

The mission of The Vanguard School is to help guide students in development of their character and academic potential through academically rigorous, content rich educational programs. The Vanguard School's strategic plan seeks to improve the accomplishment of our mission by further capitalizing on the elements of a classical approach and better aligning our K-12 program.

While this plan involves our entire school, certain grade levels will be affected more than others. All changes made, however, benefit the greater Vanguard community by strengthening the cohesiveness and alignment we've already built across our school.

Excellent teachers are critical to ensure our plan's success; therefore, our strategic plan focuses significant energy on the first goal: *attract, develop, and retain the best teachers*. In addition to increasing teacher salaries and overall support, we are also improving our staffing model to make the most effective use of staff positions and are working to ensure we have content experts instructing our students in all areas.

We continually review and find ways to improve our program at every level within the school, frequently having our teachers evaluate their schedules and curricula to ensure that there is a proper prioritizing of all instructional time.

While students in K-3 will continue learning basic skills with the mastery of reading by the end of third grade being primary, we will slightly modify our upper elementary program. In coordination with the plan's third goal, *to have a K-12 curriculum that is aligned in both classical content and approach*, starting in fourth grade, our students will begin to study more content in each class, and that increased content will be studied at a greater depth.

Also in support of our third goal, the study of Latin is now included in the curriculum beginning in fourth grade and continuing into high school. Studying Latin trains students to think logically, improves their English grammar and vocabulary skills, and opens the door to understanding the foundations of Western Civilization. This addition to our classical curriculum allows students to continue with more advanced Latin throughout high school or to transition to learning a new language with the advantage of having a solid background in Latin.

Also beginning in upper elementary, teachers will be increasing our students' focus on the quality of their work while decreasing the quantity of repetitions. Class time for students will be adjusted to allow a more contemplative pace that gives students time to process what they have learned before moving to the next subject. Some changes include longer class periods for language and math, longer transition periods between classes, fewer transitions, and additional time for recess.

Continuous improvement is one of The Vanguard School's core values. The strategic plan guides an ongoing process with the intent to further strengthen our culture and the accomplishment of our mission. While there will be some adjustment time necessary to realize all the benefits of these changes, we're confident that the enhancements to our classical approach presented by our expert teachers and supported by our outstanding parents will enable The Vanguard School to have an even greater positive impact on our students' lives.