

To:
Office of Innovation and Incubation
Chicago Public Schools
42 W. Madison St.
Chicago, IL 60602

August 15, 2017

To whom it may concern,

I am writing today in support of the opening of the Chicago Classical Academy charter in the South Loop.

As somebody who was born and raised in Europe, the Classical school model appeals to me very much since it reminds me of my own academic path. I was a student in a linguistic high school in Germany and I feel that my extensive Latin background was very helpful in my acquisition of foreign languages, but also in my current career in medicine. I also had the opportunity to learn about the various aspects of the Roman and Greek cultures, and their roles in the history of philosophy, math, science, and religion.

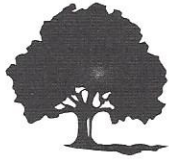
A pre-determined and age-appropriate curriculum that encourages students to learn how to think and not what to think is exactly what I hope my son and other children in our neighborhood will have access to, without having to pay exorbitant fees for a private school. I have spoken with other moms in my building and neighborhood, and most of them are like-minded and in support of a Classical charter available to our children in the South Loop.

I would like to help my son reach his fullest potential, and become a kind, understanding, and fearless individual with a thirst for knowledge, and I feel the Chicago Classical Academy would be the perfect environment for that.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'IB', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Irena I. Bellinski, RN, MPH
910 S Michigan Avenue



A Community Growing in Grace
BETHANY
Baptist Church of Chicago

Office of Innovation and Incubation
Chicago Public Schools
42 W. Madison St.
Chicago, IL 60602

Mr. Sam Mathias,

8-25-17

I would like to express my support for Chicago Classical Academy as they seek approval from the CPS Board of Directors. I have had a chance to meet and discuss their plan for a new classical school. I believe that it is a solid plan and will provide families with a great option for their children's education.

I have had the opportunity to observe the classical education model "up close" and can affirm that it is worth investing in. As a community leader, I am concerned that our neighborhood children have educational options. Further, as I listen to families talk about why they leave for the suburbs, they consistently mention their concern over the neighborhood schools.

With Chicago Classical Academy looking to locate in the South Loop area, this will provide the south side with an additional educational option. I believe that their program will set kids up to succeed in life and I trust that you will strongly consider granting their request for this school.

Sincerely,

Darrell W. Daulton



bridgeportcoffee™

Wednesday, August 16, 2017

Office of Innovation and Incubation
Chicago Public Schools
42 W. Madison St.
Chicago, IL 60602

Re: Chicago Classical charter school

To Whom It May Concern,

Bridgeport Coffee has been an active part of the Near South Side since 2004. Since then our business has grown and expanded to four retail locations in addition to our commercial roastery. I have witnessed the changes and growth in the various communities here and one of the recurring worries that continues to plague families of all backgrounds is access to quality education.

Bridgeport, South Loop, Chinatown, Pilsen — each and all of these neighborhoods have undergone enormous transformations in the past decade. New families are moving in. We need more educational choices for these families and their children.

I have personally known the Chicago Classical Team for some time. This passionate group of people has been working tirelessly to bring a time-tested, content-rich, educational model that is currently unavailable to many families.

I urge you to approve Chicago Classical. It will be an enormously positive addition to the community — a parent-driven, community-focused public charter school.

Chicago is at an educational crossroads. Chicago Classical will add a welcome and needed resource to the educational infrastructure of the South Side.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Mike Pilkington
Owner
Bridgeport Coffee

Bridgeport Coffee Company

3430 S. Ashland Ave.
Chicago 60608
773.247.3320
773.247.9969 fax

Bridgeport Coffee House

3101 S. Morgan St.
Chicago 60608
773.247.9950
773.247.9969 fax

www.bridgeportcoffeecompany.com



14 August 2017

Sam Mathias

Authorization Manager
Office of Innovation and Incubation
Chicago Public Schools
42 W. Madison St.
Chicago, IL 60602

Dear Sam Mathias,

I am a pastor in the Bronzeville/Kenwood neighborhoods, father, and activist who blogs at Chicago Unheard -- this cities educational opportunities are very important to me, my family and my congregants. Chicago Classical Academy is proposing to open in the fall of 2018, and I support this endeavor. I have come to know the team and the classical model and am impressed with how this time-tested method has the potential to integrate students of various race, economic and cultural backgrounds. The classical model focuses on shared history and providing cultural literacy to enable any student to excel in this complicated America. I am especially intrigued with its current sister schools that are serving low-income, minority students and making huge impact! Their sister schools average a 400 student waiting list - this model has worked and is working and parents want it!

Chicago Classical Academy believes any and all kids are exceptional - it aims to provide every student with the cultural literacy to thrive as a human and as an American! This is why they have chosen to apply for a charter, so it can be open enrollment and tuition free! Chicago Classical will be providing a rich, classical liberal-arts curriculum with a strong civics and character component coupled with a commitment to the overall health and wellness of every child. This will be a rich contribution to the South Loop, it's bordering neighborhoods, and to anyone else that seeks a classical education!

I support Chicago Classical Academy getting the opportunity to open and provide a classical choice for Chicago families.

Sincerely,

Chris Butler, Pastor
Chicago Embassy Church

T: 773-355-8540

E: info@chicagoembassychurch.org

W: www.chicagoembassychurch.org

P.O. Box 21527, Chicago, IL 60621



August 28, 2017

Sam Mathias
Authorization Manager
Office of Innovation and Incubation
Chicago Public Schools
42 W Madison St
Chicago, IL 60602

Dear Mr. Mathias,

I'm writing to express my support for the Chicago Classical Academy.

As a CPS parent, I know how critical it is that the city's children receive a quality education. My wife and I are heavily invested in CPS. We sink many volunteer hours into our elementary school. We can see the effect -- parental involvement raises the standards for all involved, including the children, the teachers, and the administration.

Sadly, not all schools have the level of involvement that ours does, and that's a shame. But that's not a permanent condition. If we provide places where the parents can choose the school, particularly one like CCA, then the parents will engage because they've made the school their own.

CPS does offer some school choice, but it's limited. The number of slots available is small and not every child gets a chance to have one.

I can tell you that in my organization there are many, many families like ours. Most make the hard decision to depart for the suburbs -- not because they want to, but because it's the only place to find a safe, high-quality school in an affordable neighborhood. If CCA were available, then many would stay.

Chicago offers schools that specialize in the arts, STEM, the humanities, and language. It does not offer a school that specializes in a traditional, classical education. CCA would fill that gap.

I urge you to approve CCA's charter school application.

I would like to have the choice to send my child to a high-quality school like CCA. I would like for all parents in Chicago to have that choice as well.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chris Cleveland'.

Chris Cleveland
Chairman, Chicago Republican Party



Demetrius Davis, Co-Pastor
CityPoint Community Church
110 E. 23rd St.
Chicago, IL 60616
ddavis@citypointcc.org

24 July 2017

Sam Mathias

Authorization Manager
Office of Innovation and Incubation
Chicago Public Schools
42 W. Madison St.
Chicago, IL 60602

Dear Sam Mathias,

I have had the opportunity to observe the Chicago Classical Academy team's passion and commitment for creating a unique educational option for families in the South Loop community. I am inspired by both their grassroots work and vision.

I had the opportunity to visit one of their sister schools in Savannah, Georgia and was impressed with how this time-tested educational model served low-income, minority students. The students were excited about learning and challenged in a way that gave them a sense of pride and dignity. This model believes any and all kids are exceptional - it aims to provide every student with the cultural literacy to thrive as a human and as an American! Chicago Classical will be providing a rich, classical liberal-arts curriculum with a strong civics and character component coupled with a commitment to the overall health and wellness of every child. This is what the South Loop (and Chicago!) needs.

Chicago Classical Academy is proposing to open in the fall of 2018, and I fully support this endeavor.

Please give Chicago Classical Academy the opportunity to meet the educational demands of the South Loop and broader Chicago community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Demetrius Davis", with a large, stylized initial "D" and a flourish at the end.

Demetrius Davis



March 24, 2017

Office of Innovation and Incubation
Chicago Public Schools
42 W. Madison St.
Chicago, IL 60602

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to express my support for the Chicago Classical Academy in the South Loop of Chicago.

ChiClassical will offer a rich liberal-arts education, teaching students through an intentional curriculum that promotes integrity, determination and compassion. Their mission is to develop grounded young men and women who think independently and take seriously their civic contributions. This is needed not only in the South Loop, but across all of Chicago, the nation and the world. Why shouldn't children growing up in the South Loop lead the way?

ChiClassical already sees the importance of teaching entrepreneurship and business ownership at an early age and has discussed partnering with our organization to provide entrepreneurial education via our proven curriculum and trained Facilitators.

Entreenuity has a rich history of providing direct entrepreneurial training to youth. We've successfully introduced, trained, mentored and supported over 4,500 students in entrepreneurship education since 1991 at various schools, community organizations, churches and business camps. We would look forward to the opportunity to work with ChiClassical on equipping their youth to become the small business owners of tomorrow.

Sincerely,

L. Brian Jenkins
Founder | President
Entreenuity, NFP

April 24, 2017

Dear Chicago Board of Education and the CPS Office of Innovation and Incubation:

We are submitting this letter of support of behalf of Chicago Classical Academy's application to open a charter school in the South Loop starting in fall 2018. As the statewide association representing charter schools, we meet with many charter applicants, and the Chicago Classical team stands out. We have been impressed with their drive, dedication, and commitment to meeting with stakeholders. After meeting with them several times and connecting them to charter experts around the city, we believe that the team is strong, the application solid and the education program responsive to a need in the community.

Charter schools have always been intended to be sites of innovation with the mission to provide a different kind of education than what is offered in traditional district schools. While Chicago Public Schools have several "classical schools," they implement the "classical education model" differently than the Chicago Classical Academy proposes. With several schools implementing the Chicago Classical model around the country, CPS will be able to explore their track record during the evaluation of the application.

During the 2017 new application cycle, Chicago Public Schools will evaluate 17 charter operators who are seeking to open an additional education options for Chicago families. We understand the hard and complex work of evaluating charters schools, and we urge the board and district leadership to comprehensively evaluate all applicants. We also urge you to consider new models that have strong community support behind them.

Unlike many Chicago neighborhoods, the South Loop is growing in population and the demand for new schools is strong. The diversity of the near south side will best be supported by different types of schools. If the Chicago Classical team can well demonstrate strong interest from parents and families, we urge you to approve them to open in the South Loop neighborhood of Chicago.

Sincerely,


Andrew Broy



190 South LaSalle St Ste. 1500
Chicago, IL 60603

April 26, 2017

Office of Innovation and Incubation
Chicago Public Schools
42 W. Madison St.
Chicago, IL 60602

Dear Gentlemen,

I would am writing this letter in support of the Chicago Classical Academy to be approved and be granted a charter by the Chicago Public School Board of Directors. I have been personally engaged in these efforts as an advisor from the initial idea through the application process. In those three years I have no doubt that support in the Chicago Classical Academy will offer an elite educational model to anyone, regardless of zipcode or ability.

The CCA team has proven determined and hard working. I have seen them persevere through outside doubts, political challenges, financial strains and lack of expertise. They have shown themselves committed to excellence in their pursuit to submit an incredible application and thus an amazing school. I have no doubt that their proven capabilities will result in the successful incubation, opening and longevity of Chicago Classical Academy.

I was sent a statistic that showed Illinois as having one of the lowest educational scores in the country - yet if you take out Chicago, their nationwide placement rose to near the top. Yet, I know from my own experience that Chicago kids can compete if given a fair chance. CCA is that chance.

Having fought for prosperity, truth and freedom in Illinois, I know Chicago and education play a vital role in that. Chicago Classical Academy teaches their students to be good, hard-working, smart human beings - this is what every parent, legislature, teacher, and pastor wants for their kids. I believe Chicago kids can compete, they just need the right environment and right curriculum to do enable them. Chicago Classical Academy offers both.

I strongly encourage the Chicago Public School Board of Directors to grant the Chicago Classical Academy a charter to provide a wonderful opportunity to the South Loop neighborhood of Chicago. I look forward to the day when I get to work along side Chicago Classical alumnae in fighting for the prosperity of this great city!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Tillman".

John Tillman
CEO

Office of Innovation and Incubation
Chicago Public Schools
42 W. Madison St.
Chicago, IL 60602

Dear Sam Mathias,

My name is Janani Iyer and I am the proud parent of Vyas Iyer. I am writing to express my interest and support for Chicago Classical Academy. My child, Vyas Iyer, will be eligible to attend in school year 2018. Thus, in lieu/addition to an Intent to Enroll, I write this letter.

Personally, Chicago Classical Academy meets my needs teaching my child the study of the liberal arts! This will provide a solid foundation, strong character, and critical thinking skills for my child. He is currently enrolled in Classical Academy curriculum, however it is offered only in a private school, hence it is very expensive for me. I truly believe that Classical curriculum will be vital to building my child's future careers. We do not have very many public schools in my neighborhood that offers anything to these standards, This school will certainly make my community richer and will make many parents stay in the community, who, otherwise would consider moving to the suburbs for these kind of education for their children.

I look forward to the day I can submit an application to Chicago Classical Academy. Thank you for considering parents voice and desires! I urge you to approve Chicago Classical Academy's application.

In great support,

Janani I

Janani Iyer

Office of Innovation and Incubation
Chicago Public Schools
42 W. Madison St.
Chicago, IL 60602

September 5, 2017

Dear Sam Mathias,

My name is Karin Brewer and I am the proud parent of Amari Brown. I am writing to express my interest and support for Chicago Classical Academy. My child, Amari, will be eligible to attend in the school year 2018 for kindergarten. Thus, in lieu/addition to an Intent to Enroll, I write this letter.

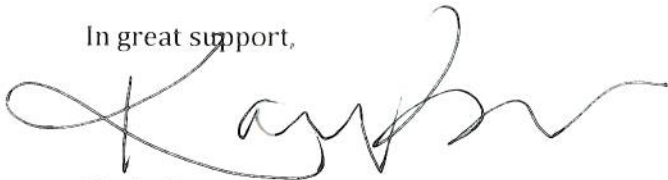
Personally, Chicago Classical Academy excites me as a new fresh dedicated option to send my child. For someone who was not personally raised in the Chicagoland area and is completely overwhelmed by the school system here, ChiClassical has done a great job at educating parents on the actual curriculum and its intent.

Beyond trying to navigate through the Chicago school system options there is the constant fear that parents have regarding safety and wellbeing. I have been pleased with the attention to each and every child's specific needs from ChiClassical and their community involvement to ultimately make this city a better place with a better future.

I also really look forward to the location option in the South Loop. Not only does this cater to my personal demographic needs, I truly believe it is a great neutral point to bridge together different communities and backgrounds of need. I am passionate about exposing my child to all different ethnicities, languages, and economic families; I truly believe ChiClassical will be this plus more.

I look forward to the day I can submit an application to Chicago Classical Academy! Thank you for listening to parent's voice and desires! I urge you to approve Chicago Classical Academy's application.

In great support,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Karin Brewer', with a long, sweeping horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Karin Brewer
4551 S. Wallace St. 2F
Chicago, IL 60609
312.282.7339

KDR GLOBAL EDUCATION SOLUTIONS

8815 Conroy Windermere Rd. #166 Orlando, FL, 32835
Of: (407) 377-6369 | Tel: (321) 663-6538 | Fax: (407) 909-9162

Patrick Collins
5722 Kenwood Drive
Newburgh, Indiana

August 27th, 2017

Attn: Sam Mathias
Authorization Manager
Office of Innovation and Incubation
Chicago Public Schools
42 W. Madison St.
Chicago, IL 60602

Dear Sam Mathias,

I have worked in the area of education for over 20 years, as an educational consultant I have trained over 800 teachers and administrators in the Marva Collins methodology. My principal focus is teacher empowerment, classroom management, phonics reading and language arts.

Chicago Classical Academy is proposing to open in the fall of 2018, I have spoken with the design team, and hope to contribute to their initial growth and future strength! My contribution to the curriculum would ensure that students received a classical education, coupled with morals and values. The teachers and students under my tutelage would be able to navigate the intricate web of building superior students. The training provided would enable teachers to balanced literacy across the curriculum in all subject areas.

As a child and student of Marva Collins I have had the rare opportunity to see first hand what a good teacher with good content can do in the lives of a student. My mother brought a high standard of education to Chicago kids in socioeconomically disadvantaged neighborhoods. She was indeed one-of-a-kind but her ways should and can be replicated - Chicago Classical Academy will mirror the content taught, the traditional, repetitive method, and the warm-strict love she had. This educational philosophy has worked for centuries. When my mother applied it in the west and south sides of Chicago it caught national attention. It's effectiveness is proven, no matter the background or current environment of the student.

Let us hold Chicago students to high standards, fill them with knowledge to develop their self worth and love them relentlessly, just as my mother did. Approve Chicago Classical Academy! Their model will make a great impact on Chicago and on this nation - just like my mother did.

Sincerely,



Patrick Collins
Senior Consultant
KDR Global Education Solutions

September 6, 2017

Attn: Sam Mathias
Authorization Manager
Office of Innovation and Incubation
Chicago Public Schools
42 W. Madison St.
Chicago, IL 60602

Dear Sam Mathias,

As a parent, teacher, and South Loop resident, the educational opportunities available to my child are of the utmost importance to me, as I am sure they are to the rest of the community. The South Loop is a fast-growing, vibrant and family-oriented neighborhood. Unfortunately, over the past few years I have seen many friends and families in our neighborhood move to the suburbs looking to place their children in "better" schools. Because diversity in educational opportunities is vital to maintaining a strong community I support expanded academic options including charter schools.

Chicago Classical Academy will be providing a rich, classical liberal-arts curriculum with a strong civics and character component coupled with a commitment to the overall health and wellness of every child. As an educator I am aware of many of the difficulties faced by students, families and teachers alike. I support Chicago Classical knowing that their educational philosophy advances critical thinking, and I believe this approach will provide the children of the community with an innovative high-quality educational opportunity.

While earning a Masters Degree in Curriculum and Instruction, I studied the latest research-based methods of education. One of the most recurring areas of study was the meaningful integration of specific topics across various subject areas. The Chicago Classical Academy curriculum integrates language, art, and science that are all studied through a historical lens helping students better comprehend the material being taught by demonstrating connections across multiple fields of study. These meaningful connections help students achieve a deeper understanding and mastery of the specific skills taught. This style of education provides students with a strong foundation, which allows them to organize and utilize their acquired knowledge that they can purposefully build upon and relate to through the years.

It is clear that Chicago Classical Academy has a true understanding of child development as the educational design of their K-12 program emphasizes the mastery of basic content (grammar), abstract thought (logic), and the art of expression (rhetoric) at the appropriate cognitive stages. In this language-based curriculum, students will learn by reading, writing and speaking. These domains play a major role in each child's success in all subject areas. Further, the Spanish and Latin instruction will also help the diverse learners (e.g. EL students) master English vocabulary, furthering their understanding of grammar, and helping students develop organization of thought, which is an invaluable skill throughout life.

Chicago Classical Academy is proposing to open in the fall of 2018. As a parent who seeks a choice in how I educate my child, and an involved community member, I ask that you provide Chicago Classical Academy the opportunity to open their doors and meet the ever-expanding educational needs of the South Loop.

Sincerely,
Katarzyna M. Fulkerson
708-297-176

STATE OF ILLINOIS
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



La Shawn K. Ford
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
8TH DISTRICT

CAPITOL OFFICE

239 - E STRATTON BUILDING
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS 62706
217-782-5962
FAX 217-557-4502

CHICAGO OFFICE

4800 W. CHICAGO AVE.
2ND FLOOR
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60651
773-378-5902

repford@lashawnford.com

COMMITTEES:

- APPROPRIATIONS - ELEMENTARY & SECONDARY EDUCATION
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- FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS
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- INSURANCE: PROPERTY & CASUALTY
- RESTORATIVE JUSTICE
- TOURISM, HOSPITALITY & CRAFT INDUSTRIES
- VETERANS' AFFAIRS

August 29, 2017

Sam Mathias
Authorization Manager
Office of Innovation and Incubation.
Chicago Public Schools
42 W Madison St
Chicago, IL 60602

Dear Mr. Mathias,

I am pleased to express my support for consideration of Chicago Classical Academy.

As a former CPS school teacher, I know that a solid education is the key to future successes and a strong economy. We must all work to improve education in Chicago and throughout Illinois through a variety of methods. Our children should have an option to attend schools that meet their growing needs and give the community an opportunity for the success of their families.

Chicago Classical Academy has responded to a computable opportunity for children and their families to have an education with increased academic performance.

I ask that you give complete consideration as you decide on the growing needs of Chicago students. I am confident that if Chicago Classical Academy is approved, they will have a meaningful and sustainable impact on Chicago communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "LKF".

La Shawn K. Ford
State Representative – Eighth District

April 5, 2017

Office of Innovation and Incubation
Chicago Public Schools
42 W. Madison St.
Chicago, IL 60602

Dear I and I,

I would like to submit this letter in support of Chicago Classical Academy to gain the approval of and be granted a charter by, the Chicago Public School Board of Directors. I have been aware of their efforts for some time and have served as an advisor to them as they have constructed their charter application. Throughout that process I have become convinced that they are; passionate, committed, dedicated, experienced educators who have the best interests of children and families in mind.

Charter schools are growing in Chicago and nationwide because parents are demanding them and choosing them for their children. Parents, the ones ultimately responsible for the education of their children, are choosing charters. Charters empower parents. Especially parents who often do not have the option to move, attend a private school, or make a different choice than the one they are relegated to because of geography. Chicago Classical Academy offers parents a strong choice in the education of their children. A choice based on a tested model and a successful model.

Specifically, it provides the parents of the South Loop neighborhood a classical school option that is not currently available. As I am sure you are aware, the schools currently operating with a classical model in Chicago are among the highest performing schools in the state. I believe Chicago Classical will offer an equally strong program to residents of the South Loop area and beyond.

I urge the CPS Board of Directors to grant Chicago Classical Academy a charter to operate a school in the South Loop neighborhood of Chicago.

Cordially,



Michael Rogers
Executive Director

Chicago Education Partnership
Moving Everest Charter School



NEW BEGINNINGS CHURCH OF CHICAGO

6620 South King Drive
773.326.4200
773.326.4202 Fax

Chicago, IL 60637
www.nbcchicago.tv
COREY B. BROOKS, *Senior Pastor*

June 12, 2017

To Whom It May Concern:

I am pleased with the opportunity to write a letter of support for Chicago Classical Academy's application to establish the first classical school in Chicago. Chicago Classical Academy could be the very first FREE/OPEN ENROLLMENT/PUBLIC Charter School in Chicago!

As founder and CEO of ProjectHOOD, I truly believe that education plays a vital role in our fight to establish and maintain our core values of seeking peace, strengthening character, building relationships and creating leaders. These core values are certainly inherent in the Model and Culture of CCA: ***"High academic achievement, personal discipline, ethics and responsibility will consistently be reinforced through a climate of respect and decorum, which are vital for intellectual development and character growth."*** Clearly CCC will provide an atmosphere of support to the growth of the whole child.

Chicago Classical Academy will be the catalyst for a diverse group of students to benefit socially, emotionally, and academically under one roof – and the South Loop is a prime location to that end. Their meticulous charter application is a huge example of their commitment to providing enriching opportunities that will ultimately lead to academic success.

I strongly support the approval of the charter to grant Chicago Classical Academy the opportunity to serve students in our community. Chicago needs CCC!

Sincerely,

Corey B. Brooks

Corey B. Brooks
Senior Pastor, New Beginnings Church of Chicago
Founder/Executive Director - Project HOOD CDC

CHRIST CENTERED & BIBLE BASED

"Turning people from Chicago, America and the World into fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ"

August 5, 2017

Sam Mathias, Authorization Manager
Office of Innovation and Incubation
Chicago Public Schools
42 W. Madison St.
Chicago, IL 60602

Dear Mr. Mathias,

During my years dedicated to the education issues throughout our country; I have learned that there is no one single solution to our challenge. However, at its base there is a simple notion: "every child has just one chance to get a great K-12 education." This is the guiding reality of One Chance Illinois, of which I am the Executive Director, and a truth that motivates my support for Chicago Classical Academy.

I encourage you to approve Chicago Classical Academy's charter application. This school will represent a realistic and effective addition to Chicago Public School's efforts towards its mission to "provide a high quality public education for every child, in every neighborhood!" This school will allow parents to be empowered to choose a classical education, should they want that for their child.

I support access to great schools and educational opportunities.

Period.

Chicago Classical Academy uses a historically successful method. Yet in Chicago it is only available to Chicago children who can test in or whose families can pay tuition. A charter approved for Chicago Classical Academy will be a step towards offering the opportunity to everyone.

Moreover, the well structured curriculum and method allows teachers to focus on the children and intentionally follow the developmental stages of the child. It is highly structured and has shown particular success with those in need of remediation and Special Ed. Its "math block" is a specific example that is putting children first but also considering the perspective of educators who need to effectively teach them.

I am looking forward to the opening of Chicago Classical Academy. I believe it to be a practical approach and grounded solution for today's educational challenges. I trust you will join me in seeing this as a great educational opportunities for all students! Let's let them have this option!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Myles Mendoza". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Myles" and last name "Mendoza" clearly legible.

Myles Mendoza
Executive Director
One Chance Illinois



Oscar Leiva, Pastor
Holy Trinity Church, Pilsen
1940 W 18th Street
Chicago, IL 60608
olevia@htcchicago.org

4 August 2017

Sam Mathias
Authorization Manager
Office of Innovation and Incubation
Chicago Public Schools
42 W. Madison St.
Chicago, IL 60602

Dear Sam Mathias,

I am hopeful to see the approval and success of Chicago Classical Academy. The classical liberal arts model is not only proven and time-tested, it is effective in our world and culture today. I am a witness of this as my wife and I teach our three young boys using the classical model. Each of my boys learn differently - yet, this model stretches each of them appropriately! My boys are memorizing a lot of information and enjoy the rigorous model. They love listening to books and are very inquisitive to learn more.

There are three main reasons this model is so effective.

First and foremost: It teaches that text is king. This explains why there is such an emphasis on using original sources. It also requires that the curriculum chosen to teach the disciplines are done with care. By teaching the significance of the text you equip students to discover truths and facts that stand independent of the classroom, the teacher and the student.

Second, the sensitivity the model takes to content and method being developmentally appropriate is quite effective. My sons are in the grammar stage - which means they are being given vast amounts of information to absorb and know. They love knowing things and soaking it all in. Once this knowledge is adequately learned, they move into the logic phase. This is when they will be taught how to ask questions and connect the dots. With their deep well of knowledge they can know peel back the layers and begin searching for the answers to their questions. This teaches critical thinking. The final stage is rhetoric - with strong base of knowledge and a keen ability to analyze, they are now ready be taught how to articulate and defend their own opinions and thoughts. There three stages allow knowledge to build on knowledge and the student to be set up for success at each point in their academic career.

Lastly, the classical model emphasizes that parents are the primary educator. As overwhelming as this is, it is also empowering. When a school respects the role of the parent, the parent feels heard, honored, and capable. We all know what a little belief can do. Parents will and do rise to the occasion!

Chicago Classical Academy is proposing to open in the fall of 2018, and I fully support this endeavor.

Please give Chicago Classical Academy the opportunity to meet the educational demands of the South Loop and be an accessible option to families in Pilsen.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Oscar Leiva".

Oscar Leiva

Office of Innovation and Incubation
Chicago Public Schools
42 W. Madison St.
Chicago, IL 60602

Sept 1st 2017

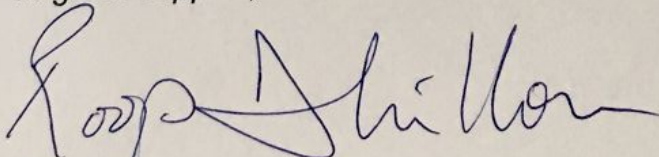
My name is Roop Dhillon and I am the proud parent of two daughters, Iman and Zoya. I am writing to express my interest and support for Chicago Classical Academy. My child, Iman, will be eligible to attend in school year 2018. Thus, in lieu/addition to an Intent to Enroll, I write this letter.

Chicago Classical Academy is proposed to be the first Classical Charter in Chicago and I'm very pleased that it is being proposed for our ever expanding and culturally diverse neighbourhood. It will provide a K-12 classical education, which I prefer, as in my opinion it will provide continuity to the kids education and help children make lasting social connections.

The Classical school approach is a highly structured model. This along with the classical liberal arts curriculum with it strong civics and character components seems to be geared towards a commitment to the overall health and development of every child. The fact that the school will be accessible to a wide spectrum of children from such a diverse mix of communities will ensure a well rounded education system for the students. Personally having gone through the classical model of education while growing up in India, I am very excited to have a similar style of education for my children.

In view of recent changes to the schools in our district, which I've had some trouble understanding, I am eagerly looking forward to the day I can submit an application to Chicago Classical Academy. Thank you for considering parents voice and desires! I urge you to approve Chicago Classical Academy's application.

In great support,


Roop Dhillon

September 4, 2017

Office of Innovation and Incubation
Chicago Public Schools
42 W. Madison St.
Chicago, IL 60602

Dear Sam Mathias,

I am in support of Chicago Classical opening its doors in the South Loop. The staff and team starting this school are hard working and passionate about education for children. I have met with Heidi Schroder and Alice Epstein on many occasions I have met with them on several occasions and I'm impressed with their consistent and tireless work to open this school. They are sincerely working hard to get to know parents and the people of the community.

I am a private music teacher in the South Loop and have been teaching for many years. I interact with parents on a daily basis and I see the need and desire for more quality education which this school will provide. Musical training is such a vital part of learning and studies have shown that music training focuses a child's brain and reduces anxiety.

I am considering teaching music at the school because of the classical training and strong educational foundation they will provide to the children at the school. I've watched videos from a similar classical school in Savannah and am extremely impressed with classroom conduct, order, participation and student to student support. The teacher is in full control of the classroom and the children are calm and focused. The children are encouraging each other and patiently waiting their turn to perform the pieces they learned on their little recorders. It was impressive and encouraging to see what's also possible in Chicago at this school.

I am confident the staff and school itself will do an excellent job in providing the highest possible education for its students.



Sheila Fortson
Music Educator



@ 18th and Indiana in the South Loop

Alicia D. Bird
The Spoke & Bird
205 E 18th Street
Chicago, IL 60616

March 8, 2017

Office of Innovation and Incubation
Chicago Public Schools
42 W. Madison St.
Chicago, IL 60602

Dear Office of Innovation and Incubation,

As a resident and business owner in the South Loop neighborhood, its educational opportunities are very important to me and my clients. The South Loop is a vibrant community that is growing 5% per year. The business and real estate sectors are keeping up with the demands resulting from this expansion, but the educational offerings are not. I have witnessed many of my neighbors and friends leave this neighborhood for better schools and opportunities for their children.

Chicago Classical Academy is proposing to open in the Fall of 2018 in the South Loop and I support this endeavor. The school will provide a K-12 classical education in the greater South Loop. This will be a rich, classical liberal-arts curriculum with a strong civics and character component. coupled with a commitment to the overall health and wellness of every child. This is what the South Loop needs.

Please give Chicago Classical Academy the opportunity to open to meet the educational demands of the South Loop. I have had the opportunity to witness the founders community engagement efforts and can say that they are passionate and determined to make this a school the community wants and needs. They are always in the South Loop talking to parents and families. Their passion is exciting to see -- it gives me confidence in their eventual execution. I am confident that upon approval Chicago Classical Academy will meet needs and further enrich the South Loop and Chicago.

Sincerely,

Alicia D. Bird

Owner
The Spoke & Bird
alicia@spokeandbird.com



St. Francis of Assisi Church

July 26, 2017

To Whom It May Concern,

I'm thrilled to know that the Chicago Classical Academy is planning to open its doors for the 2018-2019 academic school year as the first school offering classical education in order to address the needs of thousands of Chicago's children and the greater South Loop neighborhood as a whole.

Education is a natural right of all men, "men of all races, conditions and ages, given their human dignity, have an inalienable right to an education that responds to their respective end, to their personal character and gender, conforming to their homelands' culture and traditions, as well as to the openness of fraternal associations with other cultures in order to nurture true unity and peace."¹ Thus, the Chicago Classical Academy will truly be an asset as they seek to educate "everyone in the city" with a classical curriculum that helps students learn how to think, rather than merely teaching them "subjects", making the students "capable of further evaluating and actively engaging in today's world".

I truly believe that the magnificent project of the Chicago Classical Academy will be of great benefit for the children of the area for the following reasons:

- The fact that classes are very intertwined seeking to present and teach only the very best our civilization has to offer –with teachers collaborating across grade levels and disciplines to ensure that content taught in different subjects reinforces the main themes, is continuous across grade levels, and repeating material is introduced in increasing depth–;
- The holistic approach of classical education, within a language-driven, highly structured model, supported by a strong civics component and character development, meant to build up the whole person, and naturally emphasizing the fine arts;
- It's great location –at the intersection of three main highways and accessible via three CTA train lines–;
- And the fact that is open to all, free of charge, based on seat availability,

All of which make of the prospective Chicago Classical Academy a plus for our community and it is something people want, and they've wanted it for a long time.

Therefore, I strongly support the approval of the charter to grant Chicago Classical Academy the opportunity to enrich the lives of our children and future generations in a lasting way.

Sincerely,

Fr. Walter Mallo, IVE
Pastor of St. Francis of Assisi Church

¹ *Gravissimus Educationis*, 1.

14 August 2017

Sam Mathias
Authorization Manager
Office of Innovation and Incubation
Chicago Public Schools
42 W. Madison St.
Chicago, IL 60602

Dear Sam Mathias,

I have worked closely with the Design Team for Chicago Classical Academy on the Special Education portion of the application. My resume, included, articulates the involvement I have had in Special Education here in Illinois. I am impressed with the classical model and respect its proven reputation. Helen Keller was classically educated and was pushed to unimaginable heights because of it. She writes, "When I read the finest passages of the Iliad, I am conscious of a soul-sense that lifts me above the narrow, cramping circumstances of my life. My physical limitations are forgotten - my world lies upward, the length and the breadth and the sweep of the heavens are mine." This is a beautiful quote, because it shows that when children are held to a high standard, they rise to the occasion - no matter the disability. Marva Collins, a Chicago legacy and nationally acclaimed classical educator, famously said, "All children can learn," and "I have discovered few learning disabled students in my three decades of teaching. I have, however, discovered many, many victims of teaching inabilities." Knowing that Chicago Classical will be modeling their school after the legendary Marva Collins way gives me excitement for what the students with special needs will experience and discover about themselves!!

Having advised Chicago Classical Academy's team, I see a well-thought out plan that considers each child as capable and excellent. Their method anticipates and welcomes students with disabilities, yet plans to help them soar past their own expectations. I am hopeful to see the approval and success of Chicago Classical Academy.

Not only is their method and content inspiring, their desire to serve the South Loop and nearby neighborhoods is sensible. The South Loop needs more educational options and it will allow for a very diverse student body, both culturally and socio-economically. I strongly believe Chicago Classical will be a wonderful asset to this community and to Chicago. I am honored to be a part of the process.

Sincerely,



Dr. Susan Ireland

Office of Innovation and Incubation
Chicago Public Schools
42 W. Madison St.
Chicago, IL 60602

Dear Sam Mathias,

My name is Tiffany Moy, mother of Annabelle Moy, a vibrant and eager to learn 3 year old, and Ava Moy, a rambunctious and curious 1 year old. I am writing to express my interest and support for Chicago Classical Academy. My child, Annabelle, will be eligible to attend in school year 2019, and Ava in school year 2021. Thus, in lieu/addition to an Intent to Enroll, I write this letter.

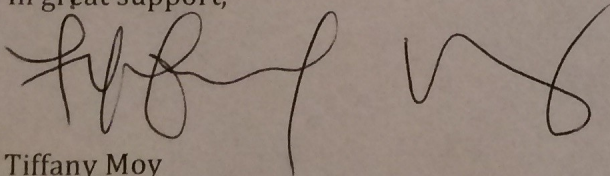
Personally, Chicago Classical Academy meets my needs by being a unique choice for my child in the city of Chicago. My husband and I grew up in the suburbs of Naperville, where public schooling was simple; you go to the school within your district for elementary, middle school, and high school. When my husband and I decided to grow our family here in Chicago, one of our primary concerns was where to raise our children. The endless terminologies, politics, and understanding the system was enough to give us a headache. Where we live, at the border of South Loop and Bronzeville, our choices are limited in public schooling. We considered leaving the city back to the suburbs for the sake of our children. But then, we heard about Chicago Classical Academy and its academic program. Its classical structure appeals to my family the most. We researched different education models and the classical structure that Chicago Classical Academy presents is what we desire for our children. My sisters in law went to a private school based on the classical model, and they are successful thriving adults. To have this in the public school system would be worthwhile to a huge student population!

Also, being in our neighborhood of Bronzeville/South Loop, this will only further benefit the community by being a center of growth, learning, teaching, and opportunity. I want to be able to say that my child goes to a school in HER community and she is learning to serve HER community. I live right by McCormick Place, where commerce and growth is already within reach. To be able to add another fantastic school in this neighborhood will only boost property value and attract more young working families. This in turn will make South Loop and Bronzeville more prosperous.

Chicago Classical Academy needs to open because us parents NEED choice. We are our children's advocates and we need this school because it gives us another choice. It would be incredibly selfish of anyone to tell us we don't need this school as an option because it "hurts" someone in the CPS system. We alone, as parents, are guardians of our children's future and education. Therefore, we deserve this voice as hard working tax paying Chicagoans.

I look forward to the day I can submit an application to Chicago Classical Academy. Thank you for considering parents voice and desires! I urge you to approve Chicago Classical Academy's application.

In great support,



8/30/19

Tiffany Moy
RPh, Pharm D
University of Illinois at Chicago

Alessandra Vaccaro
Address

April 1, 2017

Attn: Sam Mathias
Authorization Manager
Office of Innovation and Incubation
Chicago Public Schools
42 W. Madison St.
Chicago, IL 60602

Dear Sam Mathias,

Latin has long been a language of choice for prestigious schools, but its benefits as a language for schools with a diverse, urban student body should not be underestimated. In my career as a Latin teacher at a Chicago Public Schools selective enrollment high school and at a parochial elementary school, I have seen Latin benefit gifted students, struggling students, English language learners, students with reading and executive function disorders, and students with behavioral issues. Indeed, Latin is a difficult language, but because it is so unlike other subjects it provides a level playing field where students from diverse backgrounds can gain confidence. Because of the interdisciplinary nature of Latin, students see that they benefit from their work not just through their Latin grade, but because they can decode multi-syllable words, identify complex patterns, and defend their positions with clear argumentation. Through studying Roman culture, they also become familiar with many foundational concepts of western government and culture. No matter what background a student brings to their Latin studies, Latin provides a platform for them to deepen their language and analytical skills that can be transferred to a wide range of academic, social, and professional contexts.

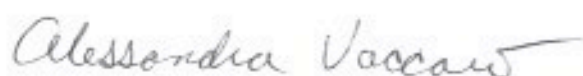
In my fifth-grade class, I currently have a student who has lived in the country for less than a year, a student who is attending a traditional school for the first time after being homeschooled, and a student who is a voracious reader who is often reprimanded for rushing through his school work so he can get back to reading. Although they have very different needs, all of them can be addressed in the Latin classroom in a way that benefits their other coursework. The first, is struggling academically because of the language barrier and often is overwhelmed. The systematic nature of Latin morphology and the amount of cognates between Latin and Spanish, make Latin approachable for her and being able to earn high grades in Latin class boosts her confidence so she keeps trying in other subjects. The work that we do with derivatives is also expanding her English vocabulary and helping her feel more comfortable with working with long English words by teaching her the strategy of looking for familiar word roots. The formerly homeschooled student is learning how to critique people who are different from him in a sensitive manner. When we talk about Roman customs that are strange to Americans, like playing games with sheep's knuckle bones, and he blurts out his opinion in a way that could hurt someone's feelings, it is okay because there are no ancient Romans in the class to be hurt. We are able to turn it into a teachable moment to problem solve a better way to react. The linguistically gifted student is able to be engaged through enrichment activities like writing his own stories in Latin or in English using the derivatives or chapter vocabulary or to keep a log of potential Latin derivatives in the book he is reading for fun if he finishes his work early.

As a high school teacher, I have seen Latin benefit students in the ways described above but also in the areas of executive functioning, memorization, and personal growth. Working at a selective enrollment school, I had many students who were so gifted that they were able to

maintain high grades in elementary school without developing a system of being organized. Because Latin requires students to keep track of morphological forms, vocabulary words, parts of speech, and several other factors over an extended period of time, it is nearly impossible to learn without high-quality, readily accessible notes and handouts. One of my students with an IEP for executive functioning learned in Latin how to take good notes and came for weekly binder checks to make sure that he had all the materials he needed organized. He was able to develop a system to help him and his grades improved in Latin and in his other classes as he experimented with keeping track of his other materials as thoroughly as he kept track of his Latin materials. Students are not able to memorize such a large quantity of information without figuring out what learning style works best for them. Incorporating multiple intelligence theory in the classroom avoids the boredom associated with grammar drills and exposes students to new memorization techniques that might be helpful. A former student currently taking AP Chemistry told me that she had been worried about all the memorization required for that course, but she has found that using her strategies from Latin makes it easy. Another student took an after school job as a waiter and was rapidly promoted because of his ability to remember orders, menus, and procedures. One of the best parts of being a Latin teacher is hearing students work out who they are and what they value through culture discussions. When students debate questions like would they enter politics if they were likely to be assassinated or can an arranged marriage be as happy of a marriage as an un-arranged marriage, and back up their opinions with examples from authentic Roman texts, they are not just learning argumentation skills. They are learning who they are and how to convey that to the people around them.

A public charter school in Chicago will attract students with a wide range of academic of academic and social-emotional needs because it will attract students from diverse cultural, socio-economic and political backgrounds. Studying Latin is a way to meet a wide range of needs while fostering a sense of school identity and community. When students' needs are met they are able to thrive in their other classes and outside of the classroom. Although several selective enrollment CPS schools and private schools currently offer Latin, Chicago is lacking an option for students who cannot test into selective enrollment schools and/or cannot afford a private education. Latin is not a privilege for the elite and gifted, it is a great resource that anyone can benefit from utilizing. Chicago Classical School would provide that option for students and their families who desire this resource.

Sincerely,



Alessandra Vaccaro

Latin Instructor

DePaul University

Latin Teacher

Saint Mary of the Angels School

avaccar3@depaul.edu, avaccaro@sma-school.org, 773-852-7991

August 31, 2017

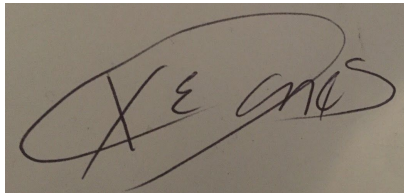
Attn: Sam Mathias
Authorization Manager
Office of Innovation and Incubation
Chicago Public Schools
42 W. Madison St.
Chicago, IL 60602

Dear Sam Mathias,

I am a father, juvenile detention officer, US Army Staff Sergeant veteran with over 20 years of service and alumna of Westside Preparatory. Yes, I am one of the privileged to have had Marva Collins as my teacher from fifth grade until eighth grade. Those four years changed my life and my trajectory. Mrs. Collins relentlessly believed in my potential and exposed me to nothing less than the best content from the ages. Knowing this content prepared me to progress through the education pipeline, and it gave me the body of knowledge to flourish. I am a African American man from the westside of Chicago - statistics and history are not in my favor. My classical education empowered me to overcome societal obstacles with an appropriate self-worth and understanding of the world around me. I was taught to set high standards for myself, to think critically, to better my community and my country, and to read, write and speak well. I am forever grateful to Marva Collins for this priceless gift she gave me.

Chicago Classical Academy is proposing to open in the fall of 2018, they will adopt the Marva Collins methodology of teaching timeless content with a strong character component to a diverse body of Chicago kids. Her method took the nation by storm, so I anticipate Chicago Classical Academy will as well. I am excited to see their impact on their students and this city. But this isn't possible if we don't let them. As a Chicagoan and a product of classical education, I urge you to approve Chicago Classical Academy!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light-colored background. The signature is stylized and appears to read "Xavier Jones".

Officer Xavier Jones
Rapid Response Specialist
1-(773) 710-0543

LaTonia M. Lambert

9542 South Sacramento Avenue
Evergreen Park, IL 60805
773-406-5132 latonialambert@gmail.com



September 8, 2017

Attn: Sam Mathia
Authorization Manager
Office of Innovation and Incubation
Chicago Public Schools
42 West Madison Street
Chicago, IL 60602

Dear Attn: Sam Mathia,

As a parent and educator, I am deeply committed to opportunities which provide effective outcomes as it relates to student achievement. I believe that all students can succeed given the chance to advance in an environment which fosters character and academic growth. Currently, Chicago and specifically the South Loop neighborhood, has thousands of children who need an elementary school and high school. The demand is so high in the South Loop that mostly all the schools are overcrowded. Facility congestion greatly impacts school culture, safety, and achievement.

Chicago Classical Academy is proposing to open in the fall of 2018, and I support this endeavor. Chicago Classical will be providing a rich, classical liberal-arts curriculum with a strong civics and character component coupled with a commitment to the overall health and wellness of every child. I have served as the Head of School for a private classical school and I have seen so many students flourish under the Classical school model. Please give Chicago Classical Academy the opportunity to serve the students of Chicago.

Sincerely,

LaTonia Lambert
Advance Success, *Principal*



September 1, 2017

Office of Innovation and Incubation
Chicago Public Schools
42 W. Madison St.
Chicago, IL 60602

Dear Sam Mathias,

My name is Michelle Gomez and I am the proud parent of Everett Gomez. I am writing to express my interest and support for Chicago Classical Academy. My child, Everett, will be eligible to attend in school year 2021. Thus, in lieu of an Intent to Enroll, I write this letter.

Personally, Chicago Classical Academy meets my needs by providing an additional school option in the Near South area which is very needed due to the rapid growth and planned development. I am excited about this school particularly because I believe that character development is such an important part of preparing our young students to become great citizens. I love the idea of this school being in our area and introducing my son to a Classical Education and helping him to learn in a highly structured environment. I look forward to him being able to share experiences and knowledge with other students of diverse backgrounds.

I look forward to the day I can submit an application to Chicago Classical Academy. Thank you for considering parents voice and desires!

Truly,

Michelle M. Gomez