

Executive Director's Report to the Board

Date of the Report: May 15, 2023

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Strategic Plan Updates

Goal 3: Foster an environment that values structures and classical culture in the classroom as well as joy and connections between members of Nova Classical's learning community in and outside the classroom.

Objective 3.4: Nova Classical will recognize students regularly for their achievements.

Strategy: Develop a regular cadence for assemblies and pep fests to honor students who participate in activities and achievements of Nova Classical in and outside of the classroom.

Stage: Not Started.

Update: With the hiring of a new Upper School Principal, we have moved the deadline for this back to August 18, 2023 to allow her to have input on what the cadence will be instead of having our outgoing Upper School principal make this decision for our older students.

Goal 4: Support students in all areas of their education and well-being.

Objective 4.1: Nova Classical will position Multiple-Tiered Systems of Support in place to meet students' academic, behavioral and social-emotional needs.

Strategy: Implement framework including providing clear expectations and training for each role involved in the MTSS framework.

Stage: Planning

Update: Last month the Board approved a budget which allocated money for an Administrator of MTSS. Because that will allow us to have someone focusing on this implementation as their primary role, we have moved the implementation date up from September of 2025 to September of 2024. We will also be cascading the deadlines of the strategies leading up to this ultimate goal accordingly.

Goal 6: Identify and transform systems that contribute to inequities.

Objective 6.1: Nova Classical will evaluate the fairness of its policies, programs, and practices.

Strategy: Research and select vendor for equity audit.

Stage: In Implementation

Update: We have consulted with many potential vendors. During the Business section of tonight's Board meeting, we will be making a recommendation of a vendor for Nova Classical to engage with for an equity audit during the 2023-2024 school year. Upon Board approval of this vendor, we will consider this strategy to be completed.

Goal 1: Provide all Nova Classical students guaranteed access to Minnesota's leading classical education.

Objective 1.1: Nova Classical will define the core components of our classical education model.

Strategy: Determine the components and format used for the definition of Nova's Classical Education Model.

Stage: Complete

Update: Dr. Johnson, Nova Classical's Pedagogy Leads and myself have collaborated to determine the components and format that will be used to define Nova's classical education model. The components that will be included are:

- A formal definition will be composed that builds upon the one written by Nova Classical in 2016-2017 and which seeks additional clarity when possible.
- Statements of what classical education is in practice will be written. These are intended for use with external stakeholders or individuals who may not have much familiarity with classical education and should be written at or below an 8th grade reading level.

- A common example of how the stages of the trivium are applied to learning about a topic which can be provided to Nova Classical staff. This example will help ensure consistent explanations of the stages of the trivium and demonstrates how this learning is applicable across disciplines and types of learning.
 - A process that can be used to help staff determine if an instructional strategy aligns with Nova's classical education model and provides examples of practices (and purposes) which are typically aligned with our model of classical education will be written.
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Athletic Conference

I previously informed the Board about receiving an invitation to leave the Skyline Conference and join the Minnesota Classical Athletic Association (MCAA). Last week, we shared this information with the other schools in the Skyline Conference during a meeting. We had an extensive discussion with them regarding our concerns about our current involvement with the conference. After the meeting, we requested an extension from the MCAA, and they have agreed to move the deadline for us to provide them with notice of our decision from May to August. We believe that more thorough research and analysis should be conducted before making a recommendation to the Board for action. Currently, it appears most likely that if we decide to join the MCAA, it would take effect for the 2024-2025 school year.

MACS Innovation Award

I am delighted to announce that Nova Classical Academy was honored with the 2023 MACS Innovation Award for its outstanding work in Creating Professional Opportunities for Teachers. Nova received this recognition for its Classical Education Certification 101 (CEC 101) program, which serves as our approach to introducing classical pedagogy to newly hired staff members at Nova Classical. Dr. Johnson oversees the CEC program, while the CEC 101 course is taught by our Pedagogy Leads, Becky Lund, Brandon Foat, and Sara Seal.

Multicultural Night

On May 11th, Nova Classical held its inaugural Multicultural Night. The event was organized by the Equity Council, led by Laura Buri and Brendan O'Hara, along with the National Honor Society (NHS), advised by Sara Seal. It provided an opportunity for our community to gather and celebrate the diverse cultures present within our schools. Over 200 individuals RSVP'd for the event, but it appeared that the actual attendance exceeded that number. The evening was filled with highlights, including the chance to sample various foods representing different cultures, engaging in Salsa Dancing in the gym, and fostering connections among members of the Nova Community.

Fun Run & Color Run

Nova Classical hosting its annual Fun Run for students in grades K-5 and Color Run for students in grades 6-8. Remarkably, Nova has successfully achieved its fundraising goal for this event, amassing a total of \$58,000. As in previous years, the funds raised will be specifically allocated to Playworks Inc. However, this year, there will be additional funds set aside for enhancing the sound systems in both the Gym and Great Room.