



# **st. croix** preparatory academy

ACADEMICS • CHARACTER • LEADERSHIP

St. Croix Preparatory Academy will develop each student's academic potential, personal character, and leadership qualities through an academically rigorous and content-rich educational program grounded in the classical tradition.

*What is a Classical Education?*

## What is a Classical Education?

The classical approach to education focuses on providing children with the life long educational tools to learn and think for themselves. The classical tradition is grounded in the time-tested methodology of learning called the Trivium, which recognizes that critical learning skills must precede critical thinking skills.

## The Trivium

There are three phases in the Trivium methodology: Grammar, Logic and Rhetoric. Each stage of the Trivium corresponds to the general stages of a child's cognitive development as follows:

GRAMMAR	LOGIC	RHETORIC
K/1 <sup>st</sup> 2 <sup>nd</sup> 3 <sup>rd</sup> 4 <sup>th</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup> 6 <sup>th</sup> 7 <sup>th</sup> 8 <sup>th</sup>	9 <sup>th</sup> 10 <sup>th</sup> 11 <sup>th</sup> 12 <sup>th</sup>
KNOWLEDGE	UNDERSTANDING	COMMUNICATION
Knowledge- Comprehension	Application - Analysis	Synthesis - Evaluation

## Grammar (Grades K-4)

The first phase of the Trivium is Grammar, which emphasizes the facts and rules of each subject that later learning is built upon. This stage focuses on the accumulation of knowledge and the rules related to each particular subject. This mirrors the stage of development where children love to mimic, recite, chant and memorize. The objective of this phase is to provide each child with a strong foundation of subject matter **KNOWLEDGE**.

Cognitive skills that are developed in the Grammar phase include:

defining  
describing  
identifying  
matching  
memorizing  
altering  
accounting for

annotating  
calculating  
changing  
converting  
grouping  
explaining  
generalizing

inferring  
interpreting  
paraphrasing  
predicting  
reviewing  
summarizing  
translating

## Logic

(Grades 5-8)

The second phase is Logic, which focuses on the students' ability to analyze and interact with the knowledge acquired in the Grammar stage. The Logic stage is the phase where understanding is grasped. This corresponds with the child's curiosity and desire to ask questions. The objective of the Logic phase is **UNDERSTANDING**.

Cognitive skills developed in the Logic phase include:

applying	illustrating	diagramming
adopting	inferring	differentiating
collecting	outlining	dissecting
constructing	selecting	distinguishing
contrasting	separating	identifying
demonstrating	sorting	illustrating
discovering	subdividing	inferring
	analyzing	sorting
	comparing	

## Rhetoric

(Grades 9-12)

The final phase, Rhetoric, trains the student how to express and discuss the subject. Rhetoric is the communication stage, where students defend and refute opinions based on their understanding and knowledge of subject matter. This fits nicely with the students' affinity for contradiction and argumentation. The objective of the Rhetoric phase is **COMMUNICATING**.

Cognitive skills developed in the Rhetoric phase include:

blending	predicting	criticizing
building	producing	defending
changing	reordering	evaluating
combining	revising	grading
compiling	telling	judging
composing	writing	prioritizing
conceiving	accepting	recommending
creating	appraising	refereeing
designing	assessing	rejecting
formulating	arbitrating	selecting
generating	awarding	supporting
hypothesizing	concluding	
planning	choosing	

The result is that the teacher is "teaching with the grain." This means students enjoy what they are doing and at the same time equip themselves with the cognitive skills that will benefit them for their entire lives.

## Why is Latin taught?

The study of Latin fosters decoding skills that provide students with a solid foundation for reading and writing. Latin enhances students' vocabulary, increases their understanding of English grammar, improves reading and spelling, encourages precise communication and becomes the cornerstone for the study of other languages.

## Who can I contact for more information?

For more information please contact the following:

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## **Related Reading**

The following books have influenced St. Croix Prep's philosophical approach to classical education:

- Cultural Literacy: What Every American Needs to Know.  
By E.D. Hirsch, Jr.
- The Well Trained Mind: A Guide to Classical Education at Home.  
By Jessie Weiss and Susan Wise Bauer
- Classical Education: Toward the Revival of American Schooling.  
By Gene Edward Veith Jr. and Andrew Kern
- How to Read a Book: The Classic Guide to Intelligent Reading.  
By Mortimer Adler and Charles Van Doren

## **Authorizer Information:**

St. Croix Preparatory Academy is authorized by Friends of Education, EX0-01-A,  
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