



Q & A about the Classical Studies Program at Beaufort Middle School

1. *What is Classical Studies?* Classical Studies offers a college preparatory course of study with mandatory courses in English, world language, math, science, social studies including world culture studies. There is an emphasis on academics with a focus on critical thinking, self-guided learning, participation in Socratic seminars and web-based learning. A strong focus on the arts as well as the development of character, school pride, student leadership, personal accountability, structured discipline, along with civic responsibilities and community service are included.
2. *How is Classical Studies different from a traditional middle school program?* Classical Studies is grounded in the classics. We believe that studying the classics will help us understand the world today. With a strong understanding and appreciation for the past, students create a better future. Classical Studies is also grounded in the belief that good citizens are active, well-informed participants in their community. All units of study in Classical Studies include learning from the community and engaging students with the community. The arts are integrated into units of study also. Class sizes are limited to twenty students, and the focus of all learning experiences will be to develop leadership skills, thinking skills, collaboration skills and skills of good global citizens.
3. *What are the benefits of being in this program?* Classical Studies students make connections to the Beaufort Community. They learn teamwork and collaboration, classical cultures, languages, and arts and the connections of the classics in the 21st century; develop leadership skills; and take an active, leadership role in learning. The study of Caesar's English and Latin additionally benefit students as they study through the classics. Classical studies students grow as studious scholars who develop strong study skills. They learn new ways of studying to make connections and draw conclusions while relying on previous learning. Students benefit and succeed in Classical Studies as they develop regular and efficient study habits. Sixth grade students begin working at the novice level as student scholars in reasoning and defending their understanding of what they learn. They grow as apprentices, practitioners, and experts in reasoning as they transitions through 6th, 7th, and 8th grade in this program.
4. *What is Socratic Seminar?* Socratic seminar is a formal discussion, based on a text, in which the leader asks open-ended questions. Within the context of the discussion, students listen closely to the comments of others, thinking critically for themselves, and express their own thoughts and their responses to the thoughts of others. They learn to work cooperatively and to question intelligently and civilly. Socratic Seminar is named for the classical Greek philosopher, Socrates, who taught by asking questions. Socratic Seminar skills increase student achievement, motivation, and oral communication skills. Classical Studies students will learn and use Socratic seminar regularly in all subject areas.



5. *How are the arts different for Classical Studies students than for students in the Arts Integrated School-wide Program?* The arts in Classical Studies will complement the study of history, language, and literature. Students create a product or performance in each arts study aligned with one of these areas. Artists in residence work with our Classical Studies students along with our own arts teachers to deepen their classical understanding and application of the arts.
6. *If my child is identified academically or artistically Gifted and Talented, how will his/her needs be met?* Students will receive GT services according to their areas of strength in advanced classes taught by highly qualified, gifted endorsed teachers. Artistically gifted and talented students have opportunities for enrichment experiences in their areas of the arts throughout the year. All Classical Studies' teachers are qualified to teach academically gifted and talented students. Our arts staff hold GT certifications and endorsements to teach artistically gifted and talented students. Artists in residence will work with our Classical Studies students, and as particular arts field trips present themselves, Classical Studies students will participate in them. Additionally, Classical Studies students will be able to participate in school-wide arts events like our musicals, choral ensembles, and after school dance.
7. *What if my child needs additional support in a class, how will his/her needs be met?* Students have a daily enrichment / intervention period. Academic support and enrichment opportunities are provided during this time.
8. *What is the process for enrollment in the Classical Studies Program?* If you **live in the Beaufort Middle School attendance zone**, you had the opportunity to indicate your request for Classical Studies on the 2018 - 2019 Student Information and Program Request Form that was sent home from each of our feeder elementary schools during the month of February. If you **live out of the Beaufort Middle School attendance zone**, the 2018-2019 Choice Applications window was from February 1, 2019 through February 28, 2019. Completion of this application was the first step in enrollment for out of zone families. After February 28th, families who have moved into the area are to contact our school district's Student Services Department if they are interested in School Choice in the Classical Studies Program at Beaufort Middle School.
9. *How many students will be accepted in the Classical Studies Program?* With a class size target of twenty students per class, students will be enrolled and scheduled accordingly in the program. BMS is currently at 71% capacity with about 500 total students. With a district target of 75-85% capacity, BMS can well accommodate additional out of zone students. We will plan for 40 6th grade students and maintain 80 7th grade students and 40 8th grade students in Classical Studies for 2019-2020.
10. *What math classes are offered in the Classical Studies Program?* Advanced, Accelerated, and grade level math classes are provided. These include Accelerated Math



6, Advanced Math 6, 7 & 8, Algebra I for 7th and 8th graders, Geometry, Math 6, Math 7 & Math 8.

11. *How do Classical Studies students have access to technology?* Web-based learning is a core component of the Classical Studies Program, and students will learn through personal devices, as well as technology provided at BMS. Students will be provided one-to-one tablet devices. Teachers and students use technology consistently. Web-based learning and use of the tablet constitute primary learning tools of Classical Studies. Families have access to Classical Studies resources and web pages for continuous learning also. Use of technology and self-monitored learning through this technology are prevalent for the Classical Studies Program.

12. *Will Classical Studies students remain in this program as 7th graders?* We expect that our current sixth grade students will continue in Classical Studies as seventh grade students unless families decide to return to their zoned school or to the Arts Integrated Program at BMS if a BMS zoned student.

The Classical Studies Program for 7th Grade continues and builds upon the learning from 6th grades in these areas

- Study in the classics and Latin
- Independent and group learning and self-directed study
- Project-based and aligned integration with technology and core discipline
- Develop and enhance strong study skills
- Grow as scholars in reasoning and rhetoric

13. *What are the hours of the school day for Classical Studies?* 1st period begins at 8:45 a.m. Students may enter the building at 8:15 a.m. Dismissal is at 3:45 p.m.

14. *Will my child be able to stay at BMS if we withdraw from the Classical Studies Program?* If students leave a choice program at a school outside their regular attendance zone, they must enroll at the school that serves their neighborhood. Students may return to the school zoned for their neighborhoods at any time during a school year. Students have the option of requesting a different choice program during the next school year's application cycle. If an in-zone student withdraws from Classical Studies, he or she would remain in Arts Integrated for the rest of their middle school time at BMS.

15. *What opportunities are available for parent involvement in Classical Studies?* There will be field trips and projects that will be excellent opportunities for parents to chaperone. Parents are also expected to participate in parent conferences, and remain in contact with teachers about their child's progress. When parents are our partners, students succeed.

16. *When can families learn more about Classical Studies?*

We invite families to attend the 6th Grade Orientation at Beaufort Middle School on



April 23, at 6PM in the school cafeteria. You can meet and greet teachers and staff. Also, on Promotion Day, May 31, 2019, rising 6th grade students will visit Beaufort Middle School, and the Classical Studies students are included in this invitation as well. Students will meet staff, participate in Promotion Day activities, and learn about BMS. Approved Out-of-Zone students may also attend Promotion Day.

17. Who can I contact for more information?

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