



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.

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 and appraise 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. Class sizes are limited to twenty students, and the focus of all learning experiences will be to develop leadership skills, thinking skills, and skills of good global citizens.

3. What are the benefits of being in this program? Classical Studies middle school students make connections to the Beaufort Community. They learn 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. 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 transition through 6th and 7th 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. Will Classical Studies students eat with other students? Classical Studies students will eat lunch together during the same period to make the most of possible integrations and alignment in the Classical Studies Program.

7. 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. Classical Studies' advanced students participate in Word Masters, a national analogy-based vocabulary competition, learning 75 new words each year while in middle school. 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.

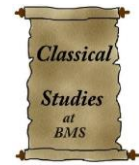
8. What if my child needs additional support in a class, how will his/her needs be met? Students will have a daily enrichment / intervention period. Academic support and enrichment opportunities are provided during this time.

9. What is the process for enrollment in the Classical Studies Program? If you live in the Beaufort Middle School attendance zone, you will be able to indicate your request for Classical Studies on the program request form that was sent to parents from your home elementary school. Choice Applications are available February 1, 2020 and due for out of zone families February 29, 2020. Completion of this application is the first step in enrollment for out of zone families. After official approval of the choice request from the district office, families will complete the enrollment process for Beaufort Middle School.

10. 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 508 total students. With a district target of 75-85% capacity, BMS can well accommodate additional out of zone students. We will plan for 60 6th grade students and maintain 60 7th grade students in Classical Studies for 2020-2021. If there are more applications than available seats, selections will be assigned via a lottery.

11. What math classes are offered in the Classical Studies Program? Advanced, and grade level math classes are provided. These include Math 6, Math 7 & Math 8, Advanced Math 6, 7, & 8, Algebra I for 7th and 8th graders, and Geometry.

12. 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 technology provided at BMS. Students will be provided one-to-one tablet devices. Teachers and students use technology consistently. Use of technology and self-monitored learning through this technology are prevalent for the Classical Studies Program.



13. What will Classical Studies students do when they are 7th graders and 8th graders in 2020-2021 We expect that our current sixth grade and current seventh grade students will continue in Classical Studies as seventh and eighth 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 learning from 6th Grade in these areas:

- 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

8th Grade Classical Studies students have options for high school credit classes, so their program will be tailored to their needs and availability of course options.

14. 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 3:45p.m.

15. 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 neighborhood 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.

16. 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, which are student-led, and remain in contact with teachers about their child's progress. When parents are our partners, students succeed.

17. When can families visit BMS and learn more about Classical Studies?

Choice Fair event will take place on Wednesday February 19, at 5:30 p.m.

We invite families to attend the 6th Grade Orientation on April 23, at 5:30p.m.

Who can I contact for more information?

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