



OUR MISSION:

To train the minds and improve the hearts of young people through a rigorous, content-rich classical curriculum in the liberal arts and sciences, one that produces thoughtful leaders and virtuous citizens.

UPCOMING DATES

May 21
Spirit Sprint

May 25
Lower School (K-5) Awards and Moving Up Ceremony

May 26
Last Day of School for Students

May 27
Upper School (6-9) Awards and Pinning Ceremony— 6:00pm

*I WILL LEARN
THE TRUE*

*I WILL DO
THE GOOD*

*I WILL LOVE
THE BEAUTIFUL*

Phillip Schwenk | Principal | pschwenk@nocacademy.org

Michael Kelleher | Dean of Students | mkelleher@nocacademy.org

Coffee with our Principal

Join Mr. Schwenk on Zoom on Friday, May 14, 8:15–9 a.m. Please email the Main Office (info@nocacademy.org) for the login information.

Virtue of the month

Each month we focus on a virtue and reward students for exemplifying that behavior pattern. We will focus on NOCA's 7 Virtues for May—Courage, Moderation, Justice, Responsibility, Prudence, Friendship, and Wisdom.



ProgressBook Parent Access

Our grading software is available for parent access. You can use this resource to check on your child's progress and missing assignments. Please contact Mrs. Mowry (GMowry@nocacademy.org) for assistance in access.

Yearbook Orders

Families still have time to order yearbooks for \$25. Please send a check made out to NOCA PTO with your order form to the Main Office. Yearbooks will be delivered the final week of school.



Lower School Awards and Moving-Up Ceremony

Our K-5th grade students will gather at 6:00pm on Tuesday, May 25 to celebrate a year of achievement and the joy of learning. We will conclude the evening with a moving-up ceremony to welcome these students to the next grade level.



Upper School Awards and Pinning Ceremony

Our 6th-9th grade students will gather at 6:00pm on Tuesday, May 27 to celebrate a year of achievement and the joy of learning. We will conclude the evening with a pinning ceremony to welcome the 8th grade students to the high school.

State Testing Completed

Our students have all finished their state and NWEA testing for the school year. Please, anticipate receiving your student's NWEA scores in the near future. You may contact your teacher if you have questions concerning your student's NWEA/MAP growth scores. This important data shows the growth of the student throughout the year. It is a resource to focus on the learning and development of your child.

Classical Learning Test

9th Grade NOCA students in 9th took the Classical Learning Test 10 (CLT 10) on Wednesday, April 27 and our 7th and 8th grade students will take the Classical Learning Test 8 (CLT 8) on May 5. The CLT provides highly accurate and rigorous measure of reasoning, aptitude, and academic formation of students from diverse educational backgrounds. The CLT team serves "to reconnect intellectual pursuit with the pursuit of virtue." We look forward to seeing these results and using this data to inform our teaching.

Lost and Found

We have a lost and found located outside the Main Office. Please have your students check it out if you are missing items.



PTO Board

President | Anna Pagal
Vice | Aisha Hunter
Secretary | Jamey Koralewski
Treasurer | Erin Mathias
Vices | Christen Davis

Find us on Facebook:

- 👍 Northwest Ohio Classical Academy PTO
- 👍 Spartans Family Group (NOCA)

Please contact the PTO at NocaPTO@yahoo.com

Upcoming PTO Dates

April 30: Spartan Sprint Sponsor Envelopes Due
May 18: Monthly PTO meeting
May 21: 1st Annual Spartan Sprint (during regular school day)
TBD– Used Uniform Sale



Summer Training

This summer, NOCA teachers and staff will attend professional development at Hillsdale College as part of the annual Summer Conference provided by the Barney Charter School Initiative.



Spring Weather and Shorts

With the rising temperatures of Spring, the student dress code relaxes a bit and students are permitted to wear shorts or dress slacks with white or navy polos beginning Monday, May 3.

BCSI Releases New Program Guide

NOCA teachers received the newest version (Version 2.2) of the BCSI Program Guide. The new version includes changes to the curriculum and additional readings for teachers.



The Four Causes of Classical Education

Paul Schaeffer

... Therefore, classical education is a teacher forming a child into someone skilled in the liberal arts and steeped in the Great Books in order to instill wisdom and virtue.

That, folks, is a definition. Now that we have come to it, let's examine it.

“A teacher forming a child.” There is a mentor-mentored aspect of education that is essential. The teacher who contends that children learn from their peers is breaking the chain of tradition, of which the teacher is an essential link. While the best version of this is in a person-to-person relationship, you could argue that those who have been largely self-taught (think Abraham Lincoln) had lengthy conversations with the greatest minds by reading their books again and again. By thinking through the ideas and arguments presented in a book, the reader dialogues with the author.

“Skilled in the liberal arts.” The liberal arts are domain-specific skills. You don't learn grammar in a vacuum; you learn grammar in the context of a language (preferably Latin). You don't learn out-of-context “critical thinking skills”; you learn the rules of logic in the context of real argument. You don't learn oratory through abstraction; you learn the means of persuasion and how to apply them in an actual speech or article. You don't learn mathematical functions without numbers; you learn the theory and application of discreet and continuous number. Grammar, logic, rhetoric, arithmetic, geometry, music, and astronomy (understood in the Medieval sense) are the sine qua non of education. This statement would require its own defense, and you can read more about this in Martin Cothran's article “The Critical Thinking Skills Hoax” published in the Winter 2018 issue of *The Classical Teacher*.

“Steeped in the Great Books.” Civilization, for thousands of years, has been inspired by great ideals. Those ideals are passed on in the best novels, histories, dialogues, plays, speeches, and essays of mankind. To be ignorant of those works is to be ignorant of those ideals. And how is the child to live in a society that esteems those ideals if he doesn't know them?

“To instill wisdom and virtue.” We should be able to look at any classically educated person and say, “There is a person full of good character who knows how to distinguish right from wrong, good from evil, and truth from falsity.” To be virtuous is to be of good character. To be wise is to be able to make distinctions (in modern parlance, “to think critically”). Every classical school and homeschool should have the acquisition of wisdom and virtue as their goal.

Classical education is a teacher forming a child into someone skilled in the liberal arts and steeped in the Great Books in order to instill wisdom and virtue. This is our essential definition of a classical education arrived at by classical means. Now you have a response when someone asks you what classical education is.



**NORTHWEST OHIO
CLASSICAL ACADEMY**