

2023

# Year End Report

A Year of Classical Education Leadership & Growth



Thales Academy™  
DEVELOPING CLASSICAL THINKERS

[ThalesAcademy.org](https://ThalesAcademy.org)

2023

## THALES ACADEMY IN 2023

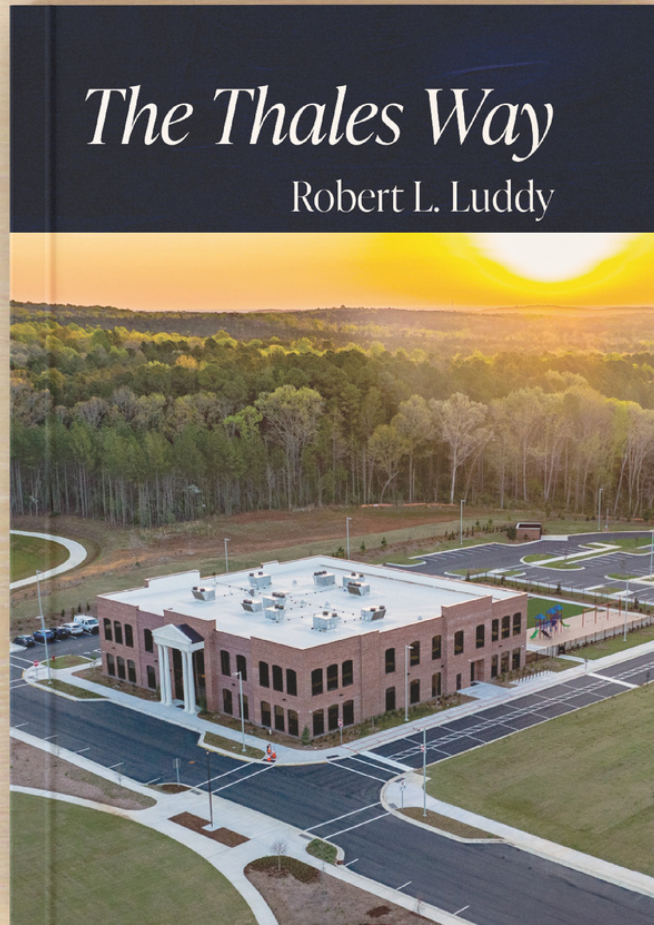
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Thales Academy continues to be a **nationally recognized K–12 classical education leader**.

- We achieved more growth in 2023 and a Yass Prize Semifinalist recognition this year.
- We expanded Thales Academy Cary to be our first multi-building Kindergarten through high school campus.
- Our Thales Academy Apex JH/HS campus earned multiple honors: It ranked #16 nationally in the 2023 CLT8 Exam Rankings, won second place for Best Private School in the 2023 WRAL Voters' Choice Awards, and had a high school student named as a 2023 CLT10 Exam National Award Winner.
- Our Thales Academy Rolesville JH/HS campus hosted the second annual Fall Classical Summit gathering faculty and staff from our many campuses and beyond.
- Thales Academy began expansion projects at various existing campuses and secured several new in-development campus locations.

2023 was a year of continued growth and improvement.

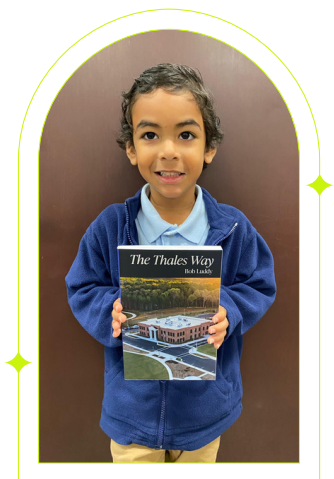




## A NEW BOOK FROM OUR FOUNDER – THE THALES WAY

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Our founder, Mr. Robert (“Bob”) Luddy, published his long-awaited book, *The Thales Way*. The book’s purpose is to elaborate on the history and mission of Thales Academy, explain the rationale for our educational approaches, and provide standards and methods for teachers, students, and families. **You can find the book on Amazon or read a digital copy at no charge on our website at: [ThalesAcademy.org/ThalesWay](https://ThalesAcademy.org/ThalesWay).**



## THE THALES WAY – DIRECT INSTRUCTION (K-5)

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Thales Academy's research-based **Direct Instruction** method is effective, efficient, and engaging, and provides a superior foundation of knowledge for our elementary grades. Every year, our K-5 students make stellar gains in reading, writing, math, and other critical skills that prepare them for a lifetime of successful learning. In 2023, we experienced the first full year of our improved K-5 writing curriculum, seeing great success in our elementary grades in this area.





## THE THALES WAY – CLASSICAL CURRICULUM (6–12)

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Our **classical curriculum** in our junior high and high school programs is well-rounded and rigorous and teaches higher level thinking with regular use of the Socratic method.

This year, our students benefited from junior high and high school elective offerings in the fine arts and vocational skills/STEM. These enhancements brought us into a more consistent alignment with the unique vision of classical education at Thales Academy that includes a combination of classical rigor and modern engineering and entrepreneurship.





## THE THALES WAY – CHARACTER

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**Character education is a critical element in the Thales Academy formation model.** We strive to form individuals with high moral standards, encouraging students to confidently serve as leaders of integrity throughout all aspects of life and eventual career. We incorporate character development into our classroom lessons, school culture, and facilities in ways such as:

- Virtue reminders on our walls
- Our K–5 formal character ed program (*The Voyage: Adventures in Character*)
- Regular Character Awards in all grades
- Incorporation into every twelfth grader’s Senior Thesis



# TOP 15 OUTCOMES OF A THALES ACADEMY STUDENT



- 1 UNFAILING INTEGRITY**  
Follow a Strong Code of Ethics with Honesty
- 2 VIRTUOUS LEADER**  
Be a Positive Role Model for Others
- 3 SELF-RELIANCE**  
Depend on Your Own Resources to Meet Your Needs
- 4 TRUTH SEEKER**  
Search for the Accurate Explanation of Reality
- 5 CRITICAL THINKER**  
Discern the Truth Through Questioning and Analysis
- 6 CONTINUOUS LEARNER**  
Learn from All Aspects of Life, Including Mistakes
- 7 COMPETENT TECHNICAL SKILLS**  
Use Technology as Tool to Navigate Modern Life
- 8 ASTUTE PROBLEM SOLVING**  
Evaluate Likely Outcomes; Assess Risk; Choose Correctly
- 9 COOPERATIVE & CONTRIBUTIVE TEAM MEMBER**  
Collaborate to Achieve Successful Results
- 10 STRONG WORK ETHIC**  
Persevere; Be Responsible and Reliable
- 11 DREAMS & ASPIRATIONS TO CHANGE THE WORLD**  
Set Goals; Use Your Talents to Make a Difference
- 12 TRADITIONAL AMERICAN VALUES**  
Be Creative, Courageous, and Hard Working
- 13 COMMUNICATION SKILLS**  
Share Your Message Clearly and Concisely
- 14 GRATITUDE**  
Be Thankful; Embrace a Spirit of Appreciation
- 15 HEALTHY MIND, BODY & SPIRIT**  
Take Care of Yourself



## THE THALES WAY – TOP 15 OUTCOMES

At Thales Academy, we believe equally important to academics are an ethical character, real world skills, and the traits necessary for performing at a level of excellence. With this in mind, we emphasize the **Top 15 Outcomes of a Thales Academy Student** in all we do, and by graduation, each of our students will have mastered all 15 Outcomes.





## THE THALES WAY – REAL-WORLD SKILLS

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Thales Academy recognizes that developing real-world skills is crucial in preparing students for careers in today's fast-paced world, and we work to foster these skills in our curriculum. In the 2022–2023 school year, in pursuit of strengthening our students' real-world skills, we incorporated **a new "Industrial Arts" sequence in grades 6–9**, seeking to give every student **an introductory education in practical skills and problem-solving that increases their self-confidence and self-reliance in the modern world**. These project-based courses focus on tool use, woodworking, electronics, mechanics, robotics, coding, and simple troubleshooting & repairs.

Our Industrial Arts sequence provides the foundation for students to join our **Luddy Institute of Technology (LIT) program**. LIT is an optional 4-year high school elective sequence of **specialized, skill-driven pre-engineering and STEM coursework**. The LIT curriculum expands on the Industrial Arts curriculum introducing new tools, computer languages, and mechanical/ electrical/ robotics components. The sequence culminates in a capstone senior project that encourages students to invent and build a solution to a real-world problem, uniquely preparing students for engineering-related careers.





## THE THALES WAY – BEAUTY AND ORDER

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In line with our classical approach, Thales Academy focuses on the importance of **order and beauty, providing students with an aesthetically appealing environment in which to learn and grow**. Our campuses boast floor to ceiling windows that provide lots of natural light; tasteful, elegant furnishings inside; and clean, beautiful landscaping and grounds outside. We continue to make aesthetic and functional improvements to our campus plans and designs every year.



## HIGHEST AIR QUALITY & LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS

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Our founder, **Bob Luddy**, has learned many lessons from his nearly 50 years of running his company, **CaptiveAire**. Sound business management, expertise in technology and finance, and operations efficiency all make Thales Academy a leader in education. Thales Academy also benefits from CaptiveAire's expertise in ventilation products to create the ideal learning environment.

All of our campuses use CaptiveAire's Paragon HVAC units to **continuously bring in fresh, filtered outdoor air**. Fresh air has been proven to increase occupant alertness, cognition, and comfort. Purging stale air out of the building removes contaminants including carbon dioxide, viruses, and dust.



CAPTIVEAIRE  
PARAGON HVAC UNIT



CAPTIVEAIRE  
SOUND BAFFLES

CAPTIVEAIRE  
HVAC SUPPLY DUCT

New Thales Academy classrooms and gymnasiums include CaptiveAire's HVAC Supply Duct, which **quietly distributes air evenly throughout the room** for a more comfortable environment and no cold drafts.

**Sound-absorbing materials reduce loud noises and reverberation.**

CaptiveAire's sound baffles installed at new Thales Academy campuses help students stay focused and ready to learn.



## CLASS OF 2023

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Thales Academy's graduating classes continue to achieve admirable scholarship offers, college acceptances, and careers. **In 2023, our college acceptance bell rang many times, and we also had our first Thales Academy alum named as a prestigious Truman Scholar (Aubrey Wieberg, Thales Academy Rolesville JH/HS, Class of 2020).**

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**81**

GRADUATES

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**1261**

AVERAGE SAT

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**100%**

ACCEPTANCE TO COLLEGE, MILITARY,  
OR TECHNICAL SCHOOL



## COLLEGE ACCEPTANCES

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AUBURN UNIVERSITY  
BENEDICTINE COLLEGE  
CLEMSON UNIVERSITY  
CORNELL UNIVERSITY  
ELON UNIVERSITY  
EMBRY-RIDDLE AERONAUTICAL UNIVERSITY  
FLORIDA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY  
FURMAN UNIVERSITY  
GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY  
GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY  
LIBERTY UNIVERSITY  
LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY  
NORTH CAROLINA STATE UNIVERSITY  
OBERLIN COLLEGE  
RADFORD UNIVERSITY  
SAVANNAH COLLEGE OF ART AND DESIGN

THALES COLLEGE  
TULANE UNIVERSITY  
UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA  
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO-Boulder  
UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA  
UNIVERSITY OF GRONINGEN (NETHERLANDS)  
UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI  
UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT CHAPEL HILL  
UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA WILMINGTON  
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE  
UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT  
WAKE FOREST UNIVERSITY  
VIRGINIA TECH

*+ Many Others!*



## STUDENT GROWTH

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Thales Academy started as a single K-2 school in 2007 with 38 students, and our first graduating class in 2016 was only 3 students (all who attended the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill!). Now, **we serve over 6000 students in grades Pre-K-12, have graduated nearly 400 total seniors, and continue to grow** every year!





**2023**

**6141**

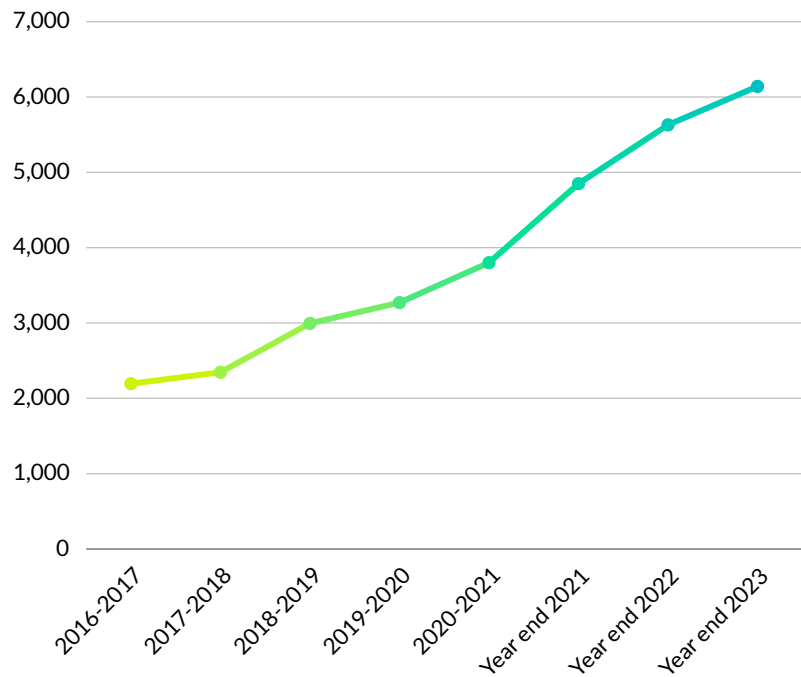
STUDENTS

**2007**

(FOUNDING YEAR)

**38**

STUDENTS



**2016**

1ST SENIOR CLASS

**3**

GRADUATES

**2016 – 2023**

ALL GRAD YEARS TO DATE

**371**

TOTAL GRADUATES



## CAMPUS EXPANSION

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We have **grown from 1 single school in 2007 to 13 campuses across 3 states.** This year, we expanded our Cary, NC campus to include new junior high and high school facilities with a courtyard. We also began expansion construction at our Holly Springs, NC and Flowers Plantation, NC campuses to add high schools with a new classroom building and a new gymnasium at each.





Rendering of campus expansion

NC - 2007



VA - 2020



TN - 2020



Additionally, we have **several new campuses in development**, including our first permanent full Thales Academy campus in Virginia! Our Apex, NC campuses also are constructing an additional enhanced classroom/facilities building to improve students' experience and accommodate growth in this popular region.

2023

13

in

3

CAMPUSES

STATES





## IN-HOUSE PUBLISHING FIRM

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**Our in-house publishing firm, Thales Press, focuses on curating and creating classical educational resources**, such as electronic textbooks based on the works of the masters, plus workbooks (many now in use at Thales Academy campuses). Thales Press also regularly hosts free educational webinars and podcast episodes and produces video content and newsletters. The goal of Thales Press is to create resources that help teachers to teach and students to study everything that is good, true, and beautiful. Learn more at: [ThalesAcademy.org/ThalesPress](https://ThalesAcademy.org/ThalesPress)

**Thales Academy and Thales Press also organized two conferences for faculty and staff.** Thales Academy at Flowers Plantation hosted the **Conference of Miletus** in July, which consisted of four short lectures on topics related to the theme: Excellence in Education. This conference was broadcast virtually to educators across our Thales Academy network to attend live. In October, our Thales Academy Rolesville JH/HS campus hosted the second annual **Fall Classical Summit** with over 300 faculty and guests gathered under one roof. Speakers presented on topics related to classical education, philosophy, economics, monetary theory, and pedagogy, and our Thales Academy faculty benefited from unique classical education professional development and fellowship.





THALES



THALES  
PRESS



# THALES

COLLEGE

## HIGHER EDUCATION

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Thales Academy's sister in higher education—Thales College, a classical college that holds its classes in Wake Forest, NC—had its own year of growth in 2023. Thales College's inaugural undergraduate class wrapped up its first year, many new faculty members were added (including Distinguished Professor of Humanities, Dr. Anthony Esolen), and the second class of undergraduate students matriculated in the fall (including the first out-of-state undergraduate). Thales College offers three degree options with a classical liberal arts core for all majors: B.A. Entrepreneurial Business; B.S. Mechanical Engineering; B.A. Classical Education (Teaching). It also offers a continuing education certificate program in Classical Education Philosophy. Similar to Thales Academy, Thales College is designed to be affordable (higher education without the higher cost), and **students graduate in 3 years with a plethora of life and career skills and little to no debt**. Learn more at: [ThalesCollege.org](https://ThalesCollege.org)



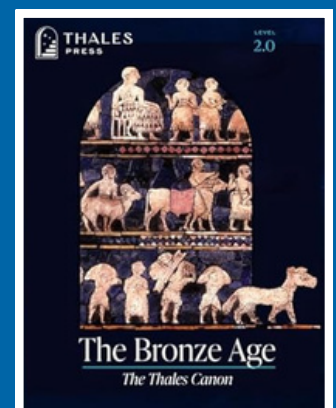
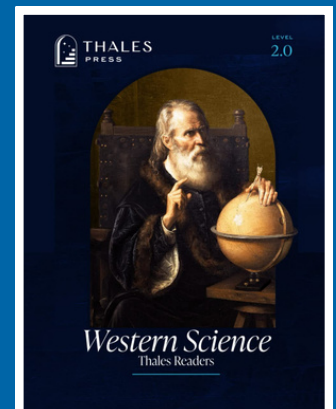
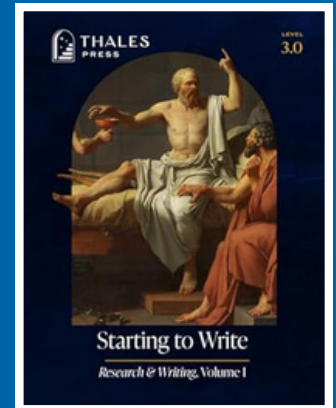


## CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

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**Foundational to our school culture is a process of continuous improvement called "Kaizen."** As we pursue Thales Academy's mission to offer a robust classical education for all of our students, we continuously reflect on our program and work to improve year to year to make sure we are providing the highest quality education possible at the most affordable rate.

In the 2023–2024 school year, **we adopted new, improved, and cost-saving curriculum materials into some of our Thales Academy courses, thanks to newly published textbooks, workbooks, and lesson plans from Thales Press.** In our Trivium courses, we adopted Thales Press textbooks that incorporate concepts in writing and logic along with primary source readings in 8th grade *Logic & Rhetoric*, 9th grade *Research & Writing*, and 10th grade *Logic & Writing*. We also used Thales Press-produced works in our 6th grade literature courses as well as smaller lesson plans for both math and science. In 2023, Thales Press also published the first four volumes of a history book entitled *The Thales Canon* used in our junior high history courses this school year. More Thales Press curriculum materials are in production, and **the "STOP Award" funds—awarded to Thales Academy as part of its prestigious 2023 Yass Prize Semifinalist recognition—will be applied to expanding Thales Press curriculum and materials.**



## RECENT TESTIMONIALS

*We continue to be impressed with the passion of the administration and staff and the superior classical education. Thales has been the best decision for our child's academic future. She loves the safe and stable environment provided to her and the opportunity to excel. We highly recommend Thales Academy.*

*We absolutely love this school!!! High quality and affordable education with phenomenal teachers and staff. I love that every teacher knows my kids by name and greets them. Parents are welcomed into the school to volunteer, eat lunch with their child, etc.*

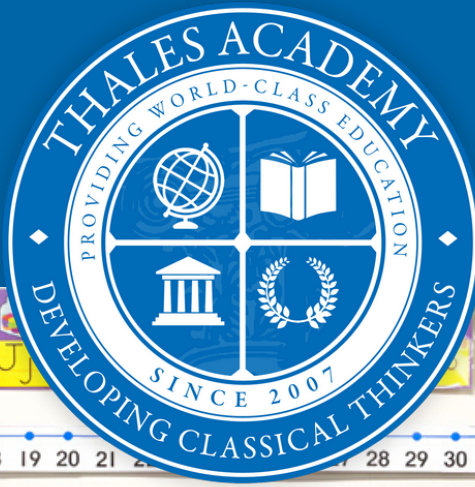
*I have experienced the teachers and administrators to be guided by the principles that Thales stands for, and their competence, caring, and kindness is palpable. Their values are written on the walls but are embodied by the staff...which is the real way to teach character and emotional intelligence. There is no place like it that I've experienced, and I'm grateful to have been part of the Thales experience with my family.*

*The teachers are excellent. They know their material and care about the students. The curriculum prepares students for college. Many of the classes are similar to those in top-level universities like Chapel Hill, NCSU, Cornell, George Washington, and Princeton (where two students from last year's graduating class now attend).*



*My daughter has attended charter and public schools in the area, and this school is by far the best school we have ever attended. She is much more confident in her skills, which leads to better performance. My daughter has also become a better student here and is able to retain much more than in the past. I believe this has to do with their teaching methodology. The school has a curriculum that fosters critical thinking skills which just makes their students become better individuals.... The staff and teachers really care about their students and the success of their students. They are really wonderful communicators.... Overall, I would 110% recommend this school to others. It is the best decision we've ever made! I wish we would have applied sooner!*

*Quality education, with an inclusive student body. Teachers are readily available to assist in whatever you need.*



**LEARN MORE**  
ThalesAcademy.org

**CONTACT**  
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