



Paideia Classical Christian School

SECONDARY CURRICULUM

THE LOGIC & RHETORIC STAGES

In her essay, “The Lost Tools of Learning,” Dorothy Sayers observed that students tend to learn in stages that correspond to the subject matter of the first three liberal arts: Grammar, Logic, and Rhetoric.

In the Grammar stage (which encompasses the elementary grades), students like to sing, chant, and recite. They like to learn the “facts” or the “grammar” of various subjects such as history, science, geography, math, and music.

Moving from the Grammar stage to the Logic stage (entering 7th grade) can be a challenging time for students and parents. This is a time of transition as students learn to master a new way of learning.

In addition to memorizing facts, students will be required to analyze, synthesize, and apply them. Students will be introduced to logical argument—the art and science of reasoning well. They will learn how to disagree and debate respectfully.

In addition to the changes in teaching style, secondary students will also see a change in the way at-home work is assigned. Starting in 7th grade, students no longer have a Homework Assignment Sheet collating all their assignments. They will receive assignments in class and learn how to write their assignments in a planner and take ownership of their homework. They will learn how to communicate with teachers via email on our ClassReach messaging system. The Logic stage is an exciting time for student growth because of the changes and challenges it brings.

As students continue to develop, they enter the Rhetoric stage in 10th grade. Rhetoric stage students are ready to encounter many of the “Great Books” in literature, history, science, and philosophy. They are ready to enter into the great conversation and use the tools from the Logic stage in a new, fuller way. They begin to hone their writing and presentation skills to a high level. They learn the principles of Classical Rhetoric and prepare to write a junior thesis in 11th grade and senior thesis in 12th grade. They practice leadership inside and outside the classroom, providing role models for younger students.

One of the goals of Classical education is to form an adult, not merely to educate a child. Parents, please join with us in helping your secondary student grow in self-management and responsibility as we seek to cultivate the intellectual virtues of honesty, fair-mindedness, curiosity, carefulness, courage, tenacity, and humility.

Academic Workload

Students in the secondary grades (7th-12th) typically have seven academic classes each semester along with one period of art per week and two periods of music. Most academic classes meet three times per week, the exception being math which meets five times per week. Students in the secondary grades should expect to have around three hours of at-home work each weekday afternoon.

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SECONDARY SCOPE & SEQUENCE

	SEVENTH	EIGHTH	NINTH	TENTH	ELEVENTH	TWELFTH			
Bible	Old Testament Survey: Historical Books	Old Testament Survey: Poetic and Prophetic Books	New Testament Survey (1C)	Bible Study Tools (1C)	Church History (1C)	Apologetics with C.S. Lewis (1C)			
Math	Pre-Algebra	Algebra 1 (1C)	Geometry (1C)	Algebra 2 (1C)	Pre-Calculus (1C)	Calculus (1C) (or Elective, class size permitting)			
English	Classical Poetry & Grammar	Classical Prose & Grammar	Rhetoric 1: (1C) Classical Speeches & Essays	Rhetoric 2: Principles of Rhetoric (1C)	Rhetoric 3: Junior Thesis (1C)	Rhetoric 4: Senior Thesis (1C)			
Lit	Adventure Lit	European Lit	American Lit (½C)	Ancient Lit (½C)	Medieval Lit (½C)	Modern Lit (½C)			
History	Modern History (A.D. 1600-Present)	Global Studies (Creation-A.D. 1500)	American History & Government (1C)	Ancient History (1C)	Medieval History (1C)	Modern History & Economics (1C)			
Science	Informal Logic: Fallacies	Life Sci.	Earth Sci.	Formal Logic: Deductive	Health & Nutrition (½C)	Astronomy (½C)	Biology (1C)	Chemistry (1C)	Physics (1C)
Foreign Lang.	Latin 1	Latin 2	Biblical Greek 1 (1C)	Biblical Greek 2 (1C)	Spanish 1 (1C)	Spanish 2 (1C)			
Music & Fine Arts	Performance Choir & Music Theory Painting/Drawing	Performance Choir & Music Theory Painting/Drawing	Performance Choir & Music Theory Painting/Drawing (½C)	Perform. Choir & Music Theory Painting/Drawing (½C)	Perform. Choir & Music Theory Painting/Drawing (½C)	Perform. Choir & Music Theory Painting/Drawing (½C)			
CREDITS		1 Credit	7 Credits	7 Credits	7 Credits	7 Credits			

This chart shows the ideal scope and sequence for Paideia's secondary classes. Due to the small size of some of our grade levels, some classes will be offered on a rotation and thus credits may not end up being earned in this exact order.