



# Chicago Classical Academy

*A classical option for Chicago families*

*Offering a rich liberal-arts education, teaching students through a comprehensive, integrated curriculum that promotes curiosity, integrity, determination and compassion.*

## Key facts

### **Grades served:** K-12

We will be opening with 6 grades, K-5 and adding one grade per year. We will have two classes per grade-level.

### **Location:** South Loop

This central location is accessible via three CTA train lines and is at the intersection of three main highways.

### **Grand opening:** 2018

We are currently in our planning year. We will be submitting our charter application to CPS in April 2017.

### **Tuition-free & open enrollment**

We are a public school and not charge tuition. Students are admitted based on seat availability. No testing is required to qualify

## Our approach to education

Chicago Classical Academy will be a K-12 classical charter school located in the South Loop area. We believe that all students benefit from a rich, content-focused curriculum, and, with open enrollment, we hope to offer the benefits of a classical education to everyone in the city.

The classical approach is unique in its critical focus on both teaching method and content. The curriculum is designed to encompass all of the time a student spends with us - teachers collaborate across grade levels and disciplines to ensure that content taught in different subjects reinforces the main themes, is continuous across grade levels, and repeating material is introduced in increasing depth. We also seek to present and teach only the very best our civilization has to offer - whether introducing classical music or great works of literature and art. Our goal is to build the foundation and knowledge a person needs to be capable of further evaluating and actively engaging in today's world.

CCA is not defined solely by its academic rigor, but also by its commitment to the overall health and wellness of every child - this includes the food we serve, the type of extracurricular activities we offer or the extended recess that allows children to grow and develop in non-academic ways. The arts, fitness, core-contents, behavior expectations, teaching techniques and electives are thoughtfully included to mentally, emotionally and physically nurture a well-rounded, healthy person.





## Classical education

We believe that all students benefit from a rich, time-tested curriculum. The classical approach leverages a student's developmental stages and appropriately teaches the mastery of basic content (grammar), development of abstract thought (logic), and the art of expression (rhetoric). The success of other urban classical schools in New York, Savannah, Phoenix, and Nashville (among others) demonstrates the incredible progress that can be made by students of all backgrounds and abilities.

As a public, open-enrollment school, ChiClassical will offer the benefits of a classical education, often only available at selective, private schools, to Chicago's public school students. These students also deserve a school model that develops independent, thoughtful, engaged and compassionate citizens. The classical approach is well-positioned to do so through its unique focus on both method and content.

*There are five key elements to our approach:*

**Liberal arts:** In classical antiquity, grammar, logic and rhetoric were considered essential knowledge for an active civic life. Throughout the K-12 program, CCA teachers will emphasize the mastery of basic content (grammar), development of abstract thought (logic), and the art of expression (rhetoric). Within this framework, students will be introduced to the great works of art, music, and literature, to heroes and to legends, to scientific discoveries that have advanced our civilization.

**Language-based approach:** This is a language-based curriculum. Students learn by reading, writing and speaking. From an early age, students are taught grammar and composition, precision in word choice, and proper form. Language will figure heavily in all academic areas: art and music instruction, science (science biographies) and history (original texts and documents). Latin instruction will help students master English vocabulary, further their understanding of grammar and develop discipline and structure in composition.

**Structured curriculum:** History is used as organizing principle that structures knowledge from all disciplines into one sensible whole. Literature, art, and science are all studied through a historical lens, helping students build a clearer understanding of the thematic connections in the material being covered. The strong foundation in history allows students to integrate new information into an organized framework.

**Civics:** A strong civics component throughout the K-12 program ensures that all students graduate with a clear understanding of American history, government and individual rights and responsibilities. Students will study our form of government and the underlying philosophy, will read the original founding documents, study landmark judicial cases, and delve deeply into the U.S. Constitution.

**Character:** Lastly, a classical curriculum cannot exist without a moral component. Character development will be infused throughout the curriculum, and students will be encouraged to emulate the virtues of the heroes and heroines, scientists, explorers, and historical figures they encounter throughout their studies.

## Meet the team



**Bruno Behrend**  
*Fundraising & Operations*



**Alice Epstein**  
*Operations, & Curriculum*



**James Gurnee**  
*Budget & Fundraising*



**Heidi Schroeder**  
*Networking & Community Engagement*