



THE SAINT TIMOTHY SCHOOL

# Middle School Curriculum Guide



The mission of The Saint Timothy School is to endow our children with the TOOLS OF LEARNING, and the WISDOM OF THE AGES, by nourishing their souls with TRUTH, GOODNESS and BEAUTY, so that they may SERVE GOD and their FELLOW MAN with VIRTUE, DIGNITY, and STRENGTH.

*Oratio*

“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of Wisdom.”  
“Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might.”  
—SOLOMON  
“A man’s character is his fate.” — HERACLITUS

THE MIDDLE SCHOOL YEARS give pattern and order to the grammar laid down during the elementary years. Though students continue to memorize poetry, dates, and facts, the focus of these years is to gain the habits of logical thinking.

Our curriculum emphasizes the humanities to cultivate skills of critical thinking, reading, speaking, and writing necessary for the study of any subject. Study skills and habits are particularly emphasized to build a lifelong foundation of capable work.

Maths and sciences in the middle school years are essential for building skills of logical and clear understanding of the world. In math, students learn rigorous and creative problem solving through linear reasoning. In science, students rigorously engage with the scientific method through textbooks and experiments, learning to view the world with a properly critical and keen eye.

In literature, students read a variety of texts which engage them with the significant questions of Western civilization: what does it mean to live a happy life? What is wisdom and justice? How does Christianity understand the pagan tradition? How do we

use technology wisely? Students engage with these problems through seminar discussion and papers. Our writing curriculum builds upon the orderly foundation laid in the grammar school years. Students develop and hone the skill of argumentative writing, learning to craft clear and rigorous arguments.

Our history curriculum uses both textbooks and primary sources to give students the examples of great men and women of history and to show how ideas and problems have developed over time. The study of history makes up an essential part of any education, not least because it shows the works of God in time on earth. Moreover, history is one great extended conversation, and to take part, one must know what has already been said. As a school in the Western Tradition, we give priority to this Western heritage, not because we think it the only one worth studying, but because a student learns to honor what is further away by first learning to honor what is near. True multicultural appreciation—which is to be desired—grows out of appreciation of one’s own culture first, not out of demeaning one’s own culture.

*Study  
The  
Labor*





# Literature

## I. ANCIENT LITERATURE

- Greek & Roman Mythology
- Sutcliff, *Black Ships Before Troy*
- Sutcliff, *The Wanderings of Odysseus*
- Sophocles, *Oedipus Rex*
- Plato, *Euthyphro & Apology*
- Sophocles, *Oedipus Rex*
- Shakespeare, *Julius Caesar*

## A SELECTION OF POEMS MEMORIZED:

- Emily Dickinson, "I dwell in Possibility"
- Shakespeare's St. Crispin's Day Speech
- A.E. Housman, "When I was one and twenty"
- G.M. Hopkins "The Windhover"
- S.T. Coleridge, "Kubla Khan"
- Shakespeare, "All the world's a stage"
- P.B. Shelley, "Ozymandias"
- George Herbert, "Trinity Sunday"

## II. MEDIEVAL & EARLY MODERN LITERATURE

- European Fairy Tales & Legends
- Roger Lancelyn Green's *King Arthur & His Knights of the Round Table*
- Roger Lancelyn Green's *Robin Hood*
- Shakespeare, *The Tempest*
- Shakespeare, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*

## WRITING OBJECTIVES BY GRADE:

- 6th Grade:*
- Write a strict 5 paragraph essay on any topic
  - Select & integrate adequate evidence
  - Use internet & book sources to research a topic
- 7th Grade:*
- Write skillfull & complete introductions
  - Master the four part paragraph
  - Discover & analyze themes & symbols
  - Write a detailed research paper

## III. AMERICAN LITERATURE

- Washington Irving, "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow" & "Rip Van Winkle"
- Nathaniel Hawthorne
- Edgar Allan Poe
- Robert Louis Stevenson, *Dr. Jekyll & Mr. Hyde*
- Mary Shelley, *Frankenstein*
- Mark Twain, *Huckleberry Finn*

## 8th Grade:

- Write a nuanced & stylish essay
- Select & discuss significant details in the text
- Transition smoothly between paragraphs
- Master basic MLA citation form
- Write a lengthy & nuanced research paper

# History

## ANCIENT HISTORY

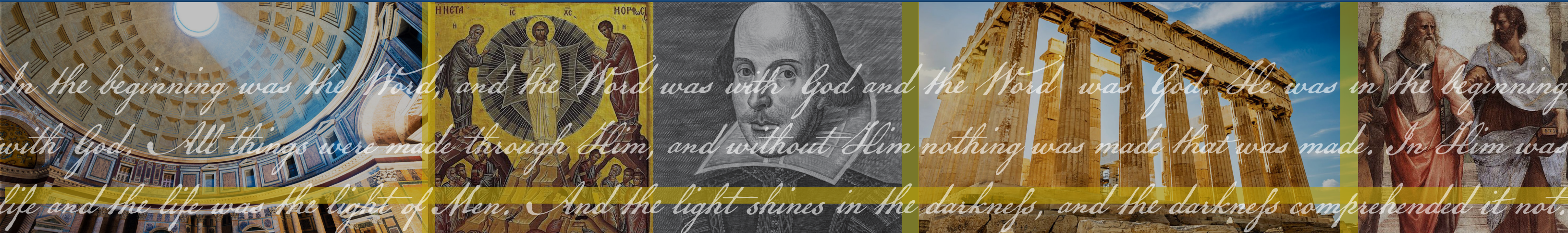
- Ancient Near East
- Ancient Greece
- Rome through the Late Empire
- Growth of the Early Church
- Fall of Rome
- *A Selection of Primary Sources*
  - Plutarch, Herodotus, Livy
  - The Apology of Justin Martyr
  - Clement of Alexandria
  - St. Augustine
  - Tertullian

## MEDIEVAL & EARLY MODERN HISTORY

- Monasticism & the Rebirth of the West
- Early Medieval Kingdoms
- Rise of Islam
- The High Middle Ages
- The Renaissance
- *A Selection of Primary Sources*
  - The Rule of St. Benedict
  - Geoffrey of Monmouth
  - The Magna Carta

## AMERICAN HISTORY

- Early Modern Europe
- Colonization of the New World
- Early American Republic
- Civil War
- The 20th Century
- *A Selection of Primary Sources*
  - The Mayflower Compact
  - Hobbes & Locke
  - Benjamin Franklin
  - The Constitution
  - Booker T. Washington



# Mathematics

A typical student will move from Advanced Arithmetic (Saxon 8/7) to Pre-Algebra (Saxon 1/2) to Algebra 1 during their Middle School years. However, advanced students often accelerate their curricular track in Middle School, moving directly from Saxon 8/7 to Algebra 1. This allows them to pursue up to Calculus 1 and 2 (for college credit) in High School.

# Science

Students explore Creation through the study of General Science and Physical Science (Pre-Physics) in 6th and 7th grade. In 8th grade, those who have completed both of these courses may take a Pre-Chemistry Practicum, which is heavy on experimentation and lab writing. We use Apologia's curriculum and supplement with extra projects and experiments.

# Bible & Doctrine

Students study Bible and Doctrine all the years of Middle School, moving through Old Testament 1, Old Testament 2, and New Testament on a three year cycle. Our curriculum builds upon the thorough knowledge and memory of the Bible gained in Grammar School, "connecting the dots" of all of the stories to show the grand picture of redemption. An emphasis on the connectedness of Scripture naturally leads to typology, which easily leads to the deeper learning of the Church's doctrine and history of interpretation. The school's Bible memory curriculum, which in total requires the memorization of over 800 verses of Scripture, continues throughout the middle grades.

# Logic & Speech

Thinking critically is worlds away from the "critical thinking" curricula of progressive education. Logic as a discipline and habit is essential for living out the imago dei, especially in a time full of fallacy and propoganda. For these reasons, students begin the 6th grade with Informal Fallacies, then moved year-by-year through Traditional Logic 1 and 2, before completing their formal logic training with Material Logic in 9th grade. Since both logic and rhetoric are means rather than ends, they are incorporated into all classes as well as occupying a course of specialized study. Students are required to present their own arguments on paper and verbally in all classes. Periodic speech classes are mandatory. The drama program also develops skills of public presentation.

# Latin & Greek

Latin has been at the core of Western education for 2,000 years, and all our students achieve proficiency in translation. Most complete their study of Latin grammar in 8th grade. In high school, they read substantial sections of the great Latin authors like Augustine, Virgil, Cicero, and Horace. Students both master the technical grammatical aspects of the texts and develop an appreciation for the rhetorical and poetic aspects of the language. All students study one year of Biblical Greek.

# Fine Arts

ORCHESTRA • CHOIR  
DRAWING • PASTEL • WOODWORKING