

**THE CLASSICAL ACADEMY
JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL**

975 Stout Road
Colorado Springs, CO 80921
2026-2027

as of August 1, 2026

Administration:

Dr. Robert Thomason, TCA President
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Hugh DiPretore, Principal
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Blake Galvin, Dean of Secondary Educational Philosophy

Approved by the Board of Directors

The Classical Academy Junior High School Course Catalog

The Classical Academy (TCA) Junior High School Course Catalog lists all current courses as approved by the TCA Board of Directors.

English Courses

7 English (Year course)

In 7th grade English, students will strengthen their analysis and discussion skills while exploring many classic poems, short stories, and other works of literature. They will also strengthen their ability to support their opinions with evidence from great texts. Additionally, students will strengthen their ability to respond in writing to prompts related to the covered texts. Grammar and vocabulary will also be incorporated in these written responses.

8 English (Year course)

The 8th grade English course provides opportunities for students to develop the skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Socratic seminars and poetry recitations allow students to hone their communication skills in the classroom setting. Students will interpret and analyze literature including short stories, poetry, novels, and drama. While utilizing research and writing processes, students will produce multi-paragraph essays. This course encourages students to think independently, solve problems, master oral and written communication skills, and utilize correct grammar and punctuation on all written products.

8 English E (Year course)

The 8th grade Enriched English course provides opportunities for students to develop the skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Socratic seminars and poetry recitations allow students to hone their communication skills in the classroom setting. Students will interpret and analyze literature including short stories, poetry, novels, and drama and participate in in-depth class discussion that focuses on developing theme. While utilizing research and writing processes, students will produce multi-paragraph essays and paragraph creating thesis statements with support. This course encourages students to think independently, solve problems, master oral and written communication skills, and utilize correct grammar and punctuation on all written products.

Math Courses

Pre-Algebra (Year course)

Pre-Algebra introduces and continues work with integers, rational numbers, and exponents. Students learn to solve basic equations and inequalities. Ratios, rates, proportions, and percentages are emphasized. Students gain knowledge of the basic properties of functions, specifically with linear functions. Data is analyzed and probability calculated. Other topics include angle measures, area of simple 2D figures, congruent and similar figures, surface areas of prisms and cylinders, and volume of prisms, cylinders, pyramids, and cones. Finally, students study transformations, specifically translations, reflections, and rotations.

Algebra 1A – Grade(s): 8 (Year course)

Algebra 1A is the first semester of the Algebra 1 course taught over the entire year. When paired with Algebra 1B, the two courses are equivalent to Algebra 1. It is meant for students who struggled with math in the past. Algebra 1A focuses on order of operations, solving single variable equations and inequalities using a variety of methods, an introduction to functions, linear equations and their graphs, and solving systems of equations and inequalities.

Algebra I – Grade(s): 7-8 (Year course)

Algebra I completes the teaching of multiplication, division, subtraction, and addition of decimals, fractions, and integers, and the simplification and solution of equations and story problems. Percentages, fractions, decimals and their inter-conversion and use in everyday problems are especially stressed. Other topics include: area and perimeter, rate problems, unit conversions, simple substitution, work with variables, graphing, and solving equations. Students will also be taught the different algebraic properties to simplify single variable equations, and do extensive work with linear equations, factoring, and quadratic equation.

Geometry- Grade(s): 8 (Year course)

Geometry provides the student with an introduction to measurement, comparison, and logical proofs within the context of two-dimensional (planar) figures. Students also learn the basic techniques of geometric construction and how to apply their newly acquired skills to real-life applications. Beginning with the fundamental concepts of points, lines, and planes, the course in geometry proceeds through increasingly complex geometric figures (triangles, quadrilaterals, polygons), introduces the student to applications of trigonometry, and finishes with an introduction to surface area and volume of simple three-dimensional figures (prisms, cylinders, spheres, etc.).

Science Courses**Science 7 (Year course)**

7th grade science aims to build a solid foundation of scientific knowledge. Students examine a comprehensive unit on scientific process that includes the art of argument (claim-evidence reasoning model), the steps of the scientific method (inductive logic), and the metric system which includes learning how to measure metric units with various equipment (triple beam balances, graduated cylinders, thermometers, and rulers). The scientific method focuses on how to solve problems by following a plan. The scientific method is imbedded in the majority of content units. Content units include the following: (1) *Earth Science*: Geology and Geologic Time; (2) *Life Science*: Cells, Cell Division, Cell Theory, and Genetics; (3) *Life Science*: Evolution through Natural Selection (Microevolution).

Science 8 (Year course)

The 8th grade science curriculum includes an introduction to classical physics, as well as studies in meteorology and life science. The physics classwork begins the year with studies of matter, motion, force, work, and energy. The second half of the physics study includes waves, such as sound and light, then a final unit on electricity and magnetism. The meteorology unit includes levels of the atmosphere, weather and climate, and a review of the solar system. The life systems unit is a review of taxonomy, study of DNA, and a review of plant and animal cells. Included in the unit are the body systems such as skeletal and muscular, and the unit culminates in a fetal pig dissection. In each of these units, students move from a foundation of basic content to hands-on application through labs and various class activities applying the principles learned. Questioning and critical thinking are critical to a well-rounded science education.

Social Science Courses

7 History (Year course)

U.S, 20th Century begins with the end of the Gilded Age and the beginning of the Progressive Era, as well as World War I, the Roaring Twenties, the Great Depression, World War II, the Cold War, conflicts in Korea and Vietnam, and the decades of the 50s -90s. Also included is a unit specifically on European Geography, as well as current events integrated throughout the year.

8 History (Year course)

Students will take two courses, one each semester – World History includes the culture (i.e. art, literature, religion, and philosophy), as well as the history, and geography of Ancient Civilizations in Mesopotamia, Egypt, India, China, and Persia. World Geography and American Civics provides an overview of the geography, culture, and politics of each continent. In addition, it gives an in-depth look at the principles and creeds of American republican government, including the Declaration of Independence, the Articles of Confederation, The Constitution, and the Bill of Rights. The semester culminates in learning what it takes to become a citizen of the United States of America.

8 History E (Year course)

Students will take two courses, one each semester – World History includes the culture (i.e. art, literature, religion, and philosophy), as well as the history, and geography of Ancient Civilizations in Mesopotamia, Egypt, India, China, and Persia. World Geography and American Civics provides an overview of the geography, culture, and politics of each continent. In addition, it gives an in-depth look at the principles and creeds of American republican government, including the Declaration of Independence, the Articles of Confederation, The Constitution, and the Bill of Rights. The semester culminates in learning what it takes to become a citizen of the United States of America. For the enriched course, there are deeper level discussions that spend more time at the rhetoric level.

Classical Foundations

Classical Foundations is a two-year class meeting every other day that will give students a Latin 1 equivalent over the course of 7th and 8th grades. Students who successfully complete both 7th and 8th grade portions will be eligible to test into Latin 2 in high school.

Classics A – Grade 7 (Year course)

Classics A is the first half of Latin 1, using Unit 1 of the *Cambridge Latin Course*. Unit 1 covers

basic parts of speech; verbs in the present, imperfect, and perfect tenses; nouns in the Nominative, Dative, and Accusative cases; pronouns; and question words.

Classics B – Grade 8 (Year course)

Classics B is the second half of Latin 1, using Unit 2 of the *Cambridge Latin Course*. Unit 2 covers verb conjugations; nouns in the Genitive case; noun-adjective agreement; the pluperfect tense; and noun declensions.

Fine Arts Courses

7 Art (Year course)

7th Grade Art is designed to allow each student the opportunity to explore a variety of techniques and mediums. We cover art history from the Impressionists thru the Abstract Expressionist artists creating art works on a select group. The students are not only inspired by the works we study but they also incorporate the elements of art and design into their work. Critiques and a Socratic approach are used to help the students discuss art and dive more deeply into asking questions about the pieces they study and the works they create. Projects are both 2-D and 3-D at this level. 7 Art meets every other day.

8 Art (Year course)

8th Grade Art emphasizes Art history from the Core Knowledge curriculum as well as work ethics. Students study art works from the 20th Century American Painters, Sculptors and Architects. They spend a longer period of time on each piece of work creating fewer and larger pieces of work than in 7th grade. They are expected to have a more in-depth understanding of how to critique art works noticing the elements of art and design. Students will have a greater sense of freedom in choosing subject matter and materials in this course, furthering their own creative style. 8 Art meets every other day.

Overview of Junior High Bands

In both levels of junior high band, students are instructed in the fundamentals of music with an emphasis in character development. We develop diligence, perseverance, teamwork, and a commitment to excellence through individual practice, sectionals, and full band rehearsals. Emphasis is placed on establishing good technique, general musicianship, sight reading, aural skills and analytical skills in music theory. Students learn to communicate musically, responding to both aural and visual cues while gaining an understanding of idiomatic band

literature through a varied repertoire. A method book of songs and exercises is used at each level to introduce and reinforce fundamental concepts, as well as performance benchmarks allowing students to pursue and demonstrate growth on their instrument. Each year, students travel to an off-site festival for performance in addition to performing in 3-5 school performances. Fees are used to offset a portion of the costs associated with festival registration, method books, instrument acquisition and repair, music acquisition, and transportation. Other expenses may arise through the year, but are on a case-by-case basis (i.e. private lessons, individual instrument purchase, etc.). See the Director(s) with questions/concerns.

Beginning Band (Year Course)

Comprised of novice instrumentalists, students in beginning band learn the fundamentals of playing a band instrument alone and with others. Students meet in like-instrument classes every day to study instrument assembly and care, characteristic tone production, basic rhythms, note reading, scales, and other foundational music theory topics. The Beginning Band has four mandatory performances each year, including one off-site festival in the spring. Students are required to submit a weekly, parent-signed practice log with a minimum of 60 minutes.

Concert Band (Year Course)

The Concert Bands at TCA are comprised of junior high student instrumentalists with one or more years of experience on their instrument. In this course, students meet as a full band every day to reinforce and build upon the fundamentals learned in Beginning Band, while placing more emphasis on topics such as large ensemble listening techniques, greater independence and complexity of parts, intonation, and expanding range. Students also take part in a small ensemble unit, as well as a 9-day drama rotation. The Concert Bands have 5-6 mandatory performances each year, including one off-site festival in the spring. Students are required to submit a weekly, parent-signed practice log with a minimum of 60 minutes.

Overview of Junior High Choirs

Junior High Choir students are instructed in the fundamentals of music with an emphasis in character development. We strive to develop diligence, perseverance, teamwork, and a commitment to excellence. General musicianship is emphasized in both 7th and 8th grade. This includes, but is not limited to: general music theory, ear training, and sight singing. Students learn to sing harmonically and communicate through song while gaining a better understanding of musical interpretation through a varied repertoire. Vocal exercises are used to help students develop good vocal technique. The classes are divided by gender in order to better address the changing male and female voices. They will perform together during concerts with some opportunity to also perform pieces that are all girls and/or all boys.

7 Choir/7 Study Hall (Choir) (Year Course)

Students in this choir learn the fundamentals of singing at the Junior High level. They will work on intonation, tone, range, breath, note reading, rhythm reading, solfegge training and other foundational music theory skills. Within each class they will be split by voice to help give more individualized attention to parts and voices as they begin to change. 7th Grade Choir has two mandatory performances during the year. Performance dress requirement is concert black. Details can be found on the TCA 7th and 8th grade websites. Students will have a study hall two to three days per week.

8 Choir/8 Study Hall (Choir) (Year Course)

This choir is comprised of 8th grade boys and girls. Students continue with their development from 7th grade choir building on their music education in areas of intonation, tone, range, breath, note reading, rhythm reading, solfegge training and other foundational music theory skills. Within each class, they will be split by voice range to help give more individualized attention to parts and voices as they continue to change. 8th Grade Choir has two mandatory performances during the year. Performance dress requirement is concert black. Details can be found on the TCA 7th and 8th grade websites. Students will have a study hall two to three days per week.

Computer Courses

7 Digital Literacy and Communication (Year Course)

In this course students will learn how to operate a computer both effectively and responsibly. The first wave of curriculum focuses on the basic uses and functions for parts of the Microsoft Office Suite, including Excel, PowerPoint, Word, and Publisher, and Windows fundamentals, such as creating and maintaining files and folders, accessing programs, and internet usage. Students are encouraged to use these programs to explore, create, and discover.

The second wave of curriculum is directed at helping students learn how to use computers safely and how to utilize technology to solve problems. Students will be taught how to access support websites for programs and how to search for answers to technological challenges, while also avoiding unsafe websites and online dangers. These dangers include cyber bullying, unsafe content, and appropriate behavior online.

During the course, the student will use Naviance to complete various College and Career Planning activities to create an Individualized Career and Academic Plan (ICAP). 7 Digital Literacy and Communication meets every other day.

8 Digital Literacy and Communication (Year Course)

In this course students will continue their quest to learn how to operate a computer both effectively and responsibly. The first wave of curriculum focuses on the more advanced uses and functions for parts of the Microsoft Office Suite, including Excel, PowerPoint, Word, and Publisher, and Windows fundamentals, such as creating and maintaining files and folders,

accessing programs, and internet usage. Students will also be introduced to newer programs, such as Photoshop and Moviemaker, giving the students more freedom to create and explore the incredible world of computers.

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During the course, the student will use Naviance to complete various College and Career Planning activities to update the student's Individualized Career and Academic Plan (ICAP).

7 Digital Literacy and Communication meets every other day.

Physical Education Courses

7 Physical Education (Year Course)

7th grade students learn the lifelong benefits of exercise through participation in a daily warmup, stretching, injury prevention, physical activity, and skill development. Students will show ability and improvement through fitness testing of strength, endurance, power, speed, agility, balance, and flexibility. Through participation in a variety of games and sports students will learn leadership, teamwork, fair play, courage, and friendly competition. Students will learn the value of health and wellness through lessons involving goals, nutrition, substance abuse, stress & anxiety management, safety, and hygiene. 7 Physical Education meets every other day.

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General Elective

Flex/Titan Team

This course is a monitored study hall and provides time for students to complete assignments, study for quizzes or tests, or complete projects. In addition, students can schedule meetings with teachers for individual help or to make up a missing test/quiz/assignment. Attendance is required. Every student is assigned a flex class for the year. This course does not meet CCHE requirements for an academic elective.

Study Hall (Year Course)

This course is an intensively monitored study hall provides time for student to complete assignments, study for quizzes or tests, or complete projects. This course is Pass/Fail. Attendance is required.

Historical Courses**7 Computer (Year Course)**

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For the 2024-25 school year 7 Computer was changed to 7 Digital Literacy and Communication.

8 Computer (Year Course)

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For the 2024-25 school year 8 Computer was changed to 8 Digital Literacy and Communication.

Pre-Algebra 1A – Grade(s): 7 (Year course – offered every other year)

Pre-Algebra 1A, can be viewed as the first half of the 7th grade Pre-Algebra course. When paired with Pre-Algebra 1B, the two courses are equivalent to Pre-Algebra. Pre-Algebra 1A emphasizes integers and rational numbers. Students learn to solve equations and inequalities. Ratios, rates, proportions, and percentages are emphasized. Other topics include angle measures, area of simple 2D figures, surface areas of prisms and cylinders, and volume of prisms and cylinders. Finally, students analyze data and calculate probability.

Pre-Algebra 1B (Year course – offered every other year)

Pre-Algebra 1B can be viewed as the second half of the 7th grade Pre-Algebra course. When paired with Pre-Algebra 1A, the two courses are equivalent to Pre-Algebra. Pre-Algebra 1B emphasizes real numbers, the coordinate plane, and the Pythagorean Theorem. Students learn to solve linear equations. They gain an introduction to functions, specifically linear functions. Other topics include solving systems of linear equations, working with exponents, congruent and similar figures, transformations (translations, reflections, and rotations), volume of basic three-dimensional figures, and data analysis.