

AN INTRODUCTION TO GRAMMAR AND UPPER SCHOOL

In the Grammar Years, *Grades 3-6*, we are building on the foundation formed in the Primary Years and setting students up for success in Upper School, *Grades 7-12*. What distinguishes a classical, Christian school and HLS Northeast Wisconsin is that it prioritizes for its students not simply *knowledge*, but *wisdom*, and affords not only *content* but *character*.

Pursuing a Classical Education

To have a true classical education, a student has learned Latin, probably Greek, has an understanding of history and ancient cultures, and has read the great books broadly. A student who receives a classical education shares an experience and a common body of knowledge with extraordinary men and women of centuries past.

The classical curriculum begins in earnest in the grammar school, where students memorize the Latin grammar, followed by the logic stage in grades 7-8, where they study syntax and translation, and finally grades 9-12, where students read Latin literature. Latin, however, is not the only concern of a classical education. Reading the classics is also vitally important. The best there is in literature and history civilizes the mind. It teaches those human qualities that children are simply not born with, such as unselfishness, compassion, courage, integrity, honesty, and justice. We select the very best literature in every grade and have the best faculty that can bring these works alive in the classroom and draw out all that is good and true and beautiful. Literature, history, and great role models are some of the best tools we have to accomplish one of our most important goals at HLS Northeast Wisconsin, which is character development.

Prioritizing Core Subjects

Every minute of our school day is precious; we know that. We must prioritize. Though there are many, many good options, choosing what is the BEST use of our time is what distinguishes a great school. With conscientious planning and dedication to a purposeful goal, we have found that our students are capable of amazing feats. We utilize the Memoria Press curriculum, which provides continuity and order for our students, and focus on core subjects—*Latin & Logic, Classical Studies, Literature, and Classical Composition*. These courses honor the classical tradition and maximize the benefits of the traditional classroom setting for lecture and group discussion. We also provide classes for Grammar School *math, science, geography, and Christian Studies*.

Partnering with a Cottage School

The success of your student at Cottage School is two-fold—attending classroom days and completing home study days. All new material for each lesson is introduced on Cottage School days. Assignments for home study days include review, completion of Student Guides, and preparation for the next class. Tests and quizzes, when assigned, will be completed at home, checked by the parent, and submitted to the instructor for review. This allows the teachers to adjust the lecture time accordingly. As Grammar School students grow in their ability to take responsibility, information transfer between school and home will be handled in increasing measures through the student using the Student Planner.

GRAMMAR AND UPPER SCHOOL

LATIN & LOGIC | The heart of a classical education is the study of a classical language, Latin. HLS Northeast Wisconsin students study Latin every year, beginning in the third grade, and it is our primary course for the teaching of grammar as you see the structure of language most clearly with Latin. Latin makes English come alive. Latin is the most effective tool we have to train and develop the minds of young students. Memorizing the Latin grammar is a great challenge and thrill for students. The mastery of the grammar greatly enhances English language skills and builds the kind of confidence that comes only from great achievement. Latin develops the mind of the young student like no other subject. There is no substitute for the mental development provided by the study of the Latin grammar.

RESOURCES: *“How Latin Develops the Mind”, “Latin: The Next Step After Phonics”*

CLASSICAL STUDIES | Classical Studies is the natural companion to Latin. In classical studies, students study Greek mythology and Greek and Roman history and literature every year, gradually deepening their knowledge and understanding. This long grounding prepares students to read the classics of Greek, Roman, and English literature, and to study and understand the modern world. Students will also master a total of 60 events over the course of four years (3-6 grades). History is a very unsystematic subject, and time is very abstract. Students need a timeline that they memorize, build on, and recite every year. This includes events from Christian, Classical, and American Studies.

RESOURCES: *“Why Study Greek Mythology?”, “Memoria Press’ Two-Track History”*

LITERATURE | An essential component in the development of superior language skills is the study of good literature, which provides models of correct English and excellence in writing. The ear and eye are trained by constant exposure to good English usage. Students learn best by imitation. Our classroom reading selections are carefully chosen to increase in reading difficulty each year. Books are read slowly and thoroughly in class, accompanied by our Literature Guides. Poetry for the Grammar Stage is also studied in class. Poetry study includes questions to help students analyze meanings of the poems, including vocabulary work. Poems increase in difficulty as students move through the book over a four-year period.

RESOURCES: *“A Case for Memoria Press Study Guides”, “Why Read Literature?”*

CLASSICAL COMPOSITION | Memoria Press’s composition program, *Classical Composition*, is based on the original classical method of teaching writing called the *“progymnasmata.”* It was the program that produced John Milton and William Shakespeare. This method involved learning fourteen skills, organized from the simplest and most basic to the most complex and sophisticated. We desire for our students to become as Quintilian states *“the good man speaking well”* – employing both wisdom and eloquence in spoken and written word. English Grammar is also taught during this block.

RESOURCES: *“The Before Exercises: Classical Composition: Training in Wisdom & Virtue”*

SCIENCE | MATH | GEOGRAPHY | CLASSICAL STUDIES | These course offerings further enhance and support your classical education. Details can be found at our website.

