



GRAMMAR SCHOOL

(Grades 3-4)

Our formal classical curriculum begins in 3rd grade, carefully preparing students with foundational knowledge and the important academic skills to successfully read and enjoy the rich literature content in classical education. In addition, analytical and critical thinking skills are developed in 3rd and 4th grade as students begin the study of Latin grammar.

In preparation for mathematics, accuracy and spontaneous recall with arithmetic continues to be emphasized in the elementary years.

Grammar school continues to reinforce the important academic and social skills emphasized in the primary school:

- Quality written work completed in a timely manner
- Legible penmanship and accurate spelling
- Speed and accuracy in arithmetic
- Reading comprehension and vocabulary acquisition
- Memorization of poetry and Scripture
- Appropriate classroom behavior
- Discipline and self-control
- Good manners and respect for adults and classmates

Students learn from well-designed materials, high quality content, and teacher-directed lessons. Classrooms are quiet, disciplined, and orderly, with minimal visual distractions. Students are motivated to work and learn because they are led by knowledgeable, enthusiastic teachers. Students work hard and are rewarded every day with breaks for physical exercise, music, drawing, art, and review games. Students in grades 3-4 are carefully prepared for the reading of classic literature and history, and for advanced math and science which begin in the upper grades.

For the traditional curriculum:

- For English, spelling, and math, Rod and Staff produces traditional textbooks that provide uncluttered pages and clear instructions.
- The science curriculum develops the observational skills that lie at the heart of scientific endeavor. Students study constellations, the solar system, invertebrates, insects, vertebrates, birds, plants, and tree identification.
- The very best in English literature and poetry are taught in depth using Memoria Press study guides.

- In American/Modern Studies, students focus on states, capitals, and world geography.

For the classical classroom:

- Latin - Students memorize the complete Latin grammar and a Latin vocabulary of about 200 words and novice translation.
- Classical Studies - Students study Greek myths and Greek and Roman history.
- Christian Studies - Students learn all major Bible stories and memorize verses from the beautiful and poetic King James Bible.

Composition

Students write and illustrate one in-class composition each week in their *Composition and Sketchbook*, which is sent home at the end of the year. During the Spring Term students also write one multi-page report in class. Students learn composition by reworking existing, masterful stories into original works.

Homework

All material is covered carefully in class. Students who are attentive and work diligently in class should have no more than 30-45 minutes of homework each night and 2-3 hours on Mondays.

Preparation (Homework)

A) *Written*

One drill set of math problems, five assignments/week (approximately 15 minutes each)

B) *Study for Exams*

1. Spelling test each Friday (20 words)
2. Latin vocab test each Friday (10 words)
3. One or two exams each week, in subject areas above. Exams usually cover five lessons in each subject. Students are provided with a study guide, but exam material is reviewed in class and should require minimum study at home. Preparation for each exam often includes a class game.

C) *Reading*

1. Reading/rereading literature or classical studies texts
2. Reading for pleasure

D) *Latin Vocabulary Flashcards*

Latin vocabulary is cumulative and must be reviewed continuously throughout the year