

GreatHearts®

CLASSICAL EDUCATION. REVOLUTIONARY SCHOOLS.™



CHARTER SCHOOLS • PRIVATE SCHOOLS • PRESCHOOLS • ONLINE SCHOOLS



A Classical Education...

Virtue and character formation are at the core of a Great Hearts K-12 education. This timeless tradition, embraced by the great leaders of the past and present, shapes students through engagement with the great works of the Western tradition.

Classical education sharpens the mind through logic, science, literature, and the arts, while also calling students to reflect on what it means to live well. It nurtures clarity of thought, responsibility, and a vision for flourishing in community.



A LETTER FROM OUR CO-FOUNDER, DR. DAN SCOGGIN

Dear Friends of Great Hearts,

When we founded Great Hearts over two decades ago, our vision was simple yet profound: to restore the tradition of classical education to public schooling. We believed then, as we do now, that every child deserves the opportunity to encounter the rich inheritance of Western Culture and the beauty of intellectual and moral virtue. What began as a single school has since grown into a community of academies where thousands of students are formed in both mind and heart each day.

At Great Hearts, we stand for more than academic achievement. We stand for the cultivation of character, for the pursuit of wisdom over mere information, and for the kind of formation that prepares young men and women not only for college, but for a life well lived. In classrooms filled with great books, enduring ideas, and timeless works of art, our students learn to think deeply, to speak eloquently, and to act with courage and integrity.

In today's world, where distractions are endless and the pressure to conform is immense, classical education provides an antidote. It offers students clarity in a time of noise, purpose in a culture of drift, and the enduring conviction that Truth, Goodness, and Beauty are real and worthy of pursuit. Our graduates leave Great Hearts not just ready to succeed in their chosen fields, but ready to lead lives of meaning, responsibility, and joy.

Thank you for considering joining the Great Hearts community. It is an honor to partner with families who share the belief that education should be about the whole person, mind, body, and soul. We look forward to walking alongside you in this noble journey of raising the next generation of citizens and leaders.



With gratitude and hope,
Dan Scoggin

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Dan Scoggin', written in a cursive style.

Great Hearts Co-Founder



Truth

Truth is when our thoughts and words align with reality, when they reflect what is valid and permanent about the world and human nature. The Truth is bigger than just our own perspective. A Great Hearts education emphasizes that reality can be understood, and the human mind has the ability to seek it and know it.

Goodness

Goodness is striving for right action and fulfilling our purpose. In classical thought, something is “good” when it achieves what it is meant to do, such as a person living virtuously.

Beauty

Beauty is both an objective reality and a personal experience. Beauty draws us beyond ourselves, inviting moments of awe, contemplation, and joy.

Great Hearts Restores the *Promise* of American *K-12* *Education*

SMALL CLASS SIZES



Personalized attention and strong relationships. Our K-5 programs have two teachers in every classroom.

GREAT BOOKS



From *Charlotte's Web*, to Dostoevsky's *The Brothers Karamazov*, our literature explores timeless themes.

LATIN



Builds vocabulary, sharpens logic, and introduces students to a rich cultural inheritance.

SCREEN-FREE CLASSROOMS



Builds strong foundations in writing, listening, and speaking before introducing technology.

We Teach *How To Think*, Not What To Think.

Your child develops intellectual tools that work across every subject, skills that last a lifetime.

Classical education succeeds because it works with your child's natural development, not against it. For over 2,500 years, this approach has shaped history's greatest minds by following one simple principle: teach children what they're excited to learn when they're naturally ready.

Young children love memorizing. We teach foundational facts through songs and engaging lessons.

Middle schoolers want to debate everything. We channel that energy into formal logic and Socratic discussion.

While most schools chase the latest educational trends, classical education remains steady, using methods proven effective for centuries. Why? Because while the times may change, human nature stays the same, and classical education naturally aligns with how children develop.

How Does *Classical* Learning Compare?

	<i>Most Schools</i>	<i>Classical Schools</i>
PRIMARY GOAL	Teach students WHAT to know for tests	Teach students HOW to learn and think
APPROACH	Latest trends and constantly changing fads	Time-tested methods proven over centuries
LEARNING FOUNDATION	Subject specific content in isolation	Grammar, logic, and rhetoric (tools of learning)
TECH USAGE	Heavy integration from early ages	Intentional and limited (after strong foundations)
CURRICULUM FOCUS	Textbook and digital content	Great books and primary resources
CHARACTER FORMATION	Social-emotional learning programs	Virtue and moral reasoning integrated daily
THE ARTS	Elective courses focused on self-expression	Integrated study of beauty, form, and classical works
CIVICS EDUCATION	Limited civics with focus only on current events	Promotes active citizenship and teaches democratic principles

The *Graduate* We Aim to Send *Into the* *World*

At Great Hearts we begin with the end in mind. Imagine your child on the day they graduate from high school. Who do you hope they will become?

Will they be a young man or woman who...

Thinks with clarity and communicates with confidence

Shows respect, kindness, and integrity in their relationships

Possesses both knowledge and wisdom to live with purpose

Approaches life with gratitude, resilience, and joy

Faces challenges with courage and curiosity

**Understands their responsibility as a family member,
citizen, and neighbor**

This is the vision of graduates formed through classical education, men and women of intellect and character, equipped to live meaningful lives of service and significance.

Where many modern approaches to education separate academics from virtue, classical education unites them. At Great Hearts, we cultivate both the mind and the heart, preparing students not only for college and career, but for the lifelong pursuit of Truth, Goodness, and Beauty.

A *Growing* Movement in *Education*



Character-centered classical education is experiencing a renaissance. In 1995, roughly 3,000 students in America were studying within this tradition, scattered across a few private and public schools. Today, that number has grown to more than 670,000, a staggering 22,000% increase in the span of a single generation. This remarkable revival reflects a deep hunger among families for an education that forms both the mind and the heart.

Great Hearts has been privileged to help lead this renewal. From its earliest days, it has stood as both a model and an inspiration, directly giving rise to new academies, encouraging sister ventures, and emboldening fellow travelers across the nation. What began as a small movement has become a flourishing tradition once more, offering students the knowledge, wisdom, and character to live well.

How the *Experience* Grows from Kinder Through *Graduation*

The early years are filled with stories, songs, poems, movement, discovery, and carefully guided practice.

Students establish strong foundations in reading, spelling, handwriting, grammar, and mathematics. They begin building knowledge of history, geography, science, literature, music, and art.

Teachers make learning lively and memorable while establishing habits that help children thrive. Students learn to listen, take turns, care for their materials, complete work with attention, and participate as members of a classroom community.

The goal is to fill these formative years with language, knowledge, beauty, imagination, friendship, and joyful order.

Middle school marks a transition toward greater independence, deeper study, and more thoughtful conversation. Students strengthen their skills in mathematics, science, history, literature, writing, and classical language while learning to ask meaningful questions, defend ideas, and engage respectfully with others. These years build confidence, discipline, curiosity, and intellectual maturity.

High school invites students into serious study of the ideas, growing wisdom, discoveries, and questions that have shaped civilization. Through rich texts, Socratic discussion, advanced mathematics and science, fine arts, and language, students learn to think carefully, communicate clearly, pursue truth, and prepare for a purposeful life beyond graduation.





K-5 *Curriculum* Overview

K

Kindergarten

The Kindergarten program builds a strong foundation in every subject, blending academic growth with joyful exploration.

History: Students discover their community and nation, learning about Native American cultures, early exploration and settlement, and important American symbols and Presidents.

Science: Curiosity grows through hands-on study of the human body and senses, motion and forces, weather, and plant and animal life.

Mathematics: Children strengthen counting, addition, and subtraction, while building number sense with hands-on tools. They also explore shapes, patterns, and measurement.

English and Language Arts: Early skills develop through phonograms, letter formation, and basic phonics. Students practice copywork, parts of speech, and early writing—building up to reading phonetic-friendly books by year's end.

1

1st Grade

The first-grade program strengthens core foundations, balancing steady practice with age-appropriate exploration.

History: Students journey through world history, discovering ancient Mesopotamia and Egypt, while also tracing American history from early peoples and exploration through colonization and westward expansion.

Science: Curiosity is nurtured through hands-on study of the sun, moon, and stars, plant and animal biology, simple machines, and the skeletal and muscular systems.

Mathematics: Children master addition and subtraction within 100 expanding number sense into the hundreds. Scholars also explore geometry, time, and measurement.

English and Language Arts: Phonics and fluency lead to mid-year independent reading. Writing grows through copywork and dictation, while students study parts of speech and enjoy timeless classics like *Frog and Toad*.

Spalding Phonics

SPOTLIGHT

The Spalding method teaches students to read by combining phonics, spelling, and writing into an integrated approach. It helps children connect the sounds and letters to form words, building literacy skills step-by-step. This comprehensive method supports students' overall language development, fostering strong reading and communication abilities.

2

2nd Grade

The second-grade program strengthens core skills while nurturing curiosity.

History: Students study ancient India, China, and Greece, along with U.S. history, the Constitution, westward expansion, and the Civil War.

Science: Lessons cover matter, living organisms, electricity and magnetism, the digestive system, and cells.

Mathematics: Work includes numbers into the thousands, multi-digit addition and subtraction, early multiplication, geometry, measurement, and time.

English and Language Arts: Writing develops through narratives, copywork, and dictation. Students advance in phonics and spelling while preparing for grammar study.

3

3rd Grade

The third-grade program builds knowledge and independence through practice and discovery.

History: Students learn about ancient Rome, the Vikings, and U.S. history from early exploration and colonization to state history.

Science: Topics include friction, magnetism, life cycles, weather, light, sound, matter, and the senses.

Mathematics: Students strengthen addition and subtraction, begin multiplication and division, expand place value, and explore fractions, geometry, and measurement.

English and Language Arts: Work includes advanced phonics, formal grammar, and composition with growing structure and clarity.

Singapore Math

SPOTLIGHT

Singapore Math emphasizes visual and conceptual understanding, helping students grasp the “why” behind math problems. It uses clear visuals, such as bar models to teach problem-solving and clear thinking. This approach builds a strong foundation in mathematics by connected concepts rather than relying solely on memorization. Students in all grades engage in mathematic reasoning and problem-solving exercises.

4

4th Grade

The fourth-grade program sharpens mastery and independence.

History: Students study medieval Europe, Africa, and Chinese dynasties, along with the American Revolution, Constitution, and early presidents.

Science: Topics include energy and waves, living structures, human respiration and circulation, and Earth processes like hurricanes, tornadoes, and volcanoes.

Mathematics: Work includes place value to hundred-thousands, multi-digit multiplication, long division, fractions and decimals, plus geometry, area, and perimeter.

English and Language Arts: Focus areas are advanced phonics and spelling, sentence diagramming, and formal composition.

5

5th Grade

The fifth-grade program readies students for middle school with growing mastery and independence.

History: Students study Mesoamerica, European exploration, the Renaissance and Reformation, early Russia and Japan, and U.S. history from Native cultures to the Civil War.

Science: Focus areas include astronomy, matter, ecosystems, and Earth systems.

Mathematics: Students refine operations with large numbers, fractions, and decimals, and work with volume, coordinate planes, geometry, and variables.

English and Language Arts: The capstone of K–5 ELA builds independence in reading and writing with stronger grammar and revision.

Foreign Language

SPOTLIGHT

At Great Hearts, we introduce foreign languages in the lower grades to open young minds to new ways of thinking. Early exposure builds confidence, strengthens memory, and deepens understanding of language. It also cultivates curiosity, empathy, and cultural awareness—habits that enrich students' lives and prepare them to engage meaningfully with the wider world.



6-12 Curriculum Overview

6th Grade

6

The sixth-grade program builds strong foundations in independent learning, mathematical reasoning, and the study of the ancient world.

History: Students explore ancient civilizations, including Mesopotamia, Egypt, Greece, and Rome, developing an understanding of the cultures and ideas that shaped Western civilization.

Science: Students study life science, including cells, genetics, ecosystems, and the relationships among living things.

Mathematics: Students strengthen skills with ratios, proportions, fractions, decimals, expressions, equations, geometry, and foundational algebraic reasoning.

English and Language Arts: Students develop close-reading skills through great works of literature while strengthening grammar, vocabulary, composition, and formal writing.

7th Grade

7

The seventh-grade program deepens students' understanding of history, literature, mathematics, and the natural world while developing greater independence and precision.

History: Students study the medieval world, exploring the development of European civilization, Christianity, Islam, and the cultures that shaped the Middle Ages.

Science: Students investigate earth and physical science, studying topics such as matter, energy, forces, earth systems, and the processes that shape our world.

Mathematics: Students advance through proportional reasoning, rational numbers, equations, geometry, statistics, and pre-algebra concepts that prepare them for higher-level mathematics.

English and Language Arts: Students engage deeply with literature while developing sophisticated skills in grammar, vocabulary, analytical reading, and composition.

Latin

SPOTLIGHT

We teach Latin because it is the foundation of the Western tradition and a key to unlocking the richness of language and history. Latin sharpens the mind, builds vocabulary, and deepens understanding of literature, science, and philosophy. More than a subject, it is an exercise in precision, logic, and beauty, cultivating habits of thought that serve students for a lifetime.

8th Grade

8

The eighth-grade program prepares students for the intellectual demands of high school through the study of American history, literature, science, and advanced mathematics.

History: Students examine American history and the founding of the United States, studying the ideas, events, and documents that shaped the American experiment.

Science: Students explore earth and physical science, developing an understanding of scientific principles through observation, experimentation, and mathematical reasoning.

Mathematics: Students build advanced algebraic foundations, with many students beginning Algebra I and developing skills in equations, functions, systems, and quantitative reasoning.

English and Language Arts: Students read increasingly complex works of literature and develop their ability to write clearly, argue thoughtfully, and engage in sustained discussion.

9th Grade

9

The ninth-grade program begins the Preparatory School experience with a rigorous study of Western thought, mathematics, science, and language.

Science: Biology introduces students to the study of living systems, including cells, genetics, evolution, ecology, and the complexity of life.

Mathematics: Students study Geometry, developing deductive reasoning through proofs, spatial relationships, constructions, and mathematical argument.

Languages and Fine Arts: Students begin or continue a classical or modern language while developing their appreciation for art and music.

Humane Letters: Students study literature, history, philosophy, and political thought through the Great Books, examining the ideas that have shaped Western civilization and the American founding.

Fine Arts

SPOTLIGHT

We teach the Fine Arts because great art teaches students to see, create, and appreciate what is true, good, and beautiful. Through music, visual art, and the performing arts, students encounter the great works of the Western tradition while developing creativity, discipline, and thoughtful expression. More than an elective, the Fine Arts cultivate imagination, confidence, and an enduring appreciation for beauty that enriches a student's life.

10th Grade

10

The tenth-grade program expands students' understanding of the Western tradition while advancing their mathematical, scientific, and economic knowledge.

Science: Chemistry introduces students to the structure and behavior of matter, chemical reactions, atomic theory, and the mathematical relationships underlying the physical world.

Mathematics: Students advance through Algebra II, Pre-Calculus, or an equivalent course of study, strengthening algebraic reasoning and preparing for higher-level mathematics.

Languages and Economics: Students continue their study of classical or modern languages while exploring the principles of economics and their application to human society.

Humane Letters: Students examine literature, history, political philosophy, and the American political tradition, engaging major questions about government, liberty, justice, and human flourishing.

11th Grade

11

The eleventh-grade program challenges students to connect rigorous academic study with the enduring questions of human life, citizenship, and responsibility.

Science: Physics introduces students to motion, energy, forces, waves, and the mathematical laws that describe the physical world.

Mathematics: Students progress through Pre-Calculus or Calculus, developing advanced skills in functions, trigonometry, limits, and mathematical modeling.

Languages and Fine Arts: Students continue advanced language study while exploring disciplines such as poetry, drama, or studio art.

Humane Letters: Students study literature, history, philosophy, and political thought with particular attention to the development of Western civilization and the ideas that shape modern society.

Poetry

SPOTLIGHT

We teach poetry because it gives students a deeper appreciation for the power and beauty of language. Through reading, memorizing, discussing, and composing poetry, students encounter the great voices of the Western tradition while developing attention, imagination, and precise expression. More than an exercise in language, poetry teaches students to see the world with greater wonder and to give voice to what is True, Good, and Beautiful.



12th Grade

12

The senior year culminates in a demanding course of study designed to prepare students for college, citizenship, and a lifetime of learning.

Science: Students may pursue advanced science through courses such as Physics II, extending their understanding of physical laws and scientific inquiry.

Mathematics: Students may continue into Calculus II or advanced mathematics, while other options include Logic and Coding.

Languages and Fine Arts: Students continue advanced language study while exploring disciplines such as poetry, drama, or studio art.

Humane Letters: Students engage the Great Books and enduring questions of philosophy, literature, history, and political thought while completing a Senior Thesis and Defense.

Music

SPOTLIGHT

We teach music because it cultivates disciplined attention, inspires wonder, and gives students a deeper understanding of beauty. Through the study and performance of music, students encounter the great works of the Western tradition while developing musical literacy, perseverance, and an appreciation for harmony and order. More than a skill, music forms the ear, exercises the mind, and enriches students' understanding of what is beautiful.



GREAT COURSES

The word education comes from the Latin word, *educare*, which means to lead forth. Students can be called out of their present reality to stand on the shoulders of giants. From this lofty perspective, they can gaze ahead to who they might be. And by gazing higher they will have developed skills and discovered talents far beyond their first expectations.

Our students follow a thoughtful and challenging course of study that exposes them to the most beautiful, profound, and proven works of art, literature, math, and science that our culture and tradition can offer. They long for greatness.

Throughout their formative years, they engage in age-appropriate selections and activities that build their intellect and develop a love for what is noble and lasting.

It is their inheritance to receive, although they have to work hard for it. This standard of excellence defines the classical approach.

DID YOU KNOW?

Great Hearts students will have achieved the following during their time with us...

“

Read the best books first, or you might not have a chance to read them at all.

HENRY DAVID
THOREAU

**NUMBER OF HOURS SPENT IN SEMINAR
DISCUSSIONS OF THE GREAT BOOKS (IN
HIGH SCHOOL ALONE)**

1,000

**NUMBER OF WORKS OF LITERATURE IN AND
PHILOSOPHY READ (TOGETHER WITH OVER
100 POEMS, WRITTEN BY 100+ AUTHORS)**

200

**NUMBER OF PROVED PROPOSITIONS FROM
EUCLID AS WELL AS THE FUNDAMENTAL
THEOREM OF CALCULUS**

75

NUMBER OF PHONOGRAMS LEARNED

70

**NUMBER OF HOURS INVESTED PREPARING
AND DEFENDING THEIR SENIOR THESIS**

40

**NUMBER OF CONCERTS AND PLAYS
PERFORMED**

25

**NUMBER OF ADVANCED STUDIES
COMPLETED (BIOLOGY, PHYSICS,
AND CHEMISTRY)**

3

**NUMBER OF LANGUAGES STUDIED OTHER
THAN ENGLISH**

2

Athletics

Athletics are an important part of developing the whole student in mind, body, and character. Through competition, student-athletes learn discipline, humility, and the practical wisdom to understand how their individual effort contributes to something greater than themselves.

Beyond competition, a strong athletics program builds school spirit and strengthens the sense of community among students, families, coaches, and the academy as a whole.



Fine Arts

Through music, visual art, drama, and other artistic disciplines, students encounter works of enduring beauty while developing creativity, attention, and a deeper appreciation for the human experience at Great Hearts.

By studying and participating in the arts, students develop their imagination and their capacity to craft enduring ideas with skill and purpose.





Ready to Join the *Classical* Revolution?

Your journey toward educational excellence starts at a Great Hearts Academy. Start with an on-campus tour where you can observe classes, chat with students, and meet faculty. If you share our belief that the best school is one that shapes both intellect and heart, you will find a home here. We look forward to welcoming your family into a tradition that stretches back to Socrates and forward to the world ahead that our graduates will help lead towards Truth, Goodness, and Beauty.

Discover more at GreatHearts.org

*“The **best** education
for the best is the **best**
education for all.”*

- Mortimer Adler



GreatHearts®
CLASSICAL EDUCATION. REVOLUTIONARY SCHOOLS.™