



Strategic Plan Onboarding Description

Objective 1.4: Nova Classical will provide exposure to the core components of the classical education model to all students who are new to Nova Classical.

- Strategy: Nova Classical will identify core components that are included in our existing new student orientation.
- Deliverable: Written description of our existing onboarding for new students
- Due June 1, 2025

Overview of Current Student Onboarding

Lower School:

- For incoming Kindergarten onboarding, Nova Classical offers a scaffolded onboarding experience. Kindergarten students and their parents/guardians are invited to the Kindergarten Round-Up in March of the year they will begin in August. During the Round-Up, the incoming Kindergarten families are given an overview of Nova Classical and the Kindergarten curriculum, some pointers for Kindergarten readiness, what to expect at home from a Nova Classical Kindergarten student, and an invitation for the summer KinderAcademy.
- KinderAcademy takes place in July, where incoming Kindergarten students are introduced to skills needed for school readiness, social and emotional development, fine and gross motor movements, language and literacy, reading, and math. These eight sessions are half days and take place over two weeks.
- Finally, incoming Kindergarteners and their parents/guardians attend the Kindergarten picnic the week before school begins where they meet their teachers while visiting their classrooms, meet other students and families during the picnic, and tour a school bus.
- For incoming 1-5 grade Nova Classical students, they attend the Orientation for New to Nova Students in mid-August where they receive a building tour, an introduction to the food service and transportation programs, opportunities to participate in ScholarZone, Nova's Child Care, information on Virtue Assemblies and special Spirit Wear days, and important events during the school year.

Upper School:

- Onboarding for Nova Classical's Upper School takes place in three sessions two weeks before school begins. The first half-day session is for New to Nova students in grades 6-12, during which students rotate through five short sessions on Classical Education (including school culture aspects such as conduct and uniform); Learning, Memorizing, and Reasoning; Agon and Dialectic; General Academic Skills; and Time Management (grades 6-8) or Path to Graduation (grades 9-12).
- On the following day, Nova Classical Academy welcomes the rising 6th grade students to a half-day where they engage in ice breaker activities, as well as information sessions on school culture expectations, a School of Logic class experience, how students are supported in their academics, and a building walkthrough that includes practicing with their lockers.
- The third day is our final half-day session where the rising 9th grade students engage in ice breaker activities, as well as information sessions on school culture expectations, a School of Rhetoric class experience in seminar, how students are supported in their academics, and an opportunity to review their class schedules. During all three half-day sessions, students finish their onboarding experience with a brief introduction to Nova Classical's Activities as well as a chance for questions and answers with the Upper School Principal, Dean of Students, and Counselors.



Onboarding for Rising 6th Graders and Mid-year Entries:

- Since rising 6th graders are new to the School of Logic, they come for a full-period SoL class visit in the spring of their 5th grade. After the class visit, they have an opportunity for questions and answers with the Upper School Principal, Dean of Students, and grades K-7 Counselor.
- If the student is in grades K-5, they take a math and reading assessment to ensure they are appropriately placed in those classes. They also have a “homeroom buddy” to show them routines and important procedures. If the student is in grades 6-12, Nova Classical’s Counselors spend about 30 minutes in a walkthrough with the new student, showing them important places in the building, answering questions about courses, and reviewing graduation requirements including senior thesis for grades 9-12.

Board-Approved Classical Education Simplified Definition

Nova Classical uses classical education to teach our students. Classical education uses three stages called the Trivium —grammar, logic, and rhetoric— to train thinkers. We help our students learn facts, connect ideas, and use their learning in new ways. We use virtue instruction to help them make wise and ethical decisions. Students use these skills to improve their lives as well as the lives of others.

Core Components in Current Student Onboarding:

The onboarding presentation for the Kindergarten Round-Up provides incoming Kindergarten students with an overview of classical education with the following components: “Rooted in the Liberal Arts; Great Books & Timeless Ideas; Strong Foundation in Latin; Emphasis on Critical Thinking; Virtue & Character Development; Rigorous, Knowledge-Based Curriculum; and Preparation for Lifelong Learning”.

- Virtue is mentioned in the grades 1-5 New Student Orientation.
- The New to Nova grades 6-12 Onboarding presentation offers a classical education overview including the trivium and virtue education.
- The Rising 6th grade Onboarding presentation offers an overview of the trivium.
- The Rising 9th grade Onboarding presentation offers an overview of the trivium, a deeper exploration of the difference between the SoL (“Do we know how it’s done?”) and the SoR (“Can we do it ourselves?”), and mention of “valuing character” (not “virtue”) in the “Courses and Successes” session.

Next Step:

Objective 1.4: Nova Classical will provide exposure to the core components of the classical education model to all students who are new to Nova Classical.

- Strategy: Nova Classical will identify core components that are included in our existing new student orientation.
- Deliverable: Based on the identification of core components in existing new student orientation, Nova Classical will address missing core components of classical education for new students, including those who come in mid-year.
- Due July 1, 2025