

## **Brief Summary of CC**

Classical Conversations® is a classical education resource used by homeschoolers in all 50 states and more than 30 foreign countries. CC now has more than 125,000 students enrolled in its tutoring programs, which are provided by more than 2,500 CC communities. CC provides resources, guidance and a community for a Christian home school curriculum using classical education in three developmental stages: grammar, dialectic and rhetoric.

Leigh Bortins started Classical Conversations in 1997. The family-owned company is headquartered in Southern Pines, North Carolina. For more information visit [www.classicalconversations.com](http://www.classicalconversations.com).

## **Corporate Mission Statement**

“To know God and to make Him known”

## **Brief History**

Classical Conversations, which now serves more than 125,000 students, began 22 years ago with one homeschooling mom’s desire to give her oldest son a good education.

Leigh Bortins was a brand-new mom in 1984, an aerospace engineer, recently graduated from the University of Michigan. Wanting something more than corporate daycare for their young son, she decided to resign her dream job at Boeing to stay home and care for her son. As her son grew older, Leigh found a dearth of homeschool education materials, so she decided to create her own.

In the fall of 1997, Leigh began teaching a once-a-week, classical-model program in Rhetoric in her Winston-Salem, North Carolina, home with 11 high school students. This was the beginning of Classical Conversations’ Challenge I program. Over the next few years, Leigh created programs for elementary and middle school students that focused on the Grammar and Dialectic phases of a classical education.

Emphasizing a Christian classical education conducted in a community, CC grew rapidly over the past 10 years, reaching more than 125,000 students supported by 2,500 individual CC communities in all 50 states and 30 foreign countries.

In addition to constantly revising and enriching its curriculum, CC has also added additional services for homeschooling families, including an online bookstore, practicum training for parents, standardized testing services, test prep classes, an academic transcript service, academic counseling services, college credit through the CC+ program, and national academic competitions in memorization and math.

## **Fast Facts**

125,000+ students

50,000+ families

2,500+ communities

50 states, District of Columbia, Puerto Rico

30+ Foreign countries

19,000+ contracted directors and tutors.

## **Explanation of CC Structure**

Classical Conversations includes both Latin and classical literature, but when CC says “classical,” it is referring to the three stages of classical learning, which guided the great thinkers and leaders of the past, including Aristotle, Plato, Thomas Jefferson and C.S. Lewis.

While CC maintains a corporate staff of employees to support the CC communities, most of the work is done by its directors and tutors, who are licensees or independent contractors.

A classical education is ideally suited to children’s natural learning style and intellectual growth. The classical model of education divides the learning process into three stages: grammar, dialectic and rhetoric. In the grammar stage, children devour facts. We call this stage Foundations, and it is for ages 4-11.

In the dialectic stage, children ask many questions as they sort and evaluate these facts. This is our Essentials program, and it is for children ages 10-13.

In the rhetoric stage, teenagers synthesize their knowledge and apply it. This is our Challenge program, which is designed for young adults 13-18.

## **CC Services**

### **Homeschool Testing Services**

Homeschool Testing Services offers both online and on-site standardized testing each spring. Testing sites are typically CC community sites. HTS also offers standardized testing preparation services.

### **CC Connected**

CC Connected is a subscription-based online resource that provides access to a vast collection of educational resources and a virtual community of leading learners and educators.

### **Homeschool Counselor Services**

Homeschool Counselor is growing and already provides exclusive resources such as high-value scholarships, tools for making choices, Great Books college connections and tools for making the best possible presentation to college admissions officers.

### **CC Plus**

Challenge III and IV students may enroll in unique college-credit programs in partnership with Southeastern University in Lakeland, Florida and The College at Southeastern in Wake Forrest, SC.

### **National Memory Master**

Students memorize thousands of facts from disciplines such as math, science, English grammar, history, Latin and geography and recite them in competition. Competitors are judged on flawless and creative performances.

### **National Number Knockout**

National Number Knockout (N2K) is a mental math game using addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, roots, and exponents.

### **Challenge Graduation/Capstone Cruise**

Classical Conversations' national Challenge Graduation and Capstone Cruise is a tradition that began several years ago. This typically includes the national championship rounds of National Memory Masters and National Number Knockout. Cash prizes are awarded to the student and lead educator.

## **Bookstore**

CC operates an online bookstore where CC parents can purchase all the necessary books, curricula and supplies for their students. Many of the books can also be purchased elsewhere. The bookstore ships more than 669,882 individual books or curriculum items each year. ([www.classicalconversationsbooks.com](http://www.classicalconversationsbooks.com))