

GETTING STARTED

The CLAA is in a different world when it comes to education and most new families need to spend some time learning things they haven't heard or seen before. We therefore recommend the following steps for any families interested in learning more about the CLAA.

1. Browse the CLAA Website

The CLAA website is packed with information on classical Catholic education and family life. Set some time aside to look around. On the homepage, read over the basic enrollment information and look at the Curriculum Overview. Our most successful families are those that read through all of the introductory articles before trying to get started.

2. Read Our Admission Requirements

The CLAA is not for everyone, let's be straightforward about that. Therefore, we recommend you read our admission requirements on the CLAA website. We also recommend that you walk through the CLAA's online admission application to see the kind of information we require for enrollment.

3. Talk to Other CLAA Families

Over 300 CLAA families are online daily and would be happy to help you get answers to any questions you have. The CLAA community consists of many extraordinary families with knowledge and experience to offer. We're confident enough to let them speak on our behalf.

4. Study the Online Sample Lessons

Let your children walk through a few of our sample lessons online. You can print them out and work with them just as our enrolled students do—even take a practice quiz or exam. On the left menu of the CLAA website, select a course and get to work.

5. Pray

Most of the families who come into the CLAA tell us that they did so after praying to the Lord for wisdom in educating their children. We don't think this is a coincidence.

6. Study Saints' Lives

Read on the lives of the saints and give attention to their early years and education. You'll find that most of them had an education very much like that offered by the CLAA.

7. Contact Us

We know you have questions, for the CLAA isn't like anything else available today. Therefore, don't hesitate to contact us. (See back panel.) We can help!

CLASSICAL LIBERAL ARTS ACADEMY
2105 MT. PLEASANT CHURCH RD.
MONROE, NC 28112 USA
PHONE/FAX: (800) 318-0261
MAIL@CLASSICALLIBERALARTS.COM

CLAA WEBSITE:
WWW.CLASSICALLIBERALARTS.COM

CLAA FAMILY FORUM:
WWW.CLASSICALLIBERALARTS.NET

CLASSICAL LIBERAL ARTS ACADEMY



TIMELESS & TRUSTWORTHY
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

WWW.CLASSICALLIBERALARTS.COM

Veritas Liberabit Vos

If you were to make a list of the greatest minds in world history, they would all have one thing in common: their philosophy of education.

From Moses to Aristotle to St. Augustine and St. Thomas Aquinas, history's most famous philosophers and theologians agreed on one thing: the best education must focus on the classical liberal arts.



This medieval painting shows the seven liberal arts as the servants of Wisdom.

Modern schools focus on information, grades, transcripts, diplomas and degrees. When finished with all these, the student moves on to find a job. Then the student earns a living and becomes part of a larger community. The problem with all of this is that these are all *means* to ends, but not ends themselves. What is

the end of life for our children—that which all of their heart, soul, mind and strength ought to be seeking?

It is *God*.

Our children were designed to live with and enjoy God forever. Though they may be different genders, different heights, different weights, different colors and speak different languages...they all have one thing in common: the purpose for which they were created. All other concerns are swallowed up in this. For this reason, Jesus teaches us, "Do not seek the things the nations seek. Seek ye first the kingdom of God."

There is only one system of education that has historically claimed to serve this end and that is the study of the classical liberal arts. It was the system of education studied and taught by all of history's wisest and best men and it is being restored in the Classical Liberal Arts Academy.

"Mr. Michael's courses are legendary. The magnitude of this man's influence at our school reaches the level of a Hollywood drama...he has revolutionized the lives of numerous young people. In all my years of teaching, I have never witnessed a teacher make such an extensive impact on students."

High School Theology Teacher (Charlotte, NC)

WHO WE ARE

The CLAA was founded in 2008 by **William and Dania Michael**. After ten years of highly successful classroom teaching, Mr. Michael followed the signs that were directing him to offer more than he could as a full-time classroom teacher. He began teaching the classical liberal arts to a handful of Catholic home school students in September 2008. The CLAA website opened October 2008, offering the courses Mr. Michael was teaching to other students. In November, the CLAA website began to earn awards and word spread like wildfire of what was being made available. In May 2010, 800 students are enrolled in the CLAA, from all over the world.



Mr. and Mrs. Michael during their family's November 2009 visit to Kingston, Jamaica.

Mr. and Mrs. Michael are known more widely for their charity work with the Missionaries of the Poor. The Michaels own and operate the MOP international website, work directly with the MOPs in the U.S. and overseas, and Mr. Michael serves as a visiting instructor and consultant in the MOP Institute of Learning—the MOP internal formation program. In February

2010, Mr. Michael led a group of 10 CLAA fathers on a mission trip to Kingston Jamaica to work with the MOPs while he taught a 2-week course to the brothers. In the U.S., the Michaels are helping to establish the first American mission of the MOP, in their own town of Monroe, NC where the MOPs opened Guardian Angels Monastery. You can learn more about the Michaels' work in education and missions on the CLAA website.

In the Summer of 2010, Mr. Michael is being joined by **Dr. Nathan Schmiedicke** of St. Charles Borromeo Seminary and Villanova University in Philadelphia, PA. Not only a scholar and teacher, but also a Catholic husband and home-schooling father, Dr. Schmiedicke brings a treasury of biblical and theological knowledge to the CLAA, but also a love of simplicity and a heart for evangelization. Dr. Schmiedicke's Biblical Studies program will open in the Fall of 2010 and he will be directing the CLAA's theology courses as students move through their core studies.

Mr. Jared Haselbarth, Assistant Dean of Religious Studies at St. Charles Borromeo Seminary is the author of the CLAA's Music and Art History courses and will be developing a number of other excellent programs in the fine arts in the future.

More information about the people behind the CLAA is available online.

WHAT WE DO

The CLAA does not merely provide a list of books and lesson outlines for children to satisfy state requirements. We suggest to families a life of prayer, study and work and provide the support needed for that life.

I. PRAYER

Our emphasis begins with catechesis and prayer, which includes all aspects of Catholic sacramental life. We provide our students with a daily prayer guide that helps them establish a routine of daily piety. We recommend to families attendance at daily Mass and/or the praying of the Liturgy of the Hours (LOTH). The CLAA publishes the guide to the LOTH that is used by Catholic adults around the world.

II. STUDY

With prayer established, we offer families a rigorous classical liberal arts study program that they would not have access to locally. By logging into a central admin page, parents have access to all of their children's lessons (present and past) and reports summarizing their children's progress. Benefits of our system include:

- No need to plan lessons.
- No need to prepare instruction.
- No need to shop for curriculum supplies.
- Efficient management of multiple children.

Students log in to a student center of their own, where they find messages from the CLAA instructors, and links to their current and completed lessons for each course. Lessons may be studied online or printed for use away from the computer. Most families print lessons and keep them organized in a 3-ring binder or with folders. Benefits of our student services include:

- Increased student independence
- Online support available for students.
- Easier management of multiple students.
- No home school clutter.

III. WORK

One of the most unique elements of the CLAA mission is our encouragement of simplicity of life and the value of physical work. We offer excellent resources on scheduling and household management, and provide opportunities for students to learn practical arts and serve in Catholic missions.