

Statutes of Fiat Classical Academy

Whereas the Bylaws of Fiat Classical Academy relate to the internal governance of the Board of Directors, the Statutes of Fiat Classical Academy relate to the school in general, as well as various relationships. As needed, tenets of these Statutes will be articulated in appropriate places, including, but not limited to the Employee Handbook, Student and Family Handbook, and Employee Contract.

Article I. Mission and Vision

Section I. The mission of Fiat Classical Academy is: Inspired by the joy and hope of St. John Paul II, Fiat Classical Academy offers young men and women an encounter with the one, true, good and beautiful through a liberal arts education, which cultivates communion with God, as we seek together the face of Christ.

Section II. St. John Paul II is the patron of Fiat Classical Academy.

Section III. The motto of Fiat Classical Academy is, “The truth will make you free” (John 8:32).

Section IV. Fiat Classical Academy teaches the art of living through our four educational pillars.

Cultivating Wonder – Education is a contemplative endeavor. Fiat Classical Academy invites young men and women to see the depth and meaning in the world God has given us. Care is taken to strengthen powers of observation, encourage the discipline of attention, and cultivate wonder at the details of creation– from subatomic particles to patterns in history and thought. When our students more deeply receive the gift of the world, they delight in it and are led to offer their gratitude to the Creator.

Encouraging Encounter – Intentional relationships are a hallmark of Fiat Classical Academy. Most foundationally, FCA prays together daily– making space to meet the God whose love called us into existence. Education itself is an encounter where we meet the great thinkers of the ages through primary sources. Community among faculty is prioritized by regular gatherings to promote continual learning and collaboration. Friendship among students is encouraged with a low-tech policy that cultivates authentic connection. The FCA community includes families of staff and students who are invited, through regularly scheduled events, to deepen the relationships that constitute our school.

Fostering Integration – Fiat Classical Academy highlights our ultimate origin in the Trinitarian God, who integrates our learning and living. Our teaching is rooted in the reality that faith and reason are “two wings on which the human spirit rises to the contemplation of truth” (*Fides et Ratio*). We treasure the unity of knowledge and recognize that not all learning takes place in the classroom. Therefore, our twice monthly “Adamello Days” are moments for students and faculty to encounter the outdoors, delight in the fine arts, perform works of mercy, and know the dignity

of working with natural elements guided by skilled craftsmen. The intrinsic unity of the natural and supernatural, including body and soul, grounds all that we do.

Seeking Excellence – The patron of Fiat Classical Academy is St. John Paul II, who devoted much of his life to discovering the true greatness of the human person. We are inspired by his witness to the hope and joy of the freedom found in truth. We offer an education which cultivates wisdom and virtue, the signs of excellent character. Through study of the seven liberal arts and the intellectual tradition of the Church, FCA student minds are furnished, challenged, and sharpened. We form our students in the excellence of who God intended us to be – fully human, fully free, fully alive.

Section V. As a classical high school, Fiat Classical Academy is committed to approaching questions regarding curriculum (both content and pedagogy) by first asking what response most corresponds to the nature of the human person as created in the image and likeness of God. Decisions shall not be dictated by pragmatism or popularity.

Article II. Definitions

Section I. The Archdiocese of Indianapolis is the territorial area of the Holy Catholic Church governed by the Archbishop of Indianapolis.¹

Section II. The Archbishop of Indianapolis is the chief pastor of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, appointed by the Pope and in communion with the Holy Catholic Church.²

Section III. As defined by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, “*Canon Law* is a code of ecclesiastical laws governing the Catholic Church. In the Latin or Western Church, the governing code is the 1983 *Code of Canon Law*, a revision of the 1917 *Code of Canon Law*.”³

Section IV. A “classical” or “liberal arts” education is one that corresponds with the nature of the human person in both content and pedagogy. This form of education draws on the wisdom of the inheritance of centuries of history and literature, enabling students to become part of the “great conversation” as one seeks truth, goodness and beauty. The study of Latin; the sciences as a receptivity of the natural, created world; the beauty and order of mathematics; engaging with philosophy; reading classic works of literature; and an embrace of learning for its own sake are hallmarks of this form of education.

Article III. Relationship to the Catholic Church and the Archdiocese of Indianapolis

¹ *Code of Canon Law* 369.

² *Code of Canon Law* 375.

³ <https://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/what-we-believe/canon-law>

Section I. As a school seeking status as a recognized Catholic institution by the Archbishop of Indianapolis, Fiat Classical Academy relies on the wisdom of the Church outlined in the 1983 *Code of Canon Law*. Canons 793-806 are particularly instructive for the founding, existence and ongoing governance of Fiat Classical Academy.

Section II. Founded by lay married couples, Fiat Classical Academy is a response to the encouragement of Canon 800, §2: “The Christian faithful are to foster Catholic schools, assisting in their establishment and maintenance according to their means.” A relationship with parents as the primary educators of their children is emphasized at Fiat Classical Academy, as referenced in Canon Law. “Parents must cooperate closely with the teachers of the schools to which they entrust their children to be educated; moreover, teachers in fulfilling their duty are to collaborate very closely with parents, who are to be heard willingly and for whom associations or meetings are to be established and highly esteemed” (Canon 796 §2).

Section III. Fiat Classical Academy recognizes the particular relevance of Canon 803 in its entirety and assents to the necessity of the competent ecclesial authority, in this case the Archbishop of Indianapolis, to grant or revoke the title of “Catholic school.” Additionally, Fiat Classical Academy recognizes the role of the Archbishop of Indianapolis in maintaining ecclesiastical communion between entities bearing the title Catholic and the Archdiocese, which unites such entities to the mission of the Universal Church.

§1. “A Catholic school is understood as one which a competent ecclesiastical authority or a public ecclesiastical juridic person directs or which ecclesiastical authority recognizes as such through a written document.”

§2. “The instruction and education in a Catholic school must be grounded in the principles of Catholic doctrine; teachers are to be outstanding in correct doctrine and integrity of life.”

§3. “Even if it is in fact Catholic, no school is to bear the name Catholic school without the consent of competent ecclesiastical authority.”

Section IV. Fiat Classical Academy is an independent school due to its nature as a classical school and its origin. The founding of the school by graduates of the Pontifical John Paul II Institute for Studies on Marriage and Family grew out of a special charism of the lay faithful called for in the Apostolic Exhortation *Christifidelis Laici* of His Holiness Pope Saint John Paul II, who wrote of the renewed call of the Lord, in order to “again propose to today’s world, the mystery of her communion and the dynamism of her mission of salvation, especially by centering on the specific place and role of the lay faithful” (*Christifidelis Laici* #64). As affirmed by the Second Vatican Council, the apostolate of the lay faithful in the world is called to be in union with the Apostles and their successors.⁴ Fiat Classical Academy desires to be recognized

⁴ “In the Church there is a diversity of ministry but a oneness of mission. Christ conferred on the Apostles and their successors the duty of teaching, sanctifying, and ruling in His name and power. But the laity likewise share in the

as a Catholic school by the Archbishop of Indianapolis as a sign of fidelity to the Catholic Church, through the concrete form of obedience to the Archbishop.

Section V. Fiat Classical Academy recognizes that a classical, liberal arts education is an option for a private association of the faithful in union with the vision of Catholic education in the Archdiocese of Indianapolis; accordingly, FCA agrees to accept and follow the policies of the Archdiocesan Office of Catholic Schools as described:

- (a) All employees of Fiat Classical Academy are to undergo the Archdiocesan Safe Employee Program (currently Safe Parish).
- (b) All teachers and administrators are to sign the ministerial contracts as approved by the Archdiocesan Office of Catholic Schools.
- (c) Fiat Classical Academy is to be accredited by a recognized state and/or national accreditation agency.
- (d) Fiat Classical Academy is subject to a review of their accreditation by the Archdiocesan Office of Catholic Schools.
- (e) Fiat Classical Academy is subject to an audit of the Catholic identity and mission by the Archdiocesan Office of Catholic Schools.
- (f) Fiat Classical Academy is to have a school records retention policy and participate in data sharing as requested by Archdiocesan Office of Catholic Schools
- (g) Fiat Classical Academy is to follow all federal and state laws regarding the administration of a high school so long as they are not contrary to the Catholic faith.

Section VI. As a private, independent school, Fiat Classical Academy does not have a formal relationship with a diocesan parish. FCA is seeking a lease agreement with St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Aurora, Indiana to rent facilities but will not own or maintain them and does not exist as a parochial school.

priestly, prophetic, and royal office of Christ and therefore have their own share in the mission of the whole people of God in the Church and in the world.

“They exercise the apostolate in fact by their activity directed to the evangelization and sanctification of men and to the penetrating and perfecting of the temporal order through the spirit of the Gospel. In this way, their temporal activity openly bears witness to Christ and promotes the salvation of men. Since the laity, in accordance with their state of life, live in the midst of the world and its concerns, they are called by God to exercise their apostolate in the world like leaven, with the ardor of the spirit of Christ.” (Apostolican Actuositatem #2)

Section VII. In addition to the 1983 Code of Canon Law, Fiat Classical Academy is also bound by additional laws and norms operative in other universal Church documents, including *motu proprio* and particular law as defined by the Archbishop of Indianapolis.

Section VIII. Fiat Classical Academy affirms *The Identity of the Catholic School for a Culture of Dialogue*, promulgated by the Congregation for Catholic Education as a guiding document in navigating disputes regarding Catholic identity issues. Fiat Classical Academy intends to offer a fully Catholic education, faithful to the Magisterium of the Catholic Church. If a dispute related to Catholic identity issues arises, the Head of Mission and Headmaster will consult with the Board of Directors. In regards to such a dispute, Fiat Classical Academy agrees to abide by the decision of the Archbishop of Indianapolis, who will be consulted and notified in writing of the particular issue.

Article IV. Relationship to the State of Indiana

Section I. Fiat Classical Academy intends to be recognized as a nonpublic school in the State of Indiana by pursuing accreditation through an agency recognized by the Indiana State Board of Education.

Article V. Employment

Section I. Employees are expected to be practicing Catholics. If a suitable candidate who is a practicing Catholic cannot be found, a baptized Christian of another ecclesial community who pledges to live in a manner consistent with Catholic moral teaching according to their state of life may be considered for employment. Such a candidate would agree to teach in accord with Catholic doctrine.

Section II. Fiat Classical Academy strictly adheres to The Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People, promulgated by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and most recently revised in 2018. Safe Environment protocols will be followed in order to implement the Charter, including, but not limited to, civil background checks and Safe Parish training for all employees and regular volunteers.

Section III. The Catholic faith is central at Fiat Classical Academy. Teachers and administrators are considered “ministers” in their employee contracts. The “morality contract” in the Archdiocese of Indianapolis will be used for all employees. Teachers of all subjects are to be “outstanding in correct doctrine, the witness of a Christian life, and teaching skill” (Can. 804 §2)

Section IV. All employees of Fiat Classical Academy annually take an oath of fidelity to the Magisterium of the Catholic Church.