

Curriculum Guide

Hope Lutheran School: A Classical Academy

2023-24



Bryan Northcutt, Headmaster

My goal is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love, so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

Colossians 2:2-3

“So we also must consider that a contest, the greatest of all contests, lies before us, for which we must do all things, and, in preparation for it, must strive to the best of our power, and must associate with poets and writers of prose and orators and with all men from whom there is any prospect benefit with reference to the care of our soul.” - *Basil the Great* (c. 329-79)

Introduction

Gracious Friend of Hope Lutheran,

For those seeking to love education, we believe it starts with the mastery of the liberal arts and the ability to read, write, and think within the realm of truth and proper logic. It is by revelation we know of God; furthermore, it is through our knowledge of Him, His Word, and His creation that we can serve Him best in this present world. We do not believe the answer to education is in drowning our students in information that blow to and fro in the halls of academia. It is essential that they learn the skills, fundamentals, and ability to discern so that the knowledge they obtain can be applied correctly to all of their life.

While the progressive educational movement runs a perpetual race to discover how to educate their students satisfactorily that offers up no lasting pedagogy, leaping from one fad to another and shifting from one technology that soon becomes obsolete to the next novel version of itself, we believe that the fundamentals of reading, writing, and speaking are beyond satisfactory to the proper education of the child that congruently develops the mind, which is part of that child rather than a disparate device that will be left behind at year's end. To this end, we seek to firmly establish in the child the values of the Classical Christian system: Justice, Temperance, Fortitude, Prudence, Faith, Hope, and Love. These values will guide the student in their academic career and the vocational, family, civic, and spiritual life that continues after their institutional learning and instills in them a love for God's Beauty. Therefore, by the agency of a Classical Pedagogy manifested in our curriculum, we yearn to instruct the children in these *vias veritatis* (ways of truth). Through Latin, Literature, Religion, Mathematics, History, Composition, English, Logic, and Science, all weaved together with the crimson thread of Christianity; we fashion these young minds into an Acropolis of scholarly excellence.

Our faculty is dedicated to the Classical Educational Philosophy and fully embraces the Christian aspects of this beautiful approach toward education. This guide will allow you to understand and perceive a typical day in each grade level and how, through additional enrichments such as Music, Art, and Physical Education, we seek to reach the highest level of our abilities for every child. We, therefore, seek to go ever higher, not condescending to the culture of our times.

Excelsior,

Bryan Northcutt, M.A., M.Sc.

Headmaster

The Day

The day at Hope Lutheran begins in the sanctuary for prayer and Scripture reading along with announcements at 7:55 AM. At 8:05 AM the children exit to their classrooms (except for Wednesday Chapel) where they begin their Catechism & Latin Recitations. From this point every class is different in how they schedule their day due to a variety of factors. Lunch begins between 11:30 -11:45 AM (dismissed youngest to oldest), and “Specials” that consist of Art, Music, Library, and PE are in the afternoons for the K-6. At the end of the day the students are released at 4:05 PM for the parents to take home. Extended care is available for students who are able, and partake in Tutoring (M,W) or Game Time (T, TH) until the school closes at 5:00 PM.

The Classroom

The classroom at Hope Lutheran-Classical Academy is a structured place of learning. Students thrive when there is structure and behavior problems simply diminish. In our school, we utilize multi-grade classrooms for the 1-8 grades. Our focus is the dissemination of knowledge, the forging of character, and the development of fundamental intellectual and analytical skills in our students, not the mere entertainment of children. Grades 1 and 2 (**Grammar**) are together in the same classroom, Grades 3 and 4 (**Advanced-Grammar**) likewise, Grades 5 and 6 (**Pre-Logic**) are together, and Grades 7 and 8 (**Logic**) also.

The Faculty

Our faculty at Hope Lutheran are dedicated, loving members of the Christian community that confirm the Trinitarian Orthodox Christian faith. We have several faculty members with degrees and certificates in Ministry, Apologetics/Philosophy, Theology, History, Science, and Education. All members of the K-8 faculty are required to have at least a Bachelor's degree, while several have advanced degrees. Additionally, all of the Elementary faculty has been trained in Classical Education through professional development, conferences, and readings, and they continue to pursue this increase of knowledge. While some have state certifications, we do not require this due to the disparate nature of the States' educational requirements and standards from that of the Classical pedagogue.

Theology/Bible

Summa

Theology is a word in our culture that ruffles the feathers of many people. We at Hope believe that proper theology enhances the relationship and growth of the individual toward God and helps to form better citizens in our society. How we view God and relate to Him is dependent on our understanding of Him and our comprehension of Christ. The Scriptures are the core of our Theology and its values the cornerstone of our curriculum. While we seek to disciple these students in the values of Scripture, we do employ Luther's Small Catechism to instill them with these precepts. Every morning our children will recite the catechism and engage in prayer.

We provide chapel every Wednesday morning for the entire school which is led by Pastor Garen Pay. The children sing songs, light the candles (5-8 Grade), listen to the message, say the Lord's Prayer, and partake in a closing hymn and benediction. All families are invited and encouraged to attend our chapel services and church services if they do not have a church home. It is our delight to welcome them as families and instruct them in the ways of Christ.

Instructional Design

Through the implementation of Bible Study in the curriculum, Catechism Recitation, Chapel Service, and Socratic Discussions in other subjects these blend and integrate the necessity of maintaining a Christian Worldview while examining the other disciplines.

Curriculum

Kindergarten - *One in Christ* (Concordia Publishing House)

Grammar- *Christian Studies Enrichment, Story Bible* (Memoria Publishing); CPH Supplemental

Advanced Grammar- *Christian Studies I & II* (Memoria Publishing)

Pre-Logic-*Christian Studies III* (Memoria Publishing)

Logic- *Christian Studies IV* (Memoria Publishing)

Assessment Methods

- Socratic Discussion & Participation
- Memory Work
- Examinations & Quizzes

Latin

Summa

Tacitus said (*Agricola*) in addressing Agricola's pacification of the Britons, "Moreover, he began to train the sons of the chieftains in a liberal education, and to give a preference to the native talents of the Briton as against the trained abilities of the Gaul. As a result the nation which used to reject the Latin language began to aspire to rhetoric..." The introduction of Latin grammar developed the minds of the previously uncivilized Britons into a structured and logical way of thought that created a love of honor and knowledge. The ability to construct a dead language in a way that seems difficult and confusing distinct from a composite language that is constantly changing such as English, allows the mind to grow in its understanding of logical compositions and how to establish the flow of reasoned thinking.

Another benefit of Latin studies is that English is partly influenced by Latin and it allows the student to learn reasons for our usage of such words. Latin is also helpful in understanding sentence structure and parts of speech. And there is yet another benefit to studying Latin as the Romantic languages such as Spanish, Italian, and French are also derived heavily from Latin so that a student who studies Latin will have an easier time studying one of these foreign languages.

Instructional Design

Beginning in the second grade the children will commence their journey in Latin studies. They will continue to increase year after year until they will reach Second Form Latin at some point in their Logic years. The Pre-Logic and Logic stages will be supplemented by another form for those who have previously taken the Latin curriculum for that age group. They can then move forward with further Latin exercises to establish it securely in their minds.

Curriculum

Grammar- *Prima Latina* (Memoria Publishing)

Advanced Grammar- *Latina Christiana* (Memoria Publishing)

Pre-Logic- *First Form Latin* (Memoria Publishing); *Storybook Latin Year 2* (Logos Press)

Logic- *First Form Latin/Second Form Latin, Caesar: Commentarii de Bello Gallico* (Memoria Publishing); *Storybook Latin Year 3* (Logo Press)

Assessment Methods

- Participation/Assignments
- Examinations & Quizzes
- Recitation

Spelling, Grammar, Penmanship

Summa

Spelling is something of a loss today in many schools as technology replaces our perceived need to spell words correctly. However, it is an understanding of phonics, sight words, and correct spelling that develops our brains in how to read correctly and write sentences and paragraphs. The spellcheck on many computers will help someone correct a mistake but they must be close for the computer to recognize the mistake. Writing requires proper grammar and understanding of books. It is closely associated with proper reading and composition.

Penmanship is understood as both printing and cursive. Only through the beauty that cursive offers can you exercise your left and right brain simultaneously to write in this manner. It is an art that is achievable by many. Knowing how to write cursive is essential to write proper signatures for identity verification as well as the capacity to read other documents written in cursive.

Curriculum

Kindergarten - *First Start Reading Phonics* (Memoria Publishing)

Grammar- *English Grammar Practice, New American Cursive, Traditional Spelling, First Start Reading Phonics* (Memoria Publishing)

Advanced Grammar- *English Grammar Recitation I, New American Cursive, Traditional Spelling* (Memoria Publishing)

Pre-Logic- *English Grammar Recitation II, Copy Book Cursive II & III* (Memoria Publishing), *Spelling Workout F & G* (McGraw Hill)

Logic- *English Grammar Recitation III & IV* (Memoria Publishing); Spelling from various textbooks

Assessment Methods

- Penmanship Assignments
- Spelling Exams and Assignments
- Reading Groups
- Individual Assessments
- Grammar Exams

Composition & Progymnasmata

Summa

Many students today graduate high school without any understanding how to write a paper or work of any sort. Through our Composition Curriculum which employs the progymnasmata our students will learn how to write with various types of styles and devices to complete literary or scholarly works that they are assigned to accomplish. We begin with Fable, continue to Narrative, then to Chreia & Maxim, and finish with Refutation and Confirmation.

Curriculum

Advanced Grammar- *Classical Composition I: Fable*(Memoria Publishing)

Pre-Logic- *Classical Composition II: Narrative* (Memoria Publishing)

Logic- *Classical Composition III: Chreia & Maxim; Classical Composition IV: Refutation & Confirmation* (Memoria Publishing)

Assessment Methods

- Workbook Assignments
- Essays in Science and History

Literature

Summa

Literature is our doorway into another culture and time. It allows us to observe ourselves in a mirror that illuminates our strengths and deficiencies. From the insight of David Wright, Literature:

- Exercises our Imagination
- Transports us out of our current context
- Observe the World through the eyes of others
- Shapes cultures
- Fosters contemplation and reflection
- Assists us to understand humanity

Therefore, whether it is to develop our reading and comprehensive skills, or if it is to peer analytically into another culture and derive moral and philosophical discernment while contributing to our historiographical appreciation of their time, The Great Books are essential in the development of the intellect and character of our students.

Instructional Design

Studying the Classics, whether Plato's Republic or Beowulf, will help us understand the philosophical and religious views of the people we observe in history. Reading from C.S. Lewis or J.R.R. Tolkien helps us to understand the moral character and virtues of individuals in another world and how they assist or deter them and their companions toward good. The Great Books display the beauty, value, and qualities of God's creation and their communicable ability to enlighten us in what is corrupt or righteous and the consequences of those actions.

Curriculum

Kindergarten - *Read Aloud Books* (Memoria Publishing, Various)

Grammar- *Read Aloud Books; The Courage of Sara Noble, Prairie School, Tales From Beatrix Potter, Little House in the Big Woods, Animal Fold Tales of America* (Memoria Publishing, Various)

Advanced Grammar- *Mr. Poppers' Penguins, A Bear Called Paddington, Charlotte's Web, Farmer Boy, The Blue Fairy Book, The Cricket in Times Square, Homer Price, Dangerous Journey* (Memoria Publishing)

Pre-Logic- *Lassie Come Home, Heidi, The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe, King Arthur and His Knights of the Round Table, The Adventures of Robin Hood, The Door in the Wall, Adam of the Road, The Hobbit, The Magician's Nephew, The Trojan War* (Memoria Press)

Logic- *The Horse and His Boy, Prince Caspian, The Voyage of the Dawn Treader, The Lord of the Rings: Fellowship of the Rings, The Two Towers, The Return of the King; Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*, (Memoria Press); Supplemented by the *Omnibus* (Veritas Publishing)

Assessment Methods

- Reading Groups
- Socratic Discussion (Participation)
- Reflective Essays
- Exams & Quizzes

History & Geography

Summa

History is the events of Providence that contribute to the plan of Redemption, specifically the incarnation and the cross (B.C.), and carries out the mandate of the Resurrection and Ascension, specifically the church (A.D.). Where there are humans, there is sin and corruption. Where there are people, there are individuals made in the *Imago Dei* (Image of God). Therefore, we can learn from history both the negative and positive qualities of humanity and civilization. As Classical Christians, we understand the immense value of the three cultures that have contributed to Western Civilization - the Hebrews, Greek, and Romans.

In the study of history, it is difficult not to engage the philosophy or zeitgeist that permeates that particular culture and learn where we have come from and why we are moving in the direction that we are, considering what changes we should make to that bearing. When we observe their contributions and detractions, then we can more appropriately understand our own way of thinking in which our culture shapes us. Thus, the politically renowned military leaders, the cultural influencers, and the church's theologians can give us insight into our own course of action and wisdom in our judgment.

Instructional Design

We utilize a basic understanding of the Mythology of the Ancients, history from the Romans, Greeks, Medieval Europeans, and the Modern West. As one enters from the Pre-Logic to the Logic stage, their historical studies will transition from workbook to paper writing. Geography is supplemental in helping the students know what countries and regions are where they are so that they can contextualize the history they learn.

Curriculum

Grammar- *1st Grade Enrichment, 2nd Grade Enrichment* (Memoria Publishing)

Advanced Grammar- *D'Aulaires' Greek Myths, Famous Men of Rome, The Aeneid For Boys & Girls, States and Capitals* (Memoria Publishing); *A Rendezvous with Idaho History* (Dutton/Humphries)

Pre-Logic- *Famous Men of the Middle Ages, Famous Men of Greece, Geography I & Geography 2* (Memoria Publishing)

Logic- *Omnibus I* (Veritas Press); *Alexander the Great, Julius Caesar* (Cannon Press)

Assessment Methods

- Socratic Discussion (Participation)
- Reflective Essays
- Exams & Quizzes

Logic & Philosophy

Summa

Logic (dialectic) trains a person in good reasoning so they properly understand questions and make good arguments; the study of logic is built on formal logic which allows a person to follow the logic of an argument. This is why many classical schools embrace Socratic discussion. By studying philosophy we can objectively look at our presuppositions and beliefs to determine if they are too heavily influenced by something else creating a bias within us. If we engage in philosophy we can additionally understand the claims that others make and comprehend them better in order to challenge them or accept them.

Apologetics also utilizes philosophy and logic. It is at the core of our school to give reasonable evidence and philosophical discussion for the existence of God and the theological value of Christianity. In every subject it is the instructor's responsibility to include apologetic approaches to teaching the curriculum.

Curriculum

Logic- *Omnibus I* (Veritas Press); *Introductory Logic: The Fundamentals of Thinking Well, The Amazing Dr. Ransom's Bestiary of Adorable Fallacies: A Field Guide for Clear Thinkers* (Canon Press); *Traditional Logic I & II* (Memoria Press)

Assessment Methods

- Socratic Discussion (Participation)
- Exams & Quizzes

Anglo-Saxon Studies

Summa

The study of Anglo-Saxon culture allows a distinct connection to be made between history, language, and literature that combines with Christian theology. It also permits the student to understand the foundation for other classical literature as they are the fundamental culture that influenced and guided the English development in the medieval and modern periods, which produces remarkable achievements, government, and literature that we clearly associate with Classical Education and the American experiment. Through their global exploits, England also heavily influenced many nations on six of the seven continents.

Instructional Design

This class will be taught to appreciate the history of the Anglo-Saxon people such as Alfred the Great's and Bede's writings. They will learn to value the rich literature that is written in many of the poems that utilize alliteration, kennings, caesurae, and strong stresses along with the symbolism that incorporates Christianity. The students will enjoy being instructed in the Anglo-Saxon language itself so that they can translate primary sources. This class will be an exercise in learning that will not be ridged, but informative. It will be conducted in a delightful way so that the middle schoolers will not be overburdened in their introduction to these concepts.

Curriculum

Logic- *Rudiments of Anglo-Saxon, Alfred The Great*, (Canon Press); *The British Tradition I* (Memoria Press); *Bede: The Ecclesiastical History of the English People* (Oxford University Press); *Beowulf* (WW Norton & Company)

Assessment Methods

- Socratic Discussion (Participation)
- Essays

Mathematics

Summa

Mathematics is a fundamental basis of reality, thereby it is essential that our students know it well. As they study the logical formation of equations in relation to solutions, they establish skills that will be essential to their everyday life and most careers that they may choose to pursue. Math is always right. The students are taught that even the slightest error in Math will result in an errant solution. This is how we also see God as creator of the universe. Descartes makes this distinction, “And since the supreme perfections of which we have an idea are in no way to be found in us, we rightly conclude that they reside in something distinct from ourselves, namely God- or certainly that they once did so, from which it most evidently follows that they are still there.”

Instructional Design

We begin teaching number skipping, introduce fractions, addition, and subtraction in Kindergarten; advanced number skipping, addition, and subtraction in first grade; multiplication in the second grade; division in third grade; long division in fourth grade; fractional arithmetic in fifth grade, advanced fractional arithmetic & geometrical area & volume in sixth grade, Pre-Algebra in seventh grade, and Algebra I in eighth grade.

Curriculum

Kindergarten - *Numbers; Rod & Staff Arithmetic Grade 1* (Memoria Publishing)

Grammar- *Rod & Staff Arithmetic Grade 1 & 2* (Memoria Publishing)

Advanced Grammar- *Rod & Staff Arithmetic Grade 3 & 4* (Memoria Publishing)

Pre-Logic- *Rod & Staff Arithmetic Grade 5 & 6* (Memoria Publishing)

Logic- *College of the Redwoods Pre-Algebra* (Memoria Publishing); Algebra 1 (Prentice Hall)

Assessment Methods

- Assignments (Participation)
- Exams & Quizzes

Science

Summa

Science once referenced any body of knowledge. As the Christian Worldview penetrated the European World and the Protestant Reformation occurred seeking to investigate deeper into knowing God through His creation, along with the explosion of public Christian-based education, the Scientific Revolution began to make significant discoveries throughout Northern Europe and North America. Though the “hard” sciences or empirical sciences certainly had men from other geographical locations, cultures, and time periods make startling breakthroughs into this realm of Natural Philosophy, their cultures often deemed them irrelevant and so they stood destined for obscurity as solitary men of science.

Instructional Design

We study science in our school not only for the practical professional value that it has on our students for their potential future careers, but so that they might see the beauty and order of the Creator and be able to think apologetically how we see God’s existence by observing nature giving us both Cosmological and Fine Tuning apologies. As we make our way through the lower school we will instruct broadly in the Grammar class, and begin to become more distinct and in-depth as they increase their grade levels. In the Advanced Grammar stage the students will learn about Astronomy and Mammals. Astronomy helps to ground their understanding of the Greek Mythology that they study in history while pointing them back to the Triune God of Christianity. Mammals gives the students a basis for understanding the life sciences and God’s creation. They then move onto a thorough study of Birds and Insects in Pre-Logic. In the Logic stage, they will take a comprehensive look at Biology and the History of Medicine.

Curriculum

Kindergarten- *Read Alouds* (Memoria Publishing; Various)

Grammar- *Read Alouds; Patterns of Nature* (Memoria Publishing; Various)

Advanced Grammar- *The Book of Astronomy, The World of Mammals* (Memoria Publishing)

Pre-Logic- *The Book of Birds, The Book of Insects* (Memoria Publishing)

Logic- *Exploring the World of Biology, Exploring the History of Medicine* (Memoria Publishing)

Assessment Methods

- Assignments & Workbooks (Participation)
- Exams & Quizzes
- Science Projects
- Expedition Yellowstone & Camp Perkins Outdoor Educational Projects

Fine Arts

Summa

Music was once considered one of the seven liberal arts, one of the four mathematical subjects in the quadrivium. This is because music theory deals with numerical proportions. However, music performance itself is a fine art, and learning performance and theory together is only natural. Teaching children to make music, whether with instruments or voices, is a positive way to enhance their appreciation of it.

Visual arts such as painting, drawing, and sculpture can train a person to observe the world around them carefully and recognize physical beauty. Aside from art classes themselves, we also make an effort to make every day a beautiful experience. From hanging great art in classrooms, to wearing uniforms, we recognize the influence that aesthetic and orderly surroundings will have on the students.

Instructional Design

Our Music program begins in Kindergarten-2 with children listening to classical pieces and learning about their composers. K-6 have instructional time with a music teacher where they learn theory and instrumental instruction. They also participate in choral development as they sing in our Christmas Program and Spring Exordium.

Regarding Art we decorate our rooms with elegant paintings in the Advanced Grammar - Logic stages. The Kindergarten - Pre-logic stage have one class a week where they learn the fundamental skills of art, a bit about its history and prominent artists, that allow them to explore the methods of various forms of Art. Enjoying the Beauty of God's orderly world and being able to re-create that in some medium is at the core of the Classical system.

Curriculum

Kindergarten- *Kindergarten Enrichment, Music Enrichment, The Book of Crafts* (Memoria Publishing)

Grammar- *First Grade Enrichment, Second Grade Enrichment, Music Enrichment, Art Cards, The Book of Crafts* (Memoria Publishing)

Advanced Grammar- *Creating Art* (Memoria Publishing)

Pre-Logic- *Various Materials and Lesson Plans for Teaching Art* (Ridge Light Ranch)

Assessment Methods

- Projects & Assignments
- Participation

“But if children were instructed and trained in schools, or wherever learned and well-trained schoolmasters and schoolmistresses were available to teach the languages, the other arts, and history, they would then hear of the doings and sayings of the entire world, and how things went with various cities, kingdoms, princes, men, and women. Thus, they could in a short time set before themselves as in a mirror the character, life, counsels, and purposes – successful and unsuccessful – of the whole world from the beginning; on the basis of which they could then draw the proper inferences and in the fear of God take their own place in the stream of human events. In addition, they could gain from history the knowledge and understanding of what to seek and what to avoid in this outward life, and be able to advise and direct others accordingly. . . . For my part, if I had children and could manage it, I would have them study not only languages and history, but also singing and music together with the whole of mathematics [i.e. the quadrivium: arithmetic, music, geometry, astronomy]. For what is all this but mere child’s play? The ancient Greeks trained their children in these disciplines; yet they grew up to be people of wondrous ability, subsequently fit for everything. How I regret now that I did not read more poets and historians, and that no one taught me them!”

Martin Luther: “To the Councilmen of All Cities in Germany that they Establish and Maintain Christian Schools” (AE, vol. 45, p. 368-70)

