

Overview

St. Francis Classical Academy provides traditionalist, Christian education that is rigorous, leisurely, and beautiful. We offer advanced liberal arts courses in humanities, math, and science to homeschoolers. We were founded in 2021 and graduated our first class of seniors in May, 2023. Classes are held Monday through Thursday from 8am to 3pm. We offer classes “university style,” meaning that students may enroll in as many classes as suit them. Our program provides an intensive liberal arts education with traditional pedagogy and content.

Distinctives

- Creedal Christianity
- Traditionalism
- Rigor
- Leisure
- Beauty

We seek to cultivate in our students what St. Augustine calls “rightly ordered loves.” Because we are led by our loves, and because the work to which we commit our hands flows directly from our affections, we want our students to be constantly in pursuit of good taste. And because we are Christians and traditionalists, the things we desire our students to have affection for are the good things that have stood the test of time.

In a relativistic age, when new things are in vogue every ten minutes, we teach students to unashamedly believe that popularity does not indicate value. We teach that some things are better than others. Some food, some art, some music, some ideas are inherently good, and some are inherently bad. We believe that the goodness and badness of things is proven only over time. For instance, we may safely cultivate our affections for the paintings of Caravaggio and the sculptures of Michelangelo because they have lasted for over 400 years, and they are likely to last for the next 400. They have been proven good. On the other hand, we are suspicious of the philosophies and baubles that are in fashion today because they are untested. They are not necessarily devoid of value, they simply have not been proven, and must be handled cautiously and interpreted in the light of our love of the greatest things.

Enrollment

This year’s enrollment, K5-12, is approximately 45 students.

Contact Information

Campus Address 5536 US 90, Milton, FL, 32571
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Headmaster Bobby McGee

Affiliations

Society for Classical Learning (SCL), Member

Tutors

The student : tutor ratio across the school is 5:1.
All Third Form (Grades 9-12) Tutors hold advanced degrees and have an abundance of experience in their fields.

Graduate Telos

Our final aim is not good test scores, though many students certainly achieve those. Our aim is to graduate able Christian citizens, linguists, philosophers, historians, mathematicians, and theologians — free men and women who, by pious self-denial, will go out to wage cosmic war on rulers, principalities, and the powers of darkness.

College Preparedness

Families who are new to classical or traditionalist education might wonder, “If we educate classically at St. Francis, will my children be prepared for the rigors of the collegiate or professional world?”

The answer, borne out in good classical schools over time and around the world, is a resounding, “yes.” Students classically educated in the liberal arts tradition are abundantly prepared intellectually and spiritually for any field of study they choose to tackle. The exceptional Tutors, pedagogy, curriculum, and ideology of St. Francis Classical, though unusual in our time, conspire to prepare students exceptionally well for life, labor, and further education.

Transcript Resources

Students enrolled in classes at St. Francis Classical are homeschoolers; because of this, parents create highschool transcripts and calculate GPAs for their children. A few notes on transcripts follow.

Non numerical grade reporting

Students will see only Latin grade designations and corresponding narrative feedback on their assessments and semester report cards. Parents, as administrators of their homeschools, are responsible to report students’ grades on transcripts. A rough scale of percentage equivalence follows for ease of GPA calculation.
(Nota Bene: Satis is a true average at St. Francis Classical.)

SCL	Summa Cum Laude (With Highest Praise):	95-100
MCL	Magna Cum Laude (With Great Praise):	90-94
CH	Cum Honore (With Honor):	85-89
S	Satis (Sufficient):	80-84
NS	Non Satis (Lacking Sufficiency):	70-79
CD	Cum Defectu (With Deficiency):	0-69

Grade Point Average - Conversion from numerical grade to GPA follows:

Numerical Grade	GPA	Numerical Grade	GPA
100	5.0	80	3.0
95	4.5	75	2.5
90	4.0	70	2.0
85	3.5	< 70	0.0

Weighting - Unweighted; all courses have the same weight.

Credit Hours - There is no graduation credit hour requirement for homeschoolers in the state of Florida. Parents determine when a student has fulfilled graduation requirements.

Grading Calendar - Students receive one report card per 18 week semester.

Credits - Though homeschoolers do not need to report credits on transcripts in Florida, the standard Florida diploma requires 24 credits. This would amount to 1 credit per class at St. Francis

Courses Offered

N.B. These courses may be offered in alternate sequences depending upon the needs and prior coursework of the students enrolled.

	Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12
Mathematics	Algebra II OR Geometry	Geometry OR Algebra II	Precalculus	Calculus
Science	Biology	Chemistry	Introductory Physics	Advanced Physics
Humane Letters	Ancient History and Literature (Humane Letters III)	Medieval History and Literature (Humane Letters IV)	Modern History and Literature (Humane Letters V)	Ancient History and Literature (Humane Letters VI)
Rhetoric & Aesthetics	Aesthetics OR Rhetoric	Aesthetics OR Rhetoric	Rhetoric	Rhetoric
Ancient Language	Latin OR Greek	Latin OR Greek	Latin OR Greek	Latin OR Greek
Language Arts	Composition III	Composition IV	Composition V	Composition VI

Mathematics: These courses in Arithmetic and Geometry, two of the seven Classical Liberal Arts, are designed to be rigorous, teach mental discipline, and move students from the concrete and tangible study of matter, numbers, and patterns, (the art of recognizing multitudes and magnitudes) to love the source of all beauty. These courses require a moderate amount of homework.

	<u>Primary texts</u>	<u>Secondary Texts</u>
Algebra II:	OpenStax <i>Intermediate Algebra</i>	Math U See <i>Algebra 2</i>
Euclid's Geometry:	Byrne's <i>Elements of Euclid</i> , 1847	Harold Jacobs' <i>Geometry</i>
Pre Calculus:	OpenStax <i>Precalculus</i>	Math U See <i>Precalculus and Trigonometry</i>
Calculus:	Math U See <i>Calculus</i>	Stokes' <i>Calculus for Everyone</i> , OpenStax <i>Calculus</i>

Science: Students study the complexity and beauty of creation, tracing the history and development of scientific theories, giving special attention to the philosophies that accompany these changes. These courses involve readings, lectures, lab experiments, and field research, and require a significant amount of applied computation.

Biology:	Novare's <i>General Biology</i>	<i>The Lives of a Cell</i> , <i>The Soul of Science</i> , <i>Micrographia</i> , <i>Microbe Hunters</i>
Introductory Physics:	Novare's <i>Introductory Physics</i>	<i>The Structure of Scientific Revolutions</i>
Advanced Physics:	Novare's <i>Physics: Modeling Nature</i>	<i>The Illustrated A Brief History of Time</i>
Chemistry:	Novare's <i>General Chemistry</i>	<i>Elements of Chemistry - Lavoisier</i> , <i>The Soul of Science</i>

Humane Letters: Students study Literature, History, and Philosophy – with discursions in economics, theology, art, and political theory - as integrated disciplines. Students read, discuss, and write about texts in the Western Canon, and study the historic relationship of Christianity to the fundamental human arts. Because the reading list is ambitious, most texts are read aloud in class. Two periods of each day are devoted to this course.

Aesthetics: Students study beauty as a philosophical idea and as a tangible reality in beautiful, classic art including paintings, drawings, sculptures, architecture, music, and poetry. Approaching the topic from both technical and theological perspectives, they work to understand what beauty is and why it is essential to the good life.

Rhetoric: Students learn to speak confidently, write persuasively, and debate with force and clarity. Writing assignments vary widely from imitative speeches to embellishment exercises as set forth in Erasmus' *De Copia*. Students memorize and recite Shakespearean soliloquies and selections from famous speeches. Anchoring texts for the Rhetoric program are Aristotle's *Rhetoric*, Quintillian's *Institutio Oratoria*, and selections from Cicero and Shakespeare.

Latin: This course treats Latin as an end rather than a means to an end – that is, a beautiful thing worth enjoying for its own sake. The Latin program aims not merely to equip students to fluently read the Latin texts of authors as diverse as Vergil and Cicero to Erasmus and Newton, but to instill in them the desire to do so long after they have graduated. To this end, students read, speak, write and memorize Latin in the classroom. Readings and memory passages are taken from *Lingua Latina* I and II, as well as from Caesar, Cicero, Vergil, the Vulgate, Boethius, etc.

Ancient Greek: The Ancient Greek program operates with the same goal in mind as the Latin program – the lifelong reading and enjoyment of Ancient Greek texts. Knowledge of Ancient Greek opens a broad patrimony of ancient texts to the student, from Homer and Plato to the New Testament and the Patristics. To that end, students read, speak, write and memorize Greek in the classroom. Readings and memory passages are taken from *Athenaze*, *The Gospel of John*, the *Iliad*, the *Odyssey*, Plato's *Apology*, etc.

Language Arts: Having mastered the technical forms of persuasive, deliberative writing in prior years, students begin to practice classical essay forms – expository, analytical, and Ciceronian or argumentative. They also refine their rhetorical style and develop their voice through imitation of great writers. Additionally, students write two lengthy papers each year, in which they exposit and relate texts in the Western Canon. The requirements for each paper become more strenuous as students progress. Students defend each paper orally twice in the writing process. As students approach 12th grade, a greater emphasis is placed on the skills of editing, practiced through the careful study of writing and revision exercises. Sources for imitation include Cicero, Montaigne, Pascal, George Orwell, Eva Brann, etc.

Art & Choir: Once a week, 9th through 12th graders have art classes. They spend one semester studying calligraphy and illumination, and another sculpting stone. Also once a week, all students 3rd-12th participate with their Tutors in choir and receive instruction in musicianship.