

What is Classical Education?

In the classical method of education, the organizing principle is known as the Trivium (Latin for “three ways”). This three-stage approach is comprised of grammar, logic (also known as dialectic), and rhetoric stages and strives to impart upon students the “tools of learning” - skill in knowledge, skill in logical analysis, and skill in oral and written communication. Students are taught how to learn and how to think, utilizing their strengths at each stage to cultivate a lifetime love of learning.

Grammar (K-5):

- Students adept at memorization of facts
- Presented with the building blocks of knowledge via repetition, songs, rhymes, and play

Logic/Dialectic (6-8):

- Students more prone to question, explore, dive deeper intellectually, and critically analyze the world around them
- Students taught how to argue well based on the facts they have learned

Rhetoric (9-12):

- Students become more independent thinkers and communicators, and their perspectives shift to how others perceive them.
- Students learn how to speak eloquently, present themselves with poise, and articulate their positions through sound, reasoned judgment.



The Elm Tree represents Virtue and stands as a tribute to the founding fathers, some of the greatest influential minds the world ever produced, who conceptualized the greatest country the world has ever known, and inspired a desire for freedom and equality for all. The Key represents Knowledge, and the Harp symbolizes Logic and Reasoned Judgment.

Ulmus Academy: education “rooted” in independent reasoning, virtue and knowledge, cultivating a discerning, productive and independent society, one child at a time.

Education should develop a child’s intellect and moral habits so that they can internalize truth, beauty, and goodness, and be, as the poet William Butler Yeats said, “not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire.” The foundational goal of all instruction is the mastered art of learning, so that students may skillfully acquire and apply knowledge, reason critically, and articulate persuasively.

Why Classical Education?

- Unique and effective, focusing on the ways children learn best at each stage of life and builds upon the foundation of previous stages.
- Virtue, wisdom, and responsibility are integral parts of classroom discussions and student learning.
- Helps students link subjects together and realize that all knowledge is interrelated.
- Curriculum is content-rich, systematic, grounded in academic excellence, and acknowledges objective standards of correctness and truth.
- Curriculum is balanced and strong across the disciplines of math, science, literature, history, and the arts.
- Curriculum is cyclical with three or four year cycles; thus, the student repeats each cycle three or four times in the span of thirteen years of education, which:
 - Allows them more time to master the concepts presented;
 - Introduces them to the concepts every three to four years, allowing them to dive deeper intellectually each time; and
 - Integrates all subject matters to increase comprehension and retention.
- Acknowledges the importance of human nature in education and supports children in the natural progression of their intellectual development, thereby preparing students to be excellent learners, rigorous thinkers, and effective doers.

