

# Growth in Classical Liberal Arts Education in the U.S., 2018-2023

## Survey Results

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Classical liberal arts schools have gained nationwide attention in recent years, especially during the pandemic when parents sought alternative forms of education to meet their children's needs. While there have been many articles featuring newly founded classical liberal arts schools or pointing out growth at existing ones, there have not been any nationwide studies documenting (or challenging) claims for increased enrollment. Saint Vincent College is pleased to publish the only nationwide study on the classical liberal arts movement. The study was conducted by three faculty members involved in our Classical Thought program (Drs. Michael Krom, Justin Petrovich, and Aaron Sams), and provides compelling evidence supporting claims that the classical liberal arts movement is rapidly expanding all across the nation. See below for key statistics from the study. It is our sincere hope that this study will be broadly used by classical liberal arts advocates to support this movement at the K-12 level, and to encourage colleges and universities to highlight as well as strengthen their liberal arts programs.

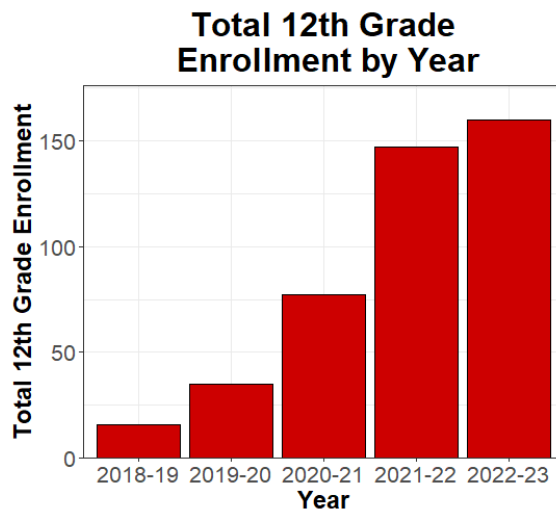
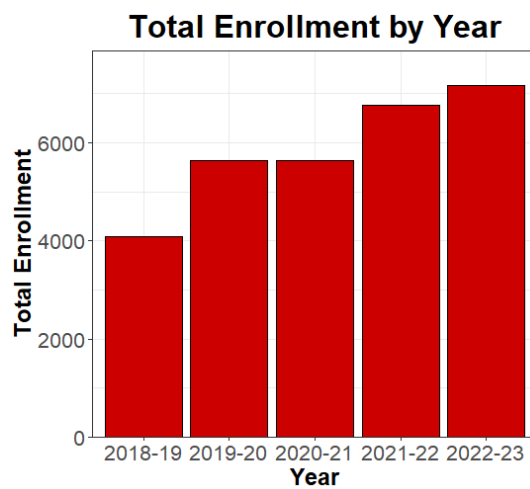
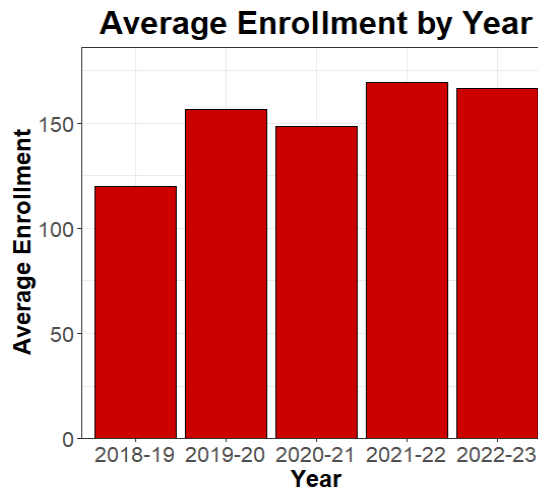
**Summary of Schools Surveyed**

Survey conducted from September 20 – April 20, 2023

		<b>Catholic</b>	<b>Christian (non-Catholic)</b>
<b>Responses</b>	No. of Responses	43	41
	Response Rate	43/210 (20.5%)	41/327 (12.5%)
<b>Grades Offered</b>	K/PreK – 8	17	5
	K/PreK – 12	9	30
	9 – 12	14	1
	Other – up to 12	2	1
	Other – up to < 12	1	6
<b>States</b>	AL	-	2
	AZ	-	2
	CA	1	1
	CO	2	-
	CT	1	-
	GA	-	2
	ID	3	1
	IL	-	1
	IN	1	2
	IA	-	1
	KS	-	1
	MD	4	2
	MI	2	-
	MN	3	1
	MO	1	-
	NE	3	-
	NM	-	1
	NY	3	1
	NC	-	2
	ND	-	1
	OH	3	1
	OR	1	2
	PA	5	4
	TX	5	6
	VA	1	2
	WA	1	2
WI	2	2	
WY	-	1	
<b>2022 Enrollment</b>	Min	7	10
	Max	1,625	1,784
	Average	166	226

## Enrollment Trend among Catholic Classical Liberal Arts Schools

- Since 2018-19, growth in average enrollment from 151 to 169 students per school, a 12% increase
- Since 2018-19, growth in total enrollment from 4,082 to 7,164 students across the 43 responding schools, a 76% increase
- Since 2018-19, growth in 12<sup>th</sup> grade enrollment from 16 to 160 students across the schools that reported 12<sup>th</sup> grade enrollment numbers, a 900% increase
- Note: 16 of the 43 schools did not start until after the 2018-19 academic year
- Extrapolating from the data:
  - Estimated total enrollment in Catholic Classical Liberal Arts Schools increased from 19,935 (2018-19) to 34,987 (2022-23)
  - Estimated 12<sup>th</sup> grade enrollment increased from 78 (2018-19) to 781 (2022-23)



## Enrollment Trend among Christian Classical Liberal Arts Schools

- Since 2018-19, growth in average enrollment from 175 to 262 students per school
- Since 2018-19, growth in total enrollment from 5,610 to 9284 students across the 41 responding schools
- Since 2018-19, growth in 12<sup>th</sup> grade enrollment from 77 to 159 students across the schools that reported 12<sup>th</sup> grade enrollment numbers
- Note: 9 of the 41 schools did not start until after the 2018-19 academic year. Also, 1 large-enrollment school did not report enrollment data for the 2020-21 academic year, which explains the large dip in both average and total enrollment for that year.
- Extrapolating from the data:
  - Estimated total enrollment in Christian Classical Liberal Arts Schools increased from 44,743 (2018-19) to 74,064 (2022-23)
  - Estimated 12<sup>th</sup> grade enrollment increased from 614 (2018-19) to 1268 (2022-23)

