



Learning Objectives Lower Grammar Stage

Kindergarten: The Cradle of Civilization Year

First Grade: The Greek Year

Second Grade: The Roman Year

History Objectives

Knowledge

- Understand history and culture as human desire for goodness, truth, and ultimately God
- Develop basic knowledge of ancient civilizations in ancient Near East and their relationship to one another
- Develop basic knowledge of history of Israel through the Bible and in context of ancient Near East
- Develop basic knowledge of the geography of the ancient Near East, including Mesopotamia, Canaan, and Egypt
- Develop more detailed understanding of Greek civilization: people, places, geography, religion, government, economics, art, architecture, music, technology, and culture
- Understand how Greek civilization contributed to Christianity
- Develop better understanding of Roman civilization: people, places, geography, religion, government, economics, art, architecture, music, technology, and culture
- Understand how Rome became the home of the Roman Catholic Church
- Begin to see how Christianity transformed the Roman Empire
- Begin to see Greek and Roman contributions to culture
- Learn to identify the basic geography of Greece, Rome, and their neighbors

Skills

- Memorization of key historical facts
- Beginning map reading and recognition
- Use a globe
- Understand a timeline
- Ability to narrate historical stories
- Begin to see connections between historical events and themes
- Beginning ability to formulate and discuss philosophical questions
- Artistically render historical scenes from imagination

Aptitudes

- Develop memory
- Develop ability to listen and recall
- Develop an interest in history
- See relevance of past to present
- Appreciate Greek philosophical ideals
- Begin to see an integrated conception of the world on which the beliefs of Western Civilization are based

Religion Objectives

Knowledge

- Begin to recognize how Christianity becomes incarnate in culture through art, music, architecture, literature, and the liturgical calendar
- Appreciate the historical setting of the Bible
- Learn the traditions of the Church and the mysteries of the faith through beauty, beautiful liturgy, and adoration
- Become acquainted with the tradition of sacred music as a form of prayer
- Acquire basic catechetical instruction in the meaning of the Incarnation, the Creeds of the Church, familiarity with the Old and New Testament and the difference between them, the meaning of the Mass, the liturgical calendar, basic prayers and practices of the church, etc.

Skills

- Memorize and recite Scripture, Bible facts, catechism, prayers, and hymns
- Learn to pray liturgically, intercessory, and contemplatively
- Learn to regard and participate in sacred music as a form of prayer

Aptitudes

- Cultivate longing for God
- Develop habits of stillness and adoration
- Begin to develop a habit of prayer, a love for the mysteries of the faith, and a desire for God's beauty and truth
- Develop a habit of noticing the presence of God

Arts of Language Objectives

Literature, Grammar, Composition, and Drama

Knowledge

- Alphabet
- Phonics and reading
- Spelling

- Beginning writing
- Beginning grammar
- Beginning poetic understanding
- Latin roots (chants), early vocabulary, phrases, prayers

Skills

- Learn to read proficiently
- Develop reading comprehension
- Employ correct grammar in writing and speech
- Learn good penmanship, using proper technique, and beginning cursive
- Recognize and write complete sentences
- Memorize and recite the definition of the parts of speech
- Understand and identify parts of speech and the four different types of sentences
- Say and write the days of the week, the seasons, the months of the year, their home address, titles of respect, abbreviations, dates
- Understand and use beginning punctuation, contractions, capital letters, synonyms, antonyms
- Be able to order simple ideas, form paragraphs, and copy the final work
- Narration: re-tell stories in detail, with vocal clarity, poise, and eye contact; eventually, re-tell the narrative thread of a story
- Act out stories with other students as characters
- Develop ability identify main idea x Answer comprehension questions about a reading passage in complete sentences
- Copywork: copy sentences from works of history, the Bible, or literature
- Dictation: listen to an oral recitation and write down a sentence(s) from works of history, the Bible, or literature
- Recitation: recite poems or psalms from memory with vocal clarity, poise, eye contact
- Conversation: ‘Socratic’ discussions should teach students to begin questioning and discussing stories, pictures, fables or proverbs according to four rules:
 1. Read the text carefully.
 2. Listen to what others say and don’t interrupt.
 3. Speak clearly.
 4. Give others your respect.
- Perform a play and memorize lines

Aptitudes

- Develop capacity for listening
- Develop memory
- Appreciate playfulness in language
- Develop habits of concentration, stillness, memory x Learn to ask questions about the moral or meaning of stories and symbols
- Learn to speak directly and confidently

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Nature Studies Objectives

Knowledge

- Understand difference between basic animal groups
- State and 'catalogue' animals of certain species by their differences
- Recite key characteristics of the way of life for certain select animals or animal groups
- Understand basic divisions within the plant kingdom and the distinguishing characteristics of each
- Learn to identify flora, fauna, and wildlife indigenous to the region
- Begin to develop an elementary understanding of the human body
- Begin to understand the 'body-soul unity' of the human person, and the specific characteristics and capacities distinguishing humans from other animals
- Understand basic regional geography and seasons

Skills

- Be able to narrate the above knowledge
- Develop skill of observing, rendering, and cataloguing this knowledge in a 'nature notebook'

Aptitudes

- Develop a capacity to attend to and notice nature
- Develop wonder and appreciation for the natural world

Mathematics Objectives

Knowledge

- Acquire basic numeracy
- Understand equivalent forms of the same number using diagrams, objects, and numbers
- Recognize basic geometrical shapes and parts of shapes
- Solve word problems

Skills

- Count, read, write, and compare numbers up to 1,000, both symbolically and through physical construction
- Acquire facility with basics of place value x Perform basic addition and subtraction functions of one-, two-, and three-digit numbers
- Understand basic fraction concepts
- Count by 2s, 3s, 4s, 5s, 10s
- Identify and construct circles, squares, rectangles, triangles, ovals, cubes, tetrahedral pyramids, cylinders, cones, spheres, and rectangular prisms
- Recognize and describe the appearance of basic patterns in nature
- Recognize equivalency in number, shape, pattern, and other physical characteristics

- Construct basic sets and groupings of objects in the environment and nature and be able to articulate the criteria for inclusion and exclusion
- Recognize and solve simple replacement codes
- Solve simple geometric puzzles
- Recognize the relationship of tone to the size, length, shape, and material of the object being sounded (e.g., bells of different size being rung or the length or thickness of a string being plucked)
- Take linear measurement and be able to articulate changes in measurement over time; introduce basic means of recording measurement
- Tell and record time and changes in time in seconds, minutes, hours, days, weeks, months, and years
- Recognize and calculate basic currency; introduce coin-tossing scenarios as an introduction to probability

Aptitudes

- Recognize the ubiquity of number and shape in the world around us
- Develop a sense of wonder at recognizing how the world can be expressed mathematically
- Develop a love for constructing math, numerically and geometrically

Art Objectives

Knowledge

- Learn how to look at and begin to interpret paintings
- Study and give rudimentary explanation of Christian art and iconography
- Study and give rudimentary explanation of art related to Egypt, Greece, and Rome
- Begin to know properties, characteristics, and qualities of beauty
- Begin to recognize how art expresses cultural ideals

Skills

- Learn how to look at, examine, and see a painting and other works of art
- Learn to tell the story of a painting
- Begin to render as well as draw imaginatively
- Learn basics of drawing, painting, and sculpting
- Learn to copy according to established rules

Aptitudes

- Acquire habits of attending, noticing, sitting still, and concentrating
- Learn discipline from following simple projects through to completion
- Begin to develop eye and appreciation for beauty
- Begin to question art works for their meaning

Music Objectives

Knowledge

- Know elements of music: melody, harmony, rhythm, pitch, tone
- Begin to think about what music means and why it is or is not beautiful
- Know instruments of the orchestra by sound and sight
- Be introduced to tradition of sacred music
- Begin to understand the symbols in music

Skills

- Begin to read music x Begin to acquire some musical skill singing and playing elementary instruments
- Begin to be able to concentrate on, listen to, and discuss a piece of music

Aptitudes

- Begin to develop a love and appreciation of beautiful music and its power
- Begin to understand the relationship between music, prayer, and liturgy
- Acquire the habit and develop their powers of patient, attentive listening

Physical Education Objectives

Knowledge

- Understand their bodies and physical abilities as a gift
- Begin to learn the rules of major sports and races

Skills

- Begin to acquire facility in throwing, catching, hitting, and kicking
- Begin to learn basic dance steps
- Begin to deliberately coordinate body to physical activity

Aptitudes

- Practice teamwork and good sportsmanship