



# The Classical Academies 2016 Annual Report

## A Year in Review from The Executive Director



Cameron Curry

As another calendar year comes to a close, I am grateful to reflect on the accomplishments of students, parents, team members, and our Board of Directors. Our passion for our mission is collectively changing public education by providing educational options and meeting individual academic needs. This past year, we were honored as a Top Workplace by the San Diego Union Tribune, mentioned in Newsweek as a top high school, and were selected as a best school for homebuyers. This happened while making improvements in the areas of student achievement, community engagement, and foundation giving. Our efforts are focused on long-term sustainability, as we

continue to keep a pulse on growth to ensure that treating people well is at the heart of everything we do. Operationally, we are stronger than ever and that is based on the expertise of those we employ for the betterment of those we serve.

In this annual report, I am proud to share the accomplishments of 2016 in the areas of academics, programming, community engagement, charitable giving, and alumni success. We have much to celebrate as an organization and I am grateful to be serving alongside a team of professionals who are making a difference in the lives of students each and every day at The Classical Academies. All my best!

## Best Place to Work in San Diego!

The Classical Academies was awarded the 2016 Top Workplace honor by The San Diego Union-Tribune, placing first in the midsize business category! The Top Workplace award is based solely on the results of employee feedback. WorkplaceDynamics, LLC, a leading research firm that specializes in organizational health and workplace improvement, surveyed Classical Academy employees in the fall, measuring several aspects of workplace culture, including Alignment, Execution, and Connection, just to name a few. "To be a Top Workplace, organizations must meet our strict standards for organizational health. And who better to ask about work life than the people who live the culture every day—the employees!" says Doug Claffey, CEO of WorkplaceDynamics. "Time and time again, our research has

proven that what's most important to employees is a strong belief in where the organization is headed, how it's going to get there, and the feeling that everyone is in it together."

"I am very honored that our employees have chosen us as a top workplace again" stated Executive Director Cameron Curry. "I am extremely blessed to work with such a talented and passionate group of educators."



Think, Communicate, Achieve!

## Quick Facts

51,045

Parent Volunteer Hours

1,500

Jumpstart Attendees

8,500

Super STEM Saturday Attendees

\$30,500

Annual Contribution from INVEST Sponsors

99%

CAHS Graduation Rate

94.5%

Parent Satisfaction

85.2%

Classical Academy High School Advanced Placement Pass Rate

## CAHS Celebrates 10 Years



The Escondido High School District approved the Classical Academy High School in November 2005 and the long awaited dream came true with the school's opening in August 2006. Principal Dana Moen has continued to lead CAHS as a nationally ranked high school with award-winning academics, sports, theatre, and extracurricular opportunities. We salute the many parents, teachers, and community members who have invested so much of their lives into this life-changing organization, and are incredibly grateful for their time, talent, and tireless commitment. This 10-year anniversary is a milestone founded on a partnership of trust, collaboration, and accountability. It is awe-inspiring to look back and remember our humble beginnings and celebrate what we have become today. The adventure is far from over, but we look forward with boldness and enthusiasm to what has yet to be accomplished.

## Community Engagement



Positively impacting our region has always been at the core of The Classical Academies' mission and vision since 1999. In 2016, the Classical Academies hosted several large events to inspire, educate, and bring our community together around excellence. Super STEM Saturday was held in partnership with California State University San Marcos. It was our largest STEM event yet with over 8,000 attendees. Sponsors included **ViaSat**, **Genentech**, and **Medtronic**. Classical Academy High School celebrated their 10-year anniversary in September. Parents and community members celebrated together at the new Escondido Cyber Café. Our 8th annual JumpStart Parent Education Conference welcomed over 1,500 parents to a full-day of parent education at the California Center for the Arts, Escondido. With the mission of partnering with parents to prepare every student to think, communicate, and achieve, we are grateful for these and other opportunities that bring families together as a community.

## Alumni Spotlight...Brandon Kirklen



After graduating from CAHS in 2012, Brandon Kirklen attended Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, earning a Bachelor of Science in Optical Engineering and a minor in Physics. He graduated in June 2016 and is now working as an Applications Engineer at DB Networks. "CAHS gave me hands-on experience that helped prepare me for my career. Designing labs in bio, working with FIRST Robotics, publishing a newspaper, and running the ASB treasury allowed me to apply what I learned." Brandon recently completed a year of research and is now the lead author in the world's largest technical journal, IEEE. CAHS helped prepare me for this type of work by allowing and encouraging students to take responsibility and apply what they are learning supported by a focus in science, technology, engineering, and math. CAHS also gave me the chance to explore subjects I am still passionate about today."

## Achievement in the Arts

The Classical Academies continue the distinguished tradition of investing heavily in high-quality arts education. This integrated arts education helps students develop creativity, imagination, critical thinking, academic achievement, and social and civic engagement. This past year, thousands of students participated in musical theatre, drama, dance, flag, choir, video production, band, culinary arts, pottery, drawing, visual, digital and fine arts. In Spring 2016, the Classical Academies launched their 2nd annual community art festival showcasing student art created around an “up-cycle” theme. Additionally, with over 8,000 attendees at five major productions throughout the year, we were able to engage the artistic imagination of our learning community and positively impact our region.



## Strengths-Based Resiliency Program

With sponsorship from The Blanchard Foundation, Luna Properties and the County Board of Supervisors, Classical Academy High School and Classical Academy Online launched an integrated student resiliency program that builds on a students' strengths. The Resiliency Program centers on the following principals:



1. Every student has potential
2. What we focus on becomes a reality
3. The language we use creates a reality
4. Change is inevitable and all students can be successful
5. Positive change occurs in the context of authentic relationships
6. Capacity building is a process and a goal
7. Value differences and the essential need to collaborate

## Caiman Athletics Win Big

Classical Academy High School sports teams have been incredibly successful in 2016, winning four league championships and taking two teams to CIF finals. The school year brought the following accomplishments: Girls volleyball went undefeated in league play and won a Pacific League championship, advancing to the CIF division 3 championship game. Football was undefeated in league play and won a Pacific League championship. They advanced to CIF division 5 semi-final game. Girls tennis won a Pacific League championship in just their 2nd year. They made it to CIF division 3 semi-finals. Girls cross country won a Pacific League championship and sent 7 runners to the CIF finals. Boys water polo made the playoffs and advanced to CIF division 3 quarterfinals. Although CIF championships were close, the athletic department continues to “play as one” by working hard, living pure, leading with courage, and honoring the team. #GoCaimans!



## Enrollment at a Glance

The Classical Academy

1,060

Coastal Academy

1,276

Classical Academy  
High School

842

Classical Academy  
Vista

464

Classical Academy  
Online

406

Classical Academy  
Middle School

261

Total Enrollment

4,309

# Accolades

"Ranked #136 High School in The United States", Newsweek Magazine  
 "One of Americas Most Challenging High Schools", The Washington Post  
 "Americas Best High Schools", US News & World Report  
 "Top Workplace 2016", The Union Tribune  
 "#1 Best School for Homebuyers", Cruvita.com  
 "Live Well" San Diego Partner

## Planning a Sustainable Future Through Endowment



The Classical Academies Education Endowment (TCAEE) was launched in 2016 through the Coastal Community Foundation.

With an initial investment of \$50,000, the endowment is a permanent fund that builds a legacy for the future of The North County Education Foundation. As TCAEE grows through contributions and investment earnings, the fund provides annual support for both the current needs and the long-term sustainability of the Classical Academies. To learn more about contributing to TCAEE, please contact [foundation@classicalacademy.com](mailto:foundation@classicalacademy.com).

## NCEF Makes \$267,648 Investment to Benefit Students

The North County Education Foundation is passionate about seeking grants and funding from private individuals, businesses, foundations, and philanthropic organizations with the goal of providing an excellent education for every student. This past year, NCEF funded a record amount of nearly \$270,000 toward student projects and programs. If you would like more information or would like to make a gift, visit [www.classicalacademy.com](http://www.classicalacademy.com) and click on the give button. You may also make checks payable to NCEF and drop off at your favorite school campus.



## North County Education Foundation Funded Programs

