

# **Parnassus Preparatory School**

# **Comprehensive Achievement and Civic Readiness**

# **Annual Report 2023-2024**



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# **I. About the World’s Best Workforce/Comprehensive Achievement and Civic Readiness Annual Report**

This Annual Report is written to document academic and fiscal accountability, innovative practices, accomplishments, and achievements at Parnassus Preparatory School during the 2023-2024 school year. This report is written in compliance with Minnesota Statutes 2023, section 120B.11, formerly known as “World’s Best Workforce,” now referred to as “Comprehensive Achievement and Civic Readiness” as of 2024.

This report meets the reporting requirements of the Minnesota Department of Education, Minnesota statutes, the expectations of Parnassus’ authorizer, and Parnassus’ own expectations as a classical college preparatory school. This report is available to current and prospective families, staff, and the community at large on the Parnassus website.

Parnassus Preparatory School is authorized by Friends of Education, EXO-01-A 200, located at 11100 Wayzata Blvd. Suite 800; Minnetonka, MN and reachable at [info@improveK-12education.org](mailto:info@improveK-12education.org).

Contributors to the World’s Best Workforce/ Comprehensive Achievement and Civic Readiness Annual Report include Ms. Ford, Executive Director; Ms. Good, Director of Academic Affairs and Assessment; Ms. Rimpila, Finance Manager; and Mr. Friess, Board Chair and Treasurer.

# **II. School Vision, Mission Statement, and Educational Philosophy**

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

A classical education cultivates wisdom and virtue by nourishing the individual with truth, beauty, and goodness. Students at Parnassus Preparatory School pursue wisdom and virtue at every level and in each of the many disciplines offered to them. Parnassus Preparatory School’s academic focus is on developing thoughtful, literate, and expressive graduates through classical education, a time-tested model that is systematic and comprehensive. Our classical curriculum, grounded in the liberal arts, distinguishes us from other educational institutions.

The classical Trivium and the instructional methods used in each school address children’s developmental stages, challenging them to reach their highest potential at each and every level. Parnassus Preparatory School’s educational philosophy is that all students benefit from the highest standards of academic integrity and a rigorous, content-based educational program that develops their intellectual capacity and personal character. Through evidence-based instructional methods that are aligned with the classical Trivium, the use of history as the chronological backbone of the curriculum, and the integration of the humanities and advanced sciences, the school provides an environment that fosters academic excellence and builds the habits of discipline and perseverance to complete challenging tasks.

### III. Student Enrollment, Demographics, and Attrition

#### Parnassus Annual Enrollment

Parnassus enrollment, based on average daily membership using the October 1<sup>st</sup> snapshot date for the past five years, is listed below.

Academic Year	Grades	Total Enrollment
2019-2020	Prima-4R (K-12)	1228
2020-2021	Prima-4R (K-12)	1286
2021 - 2022	Prima-4R (K-12)	1341
2022-2023	Prima-4R (K-12)	1384
2023-2024	Prima-4R (K-12)	1380

#### 2023 – 2024 Enrollment Details

The chart below depicts Parnassus’ enrollment by grade level for Fiscal Year 2024 per grade level based on the October 1 snapshot date. The school had an enrollment of 1380 students in the 2023-2024 school year. The school’s mission and vision are supported by the strategic plan to have a larger base in the School of Grammar and smaller classes in the upper grades of the Schools of Logic and Rhetoric.

FY 2024	Prima (K)	1G 1 <sup>st</sup>	2G 2 <sup>nd</sup>	3G 3 <sup>rd</sup>	4G 4 <sup>th</sup>	1L 5 <sup>th</sup>	2L 6 <sup>th</sup>	3L 7 <sup>th</sup>	4L 8 <sup>th</sup>	1R 9 <sup>th</sup>	2R 10 <sup>th</sup>	3R 11 <sup>th</sup>	4R 12 <sup>th</sup>
Enrollment	133	142	130	125	127	117	117	117	118	92	68	49	45

#### Student Attrition

Academic Year	2019 - 2020	2020 - 2021	2021 - 2022	2022-2023	2023-2024
Attrition Rate	3%	3%	4%	5%	5%

#### Equal Opportunity for All Students

Parnassus seeks and supports students from all backgrounds and has pursued the following two objectives regarding equal opportunity for all students to attend the school:

- 1) Specific, targeted marketing strategies to reach out to educationally and economically disadvantaged families; and
- 2) Once at Parnassus, the school continues to develop programs to ensure the economically and disadvantaged students integrate into Parnassus’ classrooms and are successful.

Below is the school’s demographics summary for the 2023-2024 school year, reflecting these efforts and the opportunity of a rigorous, classical, college preparatory schooling to all students:

## Enrollment by Race/Ethnicity

Demographics, 2023 – 2024 School Year*	White/ Caucasian	Black/ African American	Asian	Hispanic/ Latino	Two or More Races
Percent of Total Student Body	27.5%	50.4%	11.5%	5.7%	4.1%

\*Demographic data reflects enrollment on October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023 Fewer than 1% of students identified as American Indian or Alaskan Native or as Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander.

## Enrollment by Special Population

Demographics, 2023 - 2024 School Year*	Free or Reduced Lunch	English Learner (EL)	Special Education
Percent of Total Student Body	48.2%	7.9%	6.4%

\*Demographic data reflects enrollment on October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023

## IV. Governance, Management, and Administration

The 2023-2024 Board of Parnassus Preparatory School consisted of five members: two Parnassus parents, two community members, and one Parnassus teacher. The board meets monthly and all board members have completed board training.

### Parnassus Preparatory School (4199-07) Board Roster

Name	Current Director	Elected (E) or Appointed (A)	Date Seated	Date Term Expires	Officer Position (if any)	Email Address
Gregory Friess	X	E	July 2010	June 30, 2026	Board Chair/Treasurer (Community Member)	<a href="mailto:friess@parnassusprep.com">friess@parnassusprep.com</a>
Benjamin Ark	X	E	Feb. 2018	June 30, 2026	Vice Chair Director (Parent)	<a href="mailto:ark@parnassusprep.com">ark@parnassusprep.com</a>
Kenneth Zigrino	X	E	July 2010	June 30, 2027	Secretary (Community Member)	<a href="mailto:zigrino@parnassusprep.com">zigrino@parnassusprep.com</a>
Barbara Rose	X	E	Dec. 2010	June 30, 2025	Director (Teacher)	<a href="mailto:rose@parnassusprep.com">rose@parnassusprep.com</a>
Surbhi Barber	X	A	Sept. 2023	June 30, 2027	Director (Parent)	<a href="mailto:barber@parnassusprep.com">barber@parnassusprep.com</a>

### Board Development:

Gregory Friess: MSBA Minnesota Charter Board Workshop on Board's Responsibilities; Financial Matters, and Employment matters (1/10/24)
Benjamin Ark: Legal training on student discipline/suspensions/expulsions (6/18/24); Book reading and discussion from the Parnassus curriculum (6/18/24)
Kenneth Zigrino: Legal training on student discipline/suspensions/expulsions (6/18/24); Book reading and discussion from the Parnassus curriculum (6/18/24)
Barbara Rose: Legal training on student discipline/suspensions/expulsions (6/18/24); Book reading and discussion from the Parnassus curriculum (6/18/24)
Surbhi Barber: MSBA Minnesota Charter Board Workshop on Board's Responsibilities; Financial Matters, and Employment matters (1/10/24)

## **2023-2024 Board of Directors**

### **Mr. Greg Friess, Parnassus Board of Directors Board Chair, Treasurer**

Mr. Friess holds a B.A. in both Economics and Political Science. He earned an M.S. in Economics from the University of Wisconsin-Madison where he also worked as a teaching assistant. He has spent his career as a financial analyst providing investment research to professional money managers, working on forecasting and regulatory issues in the utility industry, and working with small businesses. Mr. Friess has been with Parnassus since its inception. He believes that charter schools offer an additional educational choice to families in the northwest suburbs and that choice is key to improving the educational outcomes of all children in the area.

### **Mr. Ben Ark, Parnassus Board of Directors, Vice Chair**

Mr. Ark has a B.S. in Computer Science from Delaware State University and has worked in the IT field for over 25 years as a developer, consultant, and manager. He is a Parnassus parent and is an avid supporter of the school's mission. He is currently the Chief Information Officer at Cogency Global, a registered agent and legal/financial service company, where he oversees IT strategy and the development of software used by businesses, law firms, and financial institutions engaging in business formation, compliance, litigation, and secured financial transactions. Mr. Ark speaks regularly at conferences on the topic of electronic standards and best practices for document filing and retrieval between businesses and government agencies. He is excited to contribute to the school's success as a parent, an advocate for classical education and academic rigor, and a member of the Parnassus Board of Directors.

### **Kenneth Zigrino, Parnassus Board of Directors Secretary**

Mr. Zigrino, a member of the Parnassus founding Board of Directors, currently serves as the General Counsel of Johnson Screens, Inc. a global manufacturer established in 1904 in St. Paul, MN. For the past 40 years, Mr. Zigrino has been an entrepreneur and corporate lawyer, engaging in a wide variety of business transactions and holding a number of positions of responsibility – from corporate founder, officer and director to general counsel and an attorney in private practice. Since 1990, some of his corporate affiliations and clients include Aspen Research Corporation, a sustainable materials manufacturer which his management team purchased from Andersen Windows; NASDAQ-listed Velocity Express, Inc., at the time North America's largest same-day delivery company with annual revenues in excess of \$550 million; AGA Medical Corporation, an innovative medical device manufacturer sold to St. Jude Medical in 2010 for \$1.3 Billion; and Primo Piatto, Inc., a Twin Cities-based pasta manufacturer (Creamette® and other well-known brands) that was sold to Dakota Growers. Prior to 1990, Mr. Zigrino practiced corporate law at two well-known Twin Cities law firms. He received his law degree cum laude from Syracuse University College of Law in 1985.

### **Ms. Barbara Rose, Board Director**

Ms. Rose, a teacher since 1997, graduated Summa Cum Laude from Bemidji State University with a major in Elementary Education, a minor in Art, and an emphasis in reading. She earned her Masters degree in Teaching and Learning from St. Mary's in 2001. After teaching at a large district school, she joined the Parnassus team as a Fourth-Level School of Grammar teacher when the school opened. In 2019, Ms. Rose became the School of Grammar art teacher. Ms. Rose is passionate about implementing the classical education model and the difference it makes in the academic growth of her students.

### **Dr. Surbhi Barber, Board Director**

Dr. Barber joins Parnassus as our newest Board Member. Dr. Barber earned a PhD in Educational Leadership and Policy Analysis from UW-Madison. Her M.A. in Education and B.A. in Psychology were attained from the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities. She currently holds a Superintendent license, K-12 Principal license, and Director of Special Education license. With nearly 20 years of professional experience in education, Dr. Barber has held positions as a teacher, district leader, and administrator in classical, private, and public schools. She has teaching experience abroad in Madrid, Mumbai, and Shanghai. Dr. Barber is deeply grateful that her children attend Parnassus. She is honored to serve and is eager to contribute to an academic institution that has maintained integrity toward what it means to be truly classical.

## 2023-2024 School Administration

### Ms. Constance Ford, Executive Director and Head of School

Ms. Ford is the current and founding Executive Director of Parnassus Preparatory School. Under her leadership, Parnassus has grown by over 1,000 students in its enrollment and has expanded to include all three levels of the Schools of Grammar, Logic, and Rhetoric. Additionally, Ms. Ford spearheaded Parnassus' multimillion-dollar building project in 2017, resulting in the creation of our beautiful campus. Throughout her career, Ms. Ford has been an influential figure in the charter school movement, demonstrating a particular expertise in classical charter schools. Before coming to Parnassus, she was a founder and school leader of the first classical charter school in Wisconsin and of one of the first charter schools in her region. Under Ms. Ford's leadership, Parnassus Preparatory School has been recognized by the state of Minnesota as a high-quality charter school, firmly placing it among the top charter schools in the state. The school has received numerous accolades, including being listed by U.S. News & World Report as one of the top 10 public high schools (School of Rhetoric) in the state and in the top 1.5 percent in the nation. Ms. Ford's educational background includes a B.A. in Art History from Lawrence University and an M.A. in Educational Leadership from Concordia University.



### 2024-2025 Professional Development Plan

The focus of Parnassus Preparatory School is to build an academic culture that is deeply ingrained in the traditions of the Classical framework. As the school's leader, the Executive Director continued her professional development in classical education and education in general. This professional development plan outlines specific goals, objectives, and activities to enhance leadership skills, organizational management capabilities, and overall effectiveness in the role of an Executive Director. The plan aligns with the specific needs and priorities of the school, as well as the State of Minnesota's requirements for charter school leadership. Training will include a minimum of 25 hours of competency-based training that includes, but is not limited to: instruction and curriculum; state standards; teacher and staff hiring, development, support, and evaluation; social-emotional learning; data collection and usage; assessment methodologies; use of technology for learning and management; charter school law and requirements; code of professional ethics; financial management and state accounting requirements; grant management; legal and compliance management; special education management; health and safety laws; restorative justice; cultural competencies; effective communication; parent relationships; board and management relationships; community partnerships; charter contract and authorizer relationships and public accountability.

1. Leadership Development:
  - Enhance leadership skills to effectively communicate the school's mission, vision, and values.
  - Develop strategies for building and maintaining a positive school culture.
  - Strengthen collaboration and relationship-building among staff, students, families, and the community.
2. Organizational Management:
  - Improve organizational management skills for effective resource allocation and budgeting.
  - Develop systems and processes to ensure compliance with state and federal regulations.
  - Enhance strategic planning and goal-setting processes to drive school improvement.
3. Professional Growth and Learning:
  - Stay updated on the latest research, best practices, and developments in classical education and educational leadership.
  - Engage in ongoing professional development opportunities to expand knowledge and skills.
  - Develop a personal learning network and engage in reflective practices to refine leadership practices.

2023-2024 Professional Development Activity	Date
Data Practices Symposium	October 2023
Annual School Law Conference	Fall 2023
Harvard Business Review Virtual Conference	November 2023
National Symposium for Classical Education (Phoenix, AZ)	March 2024
Continued reading of books, articles, and other publications related to classical education, vision, and delivery; attended various cultural events related to classical education, vision, and delivery; and attended various (virtual) art exhibits, operas and music events, literary talks and lectures.	Ongoing throughout the school year
Read numerous works from the Parnassus curriculum, leading book discussions for many of the books with the Parnassus leadership team.	Ongoing throughout the school year
Training and development of school-related areas (school safety, funding, effective academic and operational practices, etc.)	Ongoing

**Ms. Katherine Good, Director of Academic Affairs**

Ms. Good is a passionate advocate for a rigorous, content-rich program for all students. In her role, she oversees Parnassus' academic programming, graduation standards, assessment, and enrollment. She holds a B.A. in Cognitive and Linguistic Sciences with a minor in Italian from Wellesley College in Wellesley, Massachusetts, and an M.A. in Educational Leadership.

**Mr. Matthew Kasowicz, Director of Operations**

Mr. Kasowicz joined the Parnassus leadership team in the fall of 2016. Prior to Parnassus, he worked most recently at Robbinsdale Area Schools. Mr. Kasowicz holds an M.A. in Educational Leadership from Concordia University and a K-12 Principal license from Bethel University.

**Ms. Amy Stafford, Director of Special Education**

Ms. Stafford has a strong belief that all students, including those with unique needs, can achieve at a high level. She joined Parnassus in 2017 after positions as a Special Education Coordinator in Minnetonka Public Schools and Osseo Area Schools. Ms. Stafford holds an M.A. in Education and an Ed.S. in Special Education with Director of Special Education licensure from St. Mary's University.

**Principal Christopher Hamiel, 2023-2024 Principal of the Schools of Logic & Rhetoric**

Principal Hamiel joined Parnassus in the fall of 2013. Prior to Parnassus, he was a mathematics teacher for the St. Cloud Area Schools. He holds an M.A. in Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment and K-12 Principal and Superintendent licenses from St. Cloud State University.

**Principal Corinne Omberg, 2023-2024 Principal of the School of Grammar**

Principal Omberg has been the Principal of the School of Grammar since 2016. She came to Parnassus from Minnetonka Public Schools. She currently is the Associate Principal of the School of Logic. She holds an M.A. in Special Education from the University of Minnesota and a K-12 Principal and Director of Special Education licensure from St. Mary's University.

**Principal Melissa Boegel, 2023-2024 Assistant Principal of the Schools of Logic and Rhetoric**

Principal Boegel came to Parnassus in 2022 with 14 years of previous experience in classical education. Prior to her time at Parnassus, she taught Latin. She is currently the Associate Principal of the School of Grammar. She holds a B.A. in Latin Education, an M.A. in Educational Leadership, and a K-12 Principal License, all from Concordia University.

**Principal Jessica Steeber, 2023-2024 Assistant Principal of the School of Grammar**

Principal Steeber first joined Parnassus as a teacher in 2019 before becoming a part of the leadership team in the summer of 2022. Before coming to Parnassus, she worked in both private and public schools in Minnesota and Wisconsin. She is currently the Principal of the School of Grammar. She holds an M.A. in Curriculum and Instruction from Minnesota State University- Moorhead and an Ed.S. in Teacher Leadership with a K-12 Principal license from Minnesota State University- Moorhead.

## **V. Academic Programming & Performance**

### **Innovative Practices and Implementation**

The Trivium stages of Grammar, Logic, and Rhetoric require different and innovative teaching methods depending on the stage and maturity level of the students. For example, in the Grammar stage (levels Prima through 4G) instructors focus on providing students with content using direct instruction, memorization techniques such as singing and chanting, group memorization, dictation, and recitation. In the Logic stage, students start asking “Why?” to ensure that what they have learned in the Grammar stage is in fact true. Teaching techniques include asking leading questions to stimulate students’ critical thinking and arrive at valid conclusions. The Socratic Method of questioning is heavily emphasized during instruction at this level. In the Rhetoric stage, teaching techniques include a heavy reading load, discussions, debates, and emphasis on supporting one’s opinions with researched facts and logical reasoning. The Socratic Method and Harkness discussion style are at the forefront of instruction in the School of Rhetoric.

Parnassus is one of the few schools, public or private, to practice the Harkness discussion method, also known as “Harkness Table,” for discussion-led instruction. The Harkness method incorporates teaching in seminar style for the advancement of learning in the School of Rhetoric. An authentic Harkness table is a large, oval table used in a style of teaching where students sit at the table with a teacher. However, the Harkness table is much more than a place to sit. Teachers participate and guide students in discussions, encouraging them to take ownership of their learning. The method is in use at many top American private schools and boarding schools, as well as at colleges and universities. It encourages classes to be held in a discursive manner. This collaborative discussion method can be traced back to Socrates, approximately 2,400 years ago. The Harkness teaching method is related to the Socratic Method and Socratic Circles, approaches already familiar to scholars entering the School of Rhetoric.

Parnassus’ language program is innovative as the school was the first institution, public or private, in the Northwest Metro area to require the study of both the Latin and Greek languages in addition to Spanish. Latin forms the root of 90% of polysyllabic English words and over 60% of all English words, and eight percent of all English words are Greek based. A student’s reading comprehension, writing, and speaking skills are substantially improved by studying Latin and Greek. Vocabulary is enriched, grammar is sharpened, and a sense of organization, structure, and logic is instilled in the student. In addition, Latin contributes to about 80% of the vocabulary of the Romance languages: French, Italian, Portuguese, Romanian, and Spanish – facilitating the study of these modern languages. Moreover, studies have shown that students of Latin have higher SAT scores than students of any other language. Parnassus students begin their study of Latin in the School of Grammar and add Greek in the School of Rhetoric.

In addition to the study of Latin and Greek, the school also believes it is important for well-rounded scholars to study a modern world language. As such, Parnassus begins teaching Spanish at the Prima level and continues it through the School of Rhetoric. Not only is Spanish considered to be one of the most functional spoken languages in contemporary American society, but it is also a direct descendent of Latin which makes it a perfect complement to Parnassus scholars’ classical language studies.

### **Gifted and Talented Programming**

As a charter school, Parnassus Preparatory School is a school of choice, and we recognize that families choose us for our rigorous academic programming. As Parnassus strongly believes that all students benefit from a content-rich, rigorous curriculum that holds students to the highest standards of intellectual achievement and character development, Parnassus does not identify Gifted and Talented students or offer a specialized Gifted and Talented track. Instead, the focus is on providing all students with the most rigorous course offerings and a variety of enrichment activities in our interdisciplinary curriculum. Parnassus does not currently offer early admission to Prima (Kindergarten). Occasionally, a student’s exceptional academic abilities and maturity may merit whole-grade acceleration to 1G (1<sup>st</sup> grade) or beyond. To advise all families of this opportunity, Parnassus publishes its policies for whole-grade acceleration and early admission to Prima (Kindergarten) on the school website.



## Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments (MCA) Results

*Parnassus administered the MCAs to students in April and May of 2023. Results are presented alongside those of the state of Minnesota overall, as well as District 279 (Osseo Public Schools), our resident district.*

### Mathematics MCA Proficiency

Student Group	State	Parnassus	Osseo
<b>Overall Proficiency</b>	45.5%	51.0%	43.8%
<b>3G</b>	58.8%	60.0%	59.4%
<b>4G</b>	56.7%	65.9%	56.3%
<b>1L</b>	44.1%	39.5%	45.5%
<b>2L</b>	40.3%	48.7%	37.6%
<b>3L</b>	40.1%	43.6%	39.1%
<b>4L</b>	41.1%	43.3%	33.9%
<b>3R</b>	35.0%	61.7%	31.3%

### Reading MCA Proficiency

Student Group	State	Parnassus	Osseo
<b>Overall Proficiency</b>	49.9%	49.0%	47.8%
<b>3G</b>	46.5%	38.3%	47.4%
<b>4G</b>	48.1%	39.2%	45.8%
<b>1L</b>	57.5%	52.1%	56.6%
<b>2L</b>	54.5%	60.9%	49.8%
<b>3L</b>	45.5%	43.5%	45.1%
<b>4L</b>	44.6%	50.0%	40.4%
<b>2R</b>	52.2%	68.2%	49.1%

### Science MCA Proficiency

Student Group	State	Parnassus	Osseo
<b>Overall Proficiency</b>	39.2%	39.4%	32.8%
<b>1L</b>	48.4%	38.7%	38.3%
<b>4L</b>	27.6%	32.5%	21.6%
<b>School of Rhetoric</b>	41.8%	63.2%	38.0%

## Nationally Normed Assessment – Stanford Achievement Test, Tenth Edition (SAT10) Results

*This was the fourth and final year that Parnassus administered the Stanford Achievement Test, Tenth Edition (SAT10s). The tests were administered in November of 2023. Students are considered proficient on the SAT 10s if they score at Stanine 5 or higher. Beginning with the 2024-2025 school year, the Classic Learning Test 3-8 will replace the SAT10s as the school’s nationally-normed assessment.*

### SAT10 Student Proficiency by Level – Basic Battery (Includes Reading, Math, Science Sub-Tests)

Level	% Scoring Stanine 5 or Above
<b>All Students</b>	61%
<b>2G</b>	68%
<b>3G</b>	51%
<b>4G</b>	69%
<b>1L</b>	54%
<b>2L</b>	64%
<b>3L</b>	54%
<b>4L</b>	69%

### World’s Best Workforce - Academic Goals and Results

As part of the local World’s Best Workforce plan, each district and charter school is required to set goals related to each of the components of the World’s Best Workforce and to report on their progress towards those goals. The goals for Parnassus Preparatory School are listed below.

#### Goal Area 1: All Students Ready for School

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> WBWF Goal Only <input type="checkbox"/> WBWF /A & I Goal	Result	Goal Status
<i>By December 15th, 2023, 80% of the School’s Prima students continuously enrolled since the first day of school will be able to identify all 26 upper and lower case letters and count to 32.</i>	<i>95% of the school’s Prima students, continuously enrolled since the first day of school, were able to identify all 26 upper and lower case letters and count to 32.</i>	Check <b>one</b> of the following:  <b>Multi-Year Goal:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> On Track <input type="checkbox"/> Not on Track  <b>One-Year Goal</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Goal Met <input type="checkbox"/> Goal Not Met  <input type="checkbox"/> District/charter does not enroll students in kindergarten

**Goal Area 2: All Students in Third Grade Achieving Grade-Level Literacy**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> WBWF Goal Only <input type="checkbox"/> WBWF /A & I Goal	Result	Goal Status
<p><i>On the Spring 2024 Reading Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments (MCAs), the proficiency rate of Parnassus' 3G scholars will be at least five percentage points higher than the state average for that level.</i></p>	<p><i>Parnassus' 3G scholars did not score higher than the state average for that level on the Spring 2024 Reading MCAs.</i></p>	<p><i>Check one of the following:</i></p> <p><b>Multi-Year Goal:</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> On Track</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Not on Track</p> <p><b>One-Year Goal</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Goal Met</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Goal Not Met</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> District/charter does not enroll students in grade 3</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Unable to Report</p>

**Goal Area 3: Close the Achievement Gap Among All Groups**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> WBWF Goal Only <input type="checkbox"/> WBWF /A & I Goal	Result	Goal Status
<p><i>In FY2024, for each subgroup other than English Learners, for which the School had publicly reportable/sufficient counts: the School proficiency rate will exceed the state-average proficiency rate for the subgroup for each reading and math. These subgroups will include:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>• Students who qualify for Free or Reduced Lunch;</i></li> <li><i>• Students receiving Special Education services; and</i></li> <li><i>• Racial subgroups other than students who identify as Native Americans and Native Hawaiians/Pacific Islanders.</i></li> </ul>	<p><i>This goal was met for all publicly-reportable subgroups for math and reading.</i></p>	<p><i>Check one of the following:</i></p> <p><b>Multi-Year Goal:</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> On Track</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Not on Track</p> <p><b>One-Year Goal</b></p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Goal Met</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Goal Not Met</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Unable to Report</p>

**Goal Area 4: All Students Career-and College-Ready by Graduation**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> WBWF Goal Only <input type="checkbox"/> WBWF /A & I Goal	Result	Goal Status
<p><i>Each year, a minimum of 85% of Third-Level Rhetoric (3R) students will take the ACT, and the average composite ACT score of the Third-Level Rhetoric students will exceed the state-average composite.</i></p>	<p><i>100% of Third Level Rhetoric (3R) students took the ACT in Spring 2024; the average composite score was a 24.7. exceeding the state-average composite of 20.7</i></p>	<p><i>Check one of the following:</i></p> <p><b>Multi-Year Goal:</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> On Track</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Not on Track</p> <p><b>One-Year Goal</b></p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Goal Met</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Goal Not Met</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Unable to Report</p>

**Goal Area 5: All Students Graduate**

<input type="checkbox"/> WBWF Goal Only <input type="checkbox"/> WBWF /A & I Goal	Result	Goal Status
<p><i>For the class of 2024, the School's four-year graduation rate will exceed 90%, and all publicly reportable student groups will have a minimum four-year graduation rate of 85%.</i></p>	<p><i>95.2% of the members of the Class of 2024 graduated in four years, and all publicly reportable student groups will have a minimum four-year graduation rate of 85%.</i></p>	<p><i>Check one of the following:</i></p> <p><b>Multi-Year Goal:</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> On Track</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Not on Track</p> <p><b>One-Year Goal</b></p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Goal Met</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Goal Not Met</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> District/charter does not enroll students in grade 12</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Unable to Report</p>

## VI. Staffing, Professional Development, and Equitable Access to Teachers

Parnassus employed 121 full-time employees during the 2023-2024 school year, including 84 licensed faculty, two directors, and four principals. Parnassus also maintained agreements with outside consultants and contractors. Of the licensed staff who taught in 2023-2024, 84% have returned for the 2024-2025 school year.

### Parnassus 2023-2024 Licensed Teaching Staff

[Note: \*\* Indicates that staff member is not a part of the 2024-2025 Parnassus faculty.]

File Folder Number	Last Name	First Name	File Folder Number	Last Name	First Name
515239	Addae	Charles	428532	Mathews	Benjamin
517755	Almquist	Gwen	485168	Mattsson	Nicholas
1009742	Anderson	Caroline	1019304	Meadows-Singh***	Kaylah
517758	Anderson	Erik	375586	Miller	Sherilyn
499079	Bagwell***	Alexander	512051	Moua	Chang
394543	Baker	Andrea	508913	Moua	Kia
1021031	Barrett	Joshua	484596	Murphy	Brian
482806	Batiste	Nina	396506	Neimeyer	Heather
434538	Boegel	Melissa	410928	Nelson	Sonja
1021403	Bohlke	Camille	373151	Norton	Bradley
427048	Byrne	Kathryn	511814	Olson	Daphne
492085	Camarillo	Chelse	423007	Omberg	Corinne
506957	Cincoski***	Theodore	518706	Ormberg	David
512964	Conlin***	Daniel	509804	Peterson	Angela
508616	Cord	David	1014789	Randolph	Gabrielle
510461	Dean	Geoffrey	1020139	Reyes	Lydia
470471	Dechert	James	363769	Rose	Barbara
455179	Demakis-Haustein	Julia	449810	Rossi	Marie
495462	Dembsky	Claire	1028424	Sadr-Panah	Sonia
1027333	DeRosier	Lauren	242317	Schnitzler	Bradley
473203	Edstrom	Kirsten	1026719	Scholl***	Hali
410029	Erickson	Kristin	455396	Shequin	Angela
492627	Feicht	Joshua	1013106	Singh	Sunpreet
461775	Ford	Shawn	1011609	Skaug	Marc
1026642	Gaebler	Sarah	1023871	Smith***	Kayla
1027528	Goldsmith	T.K.	337648	Stafford	Amy
374825	Gottwalt	Irene	496812	Steeber	Jessica
479732	Hamiel	Gregory	456000	Steimann	Alyssa
421135	Hamiel	Christopher	502088	Strand	Julius

File Folder Number	Last Name	First Name	File Folder Number	Last Name	First Name
1030036	Hart	Samantha	411698	Sutton	Wade
473705	Hasner	AnnMarie	367321	Swanson	Cynthia
463338	Hauge***	David	448353	Thomas	Nelvin
460815	Hays***	Breann	479407	Towell	Kathleen
508244	Herbst	Karen	489159	Trauba***	Kirstan
517975	Hill	Travis	468098	Ulbrich	Alison
468770	Igoe	Jill	506884	VanBlaricom	William
1018681	Jameson	Robert	512241	Veach	Austin
412556	Jerman***	Lynn	490192	Von Drasek	Susan
1003619	Jones	Jacquelyn	1023144	Wagner	Claire
1022103	Kaiser***	Bethany	349539	Weiland	Carole
478233	Keil	Michael	505137	West***	Kate
495751	Kelly	Karen	1015281	Young	Taylor
421616	Langseth	Nicholas	486575	Zachman	Andrew
420845	Lundberg	Carol	1000341	Zebro***	Afton
518616	Magoon	Cassandra			

## Professional Development

Developing the staff in the classical model and pedagogy is paramount to Parnassus Preparatory School's success as a Classical school and to fulfilling its mission. Recognizing the importance of professional development, in 2023-2024, Parnassus continued to provide training and development opportunities for faculty and staff in the following areas:

- Classical education pedagogy
- Direct Instruction
- Data-Driven instruction
- Literacy
- Effective classroom management
- Socratic and Harkness discussion
- methods
- Effective Assessments
- Mandated Reporting and Health Safety
- School and student safety
- School law updates
- Human Resources updates

As part of the school's strategy to accomplish its mission, it is a Parnassus tradition to include summer readings for the staff. The school holds discussions of the assigned work during the back-to-school workshop and training. The required summer readings include classic works of literature from the Parnassus curriculum as well as academic and research-based books and articles.

## Equitable Access to Excellent Teachers

On June 1, 2015, MDE submitted a plan to the U.S. Department of Education that required all states to address long-term needs for improving equitable access of all students to excellent educators. The *Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)* requires states to evaluate and publicly report whether low-income and minority students are disproportionately served by ineffective, out-of-field, or inexperienced teachers.

### *Equitable Access to Experienced, Effective, and In-Field Teachers*

Parnassus is proud to serve a racially and economically diverse student population, and the school strives to provide an education that is both excellent and equitable to all students, regardless of race or socioeconomic status. Care is taken to ensure that class rosters are balanced between various student groups and special populations. After reviewing data, including course rosters detailing students' race/ethnicity, primary home languages, gender, and socioeconomic statuses, the school did not find any gaps related to

equitable access to effective teachers for students of color, nor were any found for low-income students. Parnassus takes care to ensure that all students, regardless of background, are placed with teachers who will be able to help them make the most academic gains. One hundred percent of Parnassus students, including all of the students of color, students receiving EL services, and students receiving Special Education services had access to experienced, in-field, effective teachers.

Regular review of course rosters and the demographic details of incoming students allows the school to effectively create balanced rosters. Additionally, screening incoming Prima (kindergarten) students allows the school to be more intentional in creating class lists to ensure that classes are generally balanced between genders, ethnic backgrounds, and academic abilities so that students have equitable access to high-quality teachers. Parnassus works extensively with all staff members and provides intensive, ongoing professional development to all teachers to ensure that our faculty meets our high standards for instructional effectiveness and academic rigor. This includes training on our pedagogical and classroom management practices to ensure consistency across classrooms and grade levels. Teachers are observed regularly throughout the year and classroom data are closely monitored to support the success of all students. Teacher performance data is reviewed regularly to monitor and gauge the effectiveness of instruction. These instructional data, along with regular classroom observations, help determine teacher effectiveness. Along with teacher effectiveness, teachers' years of experience, licensure, and qualifications are considered when deciding course and class placement. For critical, skill-based subjects such as math and reading, Parnassus places its most qualified and effective teachers with its at-risk students.

#### *Access to Diverse Teachers*

Parnassus continues to make a conscious effort to broaden the diversity of its staff so that it better reflects the diversity of our student population. While in 2023-2024 nearly 70% of Parnassus scholars were students of color, about 7% of Parnassus' licensed teaching staff were individuals of color. Efforts currently in place to broaden the diversity of teachers in the school include making connections with student teacher programs, broadening the range of the geographical areas in which we post for open teaching and administrative positions, and increasing the number of locations online where we solicit applications for teaching jobs.

## **VII. Operational Performance and Finances**

Parnassus Preparatory School is required to operate under a charter agreement with an entity that has been approved by the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) to be a charter school authorizer. The authorizer monitors and evaluates the school's performance and determines whether to renew the school's charter. Parnassus is in good standing with its authorizer, Friends of Education, and has received a five-year charter contract renewal which began on July 1, 2024.

Processes implemented by the board, administrators, and staff ensured overall timeliness regarding compliance with applicable laws and MDE reporting requirements. Parnassus Preparatory School strives to be completely compliant with MDE reporting and regulations, including submitting reports such as the Annual Report/World's Best Work Force, DIRS reporting, MARSS data, etc. Parnassus school representatives regularly attend required MDE training. Parnassus followed state and local health and safety requirements and was compliant with fire codes, inspections, and other safety requirements. The school regularly conducts all emergency fire, severe weather, and lockdown drills and is compliant with all requirements.

During the 2023-2024 school year, Parnassus provided daily transportation through contracted busing services to nearly 1000 students on sixteen bus routes throughout our service area including Anoka, Blaine, Brooklyn Park, Brooklyn Center, Champlin, Coon Rapids, Corcoran, Crystal, Hamel, Maple Grove, New Hope, Osseo, Plymouth, Ramsey, and St. Michael.

Parnassus Building Company, an affiliated building company, serves as the school's landlord.

## **Future Plans**

The school's academic, cultural, financial, and governance goals/future plans are outlined in the school's Continued School Improvement Plan (CSIP). Student achievement, college preparation, and the development of well-rounded scholars and citizens remain the school's priority.

The Parnassus administration and staff will continue to review student performance data to measure academic growth and learning recovery. Beginning with the current 2024-2025 school year, Parnassus will administer the Classical Learning Test to students in the Third Level Grammar (3G) through Fourth Level Rhetoric (4R) levels. The Classical Learning Test is a national assessment that is well suited for our school's focus on factual knowledge, cultural literacy, and rigorous content across the liberal arts. The use of the mCLASS with DIBELS reading assessment suite, implemented as part of the READ Act, in the School of Grammar will assist with further developing the school's Response to Intervention (RTI) initiatives related to reading. Additionally, the school will continue to offer free ACT test preparation and practice for scholars in the Fourth Level Logic (4L) through Third Level Rhetoric (3R) including sessions with targeted practice for each section of the exam: English, Mathematics, Reading, and Science.

The classical tradition calls for daily, deliberate examinations of truth, goodness, and beauty. Through direct instruction, guided instruction, discussion, reflection, and debate on the nature of virtue and its purpose for self and society, students examine what it means to live a good and virtuous life. At Parnassus, we rely heavily on the rich content of the school's curriculum as the medium through which our conversations and investigations about character are conceived and illustrated, and we use our daily work, behavior, and volunteer service to apply what we have learned for the good of the school and the wider community. Teachers and staff will focus on teaching the importance of virtue, displaying appropriate and respectful behavior, and making good choices and decisions. As a classical school, we have the unique privilege and opportunity to join the great human endeavor of representing the ideals of truth, goodness, and beauty in all that we do.

## **Executive Financial Summary for Financial Year 2024**

*This section may be amended upon final acceptance of the FY2024 financial audit.*

### ***Executive Financial Summary***

For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, Parnassus Preparatory School (the School) recorded revenues of \$18.51 million, expenditures of \$17.35 million, and an increase in the fund balance of \$1,168,105. A total of 1364 students were served, which is an increase of approx. 1% from last year's total of 1351 students.

The School's solid financial position continues to allow it to deliver on its mission. Parnassus once again met its goal of maintaining a 25% fund balance (as a percentage of expenditures), while investing in its program and meeting all financial commitments to bondholders. Parnassus Preparatory School's financial position remains strong

### ***Analysis of Revenues and Expenditures***

The following table shows revenues and expenditures over the last two years. Like all public schools, the School uses government fund accounting. For the School, the funds used are the General Fund (revenues and expenses related to instruction and running the school), the Food Service Fund (revenues and costs for lunch, breakfast, and snacks) and the Community Fund (community service activities and programs).



	<b>2023</b>				<b>2022</b>			
	Total	General	Food Service	Community	Total	General	Food Service	Community
<b>Revenue</b>	18,514,761	17,209,914	1,224,152	80,695	17,094,474	16,286,162	717,574	90,738
<b>Expenditures</b>	17,346,656	16,022,756	1,224,152	99,748	15,891,628	15,061,363	717,574	112,691
<b>Transfers</b>	-	(19,053)	-	19,053	-	-	-	-
<b>Surplus</b>	1,168,105	1,146,482	-	-	1,202,846	1,146,482	-	-21,953

### ***Analysis of Revenues***

Total revenue in financial year 2024 was \$18.51 million, up 8.3% from 2023. The School’s per-ADM funding in 2023 increased 7% to \$13,588 per student. This revenue growth reflects federal grant assistance for operations during the pandemic, as well as a 2% increase in per-pupil funding from the state. Additionally, breakfast and lunch were free for all students starting in FY24 which increased overall food service program participation. As Federal funding for pandemic related expenses recede the School expects per-per-pupil revenue to come down.

The demographic and economic makeup of the student population of any school also has an impact on per-student funding. In fiscal year 2024, the School served a Free and Reduced population of just over 48% of students with approximately 6.5% Special Education students and 7.2% English Language Learners (ELL). The School’s enrollment reflects its commitment to serve all students in its demographic area.

### ***Analysis of Expenditures***

In the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, total expenditures were \$17.35 million, which was an increase of 9.2% from 2023. The School’s overall per-ADM expenditures in 2024 were \$12,731, up 8.3% from 2023. Focusing on the General Fund, which includes the bulk of the School’s revenue, per-ADM expenditures were \$11,747 and represents a 5% increase from 2023. This increase in General Fund spending per pupil represents an investment in staff, as well as technology and curriculum for students.

Parnassus Preparatory School’s continued strong financial position allows it to focus on its mission of delivering a classical education. A key part of that is providing a competitive compensation package to attract and retain a great staff. The School continues to focus on areas of the budget that allow it to stay competitive in an era of 2-4% per pupil revenue increases. Some examples include turning the food service program from a loss to approximately break-even, exceeding fundraising targets, and continuing improvement in a cash management program which increased the School’s days cash on hand at the end of the fiscal year.

### ***Budgetary Comparison***

An annual budget for 2023-2024 was established prior to June 30, 2023. One budget revision was approved during the fiscal year to reflect the estimated forecast of the School better.

Parnassus board and management use the budget as an important tool to make prudent decisions in the ongoing management of the school. The Board reviews the school's financial progress monthly and values its ability to maintain financial flexibility as circumstances change. The primary metrics that are reviewed are the annual surplus, the resulting fund balance, and financial covenants.

Regarding the financial covenants, the School’s emphasis on cash management resulted in ending days cash on hand of 129 days in 2024. This is based on using the fund financial statements, excluding the Building Company Fund.

Parnassus ended the fiscal year very close to the budget in 2024. General fund revenues were 1.6% below budget while prudent expense controls led to a favorable 4% budget deviation. The net result was an annual surplus of approximately \$1,168,105 across all funds.

### ***Fund Balance Analysis***

Parnassus Preparatory School’s fund balance (reserves) grew to \$6,681,697 in 2024. The school remains at its stated goal of maintaining a fund balance of at least 25% of annual expenditures. Parnassus’ budgeting philosophy is unchanged; it manages its finances to deliver a fund balance that meets this goal. The Board and Executive Director will continue to look for ways to manage financials in order to maintain a great teaching staff and invest in the school’s program to provide students with a classical education that is grounded in the classical Trivium and that demands students’ best in intellectual achievement and character development.

## **VIII. World’s Best Workforce/Comprehensive Achievement and Civic Readiness Information**

### **Public Meeting to Discuss 2022-2023 & 2023-2024 Outcomes**

The school conducted public meetings to discuss the goals, outcomes, and strategies related to the World’s Best Workforce on November 14, 2023. The information for 2023-2024 was presented on November 12, 2024. Moving forward, this will be referred to as Comprehensive Achievement and Civic Readiness, which replaced the World’s Best Workforce language in the 2024 legislative session.

### **District Advisory Committee**

In the 2023-2024 school year, the District Advisory Committee included the following members:

Ms. Katherine Good, Support Staff	Ms. Adriana Barreto, Parent
Mr. Kenneth Zigrino, Community Member	Ms. Kathleen Towell, Teacher
Mr. William Humphrey, Parent	Ms. Scushe Tuoyon, Student
Ms. Anitha Murugesan, Parent	

### **Dissemination & Marketing Information**

Minn. Stat. 124E.17 requires charter schools to “disseminate information about how to use the offerings of a charter school. Targeted groups include low-income families and communities, students of color, and students who are at risk of academic failure.”

Parnassus conducts annual and ongoing marketing strategies to attract and keep students from diverse backgrounds and socioeconomic status. The school’s demographics included in this annual report are a testament to the success of its efforts and of the school’s classical program. Below are several strategies used at Parnassus to achieve this goal during the 2023-2024 school year.

- a) Manner and information disseminated during the school year:
  - Parnassus uses its website to promote the school’s offerings to all.
  - Parnassus conducts informational meetings for groups and private meetings with families throughout the year to promote the offerings of the school to all. These are held virtually – removing barriers related to transportation, and interpreting services are available upon request.
  - Parnassus conducts a targeted online and print advertising campaign aimed at low-income zip codes.

- Parnassus empowers parents to promote the school with new prospective families and to engage with existing families.
- b) Manner and information disseminated during the school year specifically to low-income students, students of color, and at-risk students:
- Parnassus sends an electronic and a paper copy of its newsletters to all families bi-monthly including information about the school's offerings, enrollment, parent-teacher conferences, and any other updates.
  - Parnassus utilizes interpreters for meetings with parents where the English language may be a barrier to communication.
  - Parnassus offers critical enrollment paperwork and other materials in translation to families who speak Hmong, Spanish, and Russian.
  - Parnassus uses the school phone alert system (including email and text messages) or the school academic system to continuously communicate with families regarding key academic areas such as parent-teacher conferences, student missing assignments, expected homework, and test and project due dates.
  - Parnassus sends written letters to targeted families as a non-electronic means of communication.
  - Parnassus teachers call parents of targeted student groups when grades are below expectations.
  - All Parnassus staff members have access to a Language Line, for simultaneous interpretation of phone conversations in more than 100 languages.
  - Teachers reach out to students during lunch, recess, resource period, and after school providing at-risk students with support.
  - The school generates missing assignment reports and implements specific strategies to reach at-risk students and their families.
- c) Activities Parnassus engages in to ensure participation of all students:
- Socioeconomic
    - i. Uniforms – Parnassus offers uniform vouchers to low-income families to pay for the school uniform logos.
    - ii. Field Trips – The school offers free access to low-income students to participate in any school-sponsored events.
    - iii. School Events – Parnassus assists low-income families by offering free access to school events.
    - iv. School Social Events – Low-income students are offered free access to the school's student socials and fun nights/activities.
  - Demographic, Ethnic, Racial:
    - i. All school-sponsored events and activities are promoted to all students and all have access.
    - ii. The school promotes the participation of a diverse group of students and leaders in key areas of the school including Student Senate and advisory groups.
    - iii. Parnassus adjusts where appropriate to ensure inclusion for all –e.g., adjusting the uniform policy to accommodate and respect personal beliefs and various cultural norms.
    - iv. World languages are celebrated at Parnassus. Students in all grades have daily Spanish and Latin instruction and Greek instruction in the School of Rhetoric.
- d) The results of all these activities are reflected in the student demographic information listed in the school's annual reports. Parnassus' commitment to serving a diverse community of students is reflected in its racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic makeup.