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## School Profile 2017-2018

### School & Community

Parnassus Preparatory School opened its doors in August of 2011 to offer students an excellent education in the liberal arts classical tradition. A classical education is a balanced education that attends to advancing the intellect while instructing the moral character. It delivers the best content of the traditional Western canon through pedagogy that acknowledges current understanding of child development and learning. Parnassus has steadily grown enrollment from 350 students in its inaugural year to nearly 1100 students today. The School of Rhetoric (high school) began in 2014-2015 and will graduate its first class in June of 2018.

### Mission

The mission of Parnassus Preparatory School is to provide students with a K-12 classical education grounded in the classical Trivium that demands their best in intellectual achievement and character development.

### Educational Philosophy

Students benefit from the highest standards of academic integrity and from a rigorous, content-rich, educational program that develops their intellectual capacity, personal character, and leadership skills. The school provides an environment that fosters academic excellence through the habit of discipline and thoroughness, the willingness to work, and the perseverance to complete difficult tasks. Through a defined traditional, classical curriculum grounded in the classical Trivium, students prepare to become active and responsible leaders and members of their community.

### The School of Rhetoric

In the Rhetoric stage, First Level Rhetoric (1R) through Fourth Level Rhetoric (4R), students use knowledge and critical thinking skills to write and speak with fluency, eloquence, and persuasiveness about subjects in the curriculum and beyond. The study of history, literature, government, philosophy, ethics, art history, and music appreciation have become so intertwined that they are studied together and examined through seminars in all subject areas. Advanced science, mathematics, and modern foreign languages are studied as well as rhetoric and debate. Students in the School of Rhetoric are expected to be clear, elegant, and reasoned communicators. They support and defend their positions with facts acquired in the grammar stage and apply analysis skills formed in the logic stage by explicit instruction in formal logic and examination of virtue. In this stage, students begin to develop original arguments, profess well-informed opinions, and debate ideas. Writing and oration are dominant modes of expression intended to persuade listeners and inspire dialogue. Students are liberated to analyze what they have learned in the prior stages of the Trivium and make individual decisions for their elective course(s) of study.

### The Harkness Method

The Harkness table discussion style plays a central role in the experience of a Parnassus School of Rhetoric student. An oval table that seats 15-20 students is the centerpiece in each of the humanities classrooms. It encourages the students to articulate and support their ideas and to learn from one another.

### Fourth Level Rhetoric (4R) Thesis

A graduation requirement for all Parnassus students, the Fourth Level Rhetoric (4R) thesis involves researching, writing, and presenting an original argument on a debatable subject. By studying the five canons of Rhetoric, students learn to persuasively express value judgements, and through the 4R/senior thesis they learn and apply academic project management, academic research, analysis, and public presentation skills.

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## Diploma Requirements

Parnassus offers two diploma options reflecting the college preparatory nature of the school as well as an option for those interested in a diploma designated as Parnassus Classical Diploma. Below are the minimum requirements for each Parnassus Diploma option. The Parnassus Classical Diploma requires additional courses in classical languages (Latin and/or Greek), sciences, and mathematics.

Parnassus Diploma	
Latin/Greek	2
English	4
History	4
Science	3
Math	3
Rhetoric	1.5
4R Thesis	.5
Spanish	2
Fine Arts	1
PE/Health	1
Electives	3
<b>Minimum Total Credits</b>	<b>25</b>

Parnassus Classical Diploma	
Latin/Greek	4
English	4
History	4
Science	4
Math	4
Rhetoric	1.5
4R Thesis	.5
Spanish	2
Fine Arts	1
PE/Health	1
Electives	3
<b>Minimum Total Credits</b>	<b>29</b>

## Honors, College, and Advanced Placement

School of Rhetoric students have the opportunity to take many Honors courses, college courses through the University of Minnesota, and Advanced Placement (AP) courses. While some AP courses are available, Parnassus' curriculum requires more in-depth study than does AP. As the school grows, so do the course offerings. In 2017-2018 Parnassus offered 11 Honors courses, 5 AP courses, and 1 course from the University of Minnesota.

Parnassus Honors level courses are similar in rigor as college level courses. Students must have a minimum of a 3.5 GPA and be recommended by the instructor. Throughout their four year plan of study, students have the option of taking the following courses as Honors: Ancient Literature and History, Medieval-Modern Literature and History, Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Algebra & Trigonometry, American Civics and Economics, Introduction to Philosophy, and Bioethics/Biotechnology.

Parnassus also offers the University of Minnesota (CIS) Beginning Classical Greek course.

The following AP courses are currently offered: Human Geography, World History, Calculus AB, Computer Science Principles, and Environmental Science.

## Weighted System for Grades

Besides the College Preparatory level courses, some courses are offered at the Honors, University of Minnesota, or Advanced Placement level. Points are assigned for letter grades according to the following system:

Letter Grade	Honors/ UofMN/ AP	Parnassus College Preparatory
<b>A</b>	4.5	4.0
<b>A-</b>	4.2	3.7
<b>B+</b>	3.8	3.3
<b>B</b>	3.5	3.0
<b>B-</b>	3.2	2.7
<b>C+</b>	2.8	2.3
<b>C</b>	2.5	2.0
<b>C-</b>	2.2	1.7
<b>D+</b>	1.8	1.3
<b>D</b>	1.5	1.0
<b>D-</b>	1.2	0.7
<b>F</b>	0.0	0.0

## Awards and Recognition

- Parnassus was identified as a Minnesota Reward School (2016). Reward Schools are Minnesota's highest performing Title I schools (the top 15 percent).
- Ninety students in the School of Logic and Rhetoric were awarded honors for their performance on the 2016-2017 National Latin Exam.
- In 2016-2017, 58% of our Rhetoric scholars earned recognition on the National Greek Exam, placing them among a select number of top achieving students in the country. 42% of the scholars scored at 80% or higher. One scholar received a perfect score. It was one of only two perfect scores globally at this level.
- Parnassus students take part in University of Minnesota Talented Youth Mathematics Program (UMTYUMP)

## School of Rhetoric Co-Curricular Activities

Student Senate	Mock Trial
Fencing I	Quiz Bowl
Fencing II	MathCounts
Cross-Country	National Honors Society
Media Production I	Math League
Mixed Media Adventures	Science Bowl
Publishing	Drama
Grandmasters of Chess	Social Dance
Robotics	Community Service

## Demographics

Parnassus is proud to bring a rigorous, content-rich education to a diverse body of students and while actively working to maintain a student population that is reflective of the demographics of our surrounding community.

Race/Ethnicity	Parnassus	Osseo Public School District	Area Charter Schools
Hispanic/Latino	5.60%	8.70%	4.50%
American Indian/Alaska Native	0.10%	0.30%	0.30%
Asian	13%	16.20%	18.70%
Black/African American	26%	23.50%	13.50%
Two or More Races	5.10%	6.70%	3.80%
White	50.70%	44.50%	59.10%
Special Populations	Parnassus	Osseo Public School District	Area Charter Schools
English Learner	6.00%	10.60%	13.40%
Special Education	5.70%	13.80%	8.20%
Free/Reduced Priced Lunch	25.90%	43.40%	25.80%

\* All data for academic year 2016-2017

## College Counseling

Parnassus Preparatory School supports its college preparatory mission by providing a comprehensive college counseling program provided by *College Connectors Inc.* Parnassus students are supported in the early high school planning stages through the college search and application process.

## Parnassus Preparatory School is authorized by Friends of Education

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