



Tallahassee
Classical School

4th 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.

About the Curriculum at Tallahassee Classical

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.

Classical curriculum includes classical works of art and music, and parents should be aware that all classical works of art, literature, and music contain topics and pieces that may be considered inappropriate or offensive to some in today's culture. Faculty and administrators work together to ensure that sensitive materials are taught only when age-appropriate. If you have any questions about topics covered in your scholar's class, please contact his or her teacher or an administrator.

Course Description

Through reading, writing, and rhetoric, students will examine how authors fine-tune and utilize their craft to create texts with purpose. Students continue to develop the reading, writing, language, and speaking/listening skills necessary for success in high school, college, career, and beyond. They evaluate and analyze 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 refine their narrative, informational, and argumentative writing skills through the repeated practice of planning, drafting, revising, and editing their written work.

Course Materials

- Composition notebook or planner for keeping track of daily assignments; loose leaf paper; and pencils that need to be purchased by the scholar's family.
- All scholars will need to have either a binder or expanding file folder for tracking graded and homework assignments.

Course Overview

Literature

- *The Scarlet Letter*, Nathaniel Hawthorne
- *Crime and Punishment*, by Fyodor Dostoevsky
- *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, Mark Twain

Poetry

August-September

Poems by Anne Bradstreet

September

1. "The Author to Her Book"
2. "The Prologue"
3. "Before the Birth of One of Her Children"
4. "A Letter to Her Husband, Absent Upon Publick Employment"

October

1. "Self-Reliance," Ralph Waldo Emerson
2. "Barn Burning," William Faulkner
3. "Bernice Bobs Her Hair," F. Scott Fitzgerald
4. "The Snows of Kilimanjaro," Ernest Hemingway

October-February

Poems by Walt Whitman

February

1. "This Compost"
2. "When I Heard the Learn'd Astronomer"
3. "A Noiseless Patient Spider"

Poems by Edgar Allen Poe

March

1. "Israfel"
2. "Sonnet: To Science"
3. "A Noiseless Patient Spider"

Poems by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

March

1. "The Cross of Snow"
2. "Children"

March-April

April

Poems by Emily Dickinson

1. # 448 "This Was a Poet"
2. #501 "This World is Not Conclusion"
3. #1100 "The Last Night that She Lived" 4. #1129 "Tell all the Truth"

Poems by Robert Frost

1. "Design"
2. "Birches"
3. "After Apple Picking"
4. "The Death of the Hired Man"

Poem: "A Good Man is Hard to Find," Flannery O'Connor

May

Poems by T. S. Eliot

1. "The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock"
2. "The Hollow Men"
3. "Journey of the Magi"
4. "Little Gidding" from the Four Quartets

Composition

- *Lost Tools of Writing, Volume I*

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.