

## Introduction

This report presents a comprehensive analysis of student and community feedback gathered through surveys regarding extracurricular activities at Nova Classical Academy. Additionally, this report compares Nova Classical Academy's offerings with those at comparable schools, including Hmong College Prep (St. Paul, Charter School, Enrollment: 2,508), St. Croix Prep Academy (Stillwater, Charter School, Enrollment: 1,202), Eagle Ridge (Minnetonka, Charter School, Enrollment: 1,540), PACT (Ramsey, Charter School, Enrollment: 1,081), and Mounds Park Academy (St. Paul, Private School, Enrollment: 580). The aim is to identify strengths, gaps, and opportunities for improvement in Nova Classical's extracurricular programs.

## Key Insights from Community Feedback

### 1. Comparable Offerings

Nova Classical's extracurricular offerings align with those of schools of similar size. The total number of activities is comparable to the institutions analyzed, ensuring that Nova is meeting general expectations for student engagement. This alignment indicates that Nova's extracurricular framework effectively supports student interests and engagement consistent with regional benchmarks.

### 2. Gaps in Opportunities for Younger Students

There is a notable suggestion to increase athletic opportunities for younger students, particularly in lower grades, to support early skill development and foster long-term interest in sports. Additionally, stakeholders observed a decrease in extracurricular offerings for students in grades K-2. Addressing these gaps would not only enhance student engagement and skill development but also align with the strategic plan's emphasis on providing diverse extracurricular opportunities for all grade levels.

### 3. Co-Curricular Activities During School Hours

Many of Nova Classical's co-curricular activities and clubs occur during school hours, making them accessible to students. However, this structure may limit after-school engagement opportunities, which could be expanded to enhance student involvement, aligning with practices at comparable schools.

### 4. Instrumental Music Programs

Community feedback strongly supports the addition of instrumental music programs, such as band or orchestra, for both Lower and Upper School students. Most comparable schools offer these programs as part of their academic curriculum, while Nova Classical has traditionally kept them outside academic offerings.

## Recommendations

### 1. Increase Opportunities for Younger Students

Enhance extracurricular activities for younger students, particularly in grades K-2, to foster early involvement and skill development. This addresses a clear gap in alignment with the strategic plan.

### 2. Expand High-Demand Areas

Focus on expanding extracurricular offerings in high-demand areas such as music, theater, STEM, and sports across all schools to meet student interests and expectations. This ensures continued alignment with comparable schools while responding to community feedback.

### 3. Evaluate and Implement Instrumental Music Programs

Consider the implementation of Lower and Upper School band or orchestra programs to address gaps in instrumental music education. However, it remains unclear whether the community desires these programs as extracurricular offerings or as academic

programming. Academic programming would come with additional operating costs, reduce demand for other elective offerings, and could impact ongoing academic programming. Since the strategic plan did not prioritize this, future decisions will require clarifying the community's desire and our appetite to absorb the real impact it could have on current offerings.

#### **4. Address Facility Limitations for Athletics**

To support the expansion of athletic opportunities for younger students, it is essential to address the current limitations posed by the availability of appropriate facilities. These restrictions limit the range and frequency of athletic programs that can be offered. Future planning should include exploring partnerships, facility upgrades, or scheduling adjustments to accommodate increased athletic programming.

#### **5. Continuous Monitoring**

Regularly monitor student and community feedback to ensure that extracurricular offerings remain relevant, equitable, and accessible to all students. This will help maintain alignment with comparable schools and adapt to evolving community needs.

## **Extracurricular Needs by School Division**

### **School of Grammar, Grades K-5 | Top 5 Extracurricular Activities to Add or Expand**

- Sports Programs: Expand options like soccer, basketball, volleyball, tennis, and dance teams to give younger students more exposure to athletics.
- Music Programs: High demand for band or orchestra and individual instrumental lessons starting as early as 3rd or 4th grade. It is unclear whether the community desires these as extracurricular offerings or academic programming, which would carry additional costs and impact other elective offerings. Clarifying the community's desire and our appetite to absorb the real impact on current programming is essential.
- Theater/Drama: Find ways to provide options beyond the current drama club.
- STEM Activities: Introduce more hands-on science, math, and technology-related clubs, such as robotics, chess, and coding.
- Instrumental Music Programs
- Art Programs: Broaden art-related extracurriculars, including drawing, painting, ceramics, and other creative activities.

### **School of Logic, Grades 6-8 | Top 5 Extracurricular Activities to Add or Expand**

- Sports Programs: Suggestions include tennis, football, hockey (especially for girls), softball, skiing, and basketball. Dance teams and weightlifting clubs were also mentioned.
- STEM and Academic Clubs: Increase opportunities in Science Olympiad, Math Olympics, coding, chess, and robotics.
- Creative and Arts-Based Activities: Expand art classes (drawing, painting, ceramics), theater options, and creative clubs like book clubs and writing groups.
- Music Programs: Strong interest in adding band or orchestra, with students seeking more instrumental options beyond choir. It remains unclear whether these programs should be extracurricular or integrated into academic programming, which would have cost implications and affect other electives. Clarifying the community's desire and our appetite to absorb the real impact on current programming is essential.
- Outdoor and Niche Clubs: Interest in environmental and outdoor clubs, such as hiking, skiing, gardening, and conservation, alongside niche activities like archery, fencing, and taekwondo.

### **School of Rhetoric, Grades 9-12 | Top 5 Extracurricular Activities to Add or Expand**

- Music Programs: High demand for band or orchestra, with students identifying the lack of non-choral music opportunities as a significant gap. However, it remains unclear whether the community prefers these as extracurricular activities or as part of academic programming, which would carry additional costs and potentially reduce demand for other electives. Clarifying the community's desire and our appetite to absorb the real impact on current programming is essential.

- Sports Programs: Requests for more girls' sports (e.g., softball, hockey, tennis, Nordic cross-country skiing, golf, badminton, and basketball). Interest in intramural sports and Nova Classical-exclusive teams.
- Academic and Creative Clubs: Interest in activities such as a school newspaper, art or literary magazine, Model UN, Quiz Bowl, DECA, and Destination Imagination.
- STEM and Tech-Related Activities: Requests for FRC robotics, programming clubs, and technology skill-building activities.
- Drama and Facilities: Desire for enhanced theater options and the construction of a dedicated auditorium or theater space to support performing arts programs.

## Conclusion

Nova Classical Academy's extracurricular offerings are generally aligned with those of comparable schools. The strategic plan states that "students in all grades will have access to a variety of extracurricular offerings." Nova Classical currently meets this objective in most areas; however, the area most in need of development, based on the strategic plan's priorities, is extracurricular opportunities for our youngest students. Addressing this gap will ensure full alignment with the strategic plan, while the additional recommendations in this report are provided for consideration should there be a desire to expand beyond these strategic goals.



# Nova Classical Academy 2023-2024 Comparision of Athletic Offerings

Activities for Schools	Nova Classical Academy	Hmong College Prep Academy	St. Croix Prep Academy	Eagle Ridge Academy	PACT Charter School	Mounds Park Academy
Total Enrollment 9-12 Enrollment	1,018 276	2,508 811	1,202 375	1,540 239	1,081 206	520 238
Girls Soccer	✔ - 2 Levels	✔	✔ - 3 Levels	✔ - 1 Level	✔ - 3 Levels	✔ - 1 Level
Girls Cross Country	✔ - 2 Levels	✔ Will be dropping in 24-25	✔ - 2 Levels	✔ - 2 Levels	✔ - Coop	✔ - 2 Levels
Girls Volleyball	✔ - 4 Levels	✔	✔ - 3 Levels	✔ - 3 Levels	✔ - 5 Levels	✔ - 3 Levels
Boys Soccer	✔ - 2 Levels	✔	✔ - 2 Levels	✔ - 2 Levels	✔ - 4 Levels	✔ - 2 Levels
Boys Cross Country	✔ - 2 Levels	✔ Will be dropping in 24-25	✔ - 2 Levels	✔ - 2 Levels	✔ - Coop	✔ - 2 Levels
Football (Coop or Host)	✔ - Coop	✔ Coop	✔ - Coop in 2025	✔ - Coop	✔ - JV-V 2025	✔ - Coop
Boys Basketball	✔ - 3 Levels	✔	✔ - 3 Levels	✔ - 3 Levels	✔ - 11 Teams HS Youth	✔ - 2 Levels
Girls Basketball	✔ - 3 Levels	✔	✔ - 3 Levels	✔ - 2 Levels	✔ - 9 Teams HS Youth	✔ - 2 Levels
Girls Hockey (Coop or Host)	-	-	✔ - Coop	-	-	✔ - Coop
Boys Hockey (Coop or Host)	✔ - Coop	-	✔ - Coop	✔ - Coop	✔ - Coop	✔ - Coop
Nordic Skiing	-	-	-	-	-	✔ - Boys and Girls 2 Levels
Alpine Skiing	-	-	✔	-	-	✔ - Boys and Girls 2 Levels
Baseball	✔ - 2 Levels	-	✔ - 3 Levels	✔ - 2 Levels	✔ - 3 Levels	✔ - 1 Level
Softball	-	-	✔ - 2 Levels	✔ - Coop	✔ - 3 Levels	✔ - 1 Level
Girls Track	✔ - 2 Levels	✔	✔ - 3 Levels	✔ - 2 Levels	✔ - Coop	✔ - 2 Levels
Boys Track	✔ - 2 Levels	✔	✔ - 3 Levels	✔ - 2 Levels	✔ - Coop	✔ - 2 Levels
Girls Tennis	✔ - Coop	-	✔	-	-	✔ - 2 Levels
Boys Tennis	✔ - Coop	-	-	-	-	✔
Boys Lacrosse	✔ - Coop	-	✔	-	✔ - Coop	-
Girls Lacrosse	✔ - Coop	-	✔ - 2 Levels	-	Starting in 2025	✔ - 2 Levels
Girls Golf	-	-	✔	-	✔ - JV	✔ - 2 Levels
Boys Golf	-	-	✔	-	✔ - 2 Levels	✔ - 2 Levels
5/6 Cross Country	✔	-	-	✔ - 1 Level	-	✔ - 1 Level 6th
5/6 Soccer	✔	✔	-	✔ - 1 boy & 1 girl	✔	✔ - 2 Levels
5/6 Basketball	✔	✔	5th Gr Traveling, 6th Gr Traveling, Seperate Teams	✔ - 3 boys & 1 girl	✔	✔ - 2 Levels
7/8 Basketball	✔	✔	7th Grade Travlning, 8th Plays on 9th Grade Team	✔ - 2 boys & 1 girl	✔	✔ - 2 Levels
5/6 Volleyball	✔	✔	✔ - 1 Team Each	✔ - 1 Level	✔	✔ - 1 Level
Boys Volleyball	✔ - Coop	✔ - 3 Levels	-	Club	Starting in 2025	HS Club
MS Track Coed	✔ - Grades 6-8	-	✔	-	-	✔ - Grades 5-8
Girls Swimming /Diving	-	-	✔ - Coop	✔ - Coop	✔ - Coop	HS Club
Boys Swimming/Diving	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wrestling	-	✔ - Coop	-	-	-	-
Badminton (Girls)	-	✔	-	✔ - 1 Level	-	-
Synchro Swimming	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ultimate Frisbee	-	-	-	✔ - Non MSHSL	-	HS Club
Flag Football	-	✔	-	-	✔	-
Bass Fishing	-	✔	-	-	-	-
Skeet Shooting	-	-	-	-	✔	-
Gymnastics	-	-	-	-	✔ - Coop	✔ - Coop
Dance - High Kick and Jazz	-	-	✔	✔ - Club with intent to be varsity	✔	-
Archery	-	-	✔	-	-	-
5/6 Baseball	-	-	-	-	-	✔ - 1 Level
7/8 Baseball	-	-	✔ - Plays on C team	-	-	✔ - 1 Level
5/6 Softball	-	-	-	-	-	✔ - 1 Level
<b>Total Athletic Offerings</b>	23	19	28	23	27	34

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Total Enrollment 9-12 Enrollment	1,018 276	2,508 811	1,202 375	1,540 239	1,081 206	520 238
Debate	✓	-	✓	✓	-	✓
One Act Play	✓	-	-	✓	✓	✓
Speech	✓	-	✓	✓	✓	✓
Mock Trial	4 Teams	-	-	✓	-	-
Drama	2 Productions	✓	2 Productions	2 Productions	3 Productions	Productions
First Tech Challenge HS	2 Teams	✓	-	✓	✓	-
First Lego League MS	2 Teams	-	-	✓	-	-
Clay Target	-	-	-	-	✓	-
Vocal Music	-	-	-	Choir	Choir	Choirs (3)
Large Group	-	-	-	-	-	-
Solo or Ensemble	-	-	-	-	-	US
Instrumental Jazz	-	-	✓	-	-	US
Percussion	-	-	-	-	-	US
Swing Show Choir	-	-	-	-	-	-
Orchestra	-	✓	-	-	-	US
Ski Club	-	-	✓	-	✓	MS Only
Dungeons and Dragons	✓	-	-	✓	-	US Club
Art Club	✓	-	-	-	-	-
Drama LS	✓	-	✓	✓	-	-
Chess	✓	-	-	✓	-	US Club
French Club	✓	-	-	-	-	US Club
Ulimite Frisbee	✓	-	-	-	-	US Club
Writing Club	✓	-	-	-	-	-
First Lego League	✓	-	-	✓	-	-
Science Olympiad MS	✓	-	-	-	-	-
Science Olympiad LS	✓	-	-	-	-	-
Coding Club	✓	-	-	-	-	-
Astronomy Club	✓	-	-	-	-	US Club
Beginning Needle-Work	✓	-	-	-	-	-
Kid Create Studios	✓	-	-	-	-	-
Yearbook US	✓	✓	-	✓	✓	US Club
Yearbook LS	-	-	-	✓	✓	-
Climbing Club	-	-	-	✓	-	-
Strength Club	Summer Only	-	-	✓	-	MS/US Summer
Junior Classical League	-	-	-	✓	-	-
Math Team	-	-	-	✓	-	MS/US Club
Music Listening Club	-	-	✓	✓	-	-
National Honor Society	✓	✓	-	✓	✓	-
Nerd Coalition	-	-	-	✓	-	-
Pep Band	-	✓	✓	✓	-	-
Spanish Club	-	-	-	-	-	US Club
Student Government	✓	-	-	✓	-	US/MS Club
eSports	-	✓	-	-	-	-
Club Terra	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total Offerings</b>	25	7	8	23	10	20