



Technology in the Classical Tradition: Eagle Ridge Academy

*“Technology is good and is used well when it enables us to function independently, when it allows us to better love another, [...]when it is used to cultivate a faculty, and when it allows us to cultivate a higher faculty than could be cultivated without it - while not undercutting the lower faculties”
 (“Apologetics and The Place of Technology” Kern).*

Eagle Ridge Academy believes that technology can enhance and enrich learning but should not be used as the primary tool for instruction.

The Classical model of education relies on quality, personal time with the professional educator to teach, mentor, and assess students. Technology should enrich – not supplant – student learning.

Eagle Ridge Academy believes in handwriting as a valued means of written expression.

Given that writing by hand is unique to humanity and reflects the beauty of the individual, the Classical model of education as well as current research acknowledges that the act itself embeds learning.

Eagle Ridge Academy believes in the preference of print resources over digital media.

Although technology is impressive in its access to facts and information, there is nothing quite like a book in hand. The Classical model of education practices a systematic and slow building of the student’s understanding. With training, students will learn when it is appropriate to read printed text and when to utilize technology as a tool.

Eagle Ridge Academy believes that face-to-face conversation is the most effective means when communicating for understanding.

The Classical model of education values close, human interaction, both individually and as a community. Such conversation supports relational dialogue and collective inquiry.

Eagle Ridge Academy believes that reliance on technology limits a student’s education.

While technology is efficient, it may limit human interaction. The Classical model of education nurtures the human capacity to reflect and understand.

Eagle Ridge Academy believes in wisdom as the result of slow, rich practice over the efficiency of technology.

The Classical model of education contrasts a modern world that values timeliness, efficiency, and production over relationships, critical thinking, and creativity. Knowledge must be earned through slow, systematic repetition. The Classical educator understands that there is no shortcut to excellence.



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Eagle Ridge Academy believes that while fact learning can be measured effectively with technology, true education cannot be quantified solely through numerical data.

The Classical model of education embraces the breadth of available data and information to teach the whole person. Education is more than access to facts and transference of knowledge for a classroom or standardized test. With moderation, we use both numerical and observational data to inform educational practices.

Eagle Ridge Academy believes that a firm foundation in the liberal arts is prerequisite to mastery of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

The Classical model of education believes that the liberal arts develop the mind and the character of the person, readying them to create and innovate. When integrated into a Classical education, science, technology, engineering, and mathematics develop critical thinking skills in students.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

- Glaser, D. (2015, May 11). The risky english major? Not so fast. *US News*. Retrieved from <http://www.usnews.com/opinion/knowledge-bank/2015/05/11/stem-fields-benefit-from-liberal-arts-skills>
- Hotz, R. L. (2016, April 4). Can handwriting make you smarter? *The Wall Street Journal*. Retrieved from <http://www.wsj.com/articles/can-handwriting-make-you-smarter-1459784659>
- Klebnikov, S. (2015, June 19). Liberal arts vs. STEM: The right degrees, the wrong debate. *Forbes*. Retrieved from <http://www.forbes.com/sites/sergeiklebnikov/2015/06/19/liberal-arts-vs-stem-the-right-degrees-the-wrong-debate/#217f55ec41ec>
- Konnikova, M. (2014, June 2). What's lost as handwriting fades. *The New York Times*. Retrieved from http://www.nytimes.com/2014/06/03/science/whats-lost-as-handwriting-fades.html?_r=3
- Perrin, C. (2015, April 7). Classical education – The best preparation for STEM [Web log post]. Retrieved from <http://insideclassicaled.com/?m=201504>
- Weidmann, J. (2014, July 14). Why write? Penmanship for the 21st century [Video file]. Retrieved from <http://youtube.com/watch?v=85bqT904VWA>
- Wise Bauer, S., & Wise, J. (2009). *The well-trained mind: A guide to classical education at home*. (3rd ed.) New York: WW Norton & Company, Inc.