

The Classical Academy 060-252 High School Profile 2024-25

975 Stout Road, Colorado Springs, CO 80921 719.484.0091

[TCA Connections Webpage](#)

[Course Catalog](#)

Principal

Sean Shields

Director, College & Career

Joanna Peters, tcacollege@asd20.org

Assistant Principals

Gary Arrasmith, Justin Carpenter

Advisor, College & Career

Katina Dahl, kdahl@asd20.org

College Visits: tcavisits@asd20.org

Secondary Educational Philosophy

Blake Galvin bgalvin@asd20.org

SCHOOL DISTRICT AND COMMUNITY CHARACTERISTICS

Colorado Springs is a thriving community with information and technology, military, tourism, and space technology ranking as the key industries within the economy. According to US World News in a recent 2024 study ranked Colorado Springs as third-best place to live in the United States. Colorado Springs' population is about 491,000. ASD20 utilizes a K-5, 6-8, and 9-12 grade level configurations. The Classical Academy's **traditional divisions are K-6, 7-8, and 9-12.**; other campus options include home school student (part-time) K-6; College Pathways 7-12.

History: The Classical Academy was founded in 1997. Our first class graduated in 2004. TCA is ranked by [US News and World Report](#) #465 nationally, #1 school in District 20, and #9 school in the state of Colorado with an overall score of 97.37/100. Our \$39.5 million bond issue is the largest public financing for any single charter school in the United States. Named "Accredited with Distinction" status by Colorado Department of Education. TCA exceeds CDE performance indicators in postsecondary workforce readiness and academic achievement.

Mission Statement: The Classical Academy exists to assist parents in their mission to develop exemplary citizens, equipped with analytical thinking skills, virtuous character, and a passion for learning, all built upon a solid foundation of knowledge.

Motto: Excellence with Honor

Instructional Program Overview:

Instruction emphasizes the logic and rhetoric stages of the Classical Trivium, while still addressing the content required to build the grammar basis of each subject. Teachers utilize Socratic questioning in a seminar format. Opportunities for real-life and hands-on experiences are incorporated as well. In subjects other than Math and Foreign Languages, the use of primary source documents, classical works, and materials written by experts in their fields are emphasized; textbooks are used for review and recall of basic information. Teachers guide and facilitate learning not only in the objectives of the subject matter, but also in the big ideas that encompass the subject matter. By integration and direct teaching, teachers emphasize virtuous character traits so that students have a foundation from which to make good life decisions.

Student Assessment and Grading:

TCA uses a conventional grading system, although non-graded activities and character-building opportunities are important as well.

Family/Community Involvement

Parent volunteering is expected and vital to the operation of the school. Students are also required to participate in several community service opportunities throughout their high school years.

Membership: CCHS/CR, CSCA, Core Knowledge Foundation, Spalding Certified School, CHSAA, NACAC, RMACAC, NCDA.

Accreditation: Accreditation by Colorado Dept. of Education.

2024-25 Enrollment: Traditional High School: 624
Free/Reduced Lunch: 10.8%

Enrollment K-12 Wait List as of 8.27.24: 7,164

Class Rank: It is the policy of The Classical Academy not to rank our students. We believe the highly competitive nature of our school outweighs the benefits of ranking students.

TCA-specific GPA Policies: Outside courses not approved for meeting prerequisites or moving ahead in a sequence. Course work outside of TCA is not included in our GPA, but grades earned are listed on the transcript. Coursework can be retaken. Initial taking receives P/F and no credit. Retake receives the actual letter grade earned and credit (if class is passed). Only courses taken during 9-12 grades are included on the transcript. Many junior high students do take high school courses and subsequently move to the next level in high school.

Extracurricular Activities: NHS and other student clubs; student government, athletics, community service, pep band, marching band, debate, and theatre.

Class size: Average class size is approximately 20 students.

Traditional Enrollment:

Class of 2025 – 128 Class of 2026 – 127

Class of 2027 – 170 Class of 2028 - 199

Graduation Requirements: All students enroll in a college prep curriculum. Students must complete 48 credits (1 course for 1 sem.). And must meet [CO Grad Guidelines](#).

English	8	Foreign Language	6
Science	6	Rhetoric	2
Math	6	Fine Arts**	2
Social Sciences	7	Electives	7
Health/Wellness	1	PE	3
Classical Foundations/Latin*		Computer Science*	

*All students take Classical Foundations & Computer in 7th and 8th.

** Art/Music Appreciation. plus one sem. fine art, or

4-yr. band, or jr/sr yrs choir, or Art I-IV.

40 hours of Community Service & 4 (350 word) reflection papers required.

AP Courses: Available to all students who have completed the prerequisites. Typically, only one-two class periods of each AP and/or Honors course are scheduled each year. In AP courses, students will receive one (1) extra grade point per credit for that course. In Honors courses, students will receive one-half (1/2) extra grade point per credit for that course. The extra point(s) will be calculated with all other course grades as above and reported on a four (4) point scale. All AP students take the AP exam.

Biology, AP Calculus AB, Calculus BC, Chemistry, English Literature, European History, US Government, Physics C-Mechanics, Psychology, US History, Statistics

College-bound breakdown Class of 2025

4yr: __% 2yr: __%

Total Number of Graduates to date: 2,285

Admissions Representatives: Please contact Joanna Peters, Director, tcacollege@asd20.org for any questions regarding course offerings, grade distribution chart, graduation requirements, rigor, or history of TCA Secondary.

Grading Scale		Honors Scale:		AP Scale:	
A 4.0	C 2.0	A 4.5	C 2.5	A 5.0	C 3.0
A- 3.7	C- 1.7	A- 4.2	C- 2.2	A- 4.7	C- 2.7
9B+ 3.3	D+ 1.3	B+ 3.8	D+ 1.8	B+ 4.3	D+ 2.3
B 3.0	D 1.0	B 3.5	D 1.5	B 4.0	D 2.0
B- 2.7	D- .7	B- 3.2	D- 1.2	B- 3.7	D- 1.7
C+ 2.3	F 0	C+ 2.8	F 0	C+ 3.3	F 0

Grade Distribution Chart		
Class of 2025--EOY 2024		
Cum GPA	%of class w/in cum. letter grade	
A 4.0 and above	21%	
A- 3.7-3.999	18%	
B+ 3.3-3.699	24%	
B 3.0-3.299	13%	
B- 2.7-2.999	11%	
C+ and below	12%	

THE CLASSICAL ACADEMY HIGH SCHOOL COURSE OFFERINGS

All Colorado High School Graduates must also demonstrate proficiency in Reading, Writing, Communicating and Math. [Menu of Options](#).

All courses, unless stated otherwise (*=semester), are two-semester courses. ^Prerequisites, applications or auditions are required for this course.

Intermittent (∞) courses—offering of a course may change yearly; course would still report on a transcript.

DEPARTMENT	REQUIRED	ADVANCED PLACEMENT	ELECTIVES
ENGLISH	9: Classics and Comp I, or Honors C&C 10: Classics and Comp. II, or Honors C&C II 11: Amer. Lit. & Comp. or Honors Amer. Lit. & Comp. or Honors American Studies: English^ 12: World Lit or Artes Liberales Rhetoric	AP English Literature	Speech/Debate*; Myths, Legends, Fairy Tales*; One Book, One Semester∞, Literary Magazine∞
MATH	(3 years in HS; Alg I and above) Algebra I Geometry^ Algebra II^ Pre-Calculus^ Functions, Statistics, and Trigonometry^ Advanced & Quantitative Reasoning	AP Calculus A/B^ AP Calculus B/C^ AP Statistics ^	Math Lab-Algebra 1 Math Lab- Algebra 2
NATURAL/ PHYSICAL SCIENCES	(3 years in HS required; 2 years must be lab-based) Biology or Honors Bio. (lab-based) Chemistry^ or Honors Chem. (lab-based) Physics^ (lab-based) Earth Science (lab-based) Environmental Science (lab-based) Anatomy and Physiology (lab-based)	AP Biology^ AP Chemistry ^ AP Physics 2^∞ AP Physics C: Mechanics^∞	Astronomy*
SOCIAL SCIENCES	World Hist./Geog. 9* or Honors World Hist World Hist./Geog. 10 US History/Geog. Or Honors American Studies: History^ Civics /Amer. Gov.	AP European History AP US History AP American Gov't.	Ancient Military History (Military History A*) Modern Military History*∞ World Religions*∞
LANGUAGE	<u>Required:</u> Latin I - Can be fulfilled with Classical Foundations in 7 th and 8 th grade (or Latin I in HS) <u>Required:</u> Level III in one language Spanish, or Latin (I, II^, III^, IV^) Pre-AP Spanish III^, French (I, II^, III^, IV^)		
THE ARTS	<u>Required:</u> Art/Music Appreciation* Plus <u>Required:</u> one credit Arts elective Students who successfully complete upper-level choirs in the junior AND senior year or successfully completes four years in high school band or complete Art I, II, III, and Art IV fulfill the Art/Music Appreciation requirement.		Bands^: Wind, Symphonic & Percussion; Choirs^: Cantemus Festival Choir, Corda Musica Women's Ensemble, Cantatores Concert Choir, Jubilate Mixed Choir, or Concordia Chamber Choir; Intro to Theatre*; Begin Acting*^; Adv. Acting*^; Art I, II^, III^, IV^
PRODUCTION/ TECHNICAL	<u>Required:</u> Computer Applications* - Can be fulfilled with Computer Science in 7 th and 8 th grade or 83% score on Comp Apps final		Digital Photography*∞; Advanced Digital Photography*^∞; Personal Finance*, Intro to Computer Science*∞, Language Programming∞, Robotics*∞; Yearbook^; Intro. To Yearbook*^ Web Programming*∞
PHYSICAL ED.	Personal Fitness Development 9* Health and Wellness Plus <u>Required:</u> one P.E. credit		Weights & Conditioning* Aerobics & Wellness*
GENERAL		AP Psychology	Critical Thinking*; Psychology*; Intro to Business*∞; Sports Business* ∞; Health & Wellness*; Study Skills; Senior Assistant*^, Partial Absence (no credit); Study Hall (no credit)