

Saint Mary Catholic School

Classical Curriculum



“The enduring foundation on which the Church builds her educational philosophy is the conviction that it is a process which forms the whole child, especially with his or her eyes fixed on the vision of God. The specific purpose of a Catholic education is the formation of boys and girls who will be good citizens of this world, enriching society with the leaven of the Gospel, but who will also be citizens of the world to come. Catholic schools have a straightforward goal: to foster the growth of good Catholic human beings who love God and neighbor and thus fulfill their destiny of becoming saints.”

The Holy See’s Teaching on Catholic Schools

If we fail to keep in mind this high supernatural vision, all our talk about Catholic schools will be no more than a “gong booming or a cymbal clashing” I Corinthians 13:1

Saint Mary Catholic School Classical Curriculum

Williamston, Michigan

Curriculum Overview

Classical education consists of three laws of learning – the TRIVIUM.

Tri (meaning three) and via (meaning way or road). It is broken down into 3 stages: Grammar stage (early childhood up to middle school age), Dialectic Stage (mainly middle school), and the Rhetoric Stage (high school level). It is not an arbitrary theory or new fad in education. The Trivium focuses on the observations of the ancients in the way learning takes place beginning with childhood through to young adulthood. Due to the grade levels offered, the academic emphasis at St. Mary's focuses mainly on the Grammar stage and the beginnings of the Dialectic stage.

A brief explanation of those two stage is as follows:

Grammar Stage – this stage corresponds to the elementary grades (K-4th grade) and emphasizes the memorization of concrete facts. In terms of cognitive development, children at this stage naturally zero in on concrete facts and enjoy storing up a tremendous amount of information and recalling it at will – songs, nursery rhymes, math facts, grammar rules, poems etc... Children learn their math facts to be able to correctly do computation, they learn phonics rules to read well, they learn grammar and spelling rules in order to correctly write and express themselves. Instruction that complements this natural affinity is very enjoyable, fruitful, and prepares the child to enter easily into the Dialectic Stage.

Dialectic (or Logic) Stage – this stage generally applies to grades 5-8, emphasizing understanding and analytical thinking which aids the child in the art of reasoning. All of the information the child memorized/acquired in the grammar stage now is utilized in this stage where a child works to understand the facts they have learned and begin to relate those facts to one another. This is the stage where they question and analyze the facts they have learned to see if it is in fact true. Truth always holds up very well under examination. Whether academic or spiritual, truth learned easily transitions to analysis.

With all this in mind, the following academic materials have been chosen for implementation to support the philosophy of a specifically Catholic Christian Classical education for the students. These materials provide instruction intended to support and challenge students spiritually as well as academically. Most curriculum materials are written from a Christian perspective, keeping Christ and Christian truth front and center of all their learning! As stated by G.K. Chesterton *“That is the one eternal education: to be sure enough that something is true that you dare to tell it to a child.”*

RELIGION ALL GRADES – Celebrations of our Catholic Christian faith will be present and visible each day through prayer, Mass attendance, Reconciliation, the observance of Holy Days, monthly Adoration and other Catholic practices. It will also be very evident in our chosen curriculum, daily academic instruction, and the overall spirit and focus of our school community.

In addition all students will participate in religious instruction through the program “Catechesis of the Good Shepherd”. Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is an approach to the religious formation of children. It is rooted in the Sacred Scriptures, Catholic doctrine, the liturgy of the Church, prayer, and the educational principles of Maria Montessori. Children gather in an atrium – a room prepared for them, which contains simple yet beautiful materials they use to help them absorb the most essential proclamations of the Christian faith. It is a sensorial rich experience that gives children the opportunity to grow in love and knowledge of God through the Christian tradition. CGS is a method of handing on the faith to children that follows the rhythm of the life of the Catholic Church according to the liturgical seasons and key events in the life of Jesus Christ.

Remaining curriculum materials for Grades PK-6 are from the following publishers:

ABeka Christian Publishing –spiral, cross subject integration, traditional approach

Memoria Press – classical Christian curriculum emphasizing the traditional liberal arts of language

RC History, Story of the World (Well Trained Mind), Catholic Textbook Project– Classical Catholic chronological world history curriculum

Easy Grammar- step by step incremental, scaffolded grammar instruction

Saxon Math - incremental instruction, application, and review of mathematics

Writing Our Catholic Faith –Manuscript and Cursive instruction and practice

KINDERGARTEN

Phonics :

ABeka Publishing

Letters and Sounds

My Blend Word Book

13 Progressive Phonics Readers

Memoria Press - Read Aloud Set of 34 Books

- *The Important Book* by Margaret Wise Brown
- *A Tree Is Nice* by Janice May Udry
- *How to Make an Apple Pie and See the World* by Marjorie Priceman
- *Frederick* by Leo Lionni
- *Follow the Dream: The Story of Christopher Columbus* by Peter Sis
- *Ox-Cart Man* by Donald Hall
- *Pumpkin Moonshine* by Tasha Tudor
- *The Story of Ferdinand* by Munro Leaf
- *Pancakes, Pancakes!* by Eric Carle
- *Bread and Jam for Frances* by Russell Hoban
- *This First Thanksgiving Day* by Laura Krauss Melmed
- *The Little Fir Tree* by Margaret Wise Brown
- *The Twelve Days of Christmas* illustrated by Jan Brett
- *Mr. Willowby's Christmas Tree* by Robert Barry
- *Stellaluna* by Janell Cannon
- *Owl Moon* by Jane Yolen
- *Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening* illustrated by Susan Jeffers
- *Gregory's Shadow* by Don Freeman
- *Walter the Baker* by Eric Carle
- *Katy and the Big Snow* by Virginia Lee Burton
- *The Frogs and Toads All Sang* by Arnold Lobel
- *Roxaboxen* by Alice McLerran
- *Cactus Hotel* by Brenda Z. Guiberson
- *Hide and Seek Fog* by Alvin Tresselt
- *All Things Bright and Beautiful* by Cecil Frances Alexander
- *A Tale for Easter* by Tasha Tudor
- *What Do You Do With a Tail Like This?* by Steve Jenkins & Robin Page
- *A House for Hermit Crab* by Eric Carle
- *An Extraordinary Egg* by Leo Lionni
- *The Seven Silly Eaters* by Mary Ann Hoberman
- *Come On, Rain!* by Karen Hesse
- *Wonders of Nature* by Eloise Wilkins
- *Hubert's Hair-Raising Adventure* by Bill Peet
- *Abe's Fish* by Jen Bryant

Math: ABeka Number Skills Arithmetic

Writing: ABeka Writing With Phonics (Manuscript)

Science:

ABeka God's World K5

Memoria Press – 34 Kindergarten Supplemental Science and Enrichment Books

- *I Can Name 50 Trees Today!* – Cat in the Hat's Learning Library
- *A Tree Is a Plant* – Let's Read and Find Out Science
- *Apples* – Gail Gibbons
- *African Lions* – Joelle Riley
- *Safari So Good!* – Cat in the Hat's Learning Library
- *Inside Your Outside* – Cat in the Hat's Learning Library
- *There's a Map on My Lap* – Cat in the Hat's Learning Library
- *The Big Dipper* – Let's Read and Find Out Science
- *The Pumpkin Book* – Gail Gibbons
- *Milk From Cow to Carton* – Let's Read and Find Out Science
- *Oh, the Things You Can Do That Are Good For You!* – Cat in the Hat's Learning Library
- *The Vegetables We Eat* – Gail Gibbons
- *This is the Feast* – Diane Z. Shore
- *Christmas Around the World* – Emily Kelley
- *Animals in Winter* – Let's Read and Find Out Science
- *The Planets Book* – Gail Gibbons
- *Where are the Night Animals?* – Let's Read and Find Out Science
- *Zippping Zapping Zooming Bats* – Let's Read and Find Out Science
- *Owls* – Gail Gibbons
- *Stargazers* – Gail Gibbons
- *The Moon Book* – Gail Gibbons
- *What Is the World Made Of?* – Let's Read and Find Out Science
- *Groundhog Day!* – Gail Gibbons
- *It's Snowing!* – Gail Gibbons
- *Snow is Falling* – Let's Read and Find Out Science
- *Wish for a Fish* – Cat in the Hat's Learning Library
- *Would You Rather Be a Pollywog* – Cat in the Hat's Learning Library
- *From Tadpoles to Frogs* – Let's Read and Find Out Science
- *How a House Is Built* – Gail Gibbons
- *Deserts* – Gail Gibbons
- *Why Oh Why Are Deserts Dry?* – Cat in the Hat's Learning Library
- *Surrounded by Sea* – Gail Gibbons
- *What Lives in a Shell?* – Let's Read and Find Out Science
- *A Nest Full of Eggs* – Let's Read and Find Out Science
- *Down Comes the Rain* – Let's Read and Find Out Science
- *Weather Words & What They Mean* – Gail Gibbons
- *Water Dance* – Thomas Locker
- *Town Mouse, Country Mouse* – Jan Brett
- *On Beyond Bugs!* – Cat in the Hat's Learning Library
- *Bugs Are Insects* – Let's Read and Find Out Science

- *From Caterpillar to Butterfly* – Let's Read and Find Out Science
- *From Seed to Plant* – Gail Gibbons
- *Oh Say Can You Seed?* – Cat in the Hat's Learning Library
- *How Do Birds Find Their Way?* – Let's Read and Find Out Science

History:

ABeka Social Studies K5

The Beautiful Story of the Bible

Latin: Classic Academic Press – Songschool Latin 1

Grade 1

Reading:

ABeka Publishing

Letters and Sounds

10 Progressive Readers

Memoria Press

Storytime Treasures 1 and 2

Little Bear

Caps For Sale

Frog and Toad Are Friends

Make Way for Ducklings

Billy and Blaze

Blaze and Forest Fire

Christmas in the Big Woods

Story about Ping

Keep the Lights Burning Abbie

Stone Soup

The Little House

Miss Rumphius

Winter on the Farm

Little House Christmas Treasury

Language Arts: ABeka Language 1

Spelling: Memoria Press Traditional Spelling 1

Math: ABeka Arithmetic 1

Writing: Handwriting Without Tears (Manuscript)

Science: ABeka Discovering God's World

ABeka Health, Safety, and Manners

History: Seton: American History for Young Catholics
ABeka: My America and My World / Community Helpers
Map Skills – Grade 1 – Scholastic (Finding Your Way)

Latin : Latin Prayers, Latin vocabulary , Aesops Fables, Roman History

Grade 2

Reading :

ABeka Publishing
Handbook for Reading
10 Progressive Readers
Reading Comprehension Skillsheets

Memoria Press

Animal Folktales of America	+ Literature Student Guide
Prairie School	+ Literature Student Guide
The Courage of Sarah Noble	+ Literature Student Guide
Little House in the Big Woods	+ Literature Student Guide
Tales From Beatrix Potter	+ Literature Student Guide

Language Arts: ABeka Phonics and Language 2

Spelling: Rod and Staff - Spelling by Sound and Structure 2

Math: ABeka Arithmetic 2

Writing: Handwriting Without Tears (Manuscript with transition to Cursive)

Science: ABeka Enjoying God's World
ABeka Health, Safety, and Manners

History: Seton: Great Saints in World History
ABeka Our America
Map Skills – Grade 2 – Scholastic (Take A Trip With Us)

Latin: Latin Prayers, Latin vocabulary, Aesops Fables, Roman History

Grade 3

Reading:

ABeka Publishing

Handbook for Reading

Little Pilgrim's Progress

Reading Comprehension Skillsheets

Memoria Press

Farmer Boy + Student Literature Guide

Charlotte's Web + Student Literature Guide

A Bear Called Paddington + Student Literature Guide

Mr. Popper's Penguins + Student Literature Guide

Language Arts: Rod and Staff English - Beginning Wisely

Spelling: Rod and Staff - Spelling by Sound and Structure 3

Math: ABeka Arithmetic 3

Writing: Handwriting Without Tears (Cursive)

Science:- 3

ABeka Exploring God's World

ABeka Health Safety, and Manners 3

History:

Seton Press History 3 for Young Catholics

ABeka Our American Heritage - People in US History

ABeka Student Map Skills

Map Skills – Grade 3 – Scholastic (Maps Across America)

Latin: Memoria Press

Grade 4

Reading :

ABeka: Read and Think Skillsheets 4

Memoria Press

Cricket in Times Square	+ Student Literature Guide
Homer Price	+ Student Literature Guide
Blue Fairy Book	+ Student Literature Guide
Dangerous Journey	+ Student Literature Guide

Language Arts:

Rod and Staff English - Building with Diligence

Spelling: Rod and Staff - Spelling By Sound and Structure 4

Math: Saxon Math Grade 4

Writing: Handwriting Without Tears (Cursive)

Science:

ABeka Understanding God's World

ABeka Choosing Good Health

History:

Seton: The Catholic Faith Comes To The New World

The Catholic Textbook Project: A Journey Across America – The Great Lakes Region

Map Skills – Grade 4 – Scholastic (Traveling Near and Far)

Latin: Memoria Press

Grade 5

Reading :

ABeka: Read and Comprehend Skillsheets 5

Year 1 (odd year)

Memoria Press:

Heidi	+ Student Literature Guide
The Lion, The Witch, and the Wardrobe	+ Student Literature Guide
Adam of the Road	+ Student Literature Guide
King Arthur and His Knights of the Round Table	+ Student Literature Guide

Year 2 (even year)

Memoria Press:

Bronze Bow

+ Student Literature Guide

Door In the Wall

+ Student Literature Guide

Lassie Come Home

+ Student Literature Guide

Robin Hood

+ Student Literature Guide

Language Arts:

Rod and Staff English - Following The Plan

Spelling: Rod and Staff - Spelling by Sound and Structure 5

Math: Saxon Math Grade 5

Science: 5/6

Year 1 (odd year)

Novare EARTH SCIENCE God's World, Our Home

Year 2 (even year)

ABeka Observing God's World

ABeka Choosing Good Health

History: 5/6

Year 1- *World History* (odd year)

Catholic Textbook Project: All Ye Lands

Map Skills – Grade 5– Scholastic (All Around the World)

Year 2 - *American History* (even year)

Catholic Textbook Project: From Sea to Shining Sea

Map Skills – Grade 6 – Scholastic (The Americas in Focus)

Latin: Memoria Press

Grade 6

Reading:

ABeka Publishing - Reading and Comprehension Skillsheets 6

Year 1 (odd year)

Memoria Press:

Heidi	+ Student Literature Guide
The Lion, The Witch, and the Wardrobe	+ Student Literature Guide
Adam of the Road	+ Student Literature Guide
King Arthur and His Knights of the Round Table	+ Student Literature Guide

Year 2 (even year)

Memoria Press:

Bronze Bow	+ Student Literature Guide
Door In the Wall	+ Student Literature Guide
Lassie Come Home	+ Student Literature Guide
Robin Hood	+ Student Literature Guide

Language Arts:

Rod and Staff English - Progressing with Courage

Spelling: Rod and Staff - Spelling by Sound and Structure 6

Math: Saxon Math Course 1 / Course 2 for advanced math students

Science: 5/6

Year 1 (odd year)

Novare EARTH SCIENCE God's World, Our Home by Kevin Nelstead

Year 2 (even year)

ABeka Observing God's World

ABeka Choosing Good Health

History: 5/6

Year 1- *World History* (odd year)

Catholic Textbook Project – All Ye Lands – Origins of World Cultures

Map Skills – Grade 5– Scholastic (All Around the World)

Year 2 - *American History* (even year)

Catholic Textbook Project – From Sea to Shining Sea

Map Skills – Grade 6 – Scholastic (The Americas in Focus)

Latin: Memoria Press

*****Students advanced beyond their grade level in Math or Reading will have the opportunity to receive instruction appropriate to their ability level.**

In addition, all students will receive weekly instruction in: ART, MUSIC, PHYSICAL EDUCATION

CURRICULUM FOR 7TH /8TH GRADE SPLIT CLASS

"The second phase of the classical education, the "Logic Stage," is a time when the child begins to pay attention to cause and effect, to the relationships between different fields of knowledge, to the way facts fit together into a logical framework.

A student is ready for the Logic Stage when the capacity for abstract thought begins to mature. During these years, the student begins algebra and the study of logic, and begins to apply logic to all academic subjects. The logic of writing, for example, includes paragraph construction and learning to support a thesis; the logic of reading involves the criticism and analysis of texts, not simple absorption of information; the logic of history demands that the student find out why the War of 1812 was fought, rather than simply reading its story; the logic of science requires that the child learn the scientific method."

The approach and framework applied to the curriculum for 7th and 8th grade will be filtered through this lens of classical education.

Religion – Faith and Life Series

Year 1 (odd year)

The Life of Grace

Year 2: (even year)

Our Life in the Church

*Supplemental materials both years: Ruah Woods Theology of the Body

Language Arts:

Rod and Staff English 7 Building Securely

Rod and Staff English 8 Preparing for Usefulness

Literature; Memoria Press

YEAR 1: (odd year)

Anne of Green Gables

The Hobbit

Cheaper By The Dozen

The Trojan War

Poetry and Short Stories (1st half)

YEAR 2: (even year)

Treasure Island

Where the Red Fern Grows

The Adventures of Tom Sawyer

As You Like It - Shakespeare

Poetry and Short Stories (2nd half)

Spelling:

Grade 7 Rod and Staff - Spelling by Sound and Structure 7

Grade 8 Rod and Staff - Spelling by Sound and Structure 8

Math:

7th Grade – Saxon Math Course 2

8th Grade – Saxon Math Course 3

Advanced Students – Algebra 1

Science:

Year 1 (odd year)

ABeka: Science- Order and Design

Year 2 (even year)

Novare: Physical Science – John D. Mays OR

Catholic Heritage Curricula – Life Science

History:

Year 1 (odd year)

Cath. Textbook Project: Light to the Nations Part 1– The History of Christian Civilization

Memoria Press – Geography !!

Year 2 (even year)

Catholic Textbook Project : The American Venture

Memoria Press : Geography !!!

Latin: Memoria Press

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