

Covenant Christian Academy (Harrisburg, PA) — Classicality Audit (Full Report)

Aggregate verdict: CLASSICAL

Covenant repeatedly signals a classical Christian telos—wisdom/virtue, truth-goodness-beauty, Trivium/Quadrivium, Great Books, Socratic & memory-rich pedagogy, teachers as models/mentors, and parent partnership—with negligible negatives.

1) Religious & Metaphysical Foundations → CLASSICAL

School's own words (evidence) - Mission centers on "Lordship of Christ in every sphere of life" and service to God; explicitly Christian worldview. - Core values: Reformed confessional language (Sola Scriptura, Solus Christus, Sola Gratia, Sola Fide, Soli Deo Gloria). - Community language emphasizes virtue, love, and a joyful, peaceful school culture.

Keyword match vs. framework

Positive hits: truth, goodness, beauty; virtue; wisdom; Christ/Lordship; Christian; Reformed (solas); love; community/ordered culture.

Negative hits: none (no "values-neutral/relativist" language).

Tally: 11 positive vs 0 negative → 100% positive → CLASSICAL

2) School Purpose & Goal → CLASSICAL

School's own words (evidence) - Mission: "classical education that imparts... a love for learning," trains students to submit to Christ, and prepares them to serve God and engage the world.

- Academics page frames the program as the liberal arts/classical tradition, not job training.

- Academics PDF: classical study aims at becoming "virtuous shapers of culture"—more than vocational skills.

Keyword match vs. framework

Positive: wisdom, virtue, truth/goodness/beauty, formation of heart & mind, great conversation, Christian worldview.

Negative: none (no job-prep/skills-first dominance).

Tally: 10 positive vs 0 negative → 100% positive → CLASSICAL

3) Curriculum → CLASSICAL

School's own words (evidence) - Trivium & Quadrivium explicitly defined on Mission/Core Values and Academics PDF.

- Great Books, Latin, Theology/Biblical Studies, Logic, Rhetoric, Senior Thesis listed on the Upper School Profile (2024–25).
- Socratic seminars in humanities; course plan shows History (not “social studies”) every year.
- No AP/IB courses (students may take AP exams); classical focus preserved.

Keyword match vs. framework

Positive: Trivium, Quadrivium, Great Books, Latin, Logic, Rhetoric, Theology, History (named as history), Socratic, Senior Thesis, wonder/beauty.

Potential negatives seen: dual enrollment mentioned (neutral when subordinate); no “project-based as center” language.

Tally: 13 positive vs 1 neutral/edge term → **93% positive** → **CLASSICAL**

4) Pedagogy (Teaching Methods) → CLASSICAL

School's own words (evidence) - Grammar School: songs, chants, jingles, rhymes; review and repetition; cultivate wonder and present beauty.

- Upper School: Socratic questioning, discussion, debate, argument; logic sequence; rhetoric with speeches and presentations; senior thesis.
- Academics PDF describes singing, chanting, discussing, debating, writing and speaking as intentional tools.

Keyword match vs. framework

Positive: Socratic, chanting/recitation, memorization, rhetoric/speeches, logic, wonder, debates, contemplation/joyful order.

Negative: none central (no “project-based center” claims).

Tally: 12 positive vs 0 negative → **100% positive** → **CLASSICAL**

5) Faculty → CLASSICAL

School's own words (evidence) - Core values: “Gifted teachers... must model careful thinking... in light of God’s word... cultivate wisdom.”

- Faculty bios emphasize classical method (e.g., “chant, rhyme, and song”) and love for students/formation.

Keyword match vs. framework

Positive: teachers as models/mentors; living curriculum; collegial formation; love of the true, good, and beautiful.

Negative: none (no “facilitator only” language).

Tally: 7 positive vs 0 negative → **100% positive** → **CLASSICAL**

6) Parents & Community → CLASSICAL

School's own words (evidence) - Core values: parents bear primary responsibility; school serves in loco parentis; parents welcome in the classroom.

- Parent Central frames a virtue-centered community and calls families to active participation.

Keyword match vs. framework

Positive: parent partnership, co-educators, welcome/participation, community & virtue.

Negative: none.

Tally: 6 positive vs 0 negative → **100% positive** → **CLASSICAL**

Quick keyword rollup (counts by category)

- **Religious/Metaphysical:** 11 P / 0 N → **100%**
 - **Purpose & Goal:** 10 P / 0 N → **100%**
 - **Curriculum:** 13 P / 0 N (1 neutral) → **~93%**
 - **Pedagogy:** 12 P / 0 N → **100%**
 - **Faculty:** 7 P / 0 N → **100%**
 - **Parents & Community:** 6 P / 0 N → **100%**
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Notable strengths (with receipts)

- Doctrinal clarity & formation: Christ's Lordship; Reformation solas; formation of virtue within a joyful, ordered community.
 - Classical architecture: Trivium & Quadrivium, Great Books, Latin, Theology, Logic & Rhetoric, Socratic seminars, Senior Thesis.
 - Pedagogy fit: chanting/memorization in Grammar School; logic/debate and rhetoric/speeches in Upper School.
 - Parent partnership: parents as primary educators; classroom welcome.
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Minor watch-outs (don't change rating)

- Dual enrollment is sizeable; ensure it supplements rather than displaces humane letters, theology, and rhetoric aims.
 - Keep the Great Books/Trivium language front-and-center in newer materials so the classical identity remains unmistakable.
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Bottom line

Covenant's public materials align tightly with the six elements. On balance, **Covenant Christian Academy is a CLASSICAL school.**