

What sets Classical Education apart from others?

“The liberal arts are the general linguistic and mathematical skills that enable a person to excel in every academic area—as well as in the practical activities of life. In classical and medieval times, there were thought to be seven of these arts or skills: grammar, logic, and rhetoric (the “trivium”), as well as arithmetic, geometry, astronomy, and music (the “quadrivium”). The first three were linguistic arts, and the last four were mathematical. We would probably say today that there are more than just the four mathematics skills worthy of mastery, but the liberal arts remain the greatest summary of the skills a person should be expected to know in order to be an educated person.

Through the study of the greatest that has been thought and said by Western writers and thinkers, we pass our cultural heritage on to our children. Western civilization is made up of three elements: the Greeks, the Romans, and the Hebrews—and the coalescing of these three cultures into what later became known as Christendom, the Christian civilization that remained the dominant cultural force in the West until the early twentieth century. A familiarity with the Greeks, the Romans, and, most importantly, the Christian Bible is essential to understanding our culture.

The liberal arts are the “how” of education, and the study of Western culture is the “what.” A mastery of both of these is the best way to prepare a child, not only for college, but for life.” ~Memoria Press

1. **Biblical Worldview.** Because Memoria Press materials are created by committed Christian authors from the ground up, biblical integration is not an afterthought or simply tacked on to another program. Memoria Press continues to improve the precision and impact of a fully developed biblical worldview through each subject.
2. **Critical Thinking Development.** Deep learning, rather than mere surface level or rote memory, is the pedagogical goal of Memoria Press. Student texts and higher level review questions are written to help students understand “why,” not just memorize “what.” Since learning should be developmentally appropriate, multisensory, and fun, Teacher Editions are filled with suggestions and tips designed to “Teach for Understanding.”
3. **Academic Rigor.** Christian schools have a responsibility to academically prepare their students for continuing education, and for the roles that God has planned for their futures. Memoria Press shares that burden and has built an academic product based on state and national subject standards.

**PreGrammar and Grammar School Curriculum**  
**Jr. Kindergarten through Sixth Grade**  
**(Broad, Factual, Data)**

Memoria Press' educational philosophy can be best described as classical Christian education. Classical Christian education is the cultivation of wisdom and virtue through meditation on the Good, the True, and the Beautiful. This is accomplished in two ways: first, through training in the liberal arts; and secondly, through a familiarity with the great books and the great thinkers of the Western tradition.

The Pre-grammar stage is our Junior Kindergarten and Kindergarten class which is designed for those who are four-five years of age, Jr.K is for those the year before they go to Kindergarten. Through age appropriate integrated activities students study phonics, language arts, math and science all through the lens of the bible. We also believe that play is an important aspect of social development. Children learn virtuously about what is good, beautiful, pure and lovely. At this age children learn through fun activities. Each aspect of the day is designed to teach the first steps in the essential skills of literacy and numeracy, skills they will use the rest of their lives. Jr. Kindergarten students learn phonograms (the letter and letter-combination sounds) writing and arithmetic skills. Art teaches spatial awareness and improves fine motor skills. Music opens them to the joy of musical expression. Outside, they improve their balance and hand-eye coordination through fun games. Kindergarteners will do all of these things and more as they focus on phonics and reading.

In the grammar stage of learning, (1st-6th grades) the focus is on breaking new concepts down to the required fundamental skills or facts and mastering them through memorizing jingles, chants and songs. Instruction focuses on scripture memorization, grammar, phonics and spelling rules, math facts, early Latin Vocabulary, pivotal historical dates and handwriting skills. Young children enjoy learning through singing, chanting and repeating. The skills learned, facts memorized and information retained throughout the grammar stage of learning is foundational to the logic and rhetoric stages.

### **Language Arts**

- Phonics and Spelling
- Grammar
- Writing
- Penmanship
- Cursive
- Latin Songs
- Classic Books and Read Alouds
- Poetry

### **Math and Science**

- Math: Rod and Staff or Saxon Math
- Science: Nature, Journaling, Animal Studies, Seasons, Astronomy, Insects, Birds and Elemental Science.

### **Humanities**

- Literature: Classics such as Beatrix Potter, Black Beauty, Peter Pan, Little House Series, Charlotte's Web, Heidi, Lassie and Greek Myths.
- Christian Studies: The Story Bible, Famous Men of Rome, Famous Men of the Middle Ages.
- History: Stories of Great Americans, States and Capitals, Geography and the US.

**Dialectic Stage**  
**7th-8th Grades**  
**(Logic, Reasoning, “Why?”)**

The logic stage is the study of the relationship of those parts and how they fit or work together, as well as examining arguments. As students mature, they begin to think more analytically and become more interested in how facts fit together. They begin to understand cause and effect relationships and develop the ability to wrestle with seemingly contradictory statements or ideas. Instruction includes: debate, formal logic, Progymnasmata, and speech. Students are introduced to Socratic Dialogue, a method involving questioning designed to ultimately lead students to understanding and embracing truth. Jesus often used questions such as, “What will it profit a man if he gains the world but loses His soul? Who do men say I am? Who do you say I am?”

**Language Arts**

- English Grammar and Language Arts
- Writing Composition
- Penmanship
- Classical Composition
- Latin and the Greek Alphabet
- Spelling and Poetry
- Classic Books and Read Alouds

**Math and Science**

- Pre Algebra/Algebra Saxon Math
- Science: Book of Trees, Biology, Physical Science

**Humanities**

- Literature: Classics such as Anne of Green Gables, The Hobbit, The Trojan War, The Adventures of Tom Sawyer, Treasure Island, The Wind and the Willows.
- Christian Studies: Famous Men of Greece, The Ancient World, Ancient Greeks
- History: American History, Geography