



EXCELSIOR

CLASSICAL ACADEMY

A Challenge Foundation ✦ Academy

**FAMILY
HANDBOOK**

THE PURPOSES OF THE FAMILY HANDBOOK

This handbook is intended to serve as a guide to help students and their families come to know about programs and opportunities at Excelsior Classical Academy CFA as well as to set forth basic expectations for students. Please take the time to familiarize yourself with the contents. We are hopeful that the handbook will answer many questions you may have about academics, athletics, transportation, community involvement, health, safety, conduct and other day-to-day aspects of school life. The handbook describes policies and procedures that students and parents are expected to read and follow.

These policies may also be revised or updated periodically, even during the school year. You may find routine updates posted on our website as they occur. If a major policy revision is made, you will be informed by email, mail, and/or All-call. Any student or parent with a question about any handbook policy or statement should feel free to speak with the Administration.

MISSION STATEMENT

Excelsior Classical Academy is a public charter school dedicated to providing excellence and equity in education by developing in every student a foundation of knowledge, a practice of reason, a quality of eloquence, and a habit of virtue, to prepare each student for a lifetime of learning and citizenship.

VISION STATEMENT

At Excelsior Classical Academy, we cherish every student as an individual and we believe in providing an excellent and equitable education for all students. Like Martin Luther King, Jr., we believe the goal of true education is “intelligence plus character.” Our motto is *Eruditio et Virtus*, or Learning and Virtue. *Excelsior* means “higher” in Latin, and we strive to live up to our name through continuous improvement in academics and character. We help each student aim higher by providing a rigorous, rich curriculum in an environment that promotes responsibility, integrity, diligence, and excellence.

Our students will graduate with:

- Appreciation for beauty and the pursuit of excellence.
- Zeal for fairness and justice.
- Habitual practice of virtues such as honesty, responsibility, integrity, and good judgment.
- High personal expectations and a strong sense of self.
- Knowledge that hard work and perseverance lead to intellectual growth.
- Cultural literacy and a thirst for knowledge and continual learning.
- Discernment, reason, and hunger for truth.
- The ability to communicate clearly and expressively.
- Respectful behavior and a kind attitude toward others.
- Understanding and fulfillment of civic duty.

We value the partnership which exists among school, parents, and community, and we recognize the part it plays in realizing this vision.

MOTTO

ERUDITIO ET VIRTUS
(Learning and Virtue)

Excelsior means “higher” in Latin, and at Excelsior Classical Academy, we strive for continuous improvement in academics and character. We will help each student aim higher by providing a rigorous, rich curriculum in an environment that promotes responsibility, integrity, diligence, and excellence.

MASCOT

The Flying Lion



Excelsior's Flying Lions take **Personal Responsibility In Daily Effort** in our school!

COLORS

Green and Gold

SCHOOL SONG

Alma Mater means "Nourishing Mother" in Latin. It is an honorary title given to one's school, and has come to refer to the school song, as well.

Excelsior's Alma Mater

Written by Cynthia Gadol

Sung to the tune of *Gaudeamus Igitur*, a traditional student song

Excelsior, we sing your praise, every son and daughter.
Gladly we our voices raise to our Alma Mater.
Truth and knowledge you have fed us.
Ever higher you have led us.
As our journeys through life unfold,
We will cherish your green and gold.

(The last verse of *Gaudeamus Igitur*, to be sung at graduations)

Alma Mater floreat, Quae nos educavit;
Alma Mater floreat, Quae nos educavit;
Caros et commilitones,
Dissitas in regiones,
Sparsos, congregavit.
Sparsos, congregavit.

CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT

Student Creed

Each week, our grammar school students and staff recite the Student Creed. It is a reminder and a promise to each other about the ways in which we must act and treat each other if we are to be the school we strive to be. Our student creed is as follows:

I will treat others as I would like to be treated.

I will respect the rights and property of others.

I will be honest and responsible.

I will be a good citizen of my school, doing what I can to make it a place of learning and growth.

Honor Code

Excelsior's upper school students abide by an honor code. The honor pledge is hand-written by each upper school student and affirmed by a dated signature of the student and a parent or guardian at the start of each school year.

Excelsior students behave responsibly and honorably. They do not lie, cheat, steal, or violate the rights of others. They are responsible to uphold the atmosphere of integrity and justice at Excelsior and to encourage others to do so.

As a member of the Excelsior community, I pledge to conduct myself honorably and to encourage others to do so. I will report myself and others for any failure to uphold the honor code.

On each test, paper, or project, the student will write the following affirmation:

On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid on this assignment.

Character Traits

Excelsior Classical Academy focuses on character and virtue in its day-to-day operations. We expect our school community members to display honorable behavior. Excelsior desires that students behave in positive ways, not just avoid negative behaviors. Some of the character traits we strive to instill in our students are:

Citizenship – Follow the rules of our school. Encourage others to follow the rules. Do not tolerate destructive or damaging behavior. Promote an atmosphere conducive to learning and growth.

Civility – Treat others as you would like to be treated. Be courteous even when disagreements occur. Be kind and helpful.

Courage – Stand up for what is right in the face of negative peer pressure. Attempt difficult tasks even if you think you might fail. Ask questions and share ideas in class.

Diligence – Work hard to learn and improve. Do not give up when something is difficult. Attempt challenging tasks and learn from mistakes or failures.

Honesty – Do your own work. Do not plagiarize or claim someone else’s work as your own. Admit mistakes and take responsibility for them. Do not take anything that does not belong to you.

Integrity – Stay true to your values whatever you are doing and wherever you are. Hold high standards. Be trustworthy.

Justice – Do not violate the rights of others. Do not bully or harass others. Do not tolerate or encourage anyone bullying, harassing, or violating the rights of others.

Respect – Treat others with respect and consideration. Honor the thoughts, perspectives, and property of others.

Responsibility – Complete assignments on time and to the best of your ability. Come to school in proper uniform and prepared for class. Bring to school only what is needed for learning. Admit mistakes and missteps, accept consequences, and consistently work to improve.