



# Indiana Department of Education

Dr. Katie Jenner, Secretary of Education

**To:** Indiana State Board of Education  
**From:** Office of School Accountability  
**Date:** April 24, 2024  
**Subject:** Accreditation Petition for Fiat Classical Academy

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This memorandum provides a summary of the information provided by the school in its petition for performance-based accreditation and the final recommendation from the Indiana Department of Education (Department) regarding the accreditation of Fiat Classical Academy (FCA).

## **Background & Demographic Information**

Fiat Classical Academy plans to operate in Aurora, Indiana and serve students in grades 9 and 10. The school will provide strictly in-person instruction. FCA will operate under the Archdiocese of Indianapolis and plans to open in August 2024.

“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.” The vision of Fiat Classical Academy is that they teach the art of living through our four educational pillars: Cultivating Wonder, Encouraging Encounter, Fostering Integration and Seeking Excellence.

FCA plans to enroll 12 students in their first year of accreditation. They anticipate enrolling another 62 students by year five. The school plans to add a grade every two years until 11th and 12th grades are served.

## **Operations**

**Facilities:** FCA plans to operate at 211 4th Street, Aurora, Indiana in ST. Mary’s Church. This property has been inspected and passed all local and state requirements with no compliance violations noted.

**Tuition:** Annual tuition and application fees for FCA total \$7,750 per student, which includes application and registration fees. FCA indicated that it intends to participate in the Indiana Choice Scholarship program.

**Staffing:** Brad Macke is the Head of mission at FCA. Mr. Macke received his Bachelor of Science degree in Mathematics with a certification in Secondary Education from Northern Kentucky University. Subsequently, he taught high school math before pursuing and receiving a Master's in Theological Studies from the Pontifical John Paul II Institute in 2012. Brad then served as a high school theology teacher and campus minister for six years. For the last five years, he has served in parishes in Cincinnati in leadership and parish-based education roles.



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Adam Iadipaolo, Headmaster, has twenty years of teaching experience. After completing his Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy, he completed further studies in Theology from the Pontifical John Paul II Institute. His teaching career commenced in Washington, D.C., and has continued in Kentucky and Ohio. Most recently, he has served as the 7-12th grade Assistant Principal and Academic and Guidance Dean at Royalmont Academy in Mason, Ohio.

Both Brad Macke and Adam Iadipaolo are founders of Fiat Classical Academy and have initiated and served on the Board of Directors. During the past two years, they have spearheaded decisions related to the name, mission and vision of the school; developing curriculum and pedagogical standards; creating and implementing the student application and faculty hiring processes; fundraising; accreditation; and budgetary decisions. Both administrators also serve as teachers at Fiat Classical Academy, thereby ensuring to effectively advance student performance in consult with the faculty.

### **Academic Programming**

The curriculum at FCA is designed to be integrated across subject areas using a chronological approach to history and associated literature, a cumulative approach to mathematics and associated scientific math, and fine arts to complement student growth. Language arts, such as writing skills, will be incorporated within literature courses. Anticipated courses per subject area are listed below:

Mathematics:

Track 1: Algebra I, Algebra II, Euclidian and Non-Euclidian Geometry, Traditional Logic, Pre-Calculus

Track 2: Algebra II, Euclidian and Non-Euclidian Geometry, Traditional Logic, Pre-Calculus, Calculus

English/Language Arts:

Ancient Literature/Essay Composition, Medieval Literature/Short Story/Poetry, American Literature/Creative & Research Writing, Modern Literature, Senior Thesis, Rhetoric/Speech

Science:

Ohio River Valley/Indiana Science (hope to include Astronomy and Geology), Physics, Biology, and Chemistry

Social Studies:

Ancient History, Medieval History, American History, Civics, and Modern History.

The school's curriculum offers the Core 40 course and credit requirements for students to earn an Indiana diploma.

FCA plans to administer formative assessments and has given assurance that they understand which grades and students take each state required assessment and will administer them as applicable.

### **Department Recommendation**

Fiat Classical Academy has plans for steady reasonable growth for the future. Based on the submitted petition and accompanying materials, Fiat Classical Academy has a fair understanding



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of the requirements of being an Indiana performance-based accredited school. Therefore, the Department recommends granting Fiat Classical Academy provisional state performance-based accreditation as a non-public school in Indiana.

