

Parent Handbook  
2021-2022

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# *Monarch Meadows*

## Independent School of Classical Studies





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## *About Monarch Meadows*



**“Intelligence plus character: that is the goal of a true education.”**  
- **Martin Luther King Jr.**

Monarch Meadows Independent School of Classical Studies was created with the desire to provide an opportunity for children to come together in a small group setting not only to build relationships with one another, but to also discover and cultivate the natural curiosities they have about the world around them.

Through the study of language, mathematical thinking, the sciences, history, and art, students who come to Monarch Meadows will be given the foundations of learning, providing them with the knowledge and skill sets to be able to pursue their own interests.



## *About the Teacher*

Anneke Linnemeyer is a graduate from Metropolitan State University of Denver. She holds a Bachelor's Degree in English and a Minor in Studio Painting. In 2015 she returned to Metro and completed their Post-Baccalaureate Elementary Education Teacher Licensure Program.

She has privately tutored many children for the last three years (from 1st to 9th grade) and has also given in-home art lessons. In the 2019-2020 school year she worked as a substitute teacher for the St. Vrain Valley school district and as an lead for the afterschool program for Flagstaff Academy.

During her spare time, Anneke enjoys reading many different books, painting, writing, and listening to audiobooks and podcasts related to topics on education, history, literature, and classical art.



# LOCATION



## *Wozani Farm*

Wozani Farm was started in 2018 by Anneke’s brother Rainer, his wife Liz, and their three children. Wozani is the Zulu word for “come” or “to come” which encompasses their dream for the farm - to make it into a place where people can gather together. Their hope is to revitalize the land through permaculture, in which agriculture and nature work together to create a biodiverse ecosystem.

In the last two years Rainer and Liz have created a large fruit and vegetable garden, established a lavender field, and planted an orchard of ten fruit trees, including nectarine, peach, apricot, cherry, and apple. They share their land with sixteen chickens, three sheep, a labrador retriever, an auggie puppy, two barn cats, and a llama named Tinkerbell.

You can visit their website:  
[www.wozanifarm.com](http://www.wozanifarm.com).

They also have an instagram page:  
[https://www.instagram.com/wozani\\_farm/](https://www.instagram.com/wozani_farm/)





# What is Classical Education?



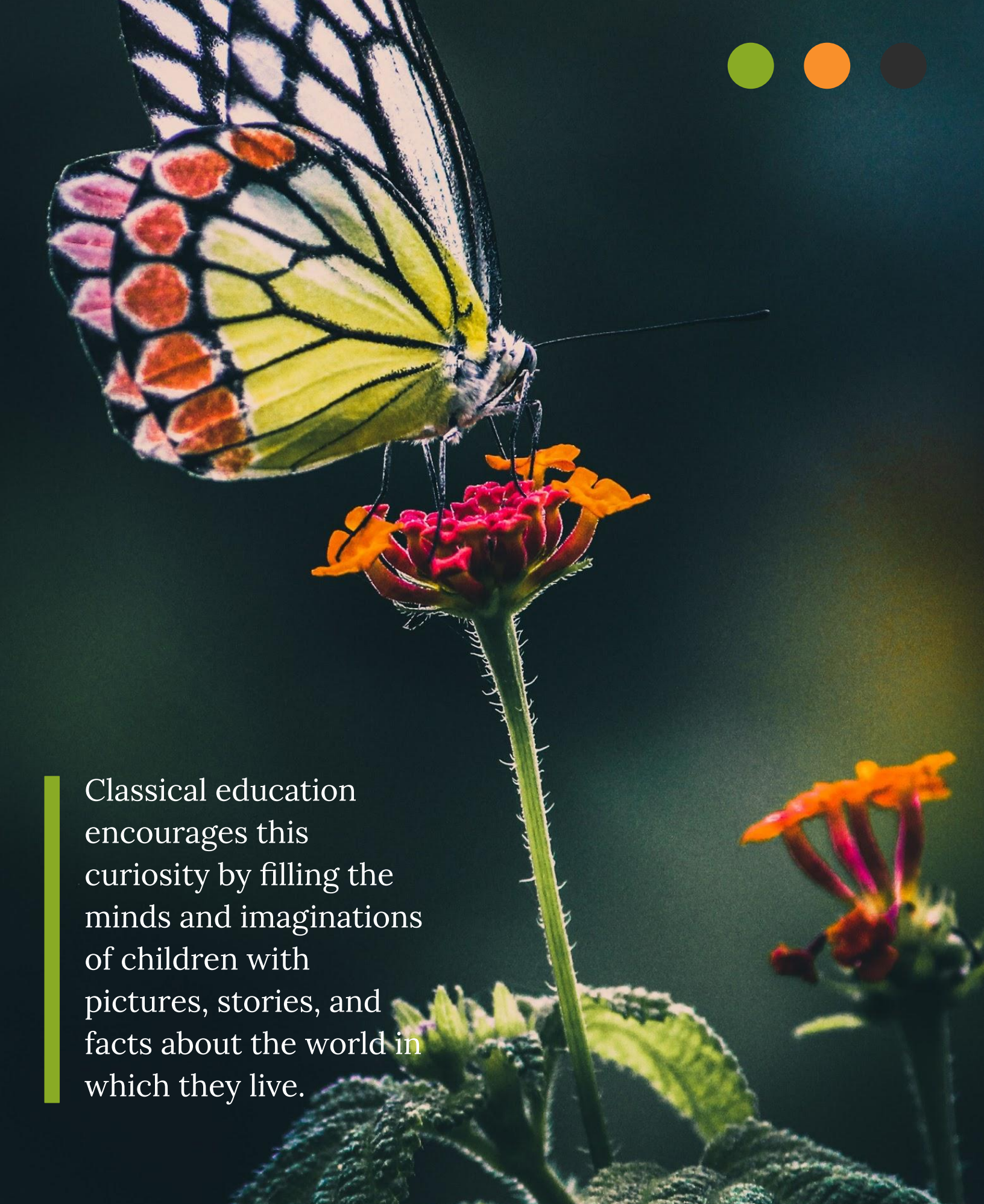
In the elementary years, classical education focuses on building a strong foundation for learning, otherwise known as the grammar stage. This doesn't mean your child will spend their entire day doing English grammar, rather, as grammar is the foundation of language, the grammar stage is like the cornerstone for a child's education. It provides them with the tools and skill sets they need to succeed in pursuing knowledge on their own and becoming lifelong learners. In the elementary years, children are like sponges, soaking up all that is around them. Whether it's through what they see, hear, or touch, children have a natural curiosity about the world and they inevitably want to know more.

Classical education encourages this curiosity by filling the minds and imaginations of children with pictures, stories, and facts about the world in which they live. As Susan Wise Bauer, who wrote *The Well Trained Mind: A Guide to Classical Education at Home*, said, "the key of the grammar stage is content, content, content. In history, science, literature, and to a lesser extent, art and music, the child should be accumulating masses of information: stories of people and wars; names of rivers, cities, mountains, and oceans; scientific names, properties of matter, classifications; plots, characters, and descriptions. The young writer should be memorizing the nuts and bolts of language--parts of speech, parts of a sentence, vocabulary roots. The young mathematician should be preparing for higher math by mastering the basic math facts and developing an understanding of arithmetical operations."



"Classical education is like a very large museum with many beautiful, wonder-filled rooms that could be studied over a lifetime. It is a long tradition of education that has emphasized the seeking after of truth, goodness, and beauty and the study of the liberal arts and the great books. What are the liberal arts? They are grammar, logic, rhetoric (the verbal arts of the trivium), arithmetic, geometry, music, and astronomy (the mathematical arts of the quadrivium). This approach to education also includes the study of Latin. The classical approach teaches students how to learn and how to think."

-Classical Academic Press



Classical education encourages this curiosity by filling the minds and imaginations of children with pictures, stories, and facts about the world in which they live.





## **How do children learn all of this?**

Books, books, and more books. Reading is an essential part of classical education. Children will be exposed to the great books of antiquity, read a variety of classical literature, and have access to a plethora of living books, which take the place of ordinary, dry textbooks. Living books are usually written in narrative form, sparking the child's imagination and bringing topics, such as science and history to life.

Susan describes this process: "This is the first time your child will encounter Egyptian embalming rites or the atmosphere of Venus; this is the first time he will understand what light is made of or why Americans rebelled against the British. He will never get a second chance to read *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*, or hear *The Hobbit* read aloud for the first time. Seize this early excitement. Let the child delve deep. Let him read, read, read. Don't force him to stop and reflect on it yet. Don't make him decide what he likes and doesn't like about ancient Rome; let him wallow in gladiators and chariot races. He wants to find out how things work, how ancient people lived, where Mount Vesuvius is located, and what Pompeii looked like covered with volcanic ash. This thirst for sheer accumulation won't ever die completely, but it is more easily satisfied later on. And the wonder of that first encounter with a strange civilization will never come again."

It is Monarch Meadows' desire and hope to foster and encourage a love of learning in every child, by giving them the proper tools to do so, and to make sure their thirst for knowledge is forever growing.





# Tuition Costs



Monarch Meadows offers three payment plan options for tuition. These include an annual plan, semester plan, or a monthly plan.

**Important notice:** Families with more than one child will receive a 10% discount for every child after their first child.

<i>Tuitions Payment Plans &amp; Fees</i>		
<b>Plan</b>	<b>Cost per child</b>	
Annual	\$8000	
Semester	\$4000	(August-December, January-May)
Monthly	\$800	
Registration Fee	\$50	*non-refundable, applies toward first month of tuition
Resource Fee	\$200	*non-refundable, paid once annually or in five payments of \$40, pays for curriculum, classroom supplies, field trips, etc.

## **Financial Policies:**

- Payments must be made by 8:00 p.m. on the 1st of each month
- There will be a late fee of \$25 if payments are not made within 3 days of due date

# Advantages of Independent Schools



High academic standards. Children are taught at their own level, not the lowest level.



Education for the whole child.



Class and students can move at their own pace and do not have to rush through content.



Class size is smaller than a traditional class at a public or charter school.



Students have more opportunities for individual contact with the teacher.



Students are not required to take standardized testing, therefore the focus will be on student learning rather than on passing state exams.



Lessons can be more hands-on and students will have more opportunities for in depth learning exploration.



## *Modern One Room Schoolhouse*

Since Monarch Meadows has only one teacher, students of different grades will be working together in one classroom. In order to assure children will receive their academic level of instruction, they will work with the teacher individually or in small groups for reading, grammar, spelling, and math. Science and history will be taught as a whole group. When projects, activities, or readings are assigned the teacher's expectations will differ on each child's academic level and abilities.

One advantage to having a mixed age group within one class is the opportunity it allows for older students to work with the younger students. This can instill a confidence older students may not find in a traditional classroom, and when they realize the younger children are looking to them as role models, this can add another level of growth and learning.



# General Information



## **Contact Information:**

Email: [monarchmeadowsschool@gmail.com](mailto:monarchmeadowsschool@gmail.com)

Phone number: (303)709-7135

## **Website**

*Coming soon!*

## **School Type:**

Registered Colorado Independent School

## **Number of School Days:**

172 as required by the State of Colorado Board of Education

## **Start Date:**

17 August 2021

## **Class Size:**

4-8 students

## **Grades Taught:**

Currently, Monarch Meadows is accepting students in first, second, third, fourth, fifth, sixth, seventh, and eighth grade.





# *Policies and Procedures*

## **How to Enroll:**

Since Monarch Meadows is an independent school, students are able (and preferred) to be completely enrolled in the school (i.e. Monarch Meadows is not meant for public school online learning support). It is its own separate entity and therefore, comes with its own separate curriculums, school work, expectations, etc. To enroll their child(ren), parents will be required to fill out and submit an enrollment form. The enrollment form can be accessed at [www.monarchmeadowsschool.com](http://www.monarchmeadowsschool.com) or directly through this [link](#).

## **Drop Off and Pick Up:**

Parents are responsible for the drop off and pick up of their child(ren). For safety purposes, parents will be required to sign their child(ren) in when dropping them off, as well as sign their child(ren) out when picking them up. If parents want to allow another family member or non-family member to pick up and/or drop off their child(ren) (ex. if they'd like to carpool), they must provide the names and contact information of that person. This information will be kept in the child's file. If an unauthorized individual attempts to pick up a child, parents of the child will be contacted immediately.

## **Attendance Policy:**

Students should not miss more than 18 days of school, excused or unexcused. If a child needs to miss school, please let the school know in advance, so lessons can be made available to them.

## **School Closures:**

In the case of snow or other unexpected weather and the school needs to close, parents will be notified by phone or email. The school will also be closed on Thanksgiving and Christmas.

## **Hours of Operation:**

School hours will run Monday–Friday 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.



### **Daily Schedule Sample:**

*Coming Soon*

**Substitute Policy:** Anneke has a substitute in place in case she is sick or has an emergency. Parents will be notified when there is a substitute. A substitute plan will be available to substitute when needed.

### **If Your Child Is Sick:**

If your child is sick please notify the school. Do not send your child to school if they:

- Have a fever over 100 degrees or have not been fever free for at least 24 hours
- Have vomited within the last 12 hours
- Are in the early stages of a cold
- Have a cough or rash
- Have any discharge coming from nose, ears, or eyes
- Are experiencing any form of nausea

If a child becomes sick while at school, parents will be contacted immediately. Students must be picked up within an hour of parents being called.

### **COVID-19:**

Several procedures will be in place for COVID-19. These include:

- A daily temperature check. This information will be logged at the beginning of each day. If a child has a temperature over 100 degrees they will be sent home.
- Children will wash hands when they first arrive and will have access to wash hands throughout the day.
- Hand sanitizer will also be available.
- Surfaces will be cleaned at the beginning of the day and before eating.
- Students will not be required to wear masks. Under the Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment children under the age of 11 are not required to wear a mask. (<https://covid19.colorado.gov/mask-guidance>)
- If the state goes into shut down again, students will be able to continue school in an online format.

# Other Information



## **Parent Involvement:**

There is not a required number of volunteer hours for parents, however, if they wish to be more involved, it is encouraged they contact the school. Parent help will be needed for transportation and chaperoning on field trips.

## **Weather/Sunscreen:**

Since Monarch Meadows is located on a farm, students will be venturing outside often. Please make sure your child(ren) is dressed appropriately for the seasons and weather.

## **Media Release Agreement:**

Parents and/or Guardians will be required to sign a media release agreement for their child(ren). This agreement will determine whether or not the parents decide to allow their child(ren) to be photographed and/or recorded. Photos and recordings may or may not be posted on the school's social media accounts.

## **Discipline:**

Monarch Meadows has a code of conduct that outlines expected student behavior. If a child's behavior repeatedly doesn't meet the standards set, an incident form will be filled out by the teacher and given to the parents.

## **Homework:**

Due to the small class size and the way instruction will be organized, the homework amount will be less than that of a traditional public or charter school. However, if the teacher believes a student can benefit from more at-home practice or if parents would like additional work for their child, it can be accommodated.



**Student Performance:**

Anneke will keep a checklist for each student. These checklists will include information on what students are expected to learn for their age group in the subjects of reading, grammar, spelling, and math. Anneke will also keep a portfolio of each student's work, books read, projects completed, formal and informal assessments, etc . These checklists and portfolios will be available for parents to view.

**Academic Excellence:**

Monarch Meadows strives to raise the bar on academic standards and student expectations. Students will:

- Be given more opportunities for in-depth learning and accelerated learning
- Be allowed to move at their own pace
- Be allowed to explore more on topics and subjects that draw their interest
- Be provided with resources that gives them the ability to dig deeper

**School Projects and Activities:**

Students will complete many hands-on activities and projects for history and science, including science labs. For literature there will be a reader's theatre, in which children perform short plays based on stories being read in class, as well as formal recitations, where students memorize and recite poetry and historical speeches. Other activities could include a science fair and art show.

**Extracurricular Activities:**

Extracurricular activities will include the culinary arts (cooking & baking), the fine arts (drawing, painting, multimedia), fitness & nutrition, and homesteading. Every Friday after lunch, students will also be able to the enjoy the beauty of Colorado through nature walks.

**Field Trips:**

It is Anneke's hope to have field trips at least twice a month. These will include museums, hiking trips, the Denver Zoo, the Botanical Gardens, the Denver Aquarium, etc. Anneke is open to any ideas or suggestions for possible field trips parents may have.



**Resources:**

[Additional Information on Classical Education](#)

**Websites:**

<https://classicalacademicpress.com>

<https://www.circeinstitute.org>

<https://welltrainedmind.com>

**Books:**

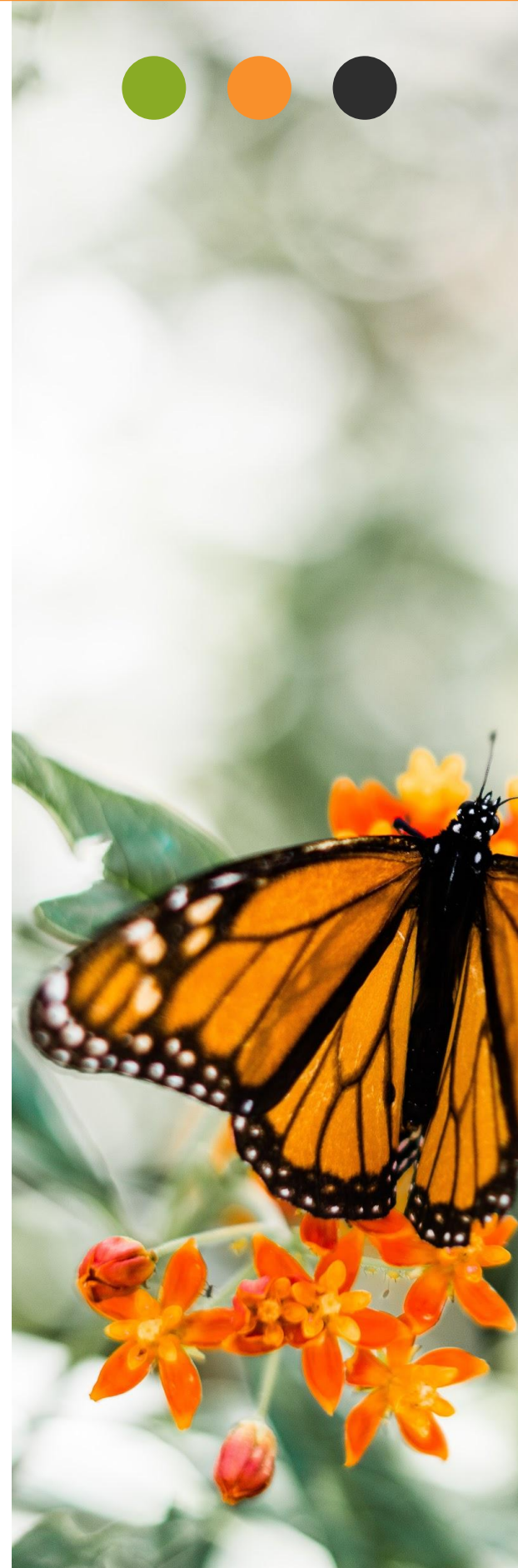
*The Well-Trained Mind: A Guide to Classical Education at Home* by Susan Wise Bauer

*The Well-Educated Mind: A Guide to the Classical Education You Never Had* by Susan Wise Bauer

*An Introduction to Classical Education: A Guide for Parents* by Christopher A. Perrin

(you can download this book (under recommended reading) for free at:

<https://classicalacademicpress.com/pages/what-is-classical-education>)



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