

ARCADIA ☆☆☆☆

# CHRISTIAN CLASSICAL EDUCATION

FAITH. CHARACTER. HEART. SERVICE.

## Conventional Christian education vs. Classical Christian education

### What you might see:

*Conventional:* The pursuit of applied science and math (STEM) as practiced by secular educators often drives conventional schools to de-emphasize both quantitative and verbal reasoning necessary for future studies in science in favor of AP courses or specialized technology courses.

*Classical:* CCE balances rigorous core science and math instruction within a broad array of reasoning-based classical subjects. While students may not graduate with STEM college credit, students are taught to study the “why” of science and math. This fosters a learning disposition when the techniques and information of a field change — creating true scientists.



#classicaldifference #classicalchristianeducation

*Teaching our students not what to think, but how to think!*

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*Conventional:* Less time on history and literature, with more of an emphasis on knowing facts and a focus on a scientific study of humane, social subjects. This leads to a mono-dimensional, pre-judged version of the Core.

*Classical:* Our students learn to understand and extract rich and thought-provoking ideas from literature. They spend time gaining an integrated understanding of God's story, told through history and great-books literature, and making sense of all things brought together in a "university" of knowledge.



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*Conventional:* Students use textbooks to read and do exercises or worksheets in social studies. Content tends to be state or US history & geography. History begins in about 1776. Students spend time assimilating information and testing, with a few projects added to break it up.

*Classical:* Students read and discuss extensively—often around 20 or more pages of an original work on a typical school day. While difficult to access at first, students grow accustomed over about 10 years of intensive reading in the classical core. History is learned through original sources and spans from the Hebrews and Greeks to the present day. Adjustments are made based upon individual abilities and expectations.



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What you might see:

*Conventional:* Students often spend a limited time practicing a modern language with an emphasis on ordering from menus, reading common text, or basic communication.

*Classical:* Through Latin and Greek, students better understand Christianity, the West, and the basis of our own language. Because CCE schools find value in original texts and understanding historic cultures, we study classical languages to engage unfamiliar ideas and build the student's language skills in English.

ASSOCIATION OF  
CLASSICAL  CHRISTIAN

SCHOOLS

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### What you might see:

**Conventional:** Education and student culture are separate things. School “ethos” is often incidental or at least secondary. Student government and leadership, as well as hallway culture, are more student-driven when schools view learning as information retention rather than virtue formation. This leads to the undervaluing of intentional school culture.

**Classical:** School ethos (culture) is central to learning and is, therefore intentional in CCE. Our schools are purposeful in building community that “pulls” kids in the right direction—in manners, virtue, and relationships. Systems and programs are interwoven throughout the day to ensure a holistic picture of learning, and community is sought among faculty, staff, and students.



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