

# Oro Grande

CLASSICAL ACADEMY

# Key Components



- ▶ Classical Culture- Fostering accelerated learning, mastery of content, and exceptional behavior to create habits of the mind and cultivate moral as well as academic excellence.
- ▶ Virtue Education- Virtue is the foundation for all knowledge, prompting the learner to strive for wisdom.
- ▶ Humanities First- Literature, history, grammar, reading, writing, and human reasoning integrated with all other content areas. Masterpieces of music and art are aligned and integrated. Mathematics and science are taught systematically K-6 in connection to the study of the humanities.
- ▶ A Historical Lens- Engaging students in the great conversations of the past not only broadens their worldview, but develops informed and wise citizens. Literature is placed at the appropriate grade level based on this historical pattern. This chronological and cyclical view of history allows students to develop a timeline through which they are able to filter current events and make connections and predictions.

# Why Expand the Classical Approach at Oro Grande?

- ▶ We give our community a robust choice for something different
- ▶ We want to be an attractive choice on the south side

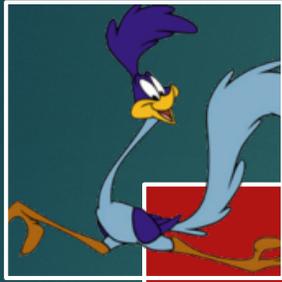
For our students...

- ▶ We believe in the importance to learn from the past to improve our future
- ▶ We want to be able to study and learn from our nation's founders
- ▶ We believe in developing and modeling moral character
- ▶ We believe in the pursuit of wisdom

# Oro Grande's Philosophy and Mission

- ▶ Our Classical education puts young minds to work and will lead young people to understand themselves and the world around them through the lens of virtue.
- ▶ To offer a content rich Classical Education based on Western culture traditions, where all disciplines are interrelated allowing students the ability to think independently and critically. We purpose to partner with supportive parents, provide a safe and challenging environment and instill principles of moral character and civic virtue in order to produce tomorrow's leaders.

# Differences between Classical and current education



## Traditional progressive schooling

- Reading, writing, and arithmetic as separate content
- Cooperative learning
- Teacher as guide to learning
- Teacher created resources
- Emphasis on workforce preparation



## Classical Education

- Integrated content from historical lens
- Listening and Learning
- Teacher as the giver of knowledge
- Cohesive, researched based lessons within units
- Emphasis on liberal arts

# Differences between Classical and current education



## Traditional progressive schooling

- Student-friendly vocabulary
- Message of the story – not necessarily tied to morals and virtues
- Learning organized around problems and projects to create interest in content
- Philosophy based on works by Dewey, Froebel, Rousseau



## Classical Education

- Rich vocabulary (being used daily),
- Virtues are tied into the morals of our stories. Students can then apply them to their own lives and make a personal connection
- Greater focus on non-fiction content (history and science) to teach reading; poetry, sayings, and phrases focus on cultural knowledge
- Philosophy based on works by Aristotle, Plato, Socrates

# 5 Distinguishing Features of a Classical Classroom

- ▶ 1. An emphasis on imitation of the best models of written texts, hence the need for carefully selected children's literature, history books, and other content texts.
- ▶ 2. An emphasis on careful, thoughtful speech patterns, such that precise, insightful, even eloquent language is promoted in every classroom exchange.
- ▶ 3. A palpable sense of wonder, as students are led to discover the wide world about them, in every activity of the classroom—learning geography, conducting a basic science experiment, observing and sketching a flower, reciting a poem, etc.

# Five Distinguishing Features of a Classical Classroom

- ▶ 4. An emphasis on the basic rudiments of literacy and numeracy, through attention to the grammar of language (how words work, parts of speech, coherent sentences, etc.) and the mastery of 'math facts' that serve as the basis for arithmetic and later advanced mathematics.
- ▶ In other words, memorization and understanding of basic elements of language and computation would be part and parcel of the elementary grades: e.g., preposition song (with clapping), times table, etc.

# Five Distinguishing Features of a Classical Classroom

- ▶ 5. An orderly, joy-filled classroom is central to the classical classroom, as students begin to discover that learning is a pleasure that fills the entire lifespan, and knowledge is a treasure for those who are willing to undertake the 'hunt' through discipline, attention, and the wisdom of many (good) counselors—i.e., the great minds who have written the great books.