



Tallahassee
Classical School

1st Period ELA Course Syllabus (2024-2025)

Mrs. John

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Please email with any questions or concerns. I will respond as soon as possible within 48 business hours.

Course Description

This course studies how word choice and sentence structure contribute to developing perspective. Students will enhance their reading, writing, language, and speaking/listening skills necessary for success in college, career, and beyond, with a strong connection to civics throughout the centuries. They will examine voice, purpose, diction, syntax, and rhetoric in historical speeches, informational texts, and classic and contemporary literature through guided readings, interactive practice, and formal assessments. Additionally, students will grow their narrative, informational, and argumentative writing skills through repeated practices of planning, drafting, revising, and editing.

Course Objectives

Tallahassee Classical School (TCS) aims to educate scholars to be lifelong learners, seeking truth, goodness, and beauty in the world around them. Our curriculum focuses on math, science, literature, history, and Latin, incorporating music, art, and physical education. Scholars will learn facts, vocabulary, and literacy, and how to integrate this knowledge for effective communication and high-level skills in logic and argumentation.

Curriculum Stages

1. **Grammar Stage (K-5):** Focuses on vocabulary as building blocks for education.
2. **Logic Stage (6-8):** Engages scholars in dialogue to understand and compare vocabulary.

3. **Rhetoric Stage (9-12):** Encourages problem-solving and research to develop philosophical skills.

Required Materials

- Composition Notebook, preferably yellow, paper, and a pencil
- Binder or Expanding File Folder: For tracking graded and homework assignments.

Grading Policy

Grading reflects progress, with no grade inflation. Regular updates on scholar progress can be accessed through the FOCUS parent portal.

Grading Scale

Letter Grade	Percentage	Description	GPA Points
A	90-100%	Excellence	4.0
B	80-89	Above Average	3.0
C	70-79	Average	2.0
D	60-69	Below Average	1.0
F	0-59	Failing	0.0

Weighted 5.0 scale is used for honors classes.

Grade Makeup

- **Classwork/Homework:** 20%
- **Quizzes:** 30%
- **Tests:** 50%

Policies

- Grades are not curved.
- Test retakes are permitted at teacher discretion.
- Makeup work must be completed in a timely manner.
- Cheating is not tolerated.

Course Content

Literacy

- **English from the Roots Up, Volume 2**

Literature

- *The Call of the Wild* by Jack London
- *Romeo and Juliet* by William Shakespeare
- *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* by Robert Louis Stevenson
- *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens

Poetry

- "Because I Could Not Stop for Death" by Emily Dickinson
- "Casablanca" by Felicia Hemans
- "The Charge of the Light Brigade" by Alfred Lord Tennyson
- "The Chimney Sweeper" by William Blake (both versions)
- "Frederick Douglass" by Robert Hayden
- "It Was a Lover and His Lass" (for *As You Like It*) by William Shakespeare
- "Nothing Good Can Stay" by Robert Frost

Composition

- *Lost Tools of Writing, Volume I*