn during the course of the day. (Outerwear may be worn to and from school and on the playground.) Students must wear uniform bottoms on Spirit Wear Days.
- Water bottles must be securely sealed, hold no more than 24 liquid ounces, and may ONLY contain water. Water bottles may not be re-filled during classroom instruction. Teachers have discretion in determining classroom use. Students are not permitted to share water bottles due to hygiene and other safety risks.

Discipline and Student Formation

Virtues and General Expectations for Behavior

At Cincinnati Classical Academy we seek virtue in all its forms, and we focus specifically on the classical virtues of gratitude, humility, compassion, perseverance, courage, justice, and prudence. We hope that regular recurrence to these virtues in our learning, social interactions, and discipline will help students learn self-governance and strive toward excellence in all areas of life.

The emphasis on virtue at Cincinnati Classical Academy is not primarily intended as a discipline policy: we aspire to excellence for its own sake because it is good and because we are made better as we aspire to it. We have bound our commitment to virtue into an Honor Code that we ask our families and students to sign as a common pledge.

Honor Code

A CLASSICAL student is honest in word and deed, dutiful in study and service, and respectful and kind to others. A CLASSICAL student aspires to excellence in gratitude, humility, compassion, perseverance, courage, justice, and prudence.

Student Pledge

Students recite this pledge, along with the Pledge of Allegiance, each morning: “As a member of the CLASSICAL community, I am respectful, responsible, and honest. I seek to know the truth, to do the good, and to love the beautiful.”

At the end of the Family Handbook you will find a separate page with the honor code and a place for parents and students to sign as a pledge of acceptance and agreement. At least one parent or legal guardian from each family is required to sign the pledge. All students in grades 5 and above are also required to sign it. A hard copy of this page will be sent home with your student during the first week of school.

Virtue Cards

Forming students in our seven core virtues requires not only for us to correct poor behavior but also to highlight the times when students demonstrate virtuous behavior. Virtue cards are given to students when they demonstrate one of our seven core virtues or otherwise demonstrate positive behavior that deserves to be recognized as “above and beyond the call of duty” or as an extraordinary manifestation of a particular school virtue. The card is meant to be given to the student personally, announced publicly at an all-school assembly, and sent home to parents.

The Purpose of Discipline

The main purpose of all discipline at CLASSICAL is to teach moral and intellectual virtue. Self-discipline arises from a desire for virtue, and without that desire, a student will falter when laws and rules are silent. A secondary purpose is to foster an orderly and disciplined environment in which all students can learn and develop friendships. Order and discipline are the foundation for a thriving school culture.

Any departure from proper decorum is liable to disciplinary action. Because not all students respond to the same arguments, incentives, or punishments, any discipline policy must be at once equal to all students and consistently applied, and also fitted to both the nature of each individual student and the circumstances in which any misbehavior occurs.

Academic Integrity

Students exercise academic integrity by preparing work that is thoughtful and genuine, properly citing the ideas and the writing of others, submitting their own work for tests and assignments without unauthorized assistance, and refusing to provide unauthorized assistance to others.

Plagiarism will not be tolerated by any teacher in any subject. The entire system of assessment rests on the assumption that the work a student turns in is his or her own. Plagiarism compromises this system and constitutes a form of theft of others' ideas and labor.

Plagiarism is defined as the appropriation of another's ideas or words in order to present them as one's own. An instance of plagiarism can be as long as a term paper or as short as a sentence. Simply rephrasing an author's words can also constitute plagiarism. The words of authors can only be used when properly quoted and cited. Teachers will provide the guidelines of acceptable citation. When in doubt, the student has the responsibility to ask how an author should be used in an assignment.

Whenever a student has been caught plagiarizing, the following process will be followed: (1) the teacher will keep a copy of the student's assignment and, whenever possible, a copy of the plagiarized work; (2) the teacher will first discuss the matter privately with the student; (3) the teacher will inform the Dean of Student Life of the plagiarism; (4) a disciplinary referral will be issued; (5) either the teacher or the Dean of Student Life will inform the student's parent of the plagiarism; (6) the student will receive an F (an automatic zero) on the assignment unless it is determined by the Dean of Student Life or the Headmaster that this is an unjust and inappropriate consequence.

Like plagiarism, cheating will not be tolerated by any teacher in any subject. Cheating occurs when a student uses someone else's work or a prohibited source of information in order to gain an unfair advantage on a test or an assignment and to avoid doing his own work. Cheating comes in many forms. One student copying off another, a student using a "cheat sheet" to answer questions on a test, and a student trying to pass off another student's work as his own are common examples of cheating. The same process outlined for plagiarism will be followed for instances of cheating. A student who allows others to copy his work will also be held accountable in the same fashion.

Disciplinary Action

Disciplinary action ranges from verbal warnings to suspension and expulsion; such action will be used to promote both a student's self-discipline and an orderly environment for all. Even when more serious discipline like a suspension is necessary, the purpose is not to punish but to educate.

When a student acts in violation of school rules, directions given by a teacher or administrator, or the CLASSICAL Honor Code, the school has implemented three levels of consequences:

1. In-class behavior protocols: These include the various mechanisms that teachers use for correcting and habituating student behavior, and they vary considerably based upon the class and the age of the students.
2. Poor Behavior Report: When student misbehavior rises to the level where parents should be notified, a student will receive a Poor Behavior Report from a teacher or the Dean of Students. The consequences of a Poor Behavior Report can include, but are not limited to, lunch duty, campus cleanup, or detention. Poor Behavior Reports are cumulative, and three are treated as equal to a Blue Slip.
3. Blue Slip: Blue Slips are reserved for cumulative Poor Behavior Reports as well as for serious offenses for which parents should be notified and which, if repeated or allowed to continue, will result in the suspension or expulsion of the student. Blue Slips are usually given out by the Dean of Student Life. Severe offenses may be met with immediate suspension or expulsion, subject to proper disciplinary hearing in accordance with current Ohio law.

Consequences for misbehavior are correlated to the above levels of tracking/notification, but they will be tailored to the student and behavior in question. The point is to educate and improve students with an eye towards justice, not to tie every offense to a formulaic consequence.

Notifying Parents

The Dean of Students will notify parents of discipline problems that escalate to the level of a Poor Behavior Report or a Blue Slip. The student's teacher or Dean of Students may also notify parents of lesser infractions, especially in cases involving a recurring problem. When a student is removed from the class for being disruptive, the school shall contact the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) as soon as possible to request his, her, or their attendance at a conference, which conference will include the student.

Blue Slips

For consistent and/or more serious disruptions, the student will be sent to the Dean of Student Life and will receive a Blue Slip. Blue Slips accumulate over the course of the school year, and a student's total will not reset until the end of the spring semester. Receiving a Blue Slip indicates that a student's behavior is a serious problem, and receiving repeated Blue Slips will result in more serious consequences each time. It is our hope that the consequences for receiving a Blue Slip will encourage students to display good character and act in accordance with the school's mission.

1st Blue Slip

Student is sent to the Dean of Student Life and parents are notified. The Dean will determine the consequence on a case-by-case basis. Consequences may include

after-school detention, campus cleanup, or cafeteria duty. If the infraction is serious, a student may be suspended.

2nd Blue Slip

Student is sent to the Dean of Student Life and parents are notified. The Dean will determine the consequence on a case-by-case basis. Consequences may include after-school detention, campus cleanup, or cafeteria duty. The student's parent(s) will meet with the Dean of Student Life to discuss the student's behavior. The purposes of this meeting are to exchange accurate information about the student and to determine how the school-parent partnership can best work to reform the student's behavior.

3rd Blue Slip – Suspension

Student is sent to the Dean of Student Life and parents are notified. Student will be sent home at least for the rest of the day. If the infraction is serious, a student may be suspended for more than the rest of the day. The administration will consider expulsion as a fitting consequence based on the recommendation of the school's Disciplinary Committee. Long term suspension and expulsion are legal matters governed by state law; CLASSICAL will abide by the laws and practices required in the state of Ohio regarding due process and appeals.

A two-day suspension will be given for every disciplinary referral over three. When a student is issued more than three Blue Slip referrals he or she will be considered a habitually disruptive student. The administration will consider expulsion as a fitting consequence based on the recommendation of the school's Disciplinary Committee. Long term suspension and expulsion are legal matters governed by state law; CLASSICAL will abide by the laws and practices required in the state of Ohio regarding due process and appeals.

Corporal Punishment and Restraint

All teachers, administrators, and non-licensed school employees are prohibited from inflicting or causing to be inflicted corporal punishment as a means of discipline upon a pupil attending the school. However, they may, within the scope of their employment, use and apply such amount of force and restraint as is reasonable and necessary to quell a disturbance threatening physical injury to others, to obtain possession of weapons or other dangerous objects upon the person or within the control of the pupil, for the purpose of self-defense or for the protection of persons or property. The school shall contact the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) as soon as possible after physical restraint or seclusion is used. Complaints regarding the use of restraint or seclusion should follow the grievance process as outlined in this Handbook.

Suspension and Expulsion

The school may suspend a student for up to ten (10) days or may expel a student. In the event that the school decides to suspend or expel a student, the student will be given a notice which states the intent to suspend or expel and the reason(s) for the suspension or expulsion. Immediate attempts will be made to contact a parent or guardian by phone. The student may meet informally with the Headmaster to challenge the suspension or expulsion. After the meeting, or if the student declines the meeting, suspension or expulsion may be invoked immediately. A copy of the notice of intent to suspend or expel will be mailed to the parent or guardian within one (1) school day after the time of a student's expulsion or suspension. A formal hearing will be scheduled no earlier than three nor later than five school days after the notice to expel is given.

In the event that, in the opinion of the Headmaster or his designee, a student's presence at the school creates a health risk, presents a danger to other persons or property or seriously disrupts the functions of the school, the student may be removed from the premises without formal suspension or expulsion procedures with notice and procedures to follow the removal in accordance with R.C. §3313.66.

A student shall be expelled for one (1) year for bringing a firearm to the school or onto school property (any property owned, used or leased by the school for school, school extracurricular or school-related events). A student will be expelled for a period of one (1) year for:

1. Bringing a firearm to an interscholastic competition, an extracurricular event, or any other school program or activity that is located at a school or on school property;
2. Bringing a knife to the school, onto school property or to an interscholastic competition, an extracurricular event or any other program or activity sponsored by the school or which the school is a participant;
3. Possessing a firearm or knife at school, on school property, or at an interscholastic competition, an extracurricular event, or any other school program or activity which firearm or knife was initially brought onto school property by another person;
4. Committing an act that is a criminal offense when committed by an adult that results in serious physical harm to persons or serious physical harm to property;
5. Making a bomb threat to a school building or to any premises at which a school activity is occurring at the time of the threat.

A firearm is defined as any weapon, including a starter gun, which will or is designed to or may readily be converted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive, the frame or receiver of any such weapon, any firearm muffler or silencer, or any destructive device. A destructive device, includes but is not limited to, any explosive, incendiary, or poison gas, bomb, grenade, rocket having a propellant charge of more than four (4) ounces, missile having an explosive or incendiary charge of more than one quarter ounce, mine, or other similar device.

A knife is defined as any cutting instrument consisting of at least one sharp blade.

The specific circumstances under which the Headmaster may modify a one (1) year expulsion could include:

1. A recommendation from the group of persons knowledgeable of the student's educational needs;
2. The student was unaware that he or she was possessing a firearm or knife;
3. The student did not understand that the item he or she possessed was considered a firearm or knife;
4. The student brought the item to school as part of an educational activity and did not realize it would be considered a firearm or knife; and
5. The student may be eligible for participation in an alternative program.

A student may be expelled for up to eighty (80) days for serious misconduct or rules violations, or for other just cause. During the period of suspension, removal, or expulsion the student may not attend or participate in any school functions without permission from the Headmaster. The student may enter school facilities only when given permission by the Headmaster or if accompanied by a parent or guardian who accepts responsibility for the student's actions and/or behavior at the facility.

The Board also authorizes the Headmaster to suspend a student from any or all co-curricular or extracurricular activities for misconduct or rules violations. The length of suspension shall be determined by the Headmaster commensurate with the seriousness of the student's misconduct or rules violations in accordance with the discipline code.

If the Headmaster determines that a student's behavior on a school vehicle or district bus violates school rules, he or she may suspend the student from school bus riding privileges for the length of time deemed appropriate for the violation and remediation of the behavior.

The Board authorizes the Headmaster to provide for options to suspension of a student from the school which shall include a program whereby a student performs community service either in lieu of or as a part of a suspension or an expulsion.

Students who have been assigned suspensions are permitted to make up work with grade reductions as follows: The student will receive at least 70% partial credit for a completed assignment and may not receive a failing grade on a completed assignment solely on account of the suspension.

The Board designates the Headmaster or his designee as its representative at all hearings regarding the appeal of a suspension. The Board or the Executive Committee will hear the appeal of an expulsion. The Headmaster shall be responsible for implementing this policy and ensuring compliance with applicable laws.

A copy of the following policy is to be posted in common areas of the school and made available to students and parents upon request.

Anti-Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying Policy

CLASSICAL has zero tolerance for bullying, harassment, intimidation, and/or bodily harm that adheres to the definitions established by state laws.

CLASSICAL prohibits acts of harassment, intimidation, or bullying (including cyber-bullying) of any student on school property or at school-sponsored events. A safe and civil environment is necessary for students to learn and achieve high academic standards. Harassment, intimidation and bullying, like other disruptive or violent behaviors, constitute conduct that disrupts both a student's ability to learn and CLASSICAL's ability to educate its students in a safe environment. Since students learn by example, school administrators, faculty, staff and volunteers should be commended for demonstrating appropriate behavior, treating others with civility and respect, and refusing to tolerate bullying.

CLASSICAL values the free exchange of ideas. Classroom discussion of ideas and opinions, including controversial subject matter, shall not be construed as harassment.

Harassment, intimidation, or bullying means any deliberate or intentional gesture, or any deliberate or intentional written, verbal, or physical act or threat that a student has exhibited toward another student or staff member and the behavior both: (1) has one or more of the following effects: (a) harming a student or staff member, (b) damaging a student or staff member's property, (c) placing a student or staff member in reasonable fear of harm to the student or staff member's person, (d) placing a student or staff member in reasonable fear of damage to the student or staff member's property; and (2) is sufficiently severe, persistent, or pervasive that it creates an intimidating, threatening, or abusive educational environment for a student or staff member.

CLASSICAL prohibits acts of cyber-bullying, which is a sub-set of bullying and involves the use of information and communication technologies, including but not limited to e-mail, text messages, blogs, social media sites, instant messaging, defamatory personal web sites, and defamatory online personal polling web sites, to support deliberate or repeated hostile behavior by an individual or group, that is intended to harm, intimidate or harass others on school time or the school premises, at school events, programs or activities or off school time or school premises if such acts affect other students or staff of the school.

CLASSICAL reserves the right to discipline a student's off-campus behavior if it substantially disrupts the school's educational process or mission or threatens the safety or well-being of a student or staff member. Some factors which may be considered in determining whether the behavior warrants discipline include, but are not limited to, the following: (1) the behavior created material and substantial disruption to the educational process or CLASSICAL's mission due to the stress on the individual(s) victimized or the time invested by staff in dealing with the behavior or its consequences; (2) a nexus to on-campus activities exists; (3) the behavior creates a substantial interference with a student or staff member's security or right to educate and receive education; (4) the behavior invades the privacy of others; or (5) any threat that is deemed to be a true threat by the administration or Board, using factors and guidelines set out by the courts or by common sense, reasonable person standards.

Some acts of harassment, intimidation, bullying and cyber-bullying may be isolated incidents requiring that the school respond appropriately to the individuals committing the acts. Other acts may be so serious or part of a larger pattern of harassment, intimidation, bullying or cyber-bullying that they require a response by law enforcement officials. Consequences and appropriate remedial actions for students who commit an act of harassment, intimidation, bullying or cyber-bullying range from positive behavioral interventions up to and including suspension or expulsion.

All CLASSICAL employees, volunteers, and students are required to report prohibited incidents of which they are aware to the Headmaster or his designee. The Headmaster or his designee is then responsible for determining whether an alleged incident constitutes a violation of this policy. In so doing, the Headmaster or his designee shall conduct a prompt, thorough, and complete investigation of the reported incident, and prepare a report documenting the prohibited incident that is reported. Once an investigation is completed, and the reported incident has been substantiated, the parent or guardian of any student involved in the prohibited incident shall be notified and to the extent permitted by R.C. § 3319.321 and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (20 U.S.C. 1232g) have access to any written reports pertaining to the prohibited incident. CLASSICAL will maintain, via the education management information system, information regarding the number of incidents of harassment of students against other students, in each building and school-wide, that violates this policy. All school employees, volunteers and students shall be individually immune from liability in a civil action for damages arising from reporting an incident in accordance with this policy.

CLASSICAL prohibits reprisal or retaliation against any victim or person who reports an act of harassment, intimidation or bullying. The consequence and appropriate remedial action for a person who engages in reprisal or retaliation shall be determined by the Headmaster or his designee after consideration of the nature and circumstances of the act, in accordance with school policies

and procedures. Nothing in this policy prohibits a victim from seeking redress under any provision of Ohio law that may apply.

CLASSICAL may form a prevention task force and/or programs to educate students about this policy, such as holding an assembly on harassment, intimidation and bullying for parents and students, to raise the level of awareness and help prevent the prohibited conduct. CLASSICAL may also provide training, workshops, or courses on this policy to school employees and volunteers who have direct contact with students.

Parents, please call CLASSICAL administration if your child reports being a victim of repeated behaviors that might be bullying. Conflict is normal in a child's life. To help distinguish between normal conflict and bullying remember bullying behavior is: repeated, intentional, and involves an imbalance of power. If you think your child has been the victim of bullying or harassment, please contact the Dean of Student Life. Incidents of bullying or harassment can also be reported to administration via the front office at (513) 554-0285.

Public Displays of Affection

Public displays of affection (PDA) are not allowed on campus or during school-related activities, and are liable to disciplinary consequences, including PBS referrals, blue slips, suspension, and expulsion as appropriate for the offense.

PDA refers to any physical or romantic gestures, such as hugging, kissing, holding hands, or other intimate behaviors, exhibited between students. CLASSICAL has this PDA policy in place for several reasons:

- **Maintaining a Focused Learning Environment:** CLASSICAL prioritizes creating an atmosphere conducive to learning, concentration, and academic achievement. PDA can be disruptive and divert attention away from the educational environment, affecting both the individuals involved and those around them.
- **Age-Appropriate Behavior:** CLASSICAL serves students of varying ages, ranging from young children to teenagers. Encouraging appropriate behavior helps ensure a safe and respectful environment for all students, regardless of their developmental stage.

Electronic Devices

Communication devices and electronic equipment (cell phones, laser pointers, iPods, laptops, tablets, cameras, smart watches, etc.) are not allowed on school property without prior written

permission from the Dean of Student Life.

If parents believe their student requires a cell phone/smart watch to use to and from school, they must submit a cell phone/smart watch permission form to the school office. The cell phone and/or smart watch must be turned off while on school grounds and must be turned in to the homeroom teacher at the beginning of the day and picked up at the end of the day.

Students needing to use a phone during regular school hours may ask to use the office phone. If, in the case of an emergency, parents need to reach their child during the school day, they should contact the school office.

Procedures for Violations

Students who break this rule will be subject to disciplinary action. Once a device has been confiscated, the following procedure will be used to return the device:

- 1st Confiscation: Parent will be contacted. The device will be held until the end of the school day and can be picked up by the student when school is dismissed.
- 2nd Confiscation: Parent will be contacted. The device will be held until the end of the school day and can be picked up by the parent when school is dismissed.
- 3rd Confiscation: Parent will be contacted. The device will be held for three days and can be picked up by the parent after that time.

Confiscations beyond three may result in additional disciplinary action, including possible suspension. CLASSICAL is not responsible for the damage, loss, or theft of electronic devices left on campus.

Lockers

CLASSICAL provides lockers in many of the classrooms, typically for grades four and up. The lockers are school property, and CLASSICAL has the authority to search lockers when deemed necessary.

CLASSICAL is not responsible for lost or stolen items. Valuables such as tablets, iPods, compact discs, and video games are not to be brought to school. Problems with lockers should be reported to the Dean of Student Life.

The student Lost and Found is located in the front office. Students are responsible for retrieving their misplaced items. Due to limited space, all unclaimed items will automatically be donated to charity on the last day of each month.

Students must observe the following rules:

- Students are not allowed to decorate the inside or outside of their lockers.
- Lockers must be kept neat and orderly at all times; teachers may conduct locker checks at any time.
- Lockers must be kept closed when not in use to avoid careless accidents.
- A student may be assessed a fine or asked to clean a locker that becomes dirty or damaged because of his or her misuse of it.

Lunch and Snacks

Lunchtime

Lunchtime provides an opportunity to relax, socialize, and restore the body and mind. Students must talk quietly and behave calmly during lunch.

Applications for free or reduced meals are available in the front office and on Final Forms. The application should be submitted no later than two weeks prior to the first day of school.

Snacks

We understand that young students require snacks to keep them going during the day, and teachers in Grades K-2 will set aside a time in the morning during which students can enjoy a quick bite to eat. Parents are responsible for sending students to school with a small, healthful snack that can be eaten in a couple of minutes. We ask that students bring things that can be eaten without utensils and without creating a mess.

With the exception of water bottles and K-2 snacks, food and drink are not permitted in the classrooms, gymnasium, library, or hallways.

Birthday Celebrations

If you would like to bring nut-free birthday treats in for your student's class, please coordinate with the classroom teacher several days in advance. Our students' academic days are carefully scheduled, and it is often difficult to accommodate last-minute celebrations.

Medication and Medical Care

Administration of Medication

Cincinnati Classical Academy is committed to the health and safety of its students. Medication and/or medical procedures required by students should be administered by a parent/legal guardian at home. Under exceptional circumstances, prescribed medication and/or medical health-related procedures may be administered by faculty or staff authorized by the Headmaster or self-

administered by the student per written physician's orders and written parent or guardian authorization. The parent or guardian must complete and sign the "Administration of Medication & Medical Procedure" form to acknowledge that the school assumes no responsibility for medications or procedures that are self-administered. Office staff will make this form available to parents and guardians.

Student Records

In order to provide appropriate educational services and programming, the school must collect, retain, and use information about individual students. Simultaneously, the Board recognizes the need to safeguard students' privacy and restrict access to students' personally identifiable information.

Student "personally identifiable information" (PII) includes, but is not limited to: the student's name; the name of the student's parent or other family members; the address of the student or student's family; a personal identifier, such as the student's social security number, student number, or biometric record; other indirect identifiers, such as the student's date of birth, place of birth, and mother's maiden name; other information that, alone or in combination, is linked or linkable to a specific student that would allow a reasonable person in the school community, who does not have personal knowledge of the relevant circumstances, to identify the student with reasonable certainty; or information requested by a person who the school reasonably believes knows the identity of the student to whom the education record relates.

The Board is responsible for the records of all students who attend or have attended CLASSICAL. Only records mandated by the State or Federal government and/or necessary and relevant to the function of the school or specifically permitted by this Board will be compiled by school employees. In all cases, permitted, narrative information in student records shall be objectively based on the personal observation or knowledge of the originator.

Student records shall be available only to students and their parents, designated school officials who have a legitimate educational interest in the information, or to other individuals or organizations as permitted by law.

The term "parents" includes legal guardians or other persons standing *in loco parentis* (such as a grandparent or stepparent with whom the child lives, or a person who is legally responsible for the welfare of the child). Both parents shall have equal access to student records unless stipulated otherwise by court order or law.

Sickness or Injury at School

Parents will be informed when a student reports to the office with a fever or injury. If a parent cannot be reached, school personnel will determine what action needs to be taken. Any child with

a fever will not be allowed to remain in the classroom and must be picked up by a parent or designee. If a head injury is sustained, or any injury requiring medical attention, the parent will be asked to come to school and determine what action should be taken. In case of more serious injuries, or in case the parent cannot be contacted, the school will immediately call 911 for emergency assistance.

Parent Obligations

Parents and guardians shall, at all times, ensure that the school has updated medical information on file. It is the parent's (or guardian's) responsibility to keep this information updated. It is also the parent's responsibility to notify the office if a child has been injured at home and may need special considerations at school. It is also the responsibility of parents to inform the school of any known allergies that their child may have. Additionally, if the school requests a doctor's note, it must be signed by the provider and/or contain its office stamp.

Use of Inhaler/Epinephrine Autoinjector

A student may possess and use a metered dose inhaler or a dry powder inhaler to alleviate asthmatic symptoms, or before exercise, to prevent the onset of asthmatic symptoms, and/or an epinephrine autoinjector to treat anaphylaxis at school, any school-related activity, event, or program sponsored by the school or in which the school participates, if both of the following conditions are satisfied:

1. The student has the written approval of the student's physician and, if the student is a minor, the written approval of the parent, guardian, or other person having care or charge of the student. The physician's written approval must include all of the following information:
 - a. The student's name and address
 - b. The names and dose of the medication contained in the inhaler
 - c. The date the administration of the medication is to begin
 - d. The date, if known, that the administration of the medication is to cease
 - e. Circumstances in which the inhaler and/or autoinjector should be used
 - f. Acknowledgement that the prescriber has determined the student is capable of possession and using the inhaler and/or autoinjector appropriately and has provided the student with training in the proper use
 - g. Written instructions that outline procedures school personnel should follow in the event that the asthma medication does not produce the expected relief from the student's asthma attack; and/or in the case of an epinephrine autoinjector, the student is unable to administer the medication or the medication does not produce the expected relief from the student's anaphylaxis
 - h. Any severe adverse reactions that may occur to the student using the inhaler and that should be reported to the physician
 - i. Any severe adverse reactions that may occur to another student, for whom the inhaler is not prescribed, should such a student receive a dose of the medication

- j. At least one (1) emergency telephone number for contacting the physician in an emergency
 - k. At least one (1) emergency telephone number for contacting the parent, guardian, or other person having care or charge of the student in an emergency
 - l. Any other special instructions from the physician
 - m. The Headmaster or his/her designee has received copies of the written approvals required by Subparagraph 1 of this section.
2. The parent/guardian must complete and sign the Administration of Medication/Medical Procedure form to acknowledge that the school assumes no responsibility for medications or procedures that are self-administered. The school will make this form available to parents/guardians.

If these conditions are satisfied, the student may possess and use the inhaler at school or at any activity, event, or program sponsored by or in which the student's school is a participant.

The school, a member of the Board or the Board's representatives, or any staff or employee is not liable in damages in a civil action for injury, death, or loss to person or property allegedly arising from a staff member's prohibiting a student from using an inhaler because of a staff member's good faith belief that the conditions of subparagraphs 1 and 2 of this section had not been satisfied. The school, a member of the Board, the Board's representatives, or any staff or employee is not liable in damages in a civil action for injury, death, or loss to person or property allegedly arising from a staff member's permitting a student to use an inhaler because of a staff member's good faith belief that the conditions of subparagraphs 1 and 2 of this section had been satisfied. Furthermore, when the school is required by this section to permit a student to possess and use an inhaler because the conditions of subparagraphs 1 and 2 of this section have been satisfied, the school, any member of the Board, or the Board's representatives, or any staff or employee is not liable in damages in a civil action for injury, death, or loss to person or property allegedly arising from the use of the inhaler by a student for whom it was not prescribed.

This section does not eliminate, limit, or reduce any other immunity or defense that a school, member of a Governing Board, or staff or employee may be entitled to under Chapter 2744. or any other provision of the Revised Code or under the common law of this state.

Food Allergies

Cincinnati Classical Academy recognizes that the prevalence of food allergies among children is increasing. The number of young people who had a food or digestive allergy increased 18% between 1997 and 2007, and food allergies now affect an estimated 4–6% of children in the United States. In some instances, allergic reactions to foods may be severe and even life threatening and allergic reactions to foods have become the most common cause of anaphylaxis in community

health settings. Thus, in accordance with Ohio Revised Code Section 3313.719, this policy is intended to create a framework for protecting students with known food allergies and to reduce the likelihood of severe allergic reactions while at school.

Parent Responsibilities

Parents and guardians of students with allergies shall:

- Promptly notify the school office when they become aware that their student has a food allergy and at the beginning of each school year thereafter. The notice shall include a healthcare provider documented allergy and a diet modification order, if necessary
- Provide the school with prescribed emergency medications
- Execute a medication authorization form, and/or permission to carry and self-administer epinephrine auto-injector (epi-pen) form
- Educate their students about allergy management at school. Allergy management education includes, without limitation, identification of “safe foods” and the vigilance required to self-monitor food products available at school functions

School Responsibilities

The school, upon receiving proper notification that a student has a food allergy, shall:

- When serving students, make all reasonable efforts to ensure the school’s dining hall is nut-free
- Cooperate with the student and his or her parents or guardians to reduce the likelihood of an allergic reaction at school
- Maintain any student-provided medication for emergency use
- Make efforts to inform appropriate school staff and administrators of the student’s food allergy and related needs
- As needed, provide students (in the first grade and above) with flexible seating to accommodate food allergies
- Encourage any private food vendors who may come to school to screen and label foods served at various school functions; and
- Train selected faculty and staff on the emergency use of epinephrine auto-injectors annually

All parent/guardians, students, faculty, and staff are encouraged, but are not required to:

- Carefully read all labels and explain those labels to their child(ren) prior to sending any food product to the school or a school event, e.g., class parties, bake sales, etc.; and,
- When providing food for the class on a special occasion, be sure to make only nut-free options

Diabetic Care

CLASSICAL is committed to ensuring that each student enrolled in the school who has diabetes receives appropriate and needed diabetes care in accordance with an order signed by the student's treating physician. The diabetes care to be provided includes any of the following:

- A. Checking and recording blood glucose levels and ketone levels or assisting the student with checking and recording these levels
- B. Responding to blood glucose levels that are outside of the student's target range
- C. In the case of severe hypoglycemia, administering glucagon and other emergency treatments as prescribed
- D. Administering insulin or assisting the student in self-administering insulin through the insulin delivery system the student uses
- E. Providing oral diabetes medications
- F. Understanding recommended schedules and food intake for meals and snacks in order to calculate medication dosages pursuant to the student's physician's order
- G. Following the physician's instructions regarding meals, snacks, and physical activity
- H. Administering diabetes medication, as long as the conditions described below are satisfied

Within fourteen (14) days after the school receives an order signed by the student's treating physician, the Headmaster or his designee will inform the student's parent or guardian that the student may be entitled to a Section 504 Plan regarding the student's diabetes. With regard to the administration of diabetes medication:

- A. The diabetes medication may be administered by a licensed provider, or in the absence of such person, such medication can be administered by a school employee who has received training provided by the Board that complies with the Ohio Department of Education's training guidelines, and complies with the following additional requirements:
 - a. The training must be coordinated by a medical or osteopathic doctor, a registered nurse, or a licensed practical nurse with expertise in diabetes.
 - b. The training will take place prior to the beginning of each school year or, as needed, not later than fourteen (14) days after the Board receives a physician's order related to a student with diabetes.
 - c. Upon completion of the training, the Board will determine whether each trained employee is competent to provide diabetes care.
 - d. The medical or osteopathic doctor, registered nurse, or licensed practical nurse who provided the training will promptly provide all necessary follow-up training and supervision to an employee who receives training.
- B. The Headmaster of a school attended by a student with diabetes will distribute a written notice to each employee containing the following information:

- a. A statement that the school is required to provide diabetes care to a student with diabetes and is seeking employees who are willing to be trained to provide that care.
- b. A description of the tasks to be performed.
- c. A statement that participation is voluntary and that the school center will not take action against an employee who does not agree to provide diabetes care, including that the employee will not be penalized or disciplined for refusing to volunteer to be trained in diabetes care.
- d. A statement that training will be provided by a school nurse, a medical or osteopathic doctor, a registered nurse, or a licensed practical nurse with expertise in diabetes to an employee who agrees to provide care.
- e. A statement that a trained employee will not be subject to disciplinary action by the Board for providing care or performing duties to students with diabetes.
- f. A statement that a trained employee is immune from liability for damages in a civil action for injury, death, or loss to person or property allegedly arising from providing care or performing duties (unless the act or omission constitutes willful or wanton misconduct).
- g. The name of the individual to contact if an employee is interested in providing diabetes care.

The school employee can only administer diabetes medication as described above if the requirements of this policy are met.

A student's diabetes medication will be kept in an easily accessible location. A student with diabetes will be permitted to attend to his or her diabetes care and management, in accordance with the student's physician's order, during regular school hours and school sponsored activities only if:

- A. The student's parent or guardian provides a written request that the student be permitted to attend to his or her diabetes care and management while at school; and
- B. The student's physician has authorized such self-care and determined that the student is capable of performing diabetes care tasks.

A student with diabetes is permitted to perform diabetes care tasks in a classroom, in any area of the school or school grounds, and at any school-related activity. The student must have access to a private area for performing diabetes care tasks if the student or the student's parent or guardian makes such a request.

A student with diabetes is permitted to possess on the student's self at all times all necessary supplies and equipment to perform diabetes care tasks. If the student performs any diabetes care tasks or uses medical equipment for purposes other than the student's own care, the Board will revoke the student's permission to attend to the care and management of the student's diabetes.

By December 31 of each year, the Board will report to the Ohio Department of Education the following information regarding students with diabetes:

- The number of students with diabetes enrolled in the school during the previous school year
- The number of errors associated with the administration of diabetes medication to students with diabetes during the previous school year

Sick Students

Students who are ill should not be in school. Any child who has a fever, displays any sign of illness, or is contagious (e.g., with pink eye, strep, the flu) should be kept home.

Guidelines we use in making this decision are as follows:

1. **FEVER:** Students cannot be in school with a fever and must be fever free for 24 hours (without fever reducing medication such as ibuprofen or acetaminophen) before they can return to school.
2. **VOMITING / DIARRHEA:** If a student has vomited or had diarrhea, they cannot be at school. They must be free of those symptoms for 24 hours before returning.
3. **STREP THROAT:** Students with a diagnosis of Strep must be on antibiotics for 24 hours and fever free for 24 hours before being able to return.
4. **PINK EYE:** Students with Pink Eye must stay home until three doses of antibiotic eye drops have been administered.
5. **HEAD LICE:** Students with head lice are not permitted to be in class. Students may return once a treatment is done, and all live lice have been killed. The student must be “checked in” by the school nurse before returning to class.
6. **IMPETIGO/RINGWORM/SKIN RASHES:** These conditions are highly contagious. Students must be on treatments and have all sores scabbed/covered to return to school.
7. **COUGH:** A cough following a virus is not necessarily contagious and may be prolonged. However, if the cough is croup, pertussis, pneumonia, or a productive cough, students should remain home until symptoms improve.
8. **ANY ILLNESS** that is requiring medication throughout the day or affecting your child’s ability to stay awake or participate in class should be dealt with at home until symptoms improve.

Please report any communicable diseases such as strep throat, pneumonia, impetigo, pertussis, etc. to the office for the protection of the children attending. If you have any questions about your child's attendance due to illness, please contact our School Nurse.

Control of Communicable Diseases

CLASSICAL recognizes that control of the spread of communicable disease is essential to the well-being of the school community and to the efficient operation of the school.

For purposes of this policy, "communicable diseases" include Amebiasis, Campylobacteriosis, Chickenpox, Cholera, Conjunctivitis, Cryptosporidiosis, Cyclosporiasis, Diarrhea (infectious or of unknown cause), Diphtheria, Ebola Virus, Escherichia coli (E. coli) O157:H7 or hemolytic uremic syndrome, Giardiasis, Hepatitis A, Measles, Meningitis (aseptic, and viral meningoencephalitis, but not including arthropod-borne disease), Meningococcal disease, Mumps, Pediculosis, Pertussis (whooping cough), Plague, Rubella, Salmonellosis, Scabies, Shigellosis, Smallpox, Streptococcal infection, Tuberculosis (TB), Typhoid fever, Typhus, Viral hemorrhagic fever (VHF), Yellow fever, and Yersiniosis. This list is not exhaustive and may be modified in accordance with state and federal law.

In order to protect the health and safety of the students, school personnel, and the community at large, CLASSICAL shall follow all state and federal laws that pertain to communicable disease. The school reserves the right to comply or not comply with "recommendations" or "guidelines" not promulgated as law that may be handed down by any city, state, or federal agency. The school will always take into consideration the good of the greater school community in matters of safety, including the mitigation of infectious disease.

On the recommendation of a physician or the school nurse, a teacher may exclude from the classroom and the Headmaster or his designee may exclude from the building or isolate in the school any student who appears to be ill or has been exposed to a communicable disease.

Control of Blood-Borne Pathogens

The Board seeks to provide a safe educational environment for Students. This can best be accomplished by assuring that all persons in the school community understand the method of transmission and prevention of diseases that are not contracted through air-borne pathogens, but rather through direct contact with body fluids and excretions, especially blood, vomit, feces, or urine.

The School seeks to protect those Staff Members who may be exposed to blood-borne pathogens and other potentially-infectious materials in their performance of assigned duties at the School.

If the School identifies a category of employee whose duties create a reasonable anticipation of exposure to blood and other infectious materials, then it shall contact its legal counsel to devise an appropriate procedure.

Toilet-Training Requirement

Because feces and urine routinely transmit pathogens, all students in attendance must be toilet-trained, barring any medical issues that would qualify the student for a 504 plan. Students who are not toilet-trained present a significant risk to the school community.

Should a medical issue documented by a physician qualify the student for a 504 plan, the school will need to develop a plan that ensures the protection of all members of the school community, including students, faculty, and staff.

For the purposes of enrollment at Cincinnati Classical Academy, a toilet-trained child is one who:

- Wears regular underpants (not pull-ups, diapers or training pants)
- Knows when he/she need to use the restroom without prompting
- Knows how to take care of toileting procedures himself/herself including wiping self
- Does not have regular toileting accidents during the school day

The school recognizes that even students who are toilet-trained may have an occasional accident. However, any child who is in attendance and has three accidents in a one-week period will not be considered toilet-trained. (This could include three instances of urinating, three bowel movements, or three of a combination of those.) At the conclusion of the day of the third accident, the parent(s) will be asked to keep the child out of school until the child is toilet-trained according to the above criteria. The child may return to school when toilet training is complete. Upon re-admittance, parents must sign a form stating that toilet training is complete. If, however, the child returns to school and has three additional accidents in a one-week period, the parent(s) will be asked to keep the child out of school again until the child is completely toilet-trained. This cycle will continue until the child is completely toilet-trained.

Whenever a non-toilet-trained student is not in attendance, that student is entitled to receive at-home classwork.

Student Fees and Supplies

Student Book Fee

In order to enhance the learning experience and provide our students with the best possible resources, we will be implementing a student fee of \$110 for the 2024-25 school year. This will

be allocated towards the purchase of curriculum consumables and new curriculum texts, ensuring that our students have access to up-to-date and comprehensive materials that support their academic growth. By investing in these resources, we aim to enhance the quality of education and provide a more enriching learning environment for all students. The Student Book Fee can be paid directly through the student's Final Forms account (FinalForms.com).

School Textbooks

All non-consumable textbooks belong to the school and must be used year after year. Students are issued textbooks at the beginning of the year and are expected to keep them in good condition throughout the year. Textbooks that travel home with the student should be carefully covered in paper (not cloth) at the beginning of the year and returned to the teacher when the class has concluded.

Students who do not return their textbooks or who return them damaged will be charged for the cost of replacing the textbooks. In the case that reimbursement has not been made for lost or damaged materials, no further materials will be issued to that student until the past due fees are paid.

Other Fees

From time to time the school may charge fees to its families for the purpose of funding expenses related to athletics, extracurricular clubs, art, activities, field trips, etc. All charges and fees must be authorized by the Headmaster. All financial obligations must be rectified prior to registration for the upcoming school year. Students with outstanding balances will not be issued report cards or be permitted to register for the next school year. CLASSICAL does not want or intend financial hardship to prevent any child from receiving an education. In cases of financial hardship, parents should inquire with the school office about receiving a fee waiver.

Extracurricular Activities

We encourage students to participate in extra-curricular activities, knowing that academics come first. Every member of a club or athletic team has a responsibility to his or her teammates to show up on time ready to participate and to remain in good academic standing, and to display CLASSICAL's core virtues as ambassadors for the school.

Extracurricular activities may charge a participation fee and athletic events may charge an attendance fee for spectators. These funds will be used to pay for uniforms, equipment, instruments, fees for invitationals, and other miscellaneous items. Families who have purchased an Athletics Boosters membership will receive free admission to all home games.

Each coach or club leader, in coordination with school leadership, will set rules by which each student must abide in order to participate.

Eligibility

Extracurriculars enrich a student's life at the school. CLASSICAL's goal is to encourage students to prioritize academics but also to provide meaningful opportunities to compete and flourish. Participation in extracurricular activities, however, is a privilege that is contingent on school attendance, academic performance, and good behavior.

Only enrolled students may participate in CLASSICAL extra-curricular activities.

Students participating in any school-sponsored event or extracurricular activity falling on a regular weekday must have been in attendance at school the day of the event, otherwise they will not be permitted to participate in the event. Additionally, students who are considered truant based on this Handbook may be disallowed from participating in any extracurricular activities sponsored by the school.

Any student who receives three Blue Slips in a semester will be ineligible to participate in extracurricular activities for the remainder of the year. Ultimate discretion on eligibility is the responsibility of the Headmaster or his designee.

Extracurriculars

CLASSICAL will sponsor student clubs that align with the school's mission and enhance the curriculum. To ensure appropriateness and adherence to school values, all clubs must receive approval from the Dean of Student Life and have an active faculty sponsor. However, as per the policy set by the Board of Directors, CLASSICAL will not sponsor any school group that has a politically partisan or religiously doctrinal nature.

Participation fees are sometimes associated with extracurricular club membership. Fees are typically used to buy necessary supplies, transportation, and stipends for faculty moderators. CLASSICAL does not want any student to be deterred from participating in an extracurricular club on account of a club fee. Families who are in need of financial assistance are encouraged to contact the front office.

Special Events

The school will host various social events in the course of a regular school year. Students are expected to follow school rules and the Honor Code at these events, and attending students are subject to school disciplinary procedures. Eligibility to attend these events is based upon the same guidance given for all extracurricular activities, though the Headmaster reserves the right to make specific exceptions.

Sentinel Athletics Policy

The school will make available a modest athletics program that focuses on sportsmanship and the school's core virtues. The school will consider adding new sports by weighing student interest, the number of potential participants, the school's general capacity to support new sports and teams, and the likelihood of a sport's longevity in the culture of the school.

Participation in extra-curricular athletics is a privilege and one that comes with great responsibility. Student-athletes will be held to a high standard. It is also understood that the athletic field is a different dynamic than that of the classroom, and some behaviors conducive to one are not necessarily acceptable in the other. Nevertheless, student-athletes are expected to comply with the following expectations:

1. To be considered for participation, a student must have completed a physical exam clearing the student for physical activity prior to the season intended to participate. A copy of the physical must be turned into the school prior to any involvement in the athletic program. There will be no exceptions.
2. Students and their parents must review all materials provided by the school relating to sudden cardiac arrest and concussions and shall certify to the school that student and his or her parent understands the cardiac risks associated with participation in athletic activities.
3. A student-athlete may be considered ineligible to participate if he or she has a failing grade in any of the core subjects of math, English, science, or history for the previous grading period. Student-athletes also must maintain a minimum average of 70%.
4. Student-athletes are expected to behave appropriately on and off the field/court. Disruptive behavior, rudeness to an adult, or disrespect to peers will not be tolerated at a game, practice, or in the classroom.
5. Being a part of a team is a time consuming and important commitment. It should be taken seriously even while having fun. Attendance to practice and games is not optional. It is expected that student-athletes will be at as close to 100% of scheduled practice and games as possible. Teammates and coaches rely on everyone being present to conduct appropriate drills and practice. Repeat offenders of missed practices without a valid excuse are subject to dismissal from the team.
6. Some uniform items will be given to the student-athlete to keep, some will be available to buy, and some will remain property of the school. It is the responsibility of the student-athlete to maintain his or her uniform, including wearing a clean uniform to all competitions. The student-athlete will be responsible for the replacement of any uniform that is the property of the school if the uniform is lost, stolen, or damaged. Grades and credits may be withheld and a student-athlete may not participate in future sports upon refusal to cooperate with replacement of lost, stolen, or damaged uniforms.

Return to Play

No students may participate in any interscholastic athletic activity (contest, practice, try-out, etc.) unless they have provided a completed form stating that the student and his/her parent, guardian, or person in care or charge of the student has received (a) the concussion and head injury information sheet and (b) the sudden cardiac arrest information sheet. These forms are required to be provided for each athletic activity, each school year.

Concussions and Head Injuries: any student who exhibits signs, symptoms, or behaviors consistent with having sustain a concussion or head injury (such as loss of consciousness, headache, dizziness, confusion, or balance problems) while practicing for or during an interscholastic competition shall be immediately removed from the practice or contest by either (a) the individual who is serving as the student's coach during that practice or competition or (b) an individual who is serving as a contest official or referee during the practice or competition.

Upon removing a student from a practice or contest under this policy, the removing coach or referee shall not permit the student to return to that practice or competition or to participate in any other practice or competition for which the coach or contest official is responsible for the rest of that day.

Following this mandatory removal for the rest of the day, the coach or contest officials shall not permit the student to return to practice and/or competition until both of the following conditions are satisfied:

1. The student's condition is assessed by a physician authorized under Chapter 4731 of the Ohio Revised Code to practice medicine and surgery or osteopathic medicine or surgery (M.D. or D.O.) or any other licensed health care provider that the board authorizes under this policy to assess the student who has been removed from practice or competition.
2. The student receives written authorization from a physician or other licensed health care provider authorized by the board under this policy confirming that it is safe for the student to return to practice or competition.

For OHSAA interscholastic athletic teams, students must submit a complete OHSAA Medical Authorization to Return to Play Form to his/her coach in order to resume participation in any school athletic practice or competition. The board may authorize a school employee or volunteer who is a licensed health care provider but who is not a physician to make the concussion assessment and grant authorization for a student to return to participation. Any individual authorized to assess a student under this policy shall act in accordance with one of the following as applicable to the provider's authority to practice in Ohio:

- In consultation with a physician;
- Pursuant to the referral of a physician;
- In collaboration with a physician; or
- Under the supervision of a physician.

Sudden Cardiac Arrest: a student may not participate in an athletic activity if the student's biological parent, sibling, or child has previously experienced sudden cardiac arrest and the student has not been evaluated and cleared for participation in an athletic activity by a physician authorized to practice medicine and surgery or osteopathic medicine and surgery under R.C. Chapter 4731.

Any student who exhibits syncope or fainting at any time prior to, during, or following an athletic activity shall be removed from participation in an athletic activity by the individual serving as the student's coach during that practice or competition. Following this mandatory removal, the coach shall not permit the student to return to practice and/or competition until the student is evaluated and cleared for return in writing by an authorized individual listed in R.C. 3313.5310(E)(3). Any coach who violates this requirement may be subject to discipline.

Prior to the start of each athletic season, the school may hold an informational meeting for students, parents, guardians, persons having care or charge of a student, physicians, cardiologists, athletic trainers, or other relevant individuals regarding the symptoms and warning signs of sudden cardiac arrest for all ages of students.

The school, management company, if any, board members, and school or management company employees or volunteers, including coaches, are not liable in damages in a civil action for injury, death, or loss to person or property allegedly arising from providing services or performing duties under this policy, unless the act or omission constitutes willful or wanton misconduct. This policy does not eliminate, limit or reduce any other immunity or defense that the above individuals may be entitled to under Chapter 2744 of the Revised Code or any other provision of law.

Equal Access for Non-School-Sponsored Student Clubs and Activities

The Board will not permit the use of school facilities by non-school-sponsored student clubs and activities or school-sponsored, non-curriculum-related clubs and activities during instructional hours. The Board will not permit the organization of a fraternity, sorority, or secret society. The Board reserves the right to deny all non-school sponsored clubs or activities during non-instructional times.

Volunteers

Cincinnati Classical Academy rests on a partnership between the school and families who choose to enroll their students. Volunteering is an important element in that partnership. Since the classical model of education prioritizes the role of the teacher in the classroom, direct instruction, and Socratic conversation, the school's volunteering needs are primarily to assist in the library and with various CLASSICAL events such as the Veteran's Day assembly and Olympiad Day. Additionally, there are many other volunteer opportunities available through the Parent Service Organization (PSO) and coaching on CLASSICAL athletic teams.

Volunteer Background Checks

If an adult plans to volunteer with students (such as coaching, student tutoring, etc.) the individual must complete a volunteer registration form. If the adult will be responsible for student supervision, the parent must go through an additional background check, the cost of which the parent is responsible for paying. The school conducts the complete background check to ensure the individual is clear of anything in their past which would prevent them from working with children.

Volunteer Confidentiality

Volunteers often inadvertently have access to sensitive information. Any information about students, grades, faculty, etc. is to remain confidential. Volunteers may observe situations of a sensitive nature. These are also to remain confidential.

If a volunteer has a concern involving something that is witnessed, observed, or overheard it may only be discussed with the faculty members involved, the Dean of Student of Life, or the Headmaster. The matter may also be brought to the attention of the Board of Directors by following the grievance policy explained in this Handbook. Under no circumstances is it acceptable for a volunteer to confront a teacher about an issue when students are present. If a volunteer disregards the confidentiality policy, the privilege of volunteering will be revoked.

Visitors

Sign-In

CLASSICAL has a mandatory sign-in procedure for all visitors on campus, including parents. Any visitor to campus during regular school hours must first report to the school office and will be required to furnish a U.S. federal or state-issued photo ID. The visitor's information will be stored in an electronic database (RAPTOR) to document visitors to the school and to provide a cross-check of FBI databases. Information stored in the electronic database will be used only for the purpose of school security, and will not be sold or otherwise disseminated to a third party for any purpose.

Visitors must check in with the front office and provide identification each time they visit the school, not just the first time. A visitor badge will be issued to the visitor and displayed conspicuously during the visit.

Parent Visits

During the school day, it may be necessary for a parent to drop off lunch or a forgotten item. Parents making deliveries should stop by the front office. One of the office staff members will be happy to deliver the item. Parents may not drop off items directly to the student's classroom or any other part of the school.

All of our teachers welcome parent/teacher conferences as long as they are scheduled in advance and on their calendar. To schedule a meeting with a teacher, please contact him or her via email.

Incllement Weather

When weather threatens a school closing, you should check the website for closure information. Parents and guardians will be notified by an automated phone call and email of any school closure or 90-minute delay. CLASSICAL will typically follow the decisions of the local school districts (Reading, Sycamore, and Princeton) in determining whether to close school or delay the opening of the school day due to inclement weather. Please stay informed and do not bring your child to school unnecessarily. If the school is closed there will not be a school employee on campus.

Withdrawals

We are always sorry to have a student move from CLASSICAL. To facilitate withdrawal of students from school, we ask that parents advise the school office of an intended withdrawal three days prior to leaving. A parent is required to meet with the Enrollment Manager to sign the withdrawal

paperwork prior to the student's departure. This will provide adequate time for contacting teachers, closing the student's records, and preparing transfer documents. All charges, fines, and fees must be paid prior to withdrawal, and textbooks must be returned.

Curriculum Introduction

The curriculum of Cincinnati Classical Academy is based on the scope and sequence offered by HILLSDALE COLLEGE K-12. This curriculum is used throughout the network of Hillsdale-affiliated schools, of which Cincinnati Classical Academy is a full member. While CLASSICAL has and will continue to make curricular adjustments in order to reflect local circumstances and requirements, CLASSICAL has committed to embrace and uphold the following key characteristics:

- The centrality of the Western tradition in the study of history, literature, philosophy, and fine arts
- A rich and recurring examination of the American literary, moral, philosophical, political, and historical traditions
- The use of explicit phonics instruction leading to reading fluency, and the use of explicit grammar instruction leading to English language mastery
- The teaching of Latin
- The acknowledgement of objective standards of correctness, logic, beauty, weightiness, and truth intrinsic to the liberal arts
- A culture demanding moral virtue, decorum, respect, discipline, and studiousness among the students and faculty
- A curriculum that is content-rich, balanced, and rigorous across the four core disciplines of math, science, literature, and history
- A faculty where well-educated and articulate teachers convey real knowledge using traditional teaching methods rather than “student-centered learning” methods
- The effective use of technology without diminishing the faculty leadership that is crucial to academic achievement
- A plan to serve grades K through 12

Homework

Homework is a fundamental part of our general academic program. It prepares students for high school, yes, but more importantly homework helps develop a strong work ethic and habits of organization. Homework's immediate educational purpose is:

- To reinforce skills and concepts and knowledge learned in class
- To develop good skills and effective habits of study
- To practice skills and reinforce knowledge in ways that are not readily accomplished in the classroom
- To work on assignments (such as the writing of papers) and prepare for exams that require a great deal of sustained, individual attention
- To prepare for the following day's work so that the most can be made of class time
- To inform parents of what is being taught in the classroom

In addition to regular classroom assignments, we would like each of our students to read or be read to every day. It is our hope that each CLASSICAL student grows and matures to be a thoughtful reader enabling the student to gain in wisdom, knowledge, and insight as he or she grows into adulthood.

We believe that becoming a competent reader is critical to being a good student and an important step in being able to explore the physical world and the world of ideas. Reading to a child encourages the child's growth and it elevates and informs conversation within the family. By reading in front of your children, parents model good habits and reinforce expectations.

Homework is an important part of a classical education. Students who do not actively and consistently contribute to their own education, both in class and at home, will fall behind and sell themselves short. Homework takes place in the home, with all of the distractions that come with it. We encourage parents to provide a calm, quiet place for their children to complete their work. Television, music, movies, and video games, at best, tend to extend homework time beyond what one would typically need and, often, will hinder real learning; we therefore suggest that these techno-distractions be restricted while students are studying.

Every student can expect to have some homework every day. Students should spend 20 to 30 minutes every evening reading, whether or not reading homework is assigned. We encourage you to choose a book to read as a family, and make a little progress on it every night.

As a general rule, a student can expect 10 minutes of homework per grade level. So, a first grader will have approximately 10 minutes of homework per night (plus reading time) and an eighth grader will have approximately 80 minutes, five of the seven days per week.

The designated times serve as guidelines for averages and may vary depending on the work assigned on a given day, the schedule, the student's organizational skills and study habits, the varying abilities of the students, and the nature of the assignments. Students are expected to learn how to use their time effectively to complete the required work at each grade level. Parents are expected to support their children in this endeavor.

Teachers will make every effort to give assignments well in advance, and students will be encouraged to work on those longer assignments steadily, so that students are able to manage their homework along with other activities and sufficient sleep.

For poor or uncompleted work, teachers may require students to redo an assignment. Whether such work is given any credit is left to the discretion of the teacher. Students are expected to complete all their homework.

Late Homework

One of primary purposes of homework is to instill responsibility and accountability in students. To achieve this goal and ensure students do not fall behind on their schoolwork, it is crucial for them to submit their assignments on time.

Students with excused absences are granted a grace period equal to the number of days they were absent to make up for missed classwork and homework. This grace period lasts for up to seven days and carries no penalty. However, for unexcused absences, homework will not be sent home, and no credit will be given for any work completed during this period.

In grades 5-8, homework submitted one day late will receive 75% credit and two days late will receive 50% credit. In grades K-4, teachers will establish their own late homework policies according to policy set for their grade level.

It is instructive to highlight that homework assignments generally hold lower point values compared to assessments like quizzes and tests. Although a late grade on homework will not significantly impact a student's quarterly average, it is still expected that all students complete their homework on time.

Grading

Grading is not the ultimate goal of education. If anything, some students put more emphasis on grades than their teachers do. The grade a student receives in a class is subordinate to the knowledge the student acquires. Still, grades are a useful tool to evaluate the extent to which a student has mastered a particular subject. Therefore, grades will be assigned in all classes and subjects. CLASSICAL will assign grades in order to accurately reflect the range between true mastery and insufficient knowledge of a subject.

Grade Inflation and Extra Credit

Grade inflation will be discouraged. "Extra credit," whether to make up for work not turned in on time or to increase a student's grade, is also discouraged.

Beginning in Third Grade, the following grading scale is used:

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Grading scale</u>
A+	97-100%
A	93-96.9%
A-	90-92.9%
B+	87-89.9%
B	83-86.9%
B-	80-82.9%
C+	77-79.9%
C	73-76.9%
C-	70-72.9%
D+	67-69.9%
D	64-66.9%
D-	60-63.9%
F	0-59.9%

In Kindergarten, First Grade, and Second Grade we use the following marks:

- E = Excellent performance
- S = Satisfactory performance
- N = Performance needs improvement
- U = Unsatisfactory performance

Reporting Student Progress

For students to be successful, both they and their parents should be informed of their standing in class. In addition to the regular grading of assignments, the school will inform parents of their student's academic progress in the following ways:

- If a student is determined to be significantly below grade level, a meeting will be scheduled with a parent, the teacher, and other faculty as deemed appropriate.
- Midterm progress reports will be sent home at the midpoint of each quarter.
- Report cards will be mailed or sent home shortly after the end of each quarter.

If parents have a question about their child's progress anytime throughout the year, they are encouraged to contact the teacher directly either to schedule a phone call or in-person meeting if merited.

Parent-Teacher Conferences

Parent-Teacher Conferences are held at the end of the first and third quarters. At the end of the second and fourth quarters teachers provide extensive comments on students' report cards. During the school year, a Parent-Teacher conference may be scheduled at any time a parent or the teacher thinks one is necessary. To schedule a conference with a teacher, please contact the teacher by email.

Student Grade Placement

For students to thrive in school, they must master the fundamentals. The grade level placement policy is designed to promote educational excellence and fairness by placing students at the most appropriate level for instruction. Cincinnati Classical Academy will respect the promotion and retention decisions from the school from which a student transfers. If students new to the school are found to be reading more than one grade level behind their existing peer group, they may be asked to enroll in the grade level deemed appropriate by the teacher, Director of Student Services, and Headmaster. If the parent chooses that the student be placed at the grade level in which the student originally enrolled against the advice of the school, a signed document of this choice will become part of the student's permanent file.

Promotion & Retention

In accordance with Section 3313.608 of the Ohio Revised Code, the Board of Directors of the School adopts this Student Promotion and Retention Policy in order to address grade level promotions within the School.

CLASSICAL recognizes that the personal, social, physical, and educational growth of children will vary and that they should be placed in the educational setting most appropriate to their needs at the various stages of their growth.

It shall be the policy of the Board that each student is moved forward in a continuous pattern of achievement and growth that is in harmony with his or her own development. A student will be promoted to the succeeding grade level when he or she has:

- Completed the state-mandated requirements at the presently assigned grade;
- In the opinion of his/her teachers, achieved the instructional objectives set for the present grade; and,
- Demonstrated sufficient proficiency to permit him or her to move ahead to the educational program of the next grade.

The Headmaster shall:

- Require a student be retained if he or she is truant (unexcused absence) for ten percent (10%) or more of the required school days and has failed at least two (2) courses of study, unless the Headmaster and the teachers of the failed subjects determine that the student is academically prepared to be promoted;
- Require that parents are informed in advance of the possibility of retention of a student at grade level; and,
- Have the final responsibility for determining the promotion or retention of each student.

Intervention Services

In furtherance of our mission and in order to meet federal guidelines, Cincinnati Classical Academy admits all students, based on available seats, without knowing the special needs of any student before a seat is offered. CLASSICAL offers a continuum of special education services and placements for the special needs of students and provides in-class accommodations, pull-out tutoring, and resource time for students with special needs. We also contract with providers for therapeutic services (occupational therapy, speech and language therapy, counseling) that the school cannot offer on its own.

When a child with special needs is accepted into CLASSICAL, the family will be informed of the services and staffing levels provided by the school. If a child has special needs that the CLASSICAL staff cannot adequately address with the current staffing and services, the school will convene an IEP meeting to discuss the provision of comparable services and/or other appropriate school placement and services.

CLASSICAL's Intervention Services program rests on three pillars of instruction: explicit phonics instruction, arithmetic skills, and organization. Since classroom time is crucial for all students to develop these skills, Intervention Services will create and lead resource class time for students who need extra help. The goal is to reinforce what is learned in the classroom and to help the student develop independence.

Intervention Policy

CLASSICAL will provide prevention/intervention services in pertinent subject areas to students who score below the proficient level on a reading, writing, mathematics, social studies or science achievement test and/or who do not demonstrate academic performance at their grade level based on the results of a diagnostic assessment. Intervention services will be commensurate with the student's test performance in each such test area including prevention, intervention, or remediation. Such prevention, intervention, or remediation programs may include, but are not limited to, remedial program content, one-on-one teacher/student interaction, student-specific tutoring intervention and/or small group interaction.

During the school year, following the year in which the tests prescribed by R.C. 3301.0710(A)(1) are administered to any student, CLASSICAL shall provide appropriate intervention services, commensurate with the student's test performance, including any intensive prevention, intervention, or remediation required under R.C. 3301.0711, 3301.0715, 3313.608 or R.C. 3313.6012, in any skill in which the student failed to demonstrate at least a score of proficient level on an achievement test.

For each student required to be offered intervention services, the school may involve the student's parent or guardian and classroom teacher in developing the intervention strategy and shall offer to the parent or guardian the opportunity to be involved in the intervention services.

Dyslexia Supports

The school is dedicated to supporting and identifying students with dyslexia through the establishment of a structured literacy program and the administration of appropriate dyslexia screening measures.

The school's program of dyslexia supports is intended only to identify risk and is not intended to diagnose dyslexia. Results of all screening measures shall be reported to the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce ("DEW") in the manner determined by DEW.

Tier 1 - Universal Screening. The school shall administer Tier 1 screenings to identify students whose current level of skills indicate that they may be at-risk of dyslexia. Tier 1 screenings shall comply with the Ohio Dyslexia Guidebook and be aligned the grade level in which the screened student is enrolled at the time of administration.

- Students enrolled in kindergarten, or any student who transfers into the school midyear and is enrolled kindergarten, shall be administered a Tier 1 screening after January 1 of the school year, but prior to January 1 of the following school year. A tier one dyslexia screening measure shall be administered to a transferring student during the school's regularly scheduled screening of the kindergarten class or within thirty (30) days after the student's enrollment; and
- Students enrolled in any of grades one through six, or any student who transfers into the school midyear and is enrolled in any of grades one through six must be screened either (i) upon the request of the student's parent, or (i) upon referral from a classroom teacher with parental consent. The screening measure shall be administered to the student within thirty (30) days of the parent request or consent to the screening.

The school shall not be required to administer a Tier 1 dyslexia screening measure to a student whose records indicate that such a screening was administered to the student by a previous school during the prior school year.

The parents of each student identified as at-risk of dyslexia by a Tier 1 screening shall be promptly notified.

Tier 2 – Progress Monitoring and Intervention-Based Diagnostic Screening. Students identified as at-risk of dyslexia based on the results of the Tier 1 screening shall either (a) be subject to progress monitoring to assess the student's progress towards attaining grade-level reading and writing skills, or (b) administered a Tier 2 assessment. Progress monitoring shall not exceed six weeks, and the student's progress shall be reviewed no less frequently than on week two, week four, and week six of the monitoring period. If no progress is observed, the school shall notify the student's parent and administer to the student a Tier 2 screening measure approved by the Ohio Dyslexia Committee.

Results of the Tier 2 screening measures shall be reported to the parent no more than thirty (30) days after the screening administration. If, as determined by the Tier 2 screening measure, the student is identified as having dyslexia tendencies, the School shall provide the student's parent or guardian with (1) information about reading development, the risk factors for dyslexia, and descriptions for evidenced-based interventions; and (2) a written explanation of the School's structured literacy program.

The school establishes a Multidisciplinary Team ("MT") responsible for administration and evaluation of screenings and intervention measures. The MT shall include trained and certified personnel and stakeholders with expertise in the identification, intervention, and remediation of dyslexia.

State Testing

Our curriculum is not designed around the state assessments and our teachers do not "teach to the test." We do dedicate some time to test preparation, but to do so excessively would detract from the classical course of study that CLASSICAL provides. Our in-house "test preparation" has less to do with content than it does with the form and manner in which test questions are written, as well as the order in which certain subjects are placed in the general state curriculum. Our curriculum in lower school math, for instance, follows a rational order that deepens and broadens student knowledge, but not in an order that aligns perfectly with the math subjects in the state exams. In order to do well on these assessments, we will supplement our curriculum where necessary.

CLASSICAL shall administer all state-mandated diagnostic and achievement tests to students during the timeframes designated by the State Board of Education.

"Achievement tests" are defined as those aligned with the Ohio academic content standards and model curriculum, designed to measure a student's level of skill in a specific subject area that is expected at the end of a designated grade and/or as a component of the Ohio graduation requirement.

"Diagnostic assessments" are defined as those aligned with Ohio academic content standards and model curriculum, designed to measure student comprehension of academic content and mastery of related skills for a relevant subject area at each grade level.

CLASSICAL will administer diagnostic assessments pursuant to Section 3301.0715 of the Revised Code.

All statewide tests shall be administered in accordance with Rules 3301-13-01 and according to procedures outlined in 3301-13-02 of the Ohio Administrative Code.

In addition to achievement tests and diagnostic assessments, staff members will assess the academic achievement and learning needs of each student. Procedures for such assessments may include, but are not limited to, teacher observation techniques, cumulative student records, and/or student performance data collected through standard testing programs.

Any student receiving special education services may be excused from taking any particular test required if the individualized education program (IEP) developed for the student excuses the student from taking that test and instead specifies that an alternative assessment method be used. The Alternative Assessment for a Student with Disability (AASWD) is approved by the Department of Education to evaluate the performance of students with the most significant cognitive disabilities for whom regular assessments, even with accommodations, are not appropriate. In general, the IEP shall not excuse the student from taking a test unless no reasonable accommodation can be made to enable the student to take the test. In that case, the school shall use AASWD to test students needing an alternate form of assessment.

The school shall not use any student's failure to attain a specified score on any state-mandated test as a factor in any decision to deny the student promotion to a higher-grade level, except as provided by law.

Please consult the school calendar for the testing schedule. On state testing dates, campus is closed and students may not be picked up early from school. Please plan accordingly.

Controversial subjects

Controversial subjects are defined as contemporary problems, issues, or questions of a political or social nature where there are entrenched differences of opinion and passions run high. Contemporary controversial issues will not be discussed in the elementary school, even if part of the Core Knowledge sequence, without Headmaster approval. Parents will have the choice of having their children opt out of this portion of the class. No part of the curriculum will be used to undermine the nobility of America's experiment in liberty and self-government under the rule of law.

Guest speakers who cover controversial topics must be screened by the Headmaster. The screening may include an interview of the guest by the Headmaster or designee. Parents must be notified prior to guest speaker presentations on controversial issues, including religions covered in the academic sequence. Parents may have students excused from such presentations and understand that the student will be supervised in a silent study hall. Teachers will provide permission slips to parents as notification of a guest speaker covering controversial issues and indicate an option on the permission slip for student to be excused.

Religion

Western civilization has had and continues to have an ongoing, vigorous, and thoughtful conversation concerning the place of religion in human life. We will encourage such discussions as they arise from the material that students engage and will respect the diverse viewpoints that such a topic elicits, so long as those views are offered respectfully and with the solemnity they merit.

In the course of history and literature classes, CLASSICAL's curriculum will include texts, stories, histories, and beliefs connected to Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Buddhism, and Hinduism. Knowledge of these topics is crucial to understanding the modern world and much of our own history. Teachers will address these topics without either advocating or undermining religion in general or any specific faith.

Human Sexuality

At CLASSICAL, we believe parents own the fundamental responsibility for their children's education, which includes the areas of morality and sexuality. The school's role, at most, should be viewed as a supportive one. It is apparent that sexuality is more than biology and physiology. It also encompasses morality, spirituality, and the emotions. Because it is a part of the whole human experience, it must be taught with circumspection and sensitivity.

We believe children are naturally modest concerning their bodies and are not ready to learn everything at once. They are naturally curious, however, and need to get answers to their questions in a way appropriate to their stage of development. In teaching this topic, we want to minimize the embarrassment associated with it.

In the course of our usual science curriculum, fifth grade students will learn about human reproductive organs, reproduction, and the menstrual cycle. The class will be taught in a gender-separated environment. Human sexuality will only be discussed in the context of a monogamous relationship between two people of opposite sexes. Parents will have the opportunity to preview the materials the class will be reading. Parents will have the choice of having their children opt out of this portion of the class, which will be taught during the regular science time.

Character education is an integral part of our program. Sexuality involves serious moral decision-making. It is important to help children build the capacity to make and abide by sound moral choices. We would like our teaching of human reproduction to be a springboard to initiate and facilitate discussions between parents and children on this sensitive subject.

Teachers, under no circumstances, will discuss their personal lives on such matters with students.

Videos in the Classroom

From time to time, videos or other media may be used to support a classroom lesson—although this will *not* be the norm. To be used in class, videos must meet a specific curricular objective and will not have profane language or sexually explicit material. Teachers must receive prior approval from the Headmaster to show a video more than 15 minutes in length. Students will not be shown a full-length movie in class. This contravenes the teaching methodology and philosophy of Cincinnati Classical Academy.

Enrollment, Admissions & Residency

For current enrollment information, including grades offered, class sizes, admissions deadlines, and enrollment lotteries, please visit the school’s website at cincyclassical.org or contact the Director of Enrollment at (513) 554-0285.

Open Enrollment

The CLASSICAL Board and administration shall permit the enrollment of students from any county within the state of Ohio, provided that each enrollment is in accordance with the laws of this state, the provisions of this policy, and the administrative guidelines established to implement this policy.

Admissions Procedures

Admission to CLASSICAL is open to any student in kindergarten through ninth grade for the 2025-26 academic year, and through tenth grade for the 2026-27 academic year. The school does not charge tuition. As an “open enrollment” public community school, CLASSICAL does not discriminate in its admission policies or practices on any basis except for residency requirements.

Upon admission of a student with a disability, the school will comply with all federal and state laws regarding the education of students with disabilities.

CLASSICAL will admit the number of students that do not exceed the capacity of the school’s programs, classes, grade levels, or facilities. Priority for enrollment shall be given to returning students. Priority is also be given to siblings of students attending the school the previous year,

residents of the Reading Community School District (per Ohio law), and students who are children of founding board members and faculty or staff members employed by the school. The preference provided to children of staff members shall be less than five percent of the school's total enrollment.

Any and all enrollment period(s) will be as stated on the school's website. If enrollment exceeds capacity, a lottery will be conducted by grade level. The lottery places children in order for possible enrollment into the school. As the school operates and accepts students year-round, if other places become available (after the lottery), students are accepted from a prioritized wait list based on the results of the lottery. Once the wait list is exhausted in a particular grade, students will be admitted on a "first come first served" basis.

All parents of children selected in the lottery will be notified of the selection by email. Parents will have up to seven (7) days from receipt of the email to contact the school regarding their decision to accept an offered seat. If a parent does not respond within seven (7) days of receipt of the email, that student's placement will be rescinded and the school will select the next student from the lottery wait list at that grade level.

Notwithstanding the above, in the event the racial composition of the enrollment of the school is in violation of a federal desegregation order, the school shall take any and all corrective measures to comply with the desegregation order.

Process and Criteria

In order for a student to be admitted, the following must be completed and submitted to the enrollment manager: the registration form and such other enrollment materials that the school deems necessary; copies of the child's original birth certificate or such alternative set forth below in the Records Upon Enrollment section of this policy and proof of residence and parent/ guardian ID. In addition, all custody or court orders pertaining to or allocating parental rights and responsibilities for the care of the student and designating a residential parent and legal custodian of the child shall be provided. Students may also need to complete an academic assessment before being placed in a classroom.

Records Release/Transfer

CLASSICAL will verify eligibility according to residency and will report names and addresses to the local school district of those students who are enrolled in the school. In addition, once a student is enrolled, records are requested via mail on form letters, signed by a parent or guardian, from the appropriate school of last attendance. Follow-up calls are made to buildings that have not forwarded records as requested. This also serves as notice to the student's district of residence as required by law. The Records Release / Transfer includes a request for receipt of any student IEP/ETR/504 Plan that pertains to the student.

Kindergarten Admission

CLASSICAL can admit to kindergarten any student whose fifth birthday falls on or before September 30 of the school year applied for. Absolutely no exceptions can be made to this policy.

Residency and Enrollment Requirements

Although CLASSICAL has a statewide open enrollment policy permitting enrollment from any school or district in the State of Ohio, it is still necessary to establish a student's school district of residence before he or she can be enrolled at Cincinnati Classical Academy. The school district in which a parent or child resides is the location the parent or student has established as the primary residence and where substantial family activity takes place.

Residence is a place where important family activity takes place during the significant part of each day; a place where the family eats, sleeps, works, relaxes and plays. It must be a place, in short, which can be called "home." One cannot establish a residence merely by purchasing/leasing a house or an apartment or even by furnishing such a house or apartment so that it is suitable for the owner's use. No single factor is determinative; residency will be established by the totality of the circumstances.

The CLASSICAL Board and administration or its designee shall review the residency records of students enrolled in the school on a monthly basis. Upon the enrollment of each student and on an annual basis, the Board or its designee shall verify to the state department of education each student's home school district, where they are entitled to attend school pursuant to §§ 3313.64 or 3313.65 of the Revised Code. Parents or guardians must promptly notify the school using the documentation listed below when a change in the location of the parent's or student's primary residence occurs.

Upon enrollment and on an annual basis the following documents can be used to establish proof of residency for verification of a child's ability to enroll in the school and determination of the school district the student is entitled to attend under §§ 3313.64 and 3313.65. These items must be current, be in the parent's/guardian's name, and include a street address. The school shall require one form of proof of residency for enrollment. A post office box address cannot be used to validate residency records.

- A deed, mortgage, lease, current home owner or renter's insurance declaration page, or current real property tax bill
- A utility bill or receipt of utility installation issued within ninety (90) days of enrollment
- A paycheck or paystub issued to the parent or student within ninety (90) days of enrollment that includes the address of the parent or student's primary residence
- The most current available bank statement issued to the parent or student that includes the address of the parent or student's primary residence

- Documented affirmation of the parent's address from the district of residence where the parent currently resides
- Notarized affirmation of current address from parent or student if over age 18
- A USPS return receipt from a certified letter sent to the parents by the district of residence
- Written confirmation of the parent's current address from the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services
- Written confirmation of the parent's current address from a local law enforcement agency
- Any other official document issued to the parent or student that includes the address of the parent or student's primary residence and as approved by the Ohio Superintendent of Public Instruction.

If there is a change in the location of the parent or student's primary residence, the student's parent must notify the school immediately.

Upon enrollment and on an annual basis thereafter, the school will review the residency records of students enrolled in the school and will provide an annual verification to the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce that students are entitled to attend the school. The Headmaster or his designee will compare each submitted proof of residence with the school's EMIS records to ensure that EMIS reporting is accurate that students are permitted to enroll.

All custody or court orders pertaining to the family or student must be turned in when asked, or at admission. If the school and parent disagree as to residency status, the Director of the Department of Education and Workforce will determine the public school in which the student may enroll. If the school and the student's home district (district of residency) disagree about residency, this policy shall supersede any policy concerning the number of documents for initial residency verification adopted by the student's home district. If the district of residence challenges the student's residency, the Headmaster may request additional documentation from the parent, which may be provided to the student's home district.

Moreover, the school will provide that school district with documentation of the student's residency and will make a good faith effort to accurately identify the correct residence of the student.

If a student loses permanent housing and becomes a homeless child or youth, as defined in 42 U.S.C. § 11434a, or if a child who is such a homeless child or youth changes temporary living arrangements, the district in which the student is entitled to attend school shall be determined in accordance with division (F)(13) of § 3313.64 of the Revised Code and the "McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act," 42 U.S.C. § 11431 et seq.

Records Upon Enrollment

Upon receipt of completed enrollment forms, a request for records will be made within twenty-four hours from the public or non-public elementary or secondary school the pupil most recently attended. Request for records includes any IEP/ETR/504 Plan that pertains to the student.

If the records are not received within 14 days of the date of request, or if the pupil does not present any one of the following: (1) a certification of birth; (2) a passport or attested transcript of a passport filed with a registrar of passports at a point of entry of the United States showing the date and place of birth of the child; (3) I-94 CARD, Permanent Resident Visa, or Green Card; or (4) a birth affidavit, the Headmaster or his/her designee will notify the law enforcement agency having jurisdiction in the area where the pupil resides of this fact and of the possibility that the pupil may be a missing child. No student, at the time of initial entry or at the beginning of each school year shall be permitted to remain in school for more than fourteen days if the student has not met the minimum immunization requirements established by the Ohio Department of Health or the student presents written evidence satisfactory to the person in charge of admission and acceptable as an exception to such requirement in law.

Enrollment of Expelled Students

Students expelled from another school will be admitted to CLASSICAL at the discretion of the Headmaster. The Headmaster will consider students who are being processed for expulsion and/or suspension on a case-by-case basis. Students facing suspension and/or expulsion for discipline problems related to drugs, alcohol, or violent behavior will not be admitted.

Grade Level Placement of Newly Enrolled Students

For students to thrive in school, they must master the fundamentals. The grade level placement policy is designed to promote educational excellence and fairness by placing students at the most appropriate level for instruction. If students new to the school are found to be reading more than one grade level behind their existing peer group, they may be required to enroll in the grade level deemed appropriate by the Headmaster. If the parent insists that the student be placed at a grade level higher than the one recommended, a signed document of this choice will become part of the student's permanent file.

Field Trips

Field trips will always be directly tied to the curriculum and add to the instructional environment by conveying knowledge or an experience that supports the curriculum. A permission slip must be signed and returned to the teacher by the parent/guardian of each student prior to the field trip. Students may be required to pay a modest fee to attend field trips. School uniforms are required on all field trips unless specifically noted otherwise and approved by the Headmaster. Students who have received three or more Blue Slips may not attend field trips without an accompanying parent. All adults chaperoning a field trip are required to be currently registered volunteers. (To become a registered volunteer, please consult the Front Office.)

School Communication Procedures

Parent Communications to Administration, Faculty, and Staff

Cincinnati Classical Academy values the conversation that takes place between parents and teachers about the education of children. Nonetheless, this conversation must follow certain guidelines in order to be fruitful and to allow teachers to devote themselves to their classes during the day. Parents may use any of the following ways to contact or communicate with the administration, faculty, and staff:

- Scheduled face-to-face meeting
- Scheduled phone call
- Message (given to the front office)
- Voice Mail to the proper extension at the school
- Email to the official cincyclassical.org email address

CLASSICAL employees will **not** use social media to communicate with parents or students.

During the school day and both immediately before and after school, teachers have their minds on teaching or imminent meetings and extracurricular activities. Parents should schedule in advance a phone call or meeting with a teacher rather than try to communicate through an impromptu conversation. Parents who are in the building for another reason should not use their access to faculty to circumvent the normal means of contacting a teacher unless that teacher clearly invites such a conversation. This policy applies to parents who are themselves teachers or other employees at the school.

CLASSICAL teachers and administrators will respond to parents as quickly as possible. In general, parents should expect to hear from a teacher or staff member within 48 hours of contacting the school, barring weekends and holidays. While a teacher's schedule may not permit an actual meeting within that time, the teacher will attempt to make contact in some way.

General Communication with the School Community

Each homeroom teacher will provide a weekly email newsletter to parents of all his/her students. The purpose of this newsletter is to keep parents informed about classroom experiences in the previous week and to inform parents of what to expect in the immediate future. The weekly newsletter is not an instrument to inform parents of deadlines for assignments and the scheduling of assessments. Students will be responsible for noting all homework assignments in their school planners, which should be taken home each evening.

Official Communications Outlets

We ask parents to be responsible in sharing information about the school and to consult the school website and school staff when asking questions or raising concerns. We also ask that parents be responsible when seeking out information about the school, especially in online forums, text groups, and on social media.

The official outlets for school information are limited to the following:

- The school website, Cincyclassical.org
- *The Classical Sentinel*, the official school monthly newsletter
- The official Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/CincyClassical>
- Correspondence from school administration, including emails and postal correspondence
- Notices sent home with students and/or distributed by the school office
- One-call phone messages sent out by the Headmaster or his designee

The school disclaims any responsibility for information from third-party websites, social media pages, or entities outside the school, including social media pages run by CLASSICAL parents that cater to the CLASSICAL community.

CLASSICAL recognizes the utility and necessity of maintaining a social media presence and therefore regularly updates its official Facebook page. Please note: It is not necessary for parents to follow the page or have a Facebook account. Any important notifications from CLASSICAL will be provided through official emails and one-call phone messages. The Facebook page is intended to provide regular communication with the school community and beyond as we share information, celebrate our successes, and tell our stories. We invite parents to “like” or “follow” our page to receive updates. Any important notifications from CLASSICAL that are posted on our Facebook page will also be provided to parents by some other timely means of communication. CLASSICAL retains the right to enforce school policies and commitments insofar as these are implicated on social media and in the social media use of parents, students, teachers, and staff.

In the interest of privacy, CLASSICAL will limit the sharing of personal information about students on our Facebook page, and CLASSICAL staff and faculty will not discuss a student’s personal record in any format on social media, including direct messages.

In the interest of clarity and prudence, CLASSICAL will avoid replies to comments on our Facebook page with the possible rare exception of brief, clarifying remarks. It will be the usual practice of CLASSICAL to invite questions and grievances posted on our official Facebook page to be brought to the school through our direct channels. CLASSICAL reserves the right to delete comments that are inappropriate, quarrelsome, or out of place. In other words, parents who have questions or

concerns should not use social media to solicit answers; rather, parents should call or email the school office at front.office@cincyclclassical.org.

Cautions Regarding the Use of Social Media

While CLASSICAL is aware that other social media pages connected to the school community exist or may exist, the school disclaims any authority or responsibility for these pages or the content posted therein. CLASSICAL administration does not review independent pages and will not recognize complaints until they are registered through formal channels.

We remind all parents and guardians that CLASSICAL's mission is firmly rooted in our seven virtues, which include gratitude, humility, and prudence. We believe that embodying these virtues fosters a strong sense of community, mutual respect, and an environment where everyone can thrive. While we understand that parents may have concerns or questions about school policies or actions, we request that any grievances and complaints not be aired in public forums or online platforms. Picking apart and critiquing the decisions or actions of the school administration, faculty, and staff in such a manner does not align with our CLASSICAL virtues and does not advance the mission of our school. Rather, it often leads to confusion, ill-will, and miscommunication within our school community.

We encourage open communication and collaboration between parents and the school. If you have any questions or concerns, we urge you to reach out to us directly through a simple phone call to our front office. Our staff is always available to listen, address any issues, and clarify any misunderstandings in a respectful and constructive manner.

Communicating with Parents with Joint Custody

The school will recognize and communicate with parents with joint custody upon written request, signed by both parents or a court order. In the case of school forms, the school encourages one of the parents to complete the forms so that the school does not receive conflicting information.

Chain of Command

The Board of Directors has established a chain of command whereby all authority for the management of the school rests with the Headmaster, and he has the sole responsibility of reporting to the Board and managing the operations of the school. It is the expectation of the Board that the Headmaster will establish a chain of command within the school to assist him with its operations.

In all communication to the school, the Board expects the CLASSICAL community to observe the chain of command and direct communication accordingly. The Board is not the first point of contact and therefore will refer communications that seek response or action to the appropriate members of the administration.

The practice of following the chain of command in communications with the school on matters concerning particular students encompasses far more than grievances. It refers to parents' communication of any kind that seeks or requires an action on the part of the school regarding their students. CLASSICAL understands that parents will have questions, opinions, and comments that need to be expressed concerning their children's education. Such communication can be very helpful to the running of the school.

1. Teacher: Such communication should be expressed initially to the teacher or teachers of the child.
2. Dean of Student Life: If further communication is warranted, the parent should consult the Dean of Student Life.
3. Dean of Lower School (or) Dean of Middle School: If further communication is warranted after speaking with the Dean of Student Life, the Dean of Lower School (or) the Dean of Middle School may be consulted.
4. Headmaster: If further communication is warranted after speaking with the Dean of Lower School (or) Dean of Middle School, the Headmaster may be consulted.
5. Board: Only then should a parent refer the matter to the Board of Directors, as needed.

The reason for this chain of command is that the teacher invariably has the most direct knowledge of the child and can usually do more to remedy or ameliorate a situation than can a member of the school leadership team or board member. We understand that some parents are "conflict averse" and do not want to bring up a potentially difficult issue with a teacher. Nonetheless, the teachers are eager to help each child in whatever way possible.

Grievance Related to the Classroom

CLASSICAL firmly believes that adults must be models of good character even in the most difficult situations. Should a parent have a grievance concerning a particular class or the administration of the school, that grievance should be resolved using the following chain of command. Issues that arise in a particular classroom should always be addressed to the teacher first since the teacher always has more direct knowledge of the student than anyone else.

1. Teacher: Parents should schedule a meeting with the teacher through the office. Under no circumstance is it ever acceptable for a parent to confront a teacher about an issue with students present, including his/her own.
2. Dean of Lower School (or) Dean of Middle School: If the grievance cannot be resolved with the teacher, the parent should discuss the matter with the Dean of Lower School (or) Dean of Middle School.
3. Dean of Faculty: If the grievance cannot be resolved with the Dean of Lower School (or) Dean of Middle School, the parent should discuss the matter with the Dean of Faculty.
4. Headmaster: If the grievance cannot be resolved with the Dean of Faculty, the parent should discuss the matter with the Headmaster.
5. Board: If the grievance cannot be resolved with the Headmaster, the parent should refer the matter to the Board, in writing.

Grievance Related to School Leadership

For grievances regarding an administrator who reports to the Headmaster, the grievance should be directed to the individual first, then to the Headmaster. If necessary, grievances left unresolved by the Headmaster should be submitted in writing to the Board. Grievances regarding the Headmaster should be directed to the individual first, then in writing to the Board.

Other Miscellaneous Policies

Student Internet & Wi-Fi Use

Students in grades K-8 at Cincinnati Classical Academy shall not have access to the internet while on school grounds and will not have the network or wireless passwords. The use of these systems is limited to faculty, staff, and approved visitors and invited speakers and presenters.

It is the policy of CLASSICAL to: (a) prevent user access over its computer network to, or transmission of, inappropriate material via Internet, electronic mail, or other forms of direct electronic communications; (b) prevent unauthorized access and other unlawful online activity; (c) prevent unauthorized online disclosure, use, or dissemination of personal identification information of minors; and (d) comply with the Children's Internet Protection Act.

Internet filters shall be used to block or filter Internet, or other forms of electronic communications, access to inappropriate information. Specifically, as required by the Children's Internet Protection Act, blocking shall be applied to visual depictions of material deemed obscene or to any material deemed harmful to minors. Subject to staff supervision, technology protection measures may be disabled for adults only for bona fide research or other lawful purposes.

Security Checks

The school may exercise its right to inspect all backpacks, packages, parcels, and closed containers entering and leaving the premises according to the following policy:

1. School lockers, desks, and property are on loan to the students and remain the property of the school. They may be inspected and reclaimed at any time.
2. Students must not keep prohibited items, including drugs, drug paraphernalia, firearms, explosives, and property belonging to others within their lockers, backpacks, or desks.
3. Students must open their lockers at the request of school officials.
4. When on school grounds, students and their personal property may be searched if a school official has grounds to believe the search may turn up evidence that the student has violated or is violating the law or school rules.

5. A student shall have the opportunity to be present during the search of his or her locker, desk, or other property unless the student is absent from school or the safety or welfare of the school or an individual necessitates a search during the student's absence.
6. The search of a student's person or intimate personal belongings shall be conducted by the Headmaster or his designee. This person should be of the same sex as the student's and conduct the search in the presence of another staff member of the same sex. However, no strip searches may be conducted by any school personnel.

This authorization to search shall also apply to all situations in which the student is under the jurisdiction of the school, e.g., on field trips or at school-sponsored athletic or extracurricular events.

Emergency Policy

The Administration maintains a stand-alone Emergency Operations Plan, which is available for reference in the school office. The Emergency Operations Plan details protocols and procedures in the event of fire, tornado, chemical spill, and active shooter.

CLASSICAL takes very seriously the safety and security of its students and employees and will be vigilant in its adherence to the protocols and procedures stipulated in our Emergency Operations Plan in order to keep our community safe.

Tornado Drills

Tornado drills are regularly scheduled to educate students in safe practices in case of an emergency. Homeroom teachers will review rules of safety and evacuation routes with students. Tornado Watch locations are posted in each classroom and common use areas of the school. The teacher or person responsible for a group of students will take class roll to determine the presence of all students who are in attendance on that day. Students and staff will return to class when the teacher is given approval by the Headmaster. Students will not be dismissed from school when there is a tornado watch or warning. During a tornado watch, students will remain inside the building, instruction will continue, and local weather will be closely monitored by the administration. During a tornado warning, all students and staff members will remain in the building. Everyone will take shelter in designated areas and will follow outlined safety protocols. Students may be detained beyond the usual dismissal time. Parents who have come to the school to pick up students are encouraged to stay at school until the tornado warning has passed and safe conditions prevail.

Fire Evacuation Drills

Fire drills are regularly scheduled to educate students in safe practices in case of an emergency. The homeroom teacher will review rules of safety and evacuation routes with

students. Evacuation routes are posted in each classroom and common use areas of the school. The teacher will take class roll to determine the presence of all students who are in attendance that day. Students and staff will return to class when the teacher is given approval by the Headmaster.

Lockdown Drills

The State of Ohio has mandated that schools practice two lockdown drills per year. We will follow this mandate just as we do for Fire Drills and Tornado Drills. These drills will be conducted in coordination with the local emergency management coordinator and police department.

Emergency Closing During the School Day

In the event of severe weather or other unexpected emergency, CLASSICAL may be forced to dismiss students early. The school will make use of the One-Call automated robocall system to reach parents/guardians.

Facility Use

The Headmaster will be the approving authority for all outside uses of the school fields, building, and facilities. All users will be required to carry insurance and appoint a representative acceptable to the administration who is capable of executing the school's emergency and security procedures. Unauthorized use of any school facility is strictly prohibited.

Parent Service Organization

Cincinnati Classical Academy's Headmaster has established the CLASSICAL Parent Service Organization (PSO) to support the school's mission. PSO teams and activities will be designed to help the school flourish in and beyond the classroom. Largely, the PSO consists in a series of task-oriented teams whose purpose is to marshal parent volunteerism in achieving defined goals that improve the life of the school. The mission of the PSO is to assist the Headmaster in carrying out the mission of the school.

All parents, adult family members, teachers, staff, and community members are encouraged to volunteer on a team and attend regular meetings. CSPO meetings are an excellent opportunity to obtain information and engage in discussions about the school. The PSO may serve as a fundraising arm of the school, but it will not be a stand-alone, tax exempt, non-profit organization. CLASSICAL is itself a non-profit organization with 501(c)3 status.

The Headmaster reserves the right to create, remove, or dissolve PSO teams and leadership in accordance with immediate priorities and the long-term flourishing of the school.

Bus Policy

Although CLASSICAL cannot provide its own busing service for our students, busing is sometimes available from the school district in which the student resides. By Ohio state law, the local school district is legally obligated to provide transportation for students attending a public community school if the school is within a 30-minute drive.

If you are seeking busing for your children, you must file a formal request, most often a Transportation Request form, located on the school district's transportation webpage. Links to most of those webpages and forms are located on our website on the "Bus Transportation" page for your convenience. Please note that if your local school district is unable to provide transportation, it may provide an "in lieu" stipend.

Our website also provides a link to the Ohio Department of Education's transportation webpage. It will direct you to the State's Rules and Regulations regarding transportation. Our advice is to read the document to help understand everything regarding your child's transportation. Then, fill out the necessary forms for your district and email/mail them to your school district's Transportation Department, whichever they prefer.

In order to complete transportation forms, you will need to know the following information:

School hours (Siebenthaler): 8:15 AM - 3:15 PM

School hours (Vine): 7:55 AM - 2:55 PM

School IRN Number: 019530

Governance & Management

Board of Directors

Cincinnati Classical Academy is a non-profit corporation, recognized as a 501(c)3 organization by the Internal Revenue Service. The corporation is governed by its Board of Directors. The Board operates in accordance with its bylaws and using the principles of policy governance.

Board Responsibilities and Obligations

The Board is the governing body of the school and is responsible for overseeing the effective, faithful execution of the CLASSICAL mission. The Founding Board created Cincinnati Classical Academy with the specific intention to be a Hillsdale College K-12 Member School and to implement a traditional, classical, liberal-arts education guided by the following 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

The Board oversees budgeting and spending, community outreach, charter fidelity, compliance with applicable laws and regulations, and development to support the program.

More specific responsibilities of the Board include, but are not limited to:

Advocacy

- Serving as ambassadors for CLASSICAL by clearly protecting and articulating the school's mission and goals and by garnering support of the community

School Leader Support

- Providing input and feedback to the Headmaster on campus-specific issues and concerns (e.g., school culture, discipline policy, student recruitment, etc.)
- Supporting the Headmaster by ensuring that he has the moral and professional support necessary to further the goals of the school

Fiscal Accountability

- Participating in the budgeting process each year, providing advice and feedback to the Headmaster
- Monitoring the management of financial resources by approving the annual budget and ensuring that proper financial controls are in place
- Financial reporting of the Treasurer to the Board as required in the by-laws to ensure the Board is “hands-on” as it relates to fiscal controls and responsibility

Development/ Fundraising

- Assuring there are adequate resources for the school to fulfill its mission by raising funds

Compliance

- Monitoring and ensuring compliance with the Ohio Department of Education regulatory statutes and other local, state, and federal laws by regularly reviewing school policies, programs, and practices
- Reviewing school data against charter and charter goals to ensure compliance with the vision, strategies, and objectives identified herein

Other

- Serving as a source for appeals for parent and staff grievances that are unable to be resolved by the Headmaster
- Actively recruiting new Board members

In summary, the Board is accountable for the academic, financial, legal, and operational performance of the school. The Board places significant practical responsibility for implementing its policies with the Headmaster, but the Board remains accountable.

Open Meetings Act

The Board will adhere to the Ohio Open Meetings Act. The Board will:

- Establish a set schedule of meetings
- Post meeting dates on the school website (www.cincyclassical.org/board-meetings)
- For special meetings, provide 24-hour notice in a conspicuous location and to all media organizations who have requested it
- For emergency meetings, provide notice to all media organizations who have requested it immediately after calling the meeting to order, including the time, place, and a description of the purpose of the meeting; and
- Keep minutes of all Board Meetings, including members present, description of motions or proposals, and record of votes.

Community Comments at Public Meetings

The Board welcomes public comments at each Board meeting. Community comments are limited to two minutes each. To ensure the accurate representation of the comments in the Board's meeting minutes and to ensure that the Board can accurately address the issues presented, it is requested that these comments also be submitted in writing.

If a non-Board member wishes to make a comment, he or she should sign the circulated public comment sheet to indicate a desire to speak. Comments must be relevant and may not reflect information about a specific student, faculty member, or a personally-identifying situation. Such interjections will be recognized at the discretion of the Board Chair (or designee).

Executive Session

The Board Chair shall permit Executive Sessions for meetings when discussing or deliberating upon the appointment, employment, compensation, hiring, disciplinary action or dismissal, or periodic evaluation or rating of an employee or interviewing applicants for a position of employment, or for other purposes as allowed by Ohio law.

Freedom of Information

The Board shall be subject to Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)/Open Records Act of Ohio requirements.

Policy Making

The Board shall operate according to the policy governance model. The Board shall be responsible for adopting, repealing, or amending governance policies for Cincinnati Classical Academy. The

Headmaster shall be responsible for reasonably interpreting those policies and executing them, subject to the Board's evaluation. The Headmaster shall be responsible for maintaining all school-level operating procedures, policies, and manuals.

Communication to the Board

The role of the Board is to oversee the school but *not* to manage its daily affairs, so the Board will generally defer to the Headmaster to address questions, complaints, and grievances brought to the attention of school leadership. Furthermore, while the Board possesses overall control of the school, the Board's collective authority is not held by individual Board Directors acting alone. The Board does, however, recognize that accountability and good governance sometimes require that communication be brought to the Board directly. In such cases, the Board directs that the communication be submitted in writing to both the Board President and the Board Secretary. Such communication can be addressed accordingly and delivered to the school. Communication can also be provided verbally during the public comment period at a regular meeting of the Board (see above).

The Board kindly requests that members of the CLASSICAL community refrain from approaching individual Board Directors with concerns or grievances that should be brought to a specific teacher, the Headmaster, or the whole Board. The Board welcomes comments, input, and interaction from the community, but will support CLASSICAL's chain of command (see above). Individual Board members will not act in a governing capacity when communicating with faculty, staff, or parents outside of Board meetings, but rather will act only collectively as a governing body according to Board by-laws and policies, communicating with a single voice to the Headmaster.

Any communication to the Board should follow the Grievance Policy detailed below.

Role of the Headmaster

The Headmaster will implement a traditional, classical, liberal-arts curriculum. The Headmaster makes final decisions on curriculum, subject to the approval of the Board of Directors. The Headmaster, while chiefly the academic leader, is also responsible for the discipline, moral culture, operations, and financial priorities of the school.

Privacy

Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords parents certain rights with respect to a student's education records. These rights include the following:

- The right to inspect and review the student’s education records within 45 days of the day the school receiving the request for access. Parents or legal guardians should submit to the Headmaster a written request that identifies the record(s) they wish to inspect. The Headmaster will make arrangements for access and notify the parent or eligible student of the time and place where the records may be inspected.
- The right to request the amendment of the student’s education records that the parent or legal guardian believes are inaccurate or misleading. They should write the Headmaster or appropriate official, clearly identify the part of the record they want changed, and specify why it is inaccurate or misleading. If the school decides not to amend the record as requested by the parent or eligible student, the school will notify the parents of the decision and advise them of their right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the parent or eligible student when notified of the right to a hearing.
- The right to consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the student’s education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent. One exception, which permits disclosure without consent, is disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational interests. A school official is a person employed by the school as an administrator, supervisor, instructor, or support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel); a person serving on the school Board; a person or company with whom the school has contracted to perform a special task (such as an attorney, auditor, medical consultant, or therapist); or a parent or student serving on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee, or assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks. A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility. Upon request, the school discloses education records without consent to officials of another school district in which a student seeks or intends to enroll.
- The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the school to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the Office that administers FERPA are: Family Policy Compliance Office, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20202-4605

Student Information

Students’ names, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, weight and height of members of athletic teams, dates of attendance, awards received, and other similar information may be released without parental consent unless the parent notifies the school.

Classroom activities and events sponsored by the school occasionally are photographed or video-taped for use by the school, by the media, or by other organizations operating with approval from

the Headmaster. Photos and videos help the school to share information within the school community and our mission beyond our immediate community. We request that all parents sign the CLASSICAL photo/video release waiver included with CLASSICAL enrollment paperwork, but respect the rights of parents who do not wish for photos and videos of their students to be shared.

Student names will not be listed alongside their pictures on the school website or in CLASSICAL advertising publications. However, student names may be used in newsletters, yearbooks, and on social media when recognizing the student for honors and awards.

Parent Acknowledgment

I, _____ (printed name of parent), do hereby recognize receipt and review of the *Cincinnati Classical Academy Family Handbook, 2024-25*. As a parent of a child enrolled in CLASSICAL, I agree to abide by these terms and support the mission and operations of the school.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Honor Code

A CLASSICAL student is honest in word and deed, dutiful in study and service, and respectful and kind to others. A CLASSICAL student aspires to excellence in gratitude, humility, compassion, perseverance, courage, justice, and prudence.

Parent Pledge

I have carefully discussed the CLASSICAL Honor Code with my child and he or she understands what it means. I pledge to encourage my child to be honest in word and deed, dutiful in study and service, and respectful and kind to others. I will help my child aspire to excellence in prudence, justice, perseverance, humility, courage, and compassion.

Name(s):

Signature(s):

Date: _____

Student Pledge—To be signed by all students in grades 5 and up

I understand the CLASSICAL Honor Code and have discussed it with my parent(s). I pledge to be respectful, responsible, and honest. I pledge to seek to know the truth, to do the good, and to love the beautiful.

Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

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- ! Good personal hygiene is required at all times. This includes wearing neat, clean clothing. Clothes may not be ripped or torn.
- ! Students in grades 5-8 will change into their P.E. uniform for P.E. class. A CLASSICAL T-shirt and CLASSICAL gym shorts, available from Shaheen's, are required; CLASSICAL sweatpants are optional.
- ! Students may wear their own outerwear (coats, sweaters, vests) to school and on the playground. If a student is cold in the classroom, he or she should wear one of the long-sleeve uniform items or the uniform sweater.
- ! All students must be in uniform at all times. No other clothing other than uniform tops and bottoms is permitted. No outside tops, jeans, or bottoms are permitted in the building.
- ! All shirts must be tucked in.
- ! Skirts and shorts shall fall no higher than three fingertips (approximately two inches) above the knee as measured when the student is standing.
- ! Solid navy leggings or tights may be worn underneath skirts or jumpers but must be ankle-length or footed. Leggings are not to be worn without other bottoms on top.
- ! Girls may wear gym shorts or compression shorts underneath their skirt, so long as these are not visible when the student is standing.
- ! Students may use any backpack as long as it meets the following requirements: no wheels, no pop culture advertisements or references, and no slogans.
- ! Hair must be clean and neat. Only natural colors are allowed. No unusual or radical hairstyles are permitted. Hair accessories must be uniform colors (options available from Shaheen's). Boys' hair should not come lower than the eyebrows in the front or lower than the top of shoulders in the back. No facial hair is allowed.
- ! All girls and boys' polo shirts may have the top button buttoned. All other buttons must be buttoned.
- ! Modest jewelry is allowed. An object that has a purpose other than jewelry may not be worn as jewelry (e.g., chains or collars). Students may wear no more than two necklaces at a time. Necklaces must be worn in a manner that does not disrupt the learning environment or pose a safety risk to the wearer or others (e.g., chokers). All necklaces must be tucked into the student's shirt or clothing. Exceptions to this policy may be made for medical or religious reasons. Students or parents/guardians seeking an exception must submit a written request to the Dean of Student Life for review.
- ! Girls are permitted a maximum of two earrings per ear on the earlobe, and earrings must not be larger than a quarter. No stretched piercings (gauge) or holes may be visible.
- ! Boys are not permitted to wear earrings.
- ! Tattoos must be covered at all times. Temporary tattoos that are visible on the body or face are not permitted.
- ! Makeup (including lipstick and lip gloss) and nail polish must look natural. Colors such as black, red, yellow, orange, blue, green, rainbow, etc., are not acceptable. Makeup in grades K-4 is not permitted.

- ! Hats and sunglasses are not to be worn in the building. Hats include visors and bandanas. Religious headgear is permitted when worn for religious purposes.
- ! Non-marking tennis shoes are required for P.E. class and/or sports in the gym.
- ! Shoes, socks, and shoelaces should be one of the following colors: white, black, brown, or grey. Shoes must be closed-toed, closed-heeled athletic or dress shoes; we recommend wearing a comfortable shoe that can be worn in the classroom, in gym class, and outdoors at recess.
- ! The following footwear is NOT permitted: boots, sandals, moccasins, Crocs, and slippers.
- ! The use of perfumes, oils, and body sprays by students should not inhibit the learning environment, and smells should not be detectable in the course of a normal school routine. Smells of this nature that saturate a room often cause headaches, exacerbate allergies, and cause a disruption to the learning environment. Should this occur, students will be excused to the front office to call home.
- ! The chewing of gum is not permitted on school property.
- ! Should a student require reasonable uniform alterations based on religion, disability, or medical condition, please contact the Dean of Student Life. Please know that we will provide accommodations for these students.
- ! All school-sponsored events that occur during the school day, including field trips, are subject to school uniform policy unless parents are otherwise informed.
- ! All Fridays throughout the year are designated as “Spirit Wear Days.” On these days, students are permitted to wear Spirit Wear as tops. This includes CLASSICAL T-shirts, sweatshirts, hoodies, fleece pullovers, and quarter zips. Outerwear, including full-zip jackets are not permitted to be worn during the course of the day. (Outerwear may be worn to and from school and on the playground.) Students must wear uniform bottoms on Spirit Wear Days.
- ! Water bottles must be securely sealed, hold no more than 24 liquid ounces, and may ONLY contain water. Water bottles may not be re-filled during classroom instruction. Teachers have discretion in determining classroom use. Students are not permitted to share water bottles due to hygiene and other safety risks.

Discipline and Student Formation

Virtues and General Expectations for Behavior

At Cincinnati Classical Academy we seek virtue in all its forms, and we focus specifically on the classical virtues of gratitude, humility, compassion, perseverance, courage, justice, and prudence. We hope that regular recurrence to these virtues in our learning, social interactions, and discipline will help students learn self-governance and strive toward excellence in all areas of life.

The emphasis on virtue at Cincinnati Classical Academy is not primarily intended as a discipline policy: we aspire to excellence for its own sake because it is good and because we are made better as we aspire to it. We have bound our commitment to virtue into an Honor Code that we ask our families and students to sign as a common pledge.