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St Charles Borromeo Academy

Curriculum Overview

“Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things.”

Philippians 4:8

RELIGION CURRICULUM AND CHARACTER EDUCATION PROGRAM:

Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children; and walk in love, just as Christ also loved you and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma.

Ephesians 5:1-2

The teachings and beauty of our Catholic faith is not only a subject of academic study in each grade, but is woven through all of what we do at St. Charles Borromeo Academy, providing unity and cohesiveness to the curriculum. Students receive a rich education in the Catholic faith through use of the *Faith & Life* Series, published by Ignatius Press. Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI himself called the German translation “the best catechetical series...” Students also learn of the gift of the Scriptures through select memorization of psalms and verses. They explore the treasures of Christian culture, art, architecture, music, and literature.

The *Faith and Life* series brings students to the person of Jesus Christ and then immerses them into the mystery of Christ. Fostering dispositions in which students’ desire communion with God through Jesus in the Holy Spirit, a communion in truth, charity and mercy. As students are immersed into the mystery of Christ they are transformed by Divine truth, living out the Gospel message and giving glory to God in all that they do.

Our virtue based character education program teaches students universally valued virtues such as honesty, integrity, perseverance, respect for self and others, self-control, and patience (specifically highlighting the Cardinal virtues of prudence, justice, fortitude and temperance). We intentionally integrate this formation in the virtues into the culture of the school as well through our study of character development and heroism in literature and history.

Faith and Life Series Ignatius Press

K – *Image of God Series*: A Catholic religion curriculum for kindergarten children with a text/workbook that presents the faith in a lively, colorful manner with state of the art graphics. Founded on two unifying key truths: God and creation. Stresses the dignity of each child made in God's image. Presents the faith in terms and activities children understand. Each lesson includes Bible stories, "Concepts of Faith", home activities and fun workshops. Includes teachers' Pattern Packet. Designed for tear out sheets with Family notes on the back.

1st - Introduction to the Holy Trinity through presentations on God the Father, the life of Jesus, the Holy Spirit, God's plan of salvation and our part in that plan. Acquaints children with Mary, angels, and the saints. Children learn basic prayers. *Books of the Bible

2nd - Preparation for the first reception of the sacraments of Penance and Holy Communion, with the law of God and salvation history as background. The lesson emphasizes God's mercy and love. Covers Creation, the Covenant with Moses, the Ten Commandments, Redemption, Forgiveness of Sins, and the Mass.

3rd - God's plan of salvation, from creation to the Incarnation and Redemption to the birth of the Church at Pentecost and our life in the Church with a special emphasis on the importance of Confession, Communion and the Mass.

4th - God's plan to save his people from sin (Salvation History), how we participate in that plan, and the many ways God helps us in our pilgrimage on earth to Heaven through his word, his law, and his Church.

5th - A thorough study of the articles of the Creed as the basic belief of our Catholic faith, with a special emphasis on careful understanding of definitions through the words of the Gospels, and the prophets, and the prayers of the Church.

6th - The blueprint for a life of love: the law of God, especially in the Ten Commandments, and the presence of Jesus in the Holy Mass. The interaction of the challenges of God's law and his gifts of grace that help us fulfill his law.

7th - Grace as our link with God, his gift to us to bring us to Himself and his eternal life, with an emphasis on transmission of grace through the seven sacraments and on God's loving gifts of revelation, of himself through the prophets, the Incarnation, and the Church. Study the role of grace in developing the virtues.

8th - The history of the Church — its founding by Christ, its birth in the Holy Spirit, the marks of the one, true Church, the Fathers and Doctors of the Church, the saints and the role of the religious and laity up to the present. The structure of the Church Jesus planned, the role of the Magisterium, the clergy, the religious and the laity and our own vocations.

HISTORY/GEOGRAPHY CURRICULUM:

For by Him all things were created, *both* in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created through Him and for Him. He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. He is also head of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that He Himself will come to have first place in everything.

Colossians 1:16-18

The Story of the World: History for the Classical Child is an award-winning series of books that can be read aloud to or read by young children (Grades 1- 4) to bring history alive. This series, which includes an expansive teacher activity book to guide map work and the creation of timelines, serves as the “spine” of the history and geography curricula in the early years, and is supplemented by great literature, biography and poetry of the time and place.

In addition to the study of important national holidays and key American figures (e.g., Christopher Columbus, George Washington, Rosa Parks, Martin Luther King, etc), each academic year will traverse a particular epoch in history, with an emphasis on Western civilization, but also with attention to the many cultures that form our country’s cultural landscape today.

Kindergarten will begin exploring some biblical historical and geographical concepts, and begin working with maps, including study of Bible history, families, neighborhoods and communities. They will also study the pilgrims and Native Americans, United States symbols, customs and celebrations.

First graders will begin exploring the child’s world one step at a time. After learning about family, neighborhood, city and state, we will begin to study geographical concepts by working with maps, including study of the oceans and continents. The first grade follows a timeline spanning from Creation to the early explorer and Colonial America to the present. New historical figures are briefly introduced on a weekly basis. They will also study the early expiation of the American West. Our American heritage through people: Columbus, Lewis and Clark,

Squanto, Pocahontas, George Washington, Paul Revere, Abraham Lincoln, Civil War, George Washington Carver, Buffalo Bill, Daniel Boone, Betsy Ross, Molly Brown

Second graders will explore our own rich Missouri history, from the time of the arrival of the Pilgrims. Through this study, Second graders learn the history of their own cities and towns and about famous people and events in Missouri history. Second graders will also explore the beginning of history, the nomads, the earliest writing, the importance of the Nile River to early civilization (Mesopotamia), and the lives of the Egyptians. They will continue their exploration of maps through guided map work of the ancient civilizations they explore, and then later, the world's great oceans and rivers, continents, and other landforms that make up the world in which they live.

Third graders will learn about the lives of the Ancient Romans, reviewing the grand, enduring influence Roman culture has had on all Western civilization—from roads, to language, to our republican form of government. This early exposure to our Roman heritage will facilitate study of the founding of America in later years. They will then be introduced to the civilization of the Ancient Greeks, the original Olympics, and great, enduring stories of heroism. **Greek and Roman (500BC – 400AD)**

Fourth graders will traverse several hundred years, stopping first in the Middle Ages in England with Beowulf and medieval monasteries, and then onto serfs and noblemen, knights and castles. They will then explore the historical occurrences in Europe that preceded the discovery of the New World, including the Magna Carta, scientific advances, and religious persecution. Geography will be integrated into the study of history, including first the countries and peoples of Western Europe. **Medieval (400 – 1450)**

Fifth graders will study the major civilizations in the New World: the European explorations around the world, particularly in North America; the earliest settlements in North America and the development of the English colonies. They also study the early development of democratic institutions and ideas, including the ideas and events that led to the Declaration of Independence and Revolutionary War as well as the founding of our republican form of government under the U.S. Constitution. Students will memorize the Declaration of Independence, the Preamble to the Constitution, and the beginning of the Gettysburg Address, exploring what these momentous documents have meant to our country. **Early Modern/American (1450-present)**

Sixth graders Sixth graders start the Logic stage of the Trivium with in-depth studies of the ancient world and first civilizations. Discussions on the Nomads leads into Mesopotamian civilizations. The first empires are identified and then on to Ancient Egypt. Students will learn about the first Israelites and the growth of Judaism. Students will deepen their knowledge of the history of Greece by studying its historical figures, mythology, government, culture, and wars. They will be

introduced to and become familiar with early Greek philosophers including Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle. Students will finish by learning about the history of Rome and how it helped form our ideas of law and government, as well as the spread of Christianity. Geography will be intertwined in these studies to familiarize students with the regions from past to present. **Ancient (Greek and Roman 500BC-400AD)**

Seventh graders by studying the rise of Christendom. This is considered the Medieval/Early Modern era. Students learn about the first Christians, establishment of Christian Churches, and the spread of Christian ideas. We will touch on other civilizations such as Islamic, China in the Middle Ages, and Medieval Africa, Japan, and Europe. Famous people of the era include, Theodoric the Ostrogoth, Benedict and Gregory, Charlemagne, Alfred the Great, Pope Gregory VII and Henry IV, Saint Francis, Saint Dominic, Joan of Arc, and several others that will be studied during the year. Geography will be intertwined in these studies to familiarize students with the regions from past to present. **Christendom (Medieval/Early Modern 400- 1450)**

Eighth graders will complete the capstone of the Logic stage of the Trivium by studying the New World era. Europeans began to explore overseas and build empires. Columbus reaches the Americas followed by missionaries and colonizers. Students will study the American Revolution and the historic scenarios that were part of this great establishment time period. The Declaration of Independence, Constitution of the United States, and other historical documents of the era will be studied. The Industrial Revolution changed the way people lived and worked in America and played a big role in the Scientific Revolution. Students will learn about all the wars that occurred during this time period, the Treaties that were signed and the formation of the United Nations. Famous people of the era include, Lorenzo the Magnificent, Ferdinand of Aragon, Sir Walter Raleigh, Cardinal Richelieu, Peter the Great, Horatio Nelson, Abraham Lincoln, and several others that will be studied during the year. Geography will be intertwined in these studies to familiarize students with the regions from past to present. **New World (Modern/American 1450-present)**

LANGUAGE ARTS CURRICULUM:

But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering, without hypocrisy. And the seed whose fruit is righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

James 3:17

We want our students to read insightfully, write beautifully, speak articulately, and think critically. This means they must be taught how language works, which

includes a deep grasp of phonics in reading and spelling, word usage and syntax through the persevering study of English grammar (and Latin beginning in the 3rd Grade), and composition and expression. Students should learn how to question a story and be questioned by it. By being introduced to beautiful and enduring literature, poetry and biography, even young students can be encouraged to consider the worthiness of characters' choices, the consequences of their actions, and the importance of right action and truth. The study and recitation of poetry is used to cultivate memory, especially in the early years when children's memory is strong and capable. Copywork and narration in the early years help students to imitate proper technique and find their voice. Dictation in later years allows students to emulate beautiful writing. The development of creative, expository, and analytical writing enables young thinkers to build confidence in the expression of their imagination, memory and intellect.

Language and literature lessons complement concurrent, thematic lessons in history, culture, and religion, and thus provide a coherent, integrated curriculum.

Kindergarten

Phonics: The 70 Basic Phonogram Cards (Spell to Write and Read)

Spelling: Wise Guide for Spelling and Sight words/High Frequency Words

Grammar: Learn parts of a sentence – capital letters, end marks, nouns, verbs

Literature - possible selections include: *Beatrix Potter Series*, *The Story About Ping* by Flack, *The Little House* by Burton, *Make Way for Ducklings* by McCloskey, *Ox-Cart Man* by Cooney, *Miss Rumphius* by Cooney, *A Child's Garden of Verses* by Stevenson, *The Mitten* by Brett, various classical picture books (Curious George), fables, poetry, and fairy tales (The Little Red Hen), Mother Goose, Dr. Seuss

Handwriting: Cursive First

1st Grade

Phonics: The 70 Basic Phonogram Cards (Spell to Write and Read)

Spelling: Wise Guide for Spelling/ Spelling Rules (sight words, prefixes/suffixes, plurals, homographs, and contractions)

Grammar: Shurley Grammar (parts of speech, punctuation, classification of pattern one sentence, three sentence paragraphs and jingles)

Literature: McGuffey's First Eclectic Reader

possible selections include: *Sammy the Seal* by Hoff, *Little Bear's Visit* by Minarik, *Days with Frog and Toad* by Lobel, *Sam the minuteman* by Benchley, *The True story of Pocahontas* by Penner, *Caps for Sale* by Slobodkina, *The Story of Ferdinand* by Leaf, *Bread and Jam for Francis* by Hoban, *Mike Mulligan and His Steam Shovel* by Burton, *Blueberries for Sal* by McCloskey, *Stone Soup* by Brown, *Pinocchio* by Collodi (read aloud), various poems, fairytales and folktales (Just So Stories), Benjamin Franklin, by Ingri D'Aulaire, George Washington, by Ingri D'Aulaire, Buffalo Bill, by Ingri D'Aulaire, *A Child's Garden of Verses* by Stevenson

Handwriting: Cursive First

2nd Grade

Phonics: The 70 Basic Phonogram Cards (Spell to Write and Read)

Spelling: Wise Guide for Spelling/ Spelling Rules

Grammar: Shurley Grammar (master two sentence patterns and classification, question/answer flows, punctuation and editing skills, six parts of speech, plurals, synonyms, antonyms, and homonyms, and jingles)

Vocabulary: Extracted from literature and history

Literature - possible selections include: *Nate the Great* by Sharmat, *Madeline* by Bemelmans, *Amelia Bedelia* by Parish, *Billy and Blaze* by Anderson, *Keep the Lights Burning*, *Abbie* by Roop, *Just a few words*, *Mr. Lincoln* by Fritz, *The Courage of Sarah Noble* by Dalglish, *The Hundred Dresses* by Estes, *Encyclopedia Brown* by Sobol, *The Boxcar Children*, by Warner, *Little House in the Big Woods* and *Little House on the Prairie* by Wilder, *Who was King Tut?* by Edwards, *Cleopatra* by Stanley & Vennema, *Charlotte' Web* by White, *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe* by Lewis, various poems, fairytales and folktales

Handwriting: Cursive First

3rd Grade

Spelling: Wise Guide for Spelling

Grammar: Shurley Grammar (master three sentence patterns and classification, question/answer flows, punctuation and editing skills, eight parts of speech, jingles)

Vocabulary: Extracted from literature and history

Composition: Memoria Press *Introduction to Composition*

Literature - possible selections include: *D'aulaire's Book of Greek Myths, Detective in Togas* by Winterfield, *The Trojan Horse* by Little, *Aesop's Fables, Little Pilgrim's Progress* by Taylor, *Because of Winn Dixie* by DicCamillo, *Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane* by Dicamillo, *Tales from the Odyssey part 1 and 2, The mystery of the Roman Ransom* by Winterfield, *Magician's Nephew* by Lewis, *Farmer Boy* by Laura Ingalls Wilder, various poems, fairytales and folktales

Handwriting: Cursive First

4th Grade

Spelling: Wise Guide for Spelling

Grammar: Shurley Grammar (master five sentence patterns and classification, question/answer flows, punctuation and editing skills, subject/verb agreement, verb tense consistency and jingles)

Vocabulary: Extracted from literature and history

Composition: Memoria Press *Classical composition I: Fable Stage*

Literature - possible selections include: *Homer Price* by McCloskey, *Whipping Boy* by Fleischman, *Viking Adventure* by Bulla and Gorsline, *Beowulf* by Rebsamen, *From the Mixed up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler* by Konisburg, *Prince Caspian* by Lewis, *Black Beauty* by Sewell, *King Arthur and His Knights of the Roundtable, The Door in the Wall* by De Angeli, *Robin Hood* by Green, *The Trumpet of the Swan* by EB White, various poetry, fairytales and folktales

Handwriting: Cursive First

5th Grade

Spelling: Wise Guide for Spelling

Grammar: Shurley Grammar (master seven sentence patterns and classification, master parts of speech, punctuation and editing skills, subject/verb agreement, and verb tense consistency, identify infinitives, gerunds, clauses and participles, identify dependent and independent clauses,)

Vocabulary: Extracted from literature and history

Composition: Memoria Press *Classical Composition II: Narrative Stage*

Literature - possible selections include: *Secret Garden* by Burnett, *Duel in the Wilderness* by Farley, *Carry on, Mr. Bowditch* by Latham, *Sign of the Beaver* by Speare, *Wrinkle in Time* by L'Engle, *Witch of Blackbird Pond* by Speare, *Island of the Blue Dolphins* by O'Dell, , *Across Five Aprils* by Hunt, various poetry, fairytales and folktales, *Paul Revere's Ride* by Longfellow

6th Grade

Grammar: Fix It

Vocabulary: Extracted from literature and history

Composition: Memoria Press *Classical Composition III: Chreia & Maxim Set*

Literature - possible selections include: *The Bronze Bow* by Speare, *Princess and the Goblin* by MacDonald, *The Trojan War* by Coolidge, *The Golden Goblet* by Clark, *The Aeneid for Boys and Girls*, *The Little Prince* by De Saint-Exupery, *A Wrinkle in Time* by L'Engle, *The Good Master*, *The White Stag*, *The Singing Tree and others*, by Kate Seredy, *Phantom Tollbooth* by Juster

7th Grade

Grammar: Students entering seventh grade should have a working understanding of grammar, usage, and punctuation. While these concepts are regularly reviewed and incorporated into composition, incoming students not able to demonstrate mastery have the benefit of an individualized, independent remediation program.

Vocabulary: Extracted from literature and history

Composition: Memoria Press *Classical Composition IV: Refutation & Confirmation Set*

Literature - possible selections include: *Mara, Daughter of the Nile* by McGraw, *The Odyssey* by Homer, *The Eagle* by Sutcliff, *Confessions* by Augustine, *Beowulf* by Heaney, *The Canterbury Tales* by Chaucer, *Much Ado About Nothing* by Shakespeare, *The Bronze Bow* by Speare, *The Hobbit* by Tolkien, *The Trojan War* by Colidge, various poetry, fairytales and folktales

8th Grade

Grammar: Students entering eighth grade should have a working understanding of grammar, usage, and punctuation. While these concepts are regularly reviewed and incorporated into composition, incoming students not able to demonstrate mastery have the benefit of an individualized, independent remediation program.

Vocabulary: Extracted from literature and history

Composition: Memoria Press *Classical Composition V: Common Topic Set*

Literature - possible selections include: *Treasure Island* by Stevenson, *The Scarlet Pimpernel* by Orczy, *How Much Does a Man Need?* by Tolstoy, *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* by Twain, *Call of the Wild* by London, *The Scarlett Letter* by Hawthorne, various poetry, fairytales and folktales

MATH CURRICULUM:

So teach us to number our days,
That we may present to You a heart of wisdom.

Psalm 90:12

The mathematics curriculum in a classical education will seek to promote the understanding of order and harmony in the universe. Mathematics, as a language, reveals this order and harmony, yet it should also be lifted from this concrete foundation and brought into the world of the abstract. The study of mathematics will engage this endeavor by training students in the context in which the discovery of its concepts arose as well as the reasoning which provides its structure. **We will lay a solid foundation for basic math facts and the memorization of those facts and build a strong foundation on those basic skills to achieve concept mastery. An emphasis will be put on number sense and the exploration of math concepts.**

SCIENCE:

Great are the works of the LORD;
They are studied by all who delight in them.

Psalm 111:2

Through both simple and more complex experimentation, the study of science should teach children to observe their surroundings carefully and help them to understand the world around them. With reading and discussion, writing to document hypotheses and observations, and hands-on activities and experimentation, children will begin to hone their natural ability to investigate and learn.

Lower Grammar Stage:

Students are observing, exploring, and describing the world around them. Students see their world as God's creation and learn the relationship of nature with God. They begin to develop an elementary understanding of the human body and the 'body-soul unity' of the human person. Students learn the very basic differences in animal groups and divisions within the plant kingdom. At this stage, students discuss regional geography and the four seasons. They begin to learn the basic steps of the scientific method and learn about famous scientists. Students start learning how to organize and develop a 'nature notebook' at the very early stages. This is truly a time of wonder and appreciation of the natural world that God created.

Upper Grammar Stage:

At this stage, students are recognizing the study of nature as part of the human endeavor to understand the world. They understand that science is one aspect of the study of nature which must be integrated into a more comprehensive vision of reality as God's creation and thus behold nature in a different way. The study of the life sciences includes; living things and the cycle of life, food chains, photosynthesis, basic human anatomy, animal classification, plant and animal cells, populations and communities. Physical science includes; matter, motion/physics, energy, electricity and magnetism. Earth science covers; rocks and fossils, weather and climate, natural resources, and the solar system. Students continue to build their skills in keeping detailed nature notebooks. The study of scientists help the student understand why science developed the way it did. It is in this stage that students will acquire a reverence for nature as God's creation.

Logic Stage:

At this stage, the students begin to contemplate important questions, such as: What is life? What is nature? How does 'world' differ from 'environment'? and 'What makes a human distinct from other animals? Students studying life science will discuss in-depth; cells and genetics, human biology and physical health, animals, bacteria and plants. Earth science will include; plate tectonics, volcanoes, earthquakes, weathering of earth's surface, waters of the earth, weather and climate, and astronomy. Physical science will cover the following topics; force and motion, energy (thermal energy and heat), chemical building blocks, and chemical interactions. The nature notebook is now a high-level tool for their understanding of nature. Students begin to study the relationship between science and philosophy in the study of nature. They will name and employ the Four Causes of Aristotle in the explanation of nature and they render animals and plants through art. This leads the students into the ability to explain and defend the distinction between the animate and the inanimate.

LATIN:

St Charles Borromeo Academy students are introduced to a robust Latin program beginning in Kindergarten. From this year on, students memorize Latin prayers and phrases such as the Salve Regina and are exposed to a range of Latin texts. In the Third Grade, students begin to receive more formal instruction in the language with Latin grammar and vocabulary. The upper level grades, from third grade through eighth grade, learn to conjugate verbs in their various tenses, decline Latin nouns, recite prayers in Latin, and more. Instruction in the Latin language provides the gateway to a more comprehensive understanding of the English language and grammar, a foundation for expanding vocabulary through etymology, and greater accessibility to other languages and cultures.

Grade K-2: Sing Song Latin (Classical Academic Press)

Grade 3: Prima Latina (Memoria Press)

Grade 4: Latina Christiana (Memoria Press)

Grade 5: First Form Latin (Memoria Press)

Grade 6: Second Form Latin (Memoria Press)

Grade 7: Third Form Latin (Memoria Press)

Grade 8: Fourth Form Latin (Memoria Press)

***Year 1** - 3rd grade Prima Latina
4th Grade and up Latina Christiana

***Year 2** – 3rd Grade Prima Latina
4th Grade Latina Christiana
5th Grade and up First Form Latin

***Year 3** – 3rd Grade Prima Latina
4th Grade Latina Christiana
5th Grade First Form Latin
6th Grade and up Second Form Latin

ORATORY:

All students at St Charles Borromeo Academy are introduced to the art of public speaking. In kindergarten through sixth grade, Oratory takes place within the context of other subjects such as Literature, Grammar, History, Religion, etc. In the seventh and eighth grades, students receive formal instruction within the context of an Oratory/Logic class.

Recitation (K-8):

This age loves to memorize using songs, chants, rhythm, or rhyme. We use this to teach students all sorts of factual material including: oceans and continents, major pharaohs of Egypt, taxonomy classification (biology), Greek

and Roman history, the Battle of Marathon, multiplication tables, the Periodic Table of the Elements, countries of the world, selected Shakespeare, the parts of speech, prime numbers to 100, numerous Bible passages, and a history timeline, to name a few.

Logic (Grades 7-8):

<https://classicalacademicpress.com/product/the-art-of-argument/>

ART & ART HISTORY:

The study of art encourages both hands-on participation as well as an introduction to the great masters and works of art. This study of art naturally complements the study of history in our integrated curriculum. The great masters and their works will be studied in depth through the selection of a particular artist each month that all students will focus on both in Art classes and individual grade level classrooms.

MUSIC & MUSIC HISTORY:

Our music curriculum begins with our students being introduced to Gregorian chant and sacred music. Students become familiar with the “music of the masters,” music theory, and through music class as well as a feature “Composer of the Month,” experience the joy and beauty of music appreciation.

Possible culminating projects and celebrations (k-8):

Pilgrim Day

Dr. Seuss Celebration

Early American History Festival (November)

Inventors Day

Immigration Day

Ancient Egyptian Day

Greek/Roman Day

County Fair

St. Celebration

Monastery Day

Medieval Festival

Colonial Days

Civil War Reenactment

Bridges (Catholic/Jewish faith sharing)

Roman Weapons Display

Shakespeare Play

Medieval Festival

Christmas Carol Feast

Veterans Celebration