



“It should be your care, therefore, and mine, to elevate the minds of our children and exalt their courage; to accelerate and animate their industry and activity; to excite in them a habitual contempt of meanness, abhorrence of injustice and inhumanity, and an ambition to excel in every capacity, faculty, and virtue. If we suffer their minds to grovel and creep in infancy, they will grovel all their lives.”

- John Adams, Dissertation on the Canon and Feudal Law, 1765

Arlington Classics Academy, otherwise known as ACA, is a third generation, free, open-enrollment public charter school that has been faithfully serving Arlington and surrounding communities for 23 years.

A school system serving kindergarten through eighth grade developed by parents for parents, ACA thrives on providing a different kind of public education for parents and students at its three campuses.

“Public education is a critical component of our free society,” says Craig Sims, Executive Director of Schools. “A classical education was often restricted to private schools that were out of reach for so many families. Thanks

to the charter legislation passed in Texas in 1995 and the visionary efforts of a group of families, ACA was one of the first public charter open enrollment schools to bring classical education into the realm of

of our nation: literature and language, history and geography, mathematics, science, and fine arts. The goal of this education is not just to learn content, but to learn the skills needed to sustain a virtuous

and wise citizenship that will maintain our democracy and freedom.

ACA’s mission and curriculum embraces this endeavor to train the mind to develop a high degree of literacy that will ensure the student’s ability to navigate a complex or unfamiliar world.

ARLINGTON CLASSICS ACADEMY

A Timeless Education for a Lifetime

public education in our area.” Classical education focuses learning on the liberal arts that heavily influenced the development

“In education, we are preparing students for life in a time where we can’t predict the job demands of tomorrow,” says Sims. “Children



What ACA graduates say ...

“The lessons that ACA taught me about perseverance and hard work have influenced me throughout my time in high school and will undoubtedly continue to do so throughout college and my professional career.”

“The drive to learn that ACA has instilled in me is still thriving long after I have left the school. ACA has significantly impacted my life for the better by nurturing my motivation to constantly learn about new things.”

“ACA and its core values taught me what it means to be a leader and how leadership skills can make an impact on another’s life. I will never forget what ACA has done for me both academically and morally.”

What an ACA parent says ...

“It’s been my experience that ACA students, with the help of teachers and involved parents, learn skills over time that prepare them well for high school. From the poems recited in kindergarten to the essays in middle school, ACA students:

- Learn to do advanced oral presentations with visuals in a comfortable, practiced manner.
- Write superior essays above the quality of many of their peers.
- Organize their homework, notes, and schedules for productivity.
- Have a strong work ethic to complete their assignments on time.
- Have a knowledge base in areas such as history and literature that exceed expectations.
- Are comfortable communicating with teachers and counselors in a timely manner regarding homework help and guidance.

I don’t doubt that the positive environment created by supportive, hardworking staff and parents helped our children develop into strong students. They have fond memories of many teachers, school-wide events, and friends.” – **Liza Maakestad**

must be able to do more than achieve results on assessments. They must develop critical thinking and problem-solving skills that they can transfer from one situation to another. This is the missing piece that employers are often looking for. ACA works to build the student’s ability to think independently and present that information both in front of their peers and in written form.”

Sims says that, unfortunately, much of public education is departmentalized and segregated. The time is not made available to foster student inquiry or assist students in making the connections between the content they are

learning. A classical education makes those connections and allows students to better understand, retain and apply the information they are learning.

“This student, this classical student, is able to see these connections not only between content, but in their life and the life of their parents,” he says. “That’s where we spark intrinsic motivation for learning. I have heard it said that today’s students, our children, are preparing for jobs that don’t exist yet, to be accomplished through technologies that have yet to be invented, in order to solve problems that we don’t even know exist ... yet. A timeless approach to education is

the best way I can see preparing our students for that world.”

“The way in which education starts a man will determine his future life.”

– **Plato**

ACA recognizes that the world is competitive and certainly prepares students for that needed competitive advantage. The classical education at ACA also recognizes that an education that doesn’t also endeavor for truth, beauty, and goodness that is found in our world and in the relationships we share in our communities is not a comprehensive, well-rounded

education at all. The joy of learning is so much richer when done in community.

These relationships are so critical to the shaping of a life. The friendships students make at ACA by sharing in the productive struggle of learning, enjoying the annual educational field trips together, participating in extracurricular activities such as sports, and being in a small educational community together are precious to students.

ACA champions what they refer to as the “three-legged stool.” The progress of students is dependent on a firm foundation that divides responsibility equally among the parent, the student, and the school. If any leg is shortened – in other words, if any of these three do not take on their portion of responsibility for this foundation – then the stool will wobble or fall. If any one of the legs are lengthened – in other words, if any of these three take on too much

of the responsibility – then the stool will not be stable.

ACA maintains high expectations for students both academically and behaviorally because ACA works to ensure a stable footing with the three-legged stool, allowing students to reach higher than they thought possible.

ACA believes that parents are the first and foremost educator in a child’s life. It is ACA’s privilege and honor to come alongside and partner with parents to provide a timeless education that ACA hopes will create a passion for learning for a lifetime.

“A free society and the development of our western civilization is contingent on participation and cooperation,” Sims says. “Parents, teachers and students choose to cooperate together in order to accomplish the learning and experiences that happen throughout a child’s life.

That is the strength of ACA, the choice involved in order to be a part of this educational community. Our parents, teachers, and students make all of the difference at ACA not due to any unique ability or capacity, but because they choose to participate and cooperate in our educational community.”

ACA’s mission is to equip a diverse student body with a comprehensive education, including a special focus on Western civilization. Students will develop a commanding knowledge of the origins of our liberty and the ability to sustain it through moral leadership. ACA aims to accomplish this goal through a high level of academic instruction and high behavioral expectations.

ACA is excited to continue serving the Arlington area. If you would like more information about how to become a part of ACA’s educational community, please visit the school website: www.tryaca.com **A**

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