

Wisdom's Way

CLASSICAL SCHOOL FOR CHRISTIAN HOMESCHOOLERS

ALL KNOWLEDGE STUDENTS

(approximately ages 5–14)

Knowledge (elementary-age) students learn much of their material together, mostly in the form of memory work and books read aloud in the home. This one-room schoolhouse style of teaching is very effective. It may seem counter-intuitive to modern parents to have their 5-year-olds and 12-year-olds learning the same core material together, but it is natural for children of different ages to learn together, in the context of the family.¹ Within that overall framework, the Knowledge students are then split into two groups: Early Knowledge and Later Knowledge.

The core Knowledge curriculum, for all students, is as follows:

1. Grammar of Grace memory lessons (about 30 min. daily)
2. *Grammar of Grace* Bible Reading Plan (about 15 min. daily)
3. Further read-aloud, either using *Grammar of Grace* Reading Plan Supplement, or as desired by parents (about 2 hours daily)

Subjects studied: English, Literature, History, Comprehension, Latin, Greek, Hebrew, Music, Character Formation

At Wisdom's Way once a week, these additional classes supplement the core curriculum:

- Hymn & Psalm singing
- Biblical Greek & Hebrew
- Oral Interpretation (public speaking)
- Art & Classical Music
- Geography
- Natural Philosophy, or Science
- Conversational Spanish

During the schoolday at Wisdom's Way, when we meet together, Later Knowledge students meet with the Early Knowledge students for most of the morning; at mid-morning they split off into a separate class, and they also stay into the afternoon.

¹ Segregating students by age is a recent development in human history; the idea is rooted in Darwinist thinking. The assumption was that a child retraces his entire evolutionary history as he grows from an embryo into an adult; therefore putting a six-year-old into the classroom with an eight-year-old would be like putting "Cro-Magnon man" into the classroom with "Neanderthal man"; and putting the eight-year-old into the classroom with a ten-year-old would be like putting "Neanderthal man" into the classroom with "modern man". This was imagined to drag down the more "evolved" beings' ability to progress educationally.

EARLY KNOWLEDGE YEARS

(approximately ages 5–9)

At home, each child should be taught phonics and copywork individually, at his parents' direction. Grammar of Grace offers an optional phonics plan utilizing Samuel Blumenfeld's *Alpha-Phonics*, and the Grammar of Grace Copybook is excellent for teaching writing.

Informally—as part of a lifestyle that encourages a love of learning—parents introduce math, as the subject naturally arises in daily life. The classical method for teaching children does not include formal study (like textbooks & workbooks) of mathematics until the teenage years, and that method actually prepares children *better* for success in math in junior high and high school. There is more detailed information about this approach in *Grammar of Grace*.

The subjects parents will teach or review at home each week are:

1. Grammar of Grace memory lessons
2. Bible and other Books to be Read Aloud
3. Phonics
4. Writing (in the form of Copywork)

LATER KNOWLEDGE YEARS

(approximately ages 10–14)

At around age 10 or so, formal academic work is added to the core Knowledge curriculum, patterned on classical American grammar school. Students will be taught literature, history, writing, English grammar, Latin, arithmetic, Greek, and Christian worldview. They will receive the grammar school education that was considered standard in early America, with the addition of math¹ and worldview².

Students work out of the First, Second, and Third Year Christian Grammar School at Home Later Knowledge Guides.

Students complete assignments in these subjects:

1. Daily Bible reading & summary
2. Dictation
3. Reading Aloud
4. English Grammar
5. Latin
6. Arithmetic
7. Memory Lesson (1 Peter is memorized over the 3 years)
8. Copywork
9. History reading & summary
10. Christian Literature or Biography reading & summary
11. Music (hymn singing)
12. Oral Interpretation
13. Journaling & Letter writing
14. Greek
15. Worldview & Early Understanding
16. Science

¹ Mathematics was not a standard grammar school subject in those days.

² Worldview was unnecessary, because Christian worldview was part of the culture in those days.