

# Curriculum Overview by Grade

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## GRAMMAR SCHOOL

### *Pre-Kindergarten*

Preschool children are naturally filled with awe and wonder. Our Pre-K curriculum invites children to discover and experience wonder on a daily basis, delivering the necessary foundation for lifelong learning. Each month has a different theme focusing on a different character trait as they explore several areas of study in Bible, motor development, emerging literacy, math and sensory experiences.

### *Kindergarten*

In the first year of grammar school, Kindergarten, the children sing their way through the stories of the Bible. The children will also grow to memorize Psalm 139 and know its meaning and purpose. Skillful instruction is given in phonics, to ensure that each child receives the skills to read well and accurately. While simultaneously mastering their phonics, the child will also learn letter formation to ensure proper writing skills. Phonics combined with writing will set each child up to be successful spellers. Math concepts are strengthened with a variety of hands-on manipulatives, math facts practice and concrete math lessons. In history, the children become familiar with their family past, their local area (town, city, state, country) and other historical events. Our young scientists are invited to explore and investigate life in Texas, identifying the plants and animals of Texas as well as discovering ways to grow a magnificent garden, our '*Kindergarten*.'

### *First Grade*

Our first graders take their reading skills to a higher level, developing fluency and speed in reading as well as writing. Beginning in January, they begin to read children's classics and enter the world of good literature. Math skills grow as well, as students commit more math facts to memory to lay the groundwork for their future studies. Our first graders study Texas for history and science, a program rich in developing a love and appreciation for Texan life.

### *Second Grade*

Students continue to master the critical skills of reading, writing and math but also begin to dive into the past with the study of ancient civilizations. Science and history are blended together in an exciting journey of tombs, pyramids, ziggurats and kings. The study of the ancient texts of Genesis-Deuteronomy in the Bible serves as a solid framework to their studies in history and science. Good literature selections continue to nurture creativity and a love for reading as the students read and write about classic children's books.

### *Third Grade*

Students begin to develop independence and mastery of reading, writing and math. They continue to develop a love for literature with classic children's books. Studies of ancient history are integrated with science so that students fully understand the historical context of the facts that they study. Aristotle's views of elements informs our study of chemistry, Archimedes' inventions of pulleys and levers provide the background for studying physics, Galen's work in developing Roman medicine introduces us to the differences between people and animals. Biblical studies continue with the ancient and historical theme as students read and study the books of Joshua-Esther.

### *Fourth Grade*

Students explore the world through great children's books in literature and develop stronger skills in math. Fourth grade is a year of increasing independence and confidence. Writing skills are honed and mastered as students write about their studies. Tackling the Major and Minor Prophets in the Scriptures is a great foundation for their studies of the Middle Ages, Renaissance and Reformation. Understanding how science is related to history and worldview is an exciting adventure during this foundational time.

### *Fifth Grade*

Early modern history is the focus of studies this year as students continue to read, write and study the history of the world. Excellent children's books are the backbone of a redemptive approach to literature. Discoveries in geography, physics and chemistry during this time period will make for lively discussions and studies. A study of the life of our Lord and the early church through the Gospels and Acts provides the grounding for these studies and guides our students to see the world from a Christian worldview.

### *Sixth Grade*

The final year in grammar school is the transition year to Socratic studies. Students read and write with skill and ease and are taught to discern a biblical perspective in all subjects. Guiding the development of these principles is a study of the Epistles of the New Testament, including Revelation. This last section of study completes the students' study of the entire Bible in the grammar years. They are now prepared for the next phase of their education, the Socratic curriculum.

## UPPER SCHOOL

### *Seventh Grade*

Students connect logic and critical thinking skills to every subject and synthesize their understanding of what they have learned thus far. By observing that Christ is the center of the Old Testament and biblical principles are involved in the history of the United States, students develop abstract reasoning with pre-algebra and general science. This transitional year provides the support and structure that are needed for all students to mature and prepare Socratic instruction.



### *Eighth Grade*

Continuing in logic training and applying a Christian worldview to their studies, students complete their study of U.S. history and begin to dive into formal logic training. Algebra I further stretches their reasoning, as does their increasing participation in Socratic discussions. Learning to develop a thesis and defend a logical argument in essays is a focus of writing instruction. Continuation in the Progymnasmata, rhetorical exercises, will develop the students' skills in literary analysis, articulation and creativity.

### *Ninth Grade*

The first year of high school is the final year of Socratic training. Young minds are poised for action in debate and defense of arguments and these skills are furthered in their discussions and essays. Students will study ancient history from a biblical worldview and read great literature from and about ancient civilizations, including themes of good and evil and the duty of man as one made in God's image. The study of biology, with labs and lecture carefully balanced, will further inspire awe and wonder in God's creation and design of living things.

### *Tenth Grade*

Covenant's rhetoric school is a college preparatory, great books program. Our students are poised to begin to study classic literature and primary sources for history, philosophy, science and theology. Continuing with course work that will prepare our students for success in any field, each grade in our rhetoric school tackles the courses through great literature, around the table and in community.

### *Eleventh grade*

Our rhetoric students continue in the great books, discovering and discussing the impact on topics from the Reformation to Rousseau to the Romantics in literature. Mathematics courses will be determined by student interest and aptitude for calculus. High school chemistry will be lab-oriented so that our students develop sound scientific skills. Students in their junior year develop and present a thesis of study to their peers and teachers. In the summer between junior and senior year, our rising seniors take The Grand Tour, a guided tour of the hallmarks of Western Civilization in Europe.

### *Twelfth grade*

Our students' final year concentrates on great books of modernity in literature, history and philosophy, great works of theology and the completion, presentation and defense of a senior thesis. Students have the opportunity to select a course of science and math for advanced study; one that will position them well for math and science at the college level.