

Q1 Please review the application for American Classical Academy - Montgomery, linked below. <https://www.cmcss.net/school-board/charter-schools/> Using the space provided below, please provide any feedback you have about the application for the American Classical Academy - Montgomery Charter School.

Answered: 107 Skipped: 0

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	For the future of our children and our community please so no to the radical agenda of Hillsdale College coming to Clarksville Montgomery County. Keep our taxpayer money and schools local... not Michigan based.	4/23/2023 6:51 PM
2	I am opposed to charter schools in CMCSS. Public taxpayer monies should not be utilized by organizations such as ACE. CMCSS provides an excellent educational environment for students. I have had three children graduate from CMCSS and was very pleased with their education.	4/22/2023 5:52 PM
3	Strongly opposed.	4/19/2023 7:26 PM
4	Please approve their application. This is a much needed type of school.	4/19/2023 6:26 AM
5	I DO NOT support charter schools, particularly ACAM. They do not meet the needs of OUR diverse community. Support the schools we have now, don't take money from the public schools.	4/18/2023 6:27 PM
6	I feel like this charter school would provide a better education for all students and would help with the overflow of all schools	4/18/2023 6:25 PM
7	As a parent in Montgomery County, I would love to have the American Classical Academy as an educational option for my children. Daniel	4/18/2023 4:35 PM
8	Clarksville families deserve this as an option.	4/18/2023 4:07 PM
9	I graduated from the Montgomery county school system in 2019, graduated from APSU with my BSN in May 2022, and am planning on continuing to live in montgomery county long term...the thought of having this school as an option for my future children -and the upcoming generation as a whole- is INCREDIBLY exciting to me and I cannot emphasize my support for this application to be approved enough! I was previously classically educated and it absolutely made me a better student and citizen than any other education system I have ever been a part of. I sincerely believe that having a classical school in Clarksville would be an immeasurable blessing to the community and it's future. Sincerely, an invested citizen.	4/18/2023 1:41 PM
10	More learning institutions provide freedom of choice for parents and students. Not all students learn the same, and this may provide a great opportunity for students in Montgomery County to receive a learning experience not readily available.	4/18/2023 1:20 PM
11	I believe that the American Classical Academy - Montgomery Charter School will provide a much needed alternative for students in the area. The growing population of Clarksville-Montgomery County is clear evidence that we need to continue to pursue more options for the diverse community here, and I believe that what this Charter School can offer would be greatly beneficial to me, my family, and my community. Personally, I have been considering homeschooling my children over various concerns regarding the current curriculum and how it may be implemented in the classroom. Having this Charter School option would give my family more confidence that the CMCSS School Board is serious about providing diverse options for it's constituents, and giving us a little more say in how we choose to raise our children. I fully support the approval of the American Classical Academy - Montgomery.	4/18/2023 1:00 PM
12	Allow and approve the charter and let parents decide if their child will attend the charter school or not. This is being denied because of a leftist agenda by the CMCSS School Board that does	4/18/2023 11:37 AM

2023 Charter School Application Review - American Classical Academy - Montgomery

want to let parents decide for their children, they want complete control. You are voted into that position by the people, for the people, start acting like it.

13	To whom it may concern, I believe this charter school application should be seriously considered for approval for multiple reasons. CMCSS has made many efforts in improving and ensuring the quality of education for our youth, namely with the creation and implementation of the high school specialized academy programs. While much has been done to attempt to improve schools in the area, CMCSS has expanded to a size where upkeep and constant improvement is difficult, if possible. Allowing the option of a charter school for parents would allow some additional peace of mind in Clarksville's parents' minds about their children's' futures. If anything, it is yet another option available in a field where choice is often strictly limited. For better or for worse, the board has absolute control over the advancement of this decision. As such, I sincerely hope much consideration is given to allow this charter school application to move forward. Thank you, Austin Kerr 931-561-7051	4/18/2023 10:51 AM
14	No to charter schools in Montgomery County. Tax dollars should not be diverted to a quasi private entity. At full proposed numbers it would create over 3,000,000 shortfall of funds.	4/17/2023 8:36 PM
15	I support charter schools and school choice. I do not support this application that is fraught with concerns. They showed their true colors last year. It looks like they tried to mostly distance themselves from Hillsdale College by removing most, not all, references in this year's application, but they are fundamentally still strongly associated with a Christian college. U.S. courts have determined that public schools are an "arm of the state" and thus can do nothing to hinder or promote religion. The litmus test courts use to measure this balance was established in Lemon vs. Kurzman (1971). Commonly referred to as the Lemon Test, the case established three criteria schools must abide by: They must do nothing to prohibit or promote a particular religion, they must be motivated by a secular purpose, and they must avoid excessive entanglement. Vote no.	4/17/2023 10:14 AM
16	This application should be immediately denied. As a tax payer who has put two children through CMCSS schools, I am extremely concerned about not only the origins of this 'Charter School,' but the verbiage used in their application. ACA is an off-shoot of Michigan's extremely conservative Hillsdale College - whose own website states that their mission is to spread a "culture that demands moral virtue..." ACA's own application states they intend to teach "...sexual restraint as these issues affect students' living a moral and responsible life." Both of the organizations are unapologetically Christian and are right-wing political arms, which is perfectly fine; However, political indocrination and/or elevating one religion over all others has no place in our PUBLIC schools - period (from the left or the right). Their plan does not articulate any IEP accommodations or how they will provide services to students with disabilities beyond stating that they will 'follow the laws.' My tax dollars should NOT go towards a 'Charter School' developed and pushed by highly religious zealots as this violates the 1st Amendment's separation of church and state. If they want a school here, they can apply to operate a private school in Montgomery County and I will happily support them.	4/14/2023 7:17 PM
17	I have spent the better part of the day combing through the entire 538pg application submitted by ACAM. I don't say that to boast but rather to indicate that I have invested time into analyzing the ACAM and if it is a good fit for Clarksville-Montgomery County. I feel I can speak on the fit because I am a life-long resident of Montgomery County, graduated from CMCSS and am a third-generation public educator. Our district has been at the forefront for innovation and recognition for years now and while we still have our challenges, we also have shown that within CMCSS is a committed core of individuals willing to adapt and best serve our students and community. Just this week, the proposed budget was shared and an astounding 91% is directed toward instructional purposes within the classrooms where our students thrive. ACAM's application would divert roughly four million in local, state & federal funds just within year one of operation while only serving a bare minimum fraction of students within the county. This funding doesn't create room for student programs such as after hour music programs, theater, sports and other extra-curriculars where the students of CMCSS excel thanks to both committed professionals and funding. ACAM cannot match the opportunities provided to students, especially at the caliber CMCSS has established and built upon, which is one reason funding should be reserved for our public schools. Instructionally speaking, the daily schedule presented in the ACAM application does not account for tier II or III intervention time for students. While it shows the multiple components of literacy addressed, the schedule establishes 120 minutes for instruction. CMCSS, through policies with and under the state's education department provides students with not only 120 minutes of literacy instruction but also 30-45 minutes of high dose, skill specific intervention for students testing below grade level expectations. Furthermore, according to the draft family handbook, ACAM policies as	4/12/2023 2:15 PM

2023 Charter School Application Review - American Classical Academy - Montgomery

presented are more restrictive on promoting students to the next grade level while not providing additional intervention and tutoring opportunities our CMCSS public schools can provide given proper funding. In reviewing the application, another concern regarding the current & proposed future leadership of the charter school is the merit on which they base decisions for certain board members. The primary, and most alarming, example is the board member with "education, curriculum, pedagogy & marketing expertise". While he is a professor, this individual holds no degree in curriculum, education, or pedagogy. Also, according to his submitted biography, he has never served as an educator in the K12 setting, public, private or charter. This is alarming because how can ACAM claim to want to serve students and provide a solid educational experience if the board member with expertise in curriculum, education and pedagogy does not have education nor experience in the field. According to the application, the building principal would report and be held accountable by the board members, of which none are educational experts. In their application, ACAM states a goal of 340 students for the first year of their opening with 40% of the total student population black, Hispanic, and Native American students. While they plan to match CMCSS in this statistic, according to the frameworks provided by American Classical Education K-12 Program Guide, they do not promote a culturally inclusive curriculum which would allow students to hear stories from a variety of perspectives. While a focus on topics such as Greek and Latin roots for language are beneficial (and taught in the CMCSS elementary curriculum), the curriculum components found in literature, history and music do not include diverse authors, experiences, or musicians. While there are always areas for growth within the public school system, CMCSS has demonstrated the ability to create innovative programs, academic supports, and a multitude of co-curricular activities all to foster successful students. Based on the application provided by ACAM and my experience as an educator, it is my strongest hope the CMCSS School Board votes against ACAM and instead, continues to support the strong, successful public schools in Clarksville-Montgomery County.

18	It would be good for families to have options. I would love to see this charter school come to Montgomery County.	4/11/2023 6:37 PM
19	I am opposed to any type of charter school in Montgomery county. These types of schools drain resources from the existing schools. If people want to send their kids to these, they should pay. It is my tax dollars and license plate tax that I pay and not one dollar should be diverted to this quasi private entity. Another way to look at a charter school is people don't want their kids playing with others on a public playground but want the public to pay for membership at the country club. If put to a referendum the question should read 'do you want your tax dollars diverted to a quasi private entity'? The voters would reject it. All the arguments for it don't pass muster. The charter school does not add to what is being taught in the other 40 schools. So no to charter schools.	4/11/2023 4:59 PM
20	I am a parent who graduated from a charter school myself and given the option it is something that I would enroll my children in as well	4/8/2023 11:02 AM
21	They should not be allowed in Montgomery County. This county has a very diverse culture because of the military base and this school would prohibit those being taught in it to embrace diversity.	4/7/2023 5:53 AM
22	I am concerned about the board overseeing the school. I looked online and did not see that any of them had education experience. When I questioned Aaron Maberry in his Clarksville Chat post, he responded that 2 members had taught in the past, 1 was married to a teacher and 2 had children that were teachers. Because the director of Hillsdale College said, 'Tennessee teachers are dumb going to the dumbest colleges', I'd have to question the reasoning that this board would be better or even appropriate?	4/6/2023 11:12 PM
23	I'm delighted to hear that the American Classical Academy has filed to start a charter school here in Montgomery County. We truly need a return to the basics in education which have been long forgotten by todays system.	4/6/2023 11:50 AM
24	We want the charter school in Clarksville!!!	4/6/2023 9:22 AM
25	The fact that the people in charge at American Classical have titles like "CEO" is alarming all by itself. These people are in it for the money and that's one of many problems with education in this country, especially in TN. I am firmly against this and will fight it any way I can!	4/5/2023 3:55 PM
26	We are VERY for the charter coming! I'm from Idaho and have seen first hand the benefits it can add. I wholly attribute it to saving my sons education when we moved here because we had a plan in place for him, per the charter. The schools in TN were clueless how to help him! I	4/5/2023 1:29 PM

2023 Charter School Application Review - American Classical Academy - Montgomery

also have 2 sisters who attended a classical school for all their education, they are so academically successful! I have to wonder if the desire to not allow charter is rooted in a socialist desire to keep everyone on the same level and under a thumb of subpar education? The charter is not faith teaching, not for profit and not biased....what is the issue!? Bring the charter already please!!!!

27	We need this!!	4/5/2023 1:27 PM
28	I approve this to move forward!	4/5/2023 1:02 PM
29	I really hope this comes to fruition!!!	4/5/2023 12:47 PM
30	I am in favor of American Classical and their application for CMCSS. While CMCSS has established schools, American Classical will give parents the freedom to choose they type of education they want for their child. I prefer the classical style of teaching. The application provided by American Classical is sound and at times, provides better protections and policies than CMCSS has. The amount of children attending this school is approximately the same number of children who were expelled in 2022 by CMCSS 276. By not letting parents have a choice, it is seen as CMCSS telling parents either you pay out of pocket, or nothing at all. We don't want to be forced to send our child to a school that does not accurately reflect our ideology. As a low-income earner, I do not have the ability to send my child to outside education, nor do I have the time to home-school my child. At least American Classical will give me a chance through their lottery system, to send my child somewhere else. I ask you to please accept this application.	4/4/2023 2:57 PM
31	Give funding where it's needed. This is ridiculous.	4/2/2023 12:50 PM
32	"● Hair must be clean, neat, and styled traditionally. Only natural colors are allowed. No unusual or radical hairstyles. Hair accessories must be uniform colors (light or dark blue, khaki, or white). Novelty hair items are not allowed. Boys' hair should not come lower than the eyebrows in the front or lower than the top of the shirt collar in the back." - I do not like how this is worded. For example: Black children have history of braids and afros which has been said to be a distractions to others. However this is part of our culture and I feel they should be aloud to express themself in that way. The way this is worded makes it sound like the school can choose how they want hair to be to different groups of people. I believe hairstyles should be one way the kids can express themselves. Even though I feel a lot of hairstyles are tacky and I do not like them. I also believe kids should be able to express themselves in some way. I believe taken away and judging too many things from kids will created more issues and steal their sense of identity. This goes for ALL kids. white, black, etc.	4/2/2023 10:00 AM
33	Not if they are using Hillsdale curriculum. I do not believe that the Hillsdale curriculum would support the diverse student population of CMCSS.	4/2/2023 9:27 AM
34	We need more options for parents. Not a fan of CMCSS public schools.	4/2/2023 7:51 AM
35	No—focus on helping the public schools rather than take from them. When the TN legislative body was actively trying to increase classroom sizes and then charter schools use the argument to help overcrowded classrooms—seems like the government of Tn and charter schools might just be working from the same notes. No to charter schools.	4/2/2023 7:23 AM
36	I vote no as we need to focus on our schools at and not take money away from them	4/2/2023 7:10 AM
37	I do *not* support this application for the American Classical Academy Charter School. The curriculum associated with Hillsdale College is extremely partisan. Students should be receiving a well rounded education, and I do not believe that the proposed curriculum can provide that. I also oppose this charter school because it will take resources away from our existing public schools, which are already struggling. I would much prefer that CMCSS focus their attention on improving and enriching conventional public schools.	4/2/2023 12:31 AM
38	I recommend that we proceed, holding high performance expectations to help alleviate our currently crowded public school systems.	4/2/2023 12:20 AM
39	I feel a charter school is not needed at this time. What is CMCSS really needs is a reform to address bullying, provide a safe and calm learning environment for our children that is not solely focused on standardized test scores. The emotional health of our children play a huge role in their success and should be just as important as test scores.	4/1/2023 10:01 PM
40	This is a needed option for our community! Unfortunately, our poorly elected school board continues to work in their best interest and NOT the best interest of the community it's	4/1/2023 8:14 PM

2023 Charter School Application Review - American Classical Academy - Montgomery

supposed to represent. If they fail to allow again this year the only choice will be to vote the board out and vote in a new one that will respect the community's wishes.

41	Excellent decision and an opportunity to find a school so all students can learn. This will provide parents another avenue if they are no longer satisfied with the public education schools due to bullying, threats, and distractions from learning.	4/1/2023 8:12 PM
42	I am against allowing American Classical Academy to open a charter school in CMCSS. The one in St Cloud, FL was closed by the school district due to many financial and administrative issues. Clarksville public schools already offer all the courses their charter addresses and with their history in Florida of not being fiscally responsible, why would CMCSS open themselves up to using public funding a charter school? Not to mention the controversy around the nonprofit who operates the school and the curriculum the school uses, which is affiliated with Hillsdale College and prompts a religious based agenda and curriculum. That has no place being funded by public tax dollar taken away from the schools my children attend in CMCSS. This school would essentially be run as a private school with public funding, taking that funding away from the schools here that need it. Also, why is this charter being considered again when it was withdrawn in October 2022?	4/1/2023 5:27 PM
43	This is a horrible idea and should NOT be approved. The public schools we already have don't even get the funding they need right now. Why should we throw money at a new one that doesn't even cater to everyone and take away from the current schools.	4/1/2023 4:54 PM
44	It is my belief based on the application submitted that allowing this charter school into our school system will only help those of higher class status and will not help marginalized populations such as special needs students and will take money towards those marginalized communities which will hurt other schools who have programs in place. I strongly advise against this school being placed in our community	4/1/2023 4:02 PM
45	Public money should NOT go to schools who are not held to the same academic expectations. If this company wants to come in let them be private and do as they Please.	4/1/2023 3:09 PM
46	I think it's a great idea. I've always done charter school in New York and it's nice to see this area bringing this option here. Change is inevitable	4/1/2023 2:22 PM
47	Montgomery County doesn't need charter schools.	4/1/2023 2:07 PM
48	Please do not allow a charter school in Montgomery County. Charter schools disproportionately benefit students of greater means. This occurs primarily through the application process. Applications to most charter schools are intended to dissuade all but the most motivated families from applying to the institution. This is done by creating unnecessarily lengthy application forms and procedures to limit applications from families unwilling or unable to dedicate the time necessary to complete these forms. While lengthy applications themselves exclude many low-income applicants, complicated language and additional fees discourage children with uneducated parents from applying. Moreover, charter applications target minority populations by creating English-only application forms, inhibiting children of non-English-speaking and immigrant parents from attending. Secondly, charter schools divert much needed funding away from traditional public schools: students accepted into charter schools result in funding being diverted but often do not result in a headcount reduction, which means funds for resources and programs must be reduced instead, which has a negative impact on educational outcomes. Charter education is undercut by high teacher turnover rates or the rate of teacher circulation year over year. The higher the turnover rate, the general decrease in quality of education as students lose educational days. The loss of a single teacher is linked to a loss of 72 instructional days. Charter schools suffer from much higher teacher turnover rates than traditional public schools due to the long hours and lower pay associated with working at a charter school. As a result, "charters lose 24 percent of their teachers each year, double the rate of traditional public schools." The implications are two-fold. The first is in regards to funding. Already a substantial drain on TPS funding, charters' high turnover rate means that money that should be directed to other parts of the public school system is being wasted within charters. Secondly, students in districts suffering from higher turnover scores lower in math and English sections of standardized testing. In fact, "eliminating teacher turnover [increases] student achievement in math by . . . 4 percent." To be clear, this makes plenty of sense. When mid-year turnover occurs, it "disrupts the continuity of a child's learning experience" inhibits meaningful teacher-student relationships, and introduces incongruity in both curriculum and teaching style.	4/1/2023 1:58 PM
49	Charter schools are unnecessary in Montgomery County. Fund our public schools and give	4/1/2023 1:40 PM

2023 Charter School Application Review - American Classical Academy - Montgomery

them the support they need.

50	A Hillsdale charter school would be a great asset to the citizens of Clarksville/ Montgomery County. Hillsdale charter schools allow for students to be introduced to the classical education model that has shown to be a valuable option to the current public school system. Please consider allowing a Hillsdale charter school to be used incorporated within Clarksville/ Montgomery County.	4/1/2023 10:40 AM
51	I fully support the application of ACA-MCS to provide a classical education to Montgomery County school children.	4/1/2023 8:18 AM
52	I 100% support the establishment of the American Classical Academy-Montgomery Charter School. It has the content of what all the Montgomery County schools should have. At least some children will have an opportunity to have classical learning taught to them. I recommend a yes vote to approve this charter school.	3/31/2023 6:13 PM
53	I think another option for parents to send their students would be amazing! I think students with higher iqs could finally get the challenging coursework they need and could work at a faster pace which they desperately need and deserve, lower students would also benefit with smaller class sizes and innovative learning. To me it is a win win! On Fb the only complaint I have read are by teachers or CMCSS employees and many of those people do not even have kids.	3/30/2023 4:45 PM
54	Excited to see this school in our community!	3/30/2023 9:08 AM
55	We do not want charter schools here in Montgomery county!	3/28/2023 5:05 AM
56	Charter schools are undemocratic and encourage wealth disparity. Fuck that noise.	3/26/2023 4:53 PM
57	Local, state, and federal money should serve all students in CMCSS. This charter lacks equity and serves special interests by filtering money away from traditional schools. If the current model isn't working, apply changes to all schools. Place more responsibility on parents and require an academic and behavioral contract with consequences to parents, so they can assist in their children's academic, emotional, and moral development.	3/26/2023 9:01 AM
58	CMCSS does an excellent job providing a quality education with excellent teachers, real world technology practice, large facilities, career training, access to college courses, and teacher resources. Academic coaches, RTI interventionists, and guidance counselors are available to students and teachers. Charter schools cannot begin to offer this quality of education, and it is a disservice to students, families, and the community to approve this application. My son attended a Classical Academy in Colorado, and I was extremely impressed with the curriculum and instructor, but the school lacked a library, cafeteria (shared with gym), student transportation (No field trips & AM/PM major traffic), no clubs or sports teams, and very limited access to technology. Teachers received no benefits, so training was required for large staff turnover every year. A charter school must be able to prove they can provide the same quality education as CMCSS.	3/26/2023 7:22 AM
59	Keep charter schools out of Montgomery County, please.	3/25/2023 3:48 AM
60	I am not in favor of charter schools in CMCSS	3/24/2023 5:34 PM
61	I do not want any School associated with Hillsdale College operating in CMCSS. Charter schools siphon resources from public schools.	3/24/2023 5:09 PM
62	No. No. And no. We don't need a charter school. NO.	3/24/2023 2:29 PM
63	Please deny this application.	3/24/2023 6:33 AM
64	Unless this school will accept 100% of its applicants, no!!! Will it offer the same aspects of any other public school, including all special education services? Will teachers have to be highly qualified? Will the same state curriculum standards and laws be enforced? Will any tax dollars be taken from other schools? If YES answers any of this, NO!	3/23/2023 4:51 PM
65	We do not need this academy in our community. We have plenty of high quality schools in our town already. There is no need for this academy	3/23/2023 12:22 PM
66	This school will be a wonderful addition to our community. Please approve!	3/21/2023 11:25 AM
67	I want to see this school in our community. Please approve!	3/20/2023 4:38 PM

2023 Charter School Application Review - American Classical Academy - Montgomery

68	I support the authorization of American Classical Academy and want to see this option for my children.	3/15/2023 11:14 AM
69	I support ACA as an option for families. Their model and ideology does not appear to be drastically different from that of CMCSS, but ACA may be a better fit for some students.	3/11/2023 6:02 PM
70	I would LOVE to have this charter school in Clarksville. I love the classical model. Currently we do Classical Conversations for Homeschool.	3/10/2023 10:23 AM
71	I'm very excited to see this go before the CMCSS School Board. I hope the Board makes the correct decision by approving this innovative, proven option that our school system desperately needs.	3/9/2023 1:14 PM
72	I would appreciate more schooling options in Montgomery County. I would like this school option more if it would cater to high school. I went to an interest meeting and learned that it would not. (I have a child going into high school so this would be more beneficial to me) However, I fully support new school options because CMCSS currently does not adequately support and prepare students for the future. This charter school has a wholesome curriculum with a focus on the humanities. CMCSS schools are letting humanities slip to the wayside, much to my disappointment.	3/8/2023 11:23 AM
73	I think it's a sensible, wonderful idea to have Charter schools in the Clarksville TN area.	3/8/2023 10:50 AM
74	I am in full support of giving the parents of Montgomery county another opportunity to enhance the education of their children. Please give your full support to taking the steps necessary to establish the classical charter school here in Montgomery county.	3/8/2023 7:27 AM
75	This is thorough and beautifully written! I was flattered to see my letter of support at the end :) I have no further suggestions, and am hopeful CMCSS will give it a resounding YES.	3/7/2023 9:25 PM
76	I think American Classical Academy-Montgomery Charter School is a much needed addition in our county to be able to give children like mine who have been continuously pushed aside because the school does not want to deal with their special needs.	3/7/2023 8:16 PM
77	Our family is very excited about the possibility of this school being offered in our community. I know many others that feel the same way. We are currently a homeschool family and while we have many reasons why we chose to do so, education is one point. We use classical style education in our home and see the great lasting benefit that it has for our kids! I think that while it may be a new concept for some, it's a style of education that has been around that has been well established and many kids, including ours, would benefit from. Montgomery county should be honored that they think enough of our community and our youth to want to provide this sort of opportunity. I really hope this school is granted its request as there is a heap of families hoping for it. And our kids and their future is what matters most.	3/7/2023 7:50 PM
78	This is a much needed addition to our community and I really hope their application is approved.	3/7/2023 7:27 PM
79	I truly support the idea that we the people should have a choice / alternative for our children and American Classical Academy is a fine choice. I also reject the idea of blaming charter schools for the failures of the public school system.	3/7/2023 7:01 PM
80	As a parent of both a student and a recent graduate of CMCSS schools, I implore the CMCSS school board to DENY the application of American Classical Academy-Montgomery(ACAM) for a charter school in the CMCSS district. Charter Schools do nothing but absorb public funding for private school curricula. In this case, the curricula that would be used will indoctrinate its students to a rightward political bent and, at best, muddles the realities of our nation's history. These tax dollars would be e better spent by the school board on public schools. ACAM with its affiliation with Hillsdale College would not offer the children in Clarksville and Montgomery County a wide or open view of our world, let alone our nation. Even though the ACAM stipulates this will be a non-discriminatory school, it is tied to Hillsdale College which has a conservative political agenda to bring a rightward bent to education in public schools. Hillsdale, a small Christian college in Michigan is a mighty force in the crusade against the teaching of the history of racism in the United States, the banning of books in schools it finds "objectionable," and brings forward ideas of former President Trump's 1776 commission which had NO input from actual historians. This curriculum puts forward populist ideals and stifles dissent. These Classical Academies are popping up all over the nation and are granted free rights to use the Hillsdale College curriculum, which promotes ignorance, nationalism, and populism while stifling contrary ideas as "woke." I love America; warts and all. But we can not	3/3/2023 9:41 AM

2023 Charter School Application Review - American Classical Academy - Montgomery

be a better nation tomorrow than we are today unless we are open to examining the mistakes we've made in the past by our government and our society writ large. Any curriculum that stifles ideas and subjects that are deemed objectionable because of political bias endangers the very democracy this organization says it seeks to protect and promote. Do not allow this politicization of our public schools. Do not allow bias and ignorance to infiltrate our school district.

81	I am so excited about the prospect of Classical education being available for my kids outside of homeschooling them! Please give us parents more choices in our children's education locally! We want this charter school!	3/2/2023 4:56 PM
82	Black History didn't start in 1776. The whitewashing of History is disgusting.	3/2/2023 2:14 PM
83	No thank you. School choice yes. Charter school, no. Until they are held to the same accountability standards they shouldn't receive tax dollars. Example, sped students. They don't need a waiver. Support them just like a public school. What is their ELL plan? They need one just like a public school	3/1/2023 9:36 PM
84	Do not want Public funding for charter school! No mention of military supports, and no excused absences for deployments. Dress code too strict. Spelled really wrong.	3/1/2023 9:00 PM
85	Yes! Please give us more options for school choice. Alternative learning methods are a GOOD thing.	3/1/2023 5:52 PM
86	As a concerned member of the community and an educator, I feel compelled to speak out about the potential harms of opening a Hillsdale College associated charter school through American Classical Education. First and foremost, the mission statement of Hillsdale College, which includes the phrase "rooted in our Western and American heritage," raises red flags about the potential for a narrow and exclusionary curriculum. In discussing public education instructors, Larry Arn, the president of Hillsdale College, has stated "Teachers are trained in the dumbest part of the dumbest colleges in the country", further illustrating the likely bias. Opening a Hillsdale College associated charter school through American Classical Education has the potential to harm students by limiting their exposure to diverse perspectives, hindering critical thinking skills, and promoting political biases. As a community, we should carefully consider the potential drawbacks before moving forward with such a venture. While it's important to consider the potential harms, it's also important to acknowledge that charter schools can be a useful addition to the community when implemented properly. Charter schools have the potential to offer innovative approaches to education, offer more specialization, more community engagement, and improve academic outcomes for students. However, it's essential that charter schools are not established with a political or ideological bias, especially one that is hidden behind phrases such as "rooted in our Western and American heritage". Publicly funded education should be non-partisan and should focus solely on providing students with the knowledge and skills they need to succeed in their personal and professional lives. Charter schools that are associated with political or ideological groups can be harmful to students, limiting their exposure to diverse perspectives and ideas.	3/1/2023 11:09 AM
87	This school is connected to Hillsdale college which is problematic. Charter schools historically do not rise to the level of public schools, pull money from public schooling and are selective in the students they actually accept.	3/1/2023 9:49 AM
88	The school is deeply needed in this community. Not only will it bring a breath of fresh air and curriculum and character building. It will finally get loud parents to have an option. It will also allow parents to have an option that does not force technology on small children. The computer should not, and is not the only way to educate a child the school will prove it.	3/1/2023 9:12 AM
89	We do not want a charter school. Thank you!	3/1/2023 8:40 AM
90	There is no room in our community for this bias charter school to enter. Not only is the director of this charter school bias against public schools, but he point blank called the teachers and their programs of study dumb. I am quite familiar with this charter as I have nieces and nephews who attended. They are not held to the same State testing, standards and requirements as the public schools are. I also feel there will be bias in who they select to enroll. The location will be guided towards certain socioeconomically locations so it will not be accessible by some of the most vulnerable families and students in our system. There were issues before with their application, and the appeal was denied. I don't think they will change anything in regards to what issues we're at hand last time. They will only gloss things over.	3/1/2023 5:59 AM

2023 Charter School Application Review - American Classical Academy - Montgomery

Governor Lee was wrong to select this one charter to push into public schools, also showing his bias. Please be considerate of ALL students and their needs in the system!

91	This should be approved.	3/1/2023 4:59 AM
92	The proposal for American Classical Academy Montgomery is inherently designed to create a public school which targets the overall wealthiest communities for enrollment while sapping school district resources from allocation to the disadvantaged families of the broader CMCSS community. The proposed trajectory of facility placement, transportation policies, and "community of preference" gearing of this charter school is directly in conflict with the provisions of the schools charter proposal for support to the disadvantaged families of the CMCSS community. The area of all four proposed sites are without direct access or plausible zoning provisions to support any low income community of CMCSS. Furthermore the proposal plans to operate without any publicly available transportation scheme. Even placing 3 of 4 proposed locations miles outside of any available public transit options. This school proposal is blatantly exclusive. Geared to support a separatist ideology that would provision smaller class sizes, less structured educational pathways and more individualized education options to the wealthiest populations of southeast Clarksville while taking public funding from more inclusive zoning regions. Through it's charter, the ACAM is the essence of wealth gap expanding education policy and must be prevented from exacerbating the cycle of poverty in the greater Clarksville area.	3/1/2023 12:24 AM
93	Vote no. The Board Members have applied at every county they work/reside and look to be hoping one sticks. I do not have faith they want what is best in our community or children's futures. I do not believe Public School Funding should be used for Charter/Private schools. In addition, meetings related to Charter schools should be open to all in person. Limiting to online only questions OR 10a-2p timeframes does not allow working parents or school employees the ability to attend.	2/28/2023 11:51 PM
94	I do not support this charter school application.	2/28/2023 10:52 PM
95	Please pass this so our children can have a chance at a good education without the overcrowding and interruptions.	2/28/2023 8:39 PM
96	We NEED this charter school! Currently, our schools are completely overrun, CMCSS land is being given away for other purposes, and there are no plans to add more elementary schools... even though it is clearly needed, especially by the base. This charter school would provide another opportunity for our kids to receive classical education, with more proven data behind success, than what is currently offered anywhere within the district. Please, as a concerned parent, I implore you to do what is right and provide another avenue for our childrens' education!	2/28/2023 7:48 PM
97	This school does not need be to be approved. Its director, Delores Grisham, is a known opponent of public education. Hillsdale curriculum is not what we need or want in this county. Hillsdale has made it vastly clear that it does not respect teachers (who come from the dumbest parts of the dumbest schools). This curriculum cannot help but perpetuate his ideals. He was denied a charter school after his comments and I feel that this is a back door way for him to get in this county. VOTE NO.	2/28/2023 7:20 PM
98	I am not for a charter school in Montgomery County.	2/28/2023 7:16 PM
99	Montgomery County needs charter schools in its district. Students need options to meet their learning goals and styles.	2/28/2023 6:55 PM
100	Do not approve of the connection to Hillsdale College	2/28/2023 6:06 PM
101	This school looks well-organized and like a great asset to our community. I would like the opportunity to send my children there.	2/28/2023 4:09 PM
102	County residents have already expressed vocal disapproval for this charter school provider, particularly with their raw contempt towards educators. Please do not accept any more applications from them.	2/28/2023 3:18 PM
103	I think the Charter school would be a great asset to the community. Love the mission statement.	2/28/2023 2:28 PM
104	There does not seem to be appropriate measures regarding this Charter School's ability to fund itself, only to detract funds from CMCSS that could be used for technology, classroom	2/28/2023 2:19 PM

2023 Charter School Application Review - American Classical Academy - Montgomery

improvements, teacher salary, and other staffing needs. At this time I cannot support a charter for American Classical Academy.

105	I understand having school choice, but I believe that CMCSS already allows that with our high schools. I'm cautious about Charter schools since they are under the umbrella of the dept. of ed but they are independent. Many of charter schools have shown to be failing because they are independent and do not follow the exact standards as our public schools. I believe CMCSS schools are wonderful and there is no need to have a charter school in Clarksville Montgomery County.	2/28/2023 2:13 PM
106	They should not be allowed here.	2/28/2023 1:57 PM
107	Deny it!!!!!!	2/28/2023 7:03 AM