



NORTHWEST
CLASSICAL ACADEMY

High School Course Catalog 2023-2024

Northwest Classical Academy is opening 9th grade in 2023-2024. As the school continues to add grades for the following three years, the Course Catalog will expand, especially in the areas of Fine Arts and other electives.

virtus | *scientia* | *felicitas*

Mission, Vision, and Values

Mission

The mission of Northwest Classical Academy is to develop students in mind and character through a classical, content-rich curriculum that emphasizes the principles of virtuous living, traditional learning, and civic responsibility.

Vision

To be a nationally regarded K-12 classical school and serve as a local and national incubator for the growth and promotion of classical education.

Organizational Values

- The tenets of a classical, liberal arts education
- Community and partnership in the common pursuit of forming intelligent, virtuous citizens
- Excellence in teaching and learning

Core Virtues

Courage, courtesy, honesty, humility, perseverance, self-government, and service.

School Pledge

I will learn the true. I will do the good. I will love the beautiful.

Graduation Requirements

The minimum credits required for graduation are listed below. The satisfactory completion of a Senior Thesis, including a written paper and oral defense, in 12th grade is also required for graduation.

The curriculum of Northwest Classical Academy meets all the course requirements for admission to any college in the University System of Georgia. All students who complete NCA's curriculum will meet or exceed the minimum number of "rigor courses" required for eligibility for the HOPE scholarship.

Course or Subject	Credits required in high school
Literature	4
History	4
Math	4
Science	4
Foreign Language	3
Composition	0.5
Logic	0.5
Health	0.5
Personal Fitness	0.5
Fine Arts	1
Moral and Political Philosophy	1
U.S. Government	0.5
Economics	0.5
TOTAL	24

Course Progression

	9th Grade	10th Grade	11th Grade	12th Grade
Literature	Ancient Literature	Medieval and British Literature	American Literature	Modern Literature & Senior Thesis
History	Ancient World History to 500	European History 500-1815	American History 1607 - Present	Modern World History 1815 - Present
Math	Algebra I or Geometry	Geometry or Algebra II	Algebra II or Pre-Calculus	Pre-Calculus or Calculus
Science	Biology	Physical Science or Chemistry	Chemistry or Physics	Science Elective
Foreign Language	Latin I or Latin II	Latin or other language	Latin or other language	Foreign Language or Elective
Other	Composition (1 sem) Logic (1 sem)	Elective	Moral and Political Philosophy	U.S. Gov. (1 sem) Economics (1 sem)
Other	PE / Health (1 year) or Fine Arts (1 year)	PE / Health (1 year) or Fine Arts (1 year)	Elective	Elective

Notes on the course progression and graduation requirements:

1. A student's placement in math and science courses is determined by the Math and Science Departments based on course grades, test scores, and teacher recommendations.
2. A student must earn 4 credits for Math in high school. A credit earned for Algebra I in 8th grade will not count toward these 4 required high school math courses.
3. The 4 credits required in science include Biology, Chemistry, and either Physical Science or Physics.
4. Three years of foreign language are required in high school. At least two years must be in the same language. At least one year of Latin in high school is required.
5. The fine arts and physical education requirements are to be met by the end of 10th grade. A student who takes a fine arts course in 9th grade must take Health and Personal Fitness in 10th grade.

Course Descriptions by Department

Literature and Composition

Composition

Credit: 0.5

Grade: 9

Composition explores how academic writing is created and demonstrates that writing well is foundational to academic success. Students will use a variety of approaches, including diagramming, model sentences, mentor texts, close reading, and writing workshops to create clear academic prose. In the first nine weeks, students will pay special attention to improving the structure and cohesion of sentences, paragraphs, and essays. The second nine weeks will encourage students to appreciate the rhetorical qualities particular to academic prose.

Ancient Literature

Credit: 1.0

Grade: 9

In Ancient Literature, students will study founding works of great literature from the ancient world. The goal is to engage with great authors and participate in the worlds their stories create. Students will examine works of poetry, drama, and prose in order to gain insight into the cultures and societies that produced them. Throughout each text, students will be encouraged to analyze themes, motifs, and important stylistic elements, as well as to consider the historical and cultural contexts in which these works were created. In addition to reading and discussing these works, students will also be expected to complete a variety of writing assignments and assessments. Throughout the course, students will develop a deeper understanding of the literary traditions of the ancient world, as well as the enduring themes and ideas that continue to resonate with readers today. Instead of racing through excerpted versions of these works, this course moves deliberately through complete texts, delving into them in great detail.

Medieval and British Literature

Credit: 1.0

Grade: 10

In Medieval and British Literature, students will study major works of literature from the medieval and early modern periods in British history. Students will explore the cultural, historical, and literary contexts of works from the Middle Ages, the Renaissance and Reformation, and the seventeenth century. Students will analyze the great literature of this time in its historical and cultural contexts, and examine their literary conventions and themes, including the role of the individual versus society, the nature of heroism, and the relationship between power and morality. Throughout the course, students will develop their analytical and critical thinking skills, as well as their ability to make connections between texts and to understand the development of literature over time.

American Literature

Credit: 1.0

Grade: 11

In American Literature, the students will study the great works of American literature from the colonial period to the modern era. Students will explore the rich and diverse literary traditions of American writers, examining the cultural and historical contexts that give rise to different genres, themes, and styles of writing. Throughout the course, students will engage with a range of texts, including novels, poetry, essays, and speeches. Students will analyze the literary techniques and devices employed by great American authors, explore the themes and motifs that recur throughout American literature, and consider how different cultural and historical factors shape writers' perspectives and their work. Students will engage in class discussions, writing assignments, and group activities that aim to deepen their understanding of American literature and its broader significance. By the end of this course, students will have developed their analytical and critical thinking skills as well as their ability to appreciate the complexity and richness of American literary traditions.

Modern Literature and Senior Thesis

Credit: 1.0

Grade: 12

In this course, students start by examining how a free man navigates a world where every individual has already failed to fulfill his inherent responsibilities to his fellow man. The Modern Literature course will help students reconcile themselves with the implications of their own existence while providing a notion of redemption as they move towards fully exercising their freedoms in the wider world. Students will explore how literature reflects and responds to modernity, examining the unique features and themes of poetry, fiction, drama, and nonfiction written during this period. Students will spend a significant part of second semester writing their senior theses, a capstone writing experience that synthesizes the seminal questions of the Western Tradition.

History/Humanities

Ancient World History to 500

Credit: 1.0

Grade: 9

Ancient World History to 500 is a comprehensive study of the history and civilizations of the ancient world. Students will explore the rise and fall of empires, the development of different cultures, and the major social, economic, and political events of the ancient world. Students will examine the social and cultural practices of these societies as well as their contributions to art, philosophy, and science. By the end of this course, students will have a deeper understanding and appreciation of the complexities of the ancient world. They will be able to analyze the various factors that contributed to the rise and fall of ancient civilizations and interpret how those events are relevant to contemporary issues faced by modern-day societies.

Logic

Credit: 0.5

Grade: 9

The art of persuasion is an indispensable tool for a free and responsible citizenry. This course will focus on one of the three essential aspects of persuasion, namely logic. Logic is the means by which we not only construct rational arguments but also critique flawed arguments. The course will use in-class exercises to teach the basics of formal logic, syllogisms, and informal fallacies. Students who complete this course will learn to think more clearly and, therefore, to live more freely.

European History 500-1815

Credit: 1.0

Grade: 10

European History is a continuation of Ancient World History. In European History, the curriculum focuses on the ways the legacy of the ancient world was both transmitted and reshaped over the course of almost 2,000 years. In the fall semester, the curriculum primarily explores Late Antiquity and the Early Middle Ages. In the spring semester, the focus shifts to the Late Middle Ages, Renaissance, and Enlightenment.

American History 1607-Present

Credit: 1.0

Grade: 11

American History covers the period from 1607 to the present day. This course is designed to provide students with an in-depth understanding of the major events, people, and ideas that have shaped American history. Throughout the course, students will explore the political, economic, social, and cultural developments of the United States. They will analyze primary source documents and engage in critical thinking exercises to develop their skills in historical analysis and interpretation. By the end of the course, students will have gained a deep understanding of American history and its significance in shaping the world in which we live. They will have honed their critical thinking and analytical skills and developed their ability to communicate effectively about complex historical ideas and events.

Moral and Political Philosophy

Credit: 1.0

Grade: 11

The Moral and Political Philosophy course provides students with an in-depth exploration of the major philosophical theories and concepts that underlie moral and political thought. The course is designed to foster critical thinking, intellectual curiosity, and an appreciation of the complexities of ethical and political decision-making. Throughout the course, students will engage with primary source texts and develop their skills in close reading and analysis. They will explore the major theories of ethics and political philosophy. By the end of the course, students will have developed a deep understanding of moral and political philosophy and its significance for contemporary society. They will have honed their critical thinking and analytical skills, learned how to effectively communicate complex philosophical ideas, and developed the ability to apply philosophical concepts to real-world situations. Additionally, students will have gained a deeper appreciation of the importance of ethical decision-making and its role in their lives as good citizens.

Modern World History 1815-Present

Credit: 1.0

Grade: 12

Modern World History covers the major events and themes of global history from the 19th century to the present day. This course is designed to provide students with a deep understanding of the political, economic, social, and cultural developments that have shaped the modern world. Throughout the course, students will analyze primary and secondary source materials, engage in critical thinking exercises, and develop their skills in historical analysis and interpretation. By the end of the course, students will have gained a comprehensive understanding of modern global history and its significance in shaping the contemporary world. They will have developed their critical thinking and analytical skills and learned how to effectively communicate complex historical ideas and events. Additionally, students will be able to apply their knowledge and skills to real-world situations, helping them become informed and engaged citizens of the world.

U.S. Government

Credit: 0.5

Grade: 12

U.S. Government will provide students with an understanding of the principles, institutions, and processes of the United States government. This course is designed to develop students' knowledge of the U.S. Constitution, principles of limited government, and ideas that have shaped American political culture. Throughout the course, students will explore foundations of American government, including the concepts of natural law, the social contract, and the separation of powers. Students will conclude the course with a comprehensive understanding of the U.S. government and its role in society. They will also have the tools necessary to become engaged and informed citizens, ready to participate in the democratic process.

Economics

Credit: 0.5

Grade: 12

Economics is an introduction to the basic tools of micro and macroeconomic analysis. This course, more than anything, aims to expose students to a new lens through which to view the world and individual human action. Students will learn to identify, analyze, and evaluate the causes and consequences of individual economic decisions and public policy, including issues raised by the constraints imposed by scarcity, how economies and markets work, and the benefits and costs of economic interaction and interdependence. Students will analyze, reason, problem-solve, and be able to make decisions specific to various roles, including that of consumer, producer, saver, investor, and responsible citizen—roles they will all take on throughout their lives.

Mathematics

Algebra I

Credit: 1.0

Grade 9, Pre-Req: Pre-Algebra

Algebra I provides students with a foundation in the fundamental concepts of algebra. The course is designed to develop students' skills in problem-solving, critical thinking, and logical reasoning. Engaging lessons will explore solving equations and inequalities; simplifying expressions; linear, exponential, and quadratic functions; exponents; polynomials; factoring; radicals; data analysis; and probability. By the end of the course, students will have gained a comprehensive understanding of algebra and be able to apply algebraic concepts to solve real-world problems. They will have developed their critical thinking and problem-solving skills and be able to communicate mathematical concepts effectively.

Geometry

Credit: 1.0

Grade: 9-10, Pre-Req: Algebra I

Geometry provides students with an in-depth exploration of the fundamental concepts and principles of geometry, grounded in the classical tradition. Plato claimed "Geometry draws the soul towards truth," and this class reflects that resilient desire for learning what is true versus what only appears to be. Throughout the course, students will study the basic principles of Euclidean geometry, including defining the relationship of points, lines, planes, and space, which allows students to utilize deductive reasoning to present a clear argument. Other topics include perpendicular/parallel lines, similar figures, triangles, and coordinate geometry.

Algebra II

Credit: 1.0

Grade: 10-11, Pre-Req: Geometry

Algebra II is designed to provide students opportunities to build understanding of important, new mathematical concepts and develop fluency with key skills. Algebra II reviews previously learned concepts and expands depth of knowledge by presenting new ideas and more complex problems. Students build upon the foundation laid in the study of Algebra I and Geometry, continuing to explore linear, quadratic, polynomial, rational, and radical functions, while introducing trigonometric, exponential, and logarithmic functions. Conic sections, probability, statistics, and matrices will also be examined, and some discussion of the history of algebra and mathematics in general will be included. Classical tools such as Socratic discussions will be employed to provide students with a more comprehensive understanding of mathematics.

Pre-calculus

Credit: 1.0

Grade: 11-12, Pre-Req: Algebra II

Pre-calculus is designed to finalize the study of concepts introduced in previous classes. As the final step before the collegiate level, pre-calculus acts as the bridge between elementary and higher mathematics and, as such, contains a healthy dose of both familiar and new concepts. Many algebraic, geometric, and logical reasoning skills acquired in previous classes will be strengthened and refined this year. In addition, this class will contain an emphasis on the study and applications of trigonometry. Additional topics are also covered, including alternate graphing methods, vectors, matrices, discrete mathematics, and limits.

Calculus

Credit: 1.0

Grade: 12, Pre-Req: Pre-Calculus

This course introduces the concepts of both theoretical and applied calculus. This course emphasizes an intuitive approach to calculus, where students analyze the concepts geometrically, numerically, analytically, and verbally. Calculus is split into two branches: differential and integral calculus. In differential calculus, students learn the rules of derivatives and some of their applications, including the analysis of curves, modeling and optimization, and the relationship between position, velocity, and acceleration. In integral calculus, students study the Fundamental Theorem of Calculus and rules of basic integration, along with methods to find areas under curves and volumes of irregular figures. Both of these branches take an in-depth look at how we wrestle with infinity, limits, and the comparison of the One to the Many.

Science

Biology

Credit: 1.0

Grade: 9

Biology expands on the life science concepts acquired in earlier courses. Students will explore a diversity of topics, including the inner workings of the cell, DNA, evolution, and the interactions of ecosystems to gain a deeper understanding of how life systems operate. By the end of this course, students' eyes will be opened to the world around them, helping them understand what makes life work and how they fit into it.

Physical Science

Credit: 1.0

Grade: 10

Physical Science provides students with an introduction to the fundamental concepts and principles of physics and chemistry. Students will develop scientific inquiry skills and gain a solid foundation for further study in the physical sciences. Students will explore the basic principles of matter, energy, and motion, and apply these principles to real-world situations. By the end of the course, students will have an appreciation for the importance of scientific inquiry and its role in shaping our understanding of the natural world.

Chemistry

Credit: 1.0

Grade: 10-11

Chemistry provides students with a fundamental understanding of matter and change, scientific measurements and procedures, atomic structure, chemical bonding, chemical formulas, chemical reactions and equations, stoichiometry, states of matter, kinetic theory of matter, gas laws, solution chemistry, acid-base theories, and reaction energy. Each major unit includes a historical perspective, focusing on the questions posed, analyzed, and answered by the founders of modern chemistry.

Physics

Credit: 1.0

Grade: 11

Physics is designed to further the understanding of the physical sciences that began in previous courses and provide students with the necessary skills to be proficient in physics. The study of physics stresses an in-depth understanding of the nature and structure of matter and the characteristics of energy. This course is designed to provide students with hands-on, real-world connections that will deepen their understanding of this math-based science discipline. Areas of concentration include classical mechanics, gravitation, thermodynamics, electricity and magnetism, and electromagnetic and sound waves.

Foreign Language

Latin I

Credit: 1.0

Grade: 9

In Latin I, students cover the beginning chapters of *Wheelock's Latin*. Focus is placed on learning new Latin vocabulary and on incorporating derivatives of those words into one's own vernacular. The course also covers classical mythology. This class is for students who are new to Northwest Classical Academy and/or have little or no previous Latin language experience.

Latin II

Credit: 1.0

Grade: 9-10, Pre-Req: Latin I

In Latin II, students cover the middle chapters of *Wheelock's Latin*. Focus is placed on learning new Latin vocabulary and on incorporating derivatives of those words into one's own vernacular. The course also covers classical mythology.

Latin III

Credit: 1.0

Grade: 10-11, Pre-Req: Latin II

In Latin III, students cover the later chapters of *Wheelock's Latin*, learning about the various tenses of the subjunctive mood of verbs, the uses of the subjunctive mood, and the different types of conditional sentences. Focus is placed on learning new Latin vocabulary and on incorporating derivatives of those words into one's own vernacular. The course also covers classical mythology.

Latin IV

Credit: 1.0

Grade: 11-12, Pre-Req: Latin III

In Latin IV, students complete the remaining chapters of *Wheelock's Latin*, which cover all the significant grammatical subjects of Latin and provide a vocabulary of approximately 1,000 words. Students then make the transition from translating independent sentences to working with continuous passages of un-adapted, or only slightly adapted, Latin literature.

Physical Education

Health

Credit: 0.5

Grade: 9-10

Health is the condition of the human body when it is functioning properly. Lack of health - or being unhealthy – is the condition of the human body when it is not working properly or to its potential. Health class is the formal study of the human body in order to understand what constitutes health, what practices and habits contribute to health, what practices and habits impair health, and what ailments and conditions must be diagnosed and treated lest they endanger health.

Personal Fitness

Credit: 0.5

Grade: 9-10

Personal Fitness will focus on the different types of workouts that can be accomplished to increase strength, endurance, and flexibility. Students will learn about muscle groups, circuit training, interval training, and how to tier/rotate workouts.

Fine Arts

Visual Art Survey

Credit: 1.0

Grades: 9-10, Pre-Req: None

Visual Art Survey introduces art history, criticism, and studio production to the beginning art student. It emphasizes the ability to understand and use the elements of art and principles of design through a variety of mediums and processes including 2-D and 3-D works. A chronological study of history and criticism accompanies the studio experience.

Concert Band

Credit: 1.0

Grades: 9-12, Pre-Req: None

The Concert Band will share the beautiful by performing a range of music genres. No previous experience is required. The band will perform in at least two concerts. Students must provide their own instruments. Students who already play an instrument may continue playing that instrument. Students who do not have experience with an instrument may try some instruments at the beginning of the course but may or may not be assigned their first-choice instrument, depending on the makeup of the band. Possible instruments include flute, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, and trombone. This is a year-long course.

String Orchestra

Credit: 1.0

Grades: 9-12, Pre-Req: None

The String Orchestra will share the beautiful by performing a wide range of music genres. No previous experience is required. The orchestra will perform in at least two concerts. Students must provide their own instruments. Students who already play an instrument may continue playing that instrument. Students who do not have experience with an instrument may try some instruments at the beginning of the course but may or may not be assigned their first-choice instrument, depending on the makeup of the orchestra. Possible instruments include violin, viola, cello, and double bass. This is a year-long course.