

Wisdom's Way

CLASSICAL SCHOOL

OVERVIEW

School Day

All of the Knowledge level students (ages 5-12) will meet together in the morning. The Later Knowledge students (ages 10-12) will split off into a separate group for more formal academic studies at 11:00. At noon, all break for lunch; the Early Knowledge students (ages 5-9) are finished for the day, and the Later Knowledge students will return at 1:00 for afternoon classes.

Course of Study: All Knowledge Students

All Knowledge level students (ages 5-12) will follow the *Grammar of Grace* curriculum. At our weekly school day, the New Lessons will be taught and drilled. At home, parents must:

1. Review the past 7 weeks' lessons daily.
2. Complete weekly Bible Reading assignments.
3. Complete the other classical coursework (mostly informal), as detailed in *Grammar of Grace*, at the right pace for each child.

The *Grammar of Grace* material is cyclical; the same material is taught to students all Knowledge age; there are four cycles, which are each covered twice over the eight years (ages 5-12).

In class, all Knowledge students will also learn:

- Art, through Art Copywork
- Science, through Nature Studies
- Geography
- Greek Alphabet and Phonics
- Hebrew Alphabet and Phonics
- Oral Interpretation

Course of Study: Later Knowledge Students

Later Knowledge students (around ages 10-12) will have academic coursework in addition to the above, following the *Christian Grammar School at Home Guide*. Each week, students will complete and bring to class these assignments:

1. Reading Aloud & Dictation
2. English Grammar
3. Latin
4. Greek (to be done in class together)
5. Lesson
6. Independent Reading & Summaries
7. Music (will be taught in class; practice at home)
8. Worldview & Early Understanding

The other subjects in the *Christian Grammar School at Home Guide* are to be completed at home, but are directed solely by parents, not incorporated into classtime:

1. Personal Devotion
2. Journal
3. Read Aloud by Father or Mother
4. Arithmetic (use curriculum and level of your choice)
5. Copywork
6. History Notebook

In addition, in class, the Later Knowledge students will study *What Does the Bible Say about That?*, by Kevin Swanson, to begin learning correct analytical thinking and discussion. Students should bring their Bibles.

The Later Knowledge assignments are mostly progressive. The Read-Aloud assignments for mother or father to read to the whole homeschool will still be cyclical, for example, but subjects like English Grammar, Latin, Greek, Dictation, and Oral Interpretation will progress for each student, through Year 1, Year 2, and Year 3. As Wisdom's Way Classical School grows, we anticipate we may separate the Later Knowledge students according to their level for those subjects. However, the old American Classical education style is our model, so we will strive to limit age segregation as much as possible.

Flexibility with Ages

The difficulty with the classroom setting is that children develop at different rates, and just as one child's physical coordination might develop earlier or later, one's abstract reasoning ability might develop earlier or later, too. It is important to realize that this is a physical development that occurs in the brain in God's perfect plan for each child. Contrary to conventional wisdom, if God brings these physical changes to pass at a later age than "normal" for one child, this does not mean that this child is "behind", or that his abstract reasoning ability will be less than other people's, in the end. In fact, many of our most brilliant thinkers and inventors were considered "late-bloomers"! When placing their children, parents should ensure that while the material is challenging their child to grow and learn, it is not creating a mental strain. (That *could* cause lasting harm to the child's abstract reasoning abilities.)

That said, this guideline for Later Knowledge holds up pretty consistently:

- Year 1 = Age 10
- Year 2 = Age 11
- Year 3 = Age 12

School Growth

For schoolyear 2018-2019, Wisdom's Way Classical School will be open to ages 5-10. The next year, we will grow to ages 5-11; the following year, 5-12; etc., until we cover all grades. Parents may use the month of September as a general age cut-off guideline.

In our opening years, parents who have a child aged 11 or 12 who has not learned the material we are teaching, may enroll that child into Wisdom's Way. Those parents should consider supplementing the Year 1 assignments with extra Independent Reading assignments, more challenging Dictation or English Grammar assignments, etc., as appropriate for this student.

Class Format

Class size will be around 8 students; we will add and split (or drop and combine) classes, depending on our numbers, to try to keep each one around that size. One parent must be actively participating in class at all times (unless serving in another class at Wisdom's Way). Since parents will be our Classical School students' primary teachers, it is important that parents model attentiveness in class for their children, and learn the classical lessons and methods taught at school, which they will be teaching at home during the week.

Classroom Manners

Education: The bringing up, as of a child; instruction; formation of manners. (Webster's 1828 Dictionary)

Parents should teach their children good character and good habits at home. They should encourage their children to be alert, cheerful, and ready to work when they come to class each week. Outward actions such as sitting up straight and smiling have been demonstrated to help our brains work better, not to mention forming lifelong healthy habits. Tutors will remind children to use these good manners in the classroom, but parents must not forget that part of education is teaching *character*, and take the time to train the "inner man" at home, even if it means academics suffer for a time.

Lunch and Playtime

Please pack a lunch and plan to stay and eat together, each week! Meaningful fellowship is one of the valuable benefits Wisdom's Way seeks to bring to our families.

Sick Policy

In case of illness, please stay home. We will miss you, but the priority is to limit the spread of illness in our school community. As in all things, "as ye would that men should do to you, so do ye to them likewise." (Matt. 7:12)

Discipline

Parents are responsible to discipline their own children.

Babies and Preschoolers

Preschoolers must be supervised at all times. We have organized a small nursery, cost will be announced later; space will be limited. Please ensure that your sweet babes neither disrupt class, nor run off unsupervised. We're packing a *lot* of academics into a short amount of time, each week, so we need to keep interruptions to a minimum (and honor our host church by not letting our adorable little "loose cannons" run around on their own recognizance).

Chores and Clean-up

Everyone is expected to clean up after themselves and participate in the housekeeping duties each week. Our goal is to make our host church glad we came, not glad we left.

Electronic Devices

Please use cellphones and electronic devices only in case of emergency during school time. Texts, emails, phone calls, and internet searches can all wait until break time or after class. Our school day is very intensive, and we need everyone, including parents, to stay focused.

Trivium Tuesdays

One of the factors that enabled early Americans to give their children such excellent educations was that they lived in community with others who gave their children similar educations. The first Tuesday of every month, we will have an informal mothers (or parents) meeting, to help us all continue learning more about Christian Classical Education. We will read a chapter or two of a book about the topic, discussing as we read. Please plan to come to every meeting. Even if you are already a smashing success at classical education, the rest of us will benefit from your wisdom! "Iron sharpeneth iron, so doth man sharpen the face of his friend." (Pr. 27:17)

Level of Effort

Wisdom's Way is an intensive 30-week schoolyear. The Director and Tutors work hard to provide a Christian Classical School curriculum for the homeschool setting, but parents and students must be prepared to work hard themselves, both on our school meeting day and at home. A Classical Christian education is going to be difficult for those of us coming from a modern education background; but if we are willing to apply ourselves, and work together and combine our strengths, I am persuaded that we can do this!

CLASS SCHEDULE FOR EARLY KNOWLEDGE STUDENTS (AGES 5-9)

9:00 – 9:15 am	Arrive.
9:15 – 9:30 am	Opening Assembly.
9:30 – 10:00 am	New Lessons. Drill <i>Grammar of Grace</i> new lessons for the current week.
10:00 – 10:30 am	Hymn Singing. Led by Jeff Young.
10:30 – 11:00 am	<p>Art, Science, & Geography. (And Music.) Alternate 6-week periods between Art Copywork and Nature Studies. The final 6 weeks of the year will be Geography. (Play classical music while they work, when indoors.) Art Copywork: Provide examples of good art for the children to study and copy; use good-quality art supplies. (Weeks 1-6, 13-18) Nature Studies: Each child will create a nature study notebook; each week, the children make little drawings of bugs, plants, or animals; also teaches art. (Weeks 7-12, 19-24) Geography. (Weeks 25-30)</p>
11:00 – 11:15 am	<p>Biblical Languages. (And Music.) (Play classical music quietly during this class, too.) Cycle 1: Greek alphabet. <i>A Greek Hupogrammon</i> worksheets. Cycle 2: Hebrew phonics. <i>New Siddur Primer</i> lessons on whiteboard. Cycle 3: Greek phonics. <i>A Greek Alphabetarion</i> lessons on whiteboard. Cycle 4: Hebrew alphabet. <i>Shalom Alef Bet! Pre-Primer</i> worksheets.</p>
11:15 – 11:30 am	Break. <i>Later Knowledge Students break into separate group.</i>
11:30 am – 12:00 pm	Oral Interpretation. Each child either recites from memory or reads for the rest of the class the literary or biblical selection he has prepared. It may be a <i>Grammar of Grace</i> lesson, or anything else. Practice speaking clearly, making eye contact, standing still, and other basic speaking skills. Classmates should ask questions, for the speaker to answer. Children will become comfortable speaking to a group.
12:00 – 12:30 pm	Memory Lessons Review. Review the New Lessons for this week, along with the past 6 weeks' memory lessons.
12:30 pm	Lunch. Each family brings a sack lunch, and enjoys fellowship and playtime.