

**Founders Classical Academy of Arkansas  
Continuity of Services Plan (Ready for Learning Plan)  
District Support  
Plan Literacy Plans  
2022-2023**

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[ResponsiveEd Arkansas Safe Return to School Practices](#) Updated 10/6/21

**Mission Statement:** Founders Classical Academies seek to provide an excellent and distinctive classical education that pursues knowledge, promotes virtue, and prepares students for prosperous lives in a free society.

**Vision:** Founders Classical Academy is committed to:

- Providing our future leaders with a college preparatory education focused on the Classical Liberal Arts.
- Promoting a rigorous academic program fostering intellectual curiosity, critical thinking, virtuous character building and a lifelong passion for learning.
- Working with parents to instill in students a strong sense of personal responsibility and the moral courage to contribute to our global community.

**Plan for Continuity of Services (Ready for Learning Plan)**

**Component 1: Ensure continuity of teaching and learning by providing a guaranteed and viable curriculum that includes blended and virtual learning, and diagnostic assessments**

- To ensure the continuity of teaching and learning, the district will provide a combination of on-site learning (Blended Learning) K-12 and an option for virtual learning 7-12. On-site learning will provide the most time-tested methods of educating students, and at the same time delivers the most cutting-edge education in America. At the Classical Academy, today's students receive a "classical" education. The entire curriculum at the Classical Academy is based in the Classical Liberal Arts and Sciences with a strong emphasis on civic education. A classical education aims to recover lost tools of learning in order to cultivate wise and virtuous men and women who will be able to live as responsible citizens of our republic. Distinctives of the instruction will include: a curriculum that is knowledge-rich and built around the belief that there is a common body of knowledge all members of our society should

master in the core subjects and in the arts; Classical virtues, as well as principles in self-government and civility, are identified and clearly taught in a seamless manner through course content; emphasis is placed on *minds-on learning* and on fostering a spirit of inquiry in students; Literacy is taught through explicit phonics and traditional grammar and composition in the elementary grades; Latin studies are an integral part of the upper school curriculum; Instruction in the arts includes theory, history, and performance; Students are trained in study skills, planning and organization, close reading of text, and note-taking

- The 7-12 online program allows students to move at their own pace while receiving support from face-to-face instructors. Bright Thinker's precision, mastery-based learning model is engineered to build on a student's strengths in a modern, engaging fashion. The dynamic program uses multimedia tools, a cutting-edge curriculum, and a personalized approach to ensure learning is consistently challenging, stimulating, and beneficial. Bright Thinker (CMS) will be used for grades 7-12.
- The program design provides for an easy transition or pivot to off-site instruction in the event it becomes imminent. The virtual program will utilize the same Arkansas aligned curriculum. Virtual students will have access to personnel that will provide the support necessary for them to be a successful learner.
- To ensure a guaranteed and viable curriculum, Founders Classical Academy will utilize an in-person and digital curriculum that is aligned to Arkansas Academic Standards. Teachers work in PLCs to identify and review essential standards to ensure our curriculum continues to provide students with the knowledge and skills needed for college/career readiness.
- Founders Classical Academy will utilize NWEA MAP Assessments as a diagnostic assessment to identify gaps in learning. This assessment will be given in grades K-12 and will be administered in the Fall, Winter and Spring beginning with the first full week of school. ACT Aspire data will be analyzed to determine curricular gaps and student progress.

**Component 2: Address unfinished learning from prior year by using the Arkansas Playbook.**

- Staff will work in PLCs to identify the essential standards that students have missed in prior years. Based on our RTI process students will receive targeted instruction to address gaps in student learning. Student progress is assessed and reviewed individually then standards are grouped based on similar gaps. The essential standards that are targeted are reviewed/retaught in small group or individual settings.

**Component 3: Utilize a learning management system.**

- The school will utilize Buzz as the Learning Management System for students to access coursework and course materials. Google Classroom will assist with the streamlining of summative and formative assessments.

**Component 4: Train teachers to utilize the learning management system.**

- Continued support and professional development opportunities will continue with Bright Thinker and Buzz. All teachers received valuable support and professional development throughout the 2022-2023 school year and that same support will continue for those who continue as virtual teachers. Bright Thinker will continue to offer various supports for campuses. A follow up for the Administrator Platform training will be coordinated with the district support team from Bright Thinker. Additionally, continuous Onboarding will allow those who have worked within the platform and those who may be new

to the platform to work within various ‘sandboxes’ in a live setting complete with trainers who will lead each of the sessions. Each session will conclude with a Q & A session along with additional studies designed to enhance the learning experience. Ongoing Administrator Training Webinars will be in place, as they were for the 2021-2022 school year. Bright Thinker also schedules ongoing Administrative Support and gives resources for school personnel, students and families in an effort to enhance learning. A team from Bright Thinker is available for all teachers to offer support, answer questions and enhance teaching and learning capabilities in real time. Campus resources that were created and shared at the campus level will be updated, as the platform has seen updates within the past year. This training is administered by certified instructional specialists. These specialists have also created detailed job aids for Buzz and Bright Thinker that are at the teacher's fingertips.

**Component 5: Teacher training for blended learning.**

- All staff will receive training on how to facilitate blended learning approaches that will enhance student learning. The staff is well trained in how to facilitate learning through a blended model. Additional training provided will focus on preparing the staff for a seamless pivot to virtual learning in the event it becomes necessary. This training will include strategies for student engagement, the development of engaging lessons, and the management of online learning.

**Component 6: Provide support for parents and students.**

- The district recognizes the importance of family engagement in all aspects of a student’s educational experience. It recognizes that the engagement of families of on-site and virtual students has taken on a new perspective and may be more challenging than in past years. For this reason the staff will strive to, not only encourage family engagement, but will promote activities that will make families and students feel more connected to the school and increase their chances for success. FCA will utilize webinars, video calls, & conference calls to discuss student learning, mental health, academic resources, and student engagement. When applicable, all events held onsite will be streamed online for families to participate. In the event it is not possible for parents and students to participate, an alternate event/activity will be provided.

FCA will:

1. utilize systems for sharing important information such ParentSquare, emails, and classroom apps.
2. Share helpful resources with parents to provide guidance around learning at home.
3. Hold virtual home visits, and parent-teacher conferences as a means for checking in with parents to determine if needs.
4. Recruit parents to lead virtual enrichment activities and become virtual tutors.
5. Encourage parents to provide feedback about additional ways the district/schools can be more supportive and inclusive of all students and their families.

ResponsiveEd Arkansas will ensure that all students have equitable access to a digital learning environment, address barriers that may inhibit a student’s ability to

participate in a digital learning environment, and provide support and resources to improve learning and communication in a digital environment.

**Component 7: Communication plan for interacting with parents, students, and community.**

- ResponsiveEd Arkansas is committed to providing families, employees, and community stakeholders with timely and accurate information. The district will post pertinent information concerning onsite and virtual learning, and COVID 19 health & safety protocols and updates through social media platforms and the district wide school messaging system. Each campus will communicate necessary daily information through ParentSquare. Individual school websites will also be updated to include most current information. All stakeholders are encouraged to monitor all social media platforms for information and contact the campus if they have questions.

**Reviewed: ~~10-13-21~~ 4-14-22 10-7-22**

**District Support Plan**

**Goal #1: Founders Classical Academy teachers will monitor and evaluate student academic progress throughout the year to address the individual needs of students.**

**Needs Assessment Data:**

- ESSA School Reports (SSQS)
- Eschool Reports
- MAP Data
- ACT and ACT Aspire

**Evidence-based Interventions and Effective Practices:**

- Dedicated time for RTI during the school day
- Provide teachers and support staff with professional development opportunities in the area of data analysis
- Teacher checks student progress weekly
- Implement Independent Learning Time: Individualized small group and one on one instruction will occur
- Students will be given the opportunity to take ownership of their learning plan
- Greater access to community resources
- Provide tutoring options before school or after school to assist with learning gaps

**Goal #2: Founders Classical Academy District will prepare students for college and/or career.**

**Evidence based Intervention and effective practices:**

- Founders Classical Academy will ensure students have a full understanding of college and career options through guest speakers, field trips, and college and career counseling.

- Founders Classical Academy will encourage students to pursue their interests through job shadowing, internships and other field experience
- All seniors will complete the Senior Thesis course and/or project
- Staff will work together and with seniors to ensure their projects are personalized to meet their interests

**Needs Assessment Data:**

- ACT Survey Results
- Interviews and observations with/of students
- ACT and ACT Aspire
- MAP Data
- Student Success Plans

**Goal #3: Founders Classical Academy will increase community involvement through events geared to educate and engage the community .**

**Evidence based Intervention and effective practices:**

- Founders Classical Academy will implement a Curriculum Night to help educate parents on the curriculum and how to help students
- Founders Classical Academy will host Open Houses and/or Back to School events
- Founders Classical Academy will increase family focused events including Health Fair, Fall carnival, Trivia Night, and End of Year Celebration.
- Teachers/staff will invite local leaders and professionals into classrooms to share about curriculum based topics
- Plan various service events for students/families

**Goal #4: Founders Classical Academy will continue to implement the RISE initiative.**

**Evidence based Intervention and effective practices:**

- All teachers will obtain proficiency in the Science of Reading:
- K-6 teachers will attend Science of Reading PLCs- at least once per quarter
- Implement supplemental interventions and programs to address the gaps found in current Literacy program in accordance with the Science of Literacy (reading groups and phonological Awareness)

**Goal #5: Founders Classical Academy will implement a Digital Learning Plan for the 2021-2022 school year at grades 7-12.**

**Needs Assessment Data:**

- Parent Surveys
- NWEA MAP Data
- ACT Aspire Data

**Evidence-Based Interventions and Effective Practices:**

- To ensure continuity of teaching and learning, Founders Classical Academy will utilize the approved Digital Learning Plan
- To ensure a guaranteed and viable curriculum, Founders Classical Academy will utilize a digital curriculum that is aligned to Arkansas Academic Standards.
- Founders Classical Academy will utilize NWEA MAP Assessments as a diagnostic assessment to identify gaps in learning. This assessment will be given in grades K-10, and will be administered during the first quarter of the school year.
- To address unfinished and/or lost learning, Founders Classical Academy will analyze NWEA MAP data. (PLT)
- Founders Classical Academy administration and those teachers leading virtual instruction will be trained on the Buzz LMS and Bright Thinker curriculum.

**Implementation Timeline:**

- Digital Learning Plan approval
- LMS/Digital Curriculum “Train the Trainer” Training for administration and virtual teachers, July and August 2021
- Administration and teacher leaders will train staff on use of the LMS/Digital Curriculum, July and August 2021
- NWEA MAP Fall Assessment, August/September 2021

**Adult Learning Required:**

- Best practices for remote learning
- Training for implementation of digital learning platform
- Best practices for engaging students in remote learning environment

**Founders Classical Academy Elementary Literacy Plan****Grade K-2**

- Develop/utilize written curriculum map that aligns with the science of reading
- Provide classroom teachers with a strong, systematic and explicit phonics program
- Screen all K-2 students for reading difficulties
- All K-2 classes will have 50 minutes of Direct literacy instruction
  - Phonological Awareness
  - Phonics Instruction
- Comprehension and Writing are embedded in the History, Literature and science blocks
- 30 minute Small group reading time for skills based support
- Provide interventions for students identified as struggling readers
  - Provide evidence based intervention- RTI
  - Progress monitoring to support/monitor students needs

### **Grade 3-6**

- Develop/utilize written curriculum map that aligns with the science of reading
- Screen all 3-6 struggling readers for reading difficulties
- Ensure adequate time for literacy instruction

- 3&4 grade
  - 50 minute literacy block
    - Word Study based on greek and latin roots
    - Writing/Grammar
    - Handwriting
  - Comprehension embedded in History, Science, Literature and Math
- 5&6 grade departmentalized
  - Word Study - (basis in morphology)
  - Comprehension, Unit-Based
  - Writing
- Provide interventions for students identified as struggling readers
  - Provide evidence based intervention- RTI
  - Progress monitoring to support/monitor students needs

## **Founders Classical Academy Secondary Literacy Plan**

### **Grades 7-12**

- Develop/utilize written curriculum map that aligns with the science of reading
- 100% of staff members will participate in the Science of Reading proficiency and/or awareness training
- Provide high quality professional development to instructional staff regarding literacy instruction at the secondary level
- Specific and thorough grammar curriculum implemented at the 7-8 grade levels, which continues in grades 9-12 in the writing instruction
- Literature and history instruction are rooted in primary sources and in great books
- All 7-12 classes will have 55 minutes of Direct literacy instruction
- Comprehension and Writing are embedded in History, Literature, Math, and Science courses
- Provide interventions for students identified as struggling readers
  - Provide evidence based intervention- RTI
  - Progress monitoring to support/monitor students needs
  - 55 minute small group ELA Lab time for skills based support