



Two Classical Charter Schools of America Middle Schools Rated in Top Ten Nationally in 2023-24 Classic Learning Test

CCS-Leland Ranks #1; CCS-Whiteville Ranks #3

MARCH 2025 – Classical Charter School of America (CCS-A)'s Leland and Whiteville middle schools earned top honors in Classic Learning Test's (CLT) 2023-2024 CLT8 School Rankings, the academic testing organization has announced. CCS-Leland tied for first place, while CCS-Whiteville tied for third place among some 250 schools nationwide.

The two schools are the only public (and only charter) schools in the top 20. All of the other top-ranking schools are private schools and charge from \$6,200 a year to \$36,000 a year in tuition. The CCS-A schools are tuition-free public charter schools.

The CLT provides academic assessments that evaluate reading, grammar, writing, and mathematics for grades 3 through 12. The tests are designed to emphasize academic skills and promote critical and logical thinking.

More than 280 U.S. colleges and universities accept CLT scores as an alternative to the SAT and ACT admission tests, including all of the schools in the Florida state university system. Regionally, some of the schools that accept the CLT test are the Honors College at Belmont Abbey College, High Point University, and Wingate University in North Carolina, and Anderson University, Bob Jones University, and the Lyceum Program at Clemson University in South Carolina.

The CLT8 specifically is designed to measure eighth-grade students' readiness for high school. Much of the content on the exam is drawn from classical literature, classical mathematics, and historical texts, all of which are central to CCS-A's rigorous classical curriculum.

"We couldn't be more proud of our students and staff for their hard work, which led to this incredible accomplishment," CCS-A founder Baker Mitchell said. He noted that a majority of the students who took and excelled on the CLT8 were students who had been at CCS-A schools since the beginning of their education, allowing them to fully benefit from CCS-A's carefully classical designed curriculum.

Jessica Lopez, CCS-A's Dean of Classical Humanities, added, "Last year, we were excited to see one of our schools, CCS-Leland, rank in the top 20 nationally in the 2022-23 CLT8. That was our first time participating in the exam. This year, after further refining our curriculum to give students the best possible resources to succeed, we are thrilled to see both Leland and Whiteville achieve such remarkable results. It is clear that the dedication and hard work of

CCS-A's deans, academic coaches, teachers, and especially our students has paid off tremendously."

"Out of the hundreds of schools that take the CLT8 every year, CCS-Leland and CCS-Whiteville's recognition in Classic Learning Test's 2025 School Rankings is a remarkable achievement," said CLT officials.

Classical Charter Schools of America was founded in 1999 as a single school with 72 students in Leland, NC. CCS-A now has four schools—in Leland, Southport, Whiteville and Wilmington, NC—serving more than 2,500 students. All four schools are classified as Title I schools, serving large numbers of low-income students. All campuses are now accepting applications for the 2025-2026 school year in grades K through 8. Interested parents can visit EnrollRBA.com.

[What is the CLT8?](#)