

Academic Standards for The Classical Academy



Fourth Grade

History: Modern America (1850 A.D. – Present)

Students will continue their study of American History from the 3rd grade. Through stories, pictures, maps and songs, students will learn about the major events and conflicts beginning with the build up to the Civil War through present day.

The student will:

- Compare the Missouri Compromise and the Compromise of 1850
- Describe how the Kansas-Nebraska Act changed earlier compromises
- Sing facts about the Westward Expansion
- Recite the Gettysburg Address and facts (through song) of the Civil War
- Retell the importance of the Reconstruction Period
- Name the countries involved and the outcome of the Spanish American War
- Describe the effects World War 1 had on America and the countries in Europe
- Explain the roaring twenties and the results that led America into the Great Depression
- Explain and identify the important facts of World War 2
- Summarize The Cold War
- Summarize the Korean War

Science: Earth Science and Astronomy

Students are introduced to Earth Science through the study of Astronomy and Geology.

- Explore astronomy.
 - Describe the hypothesis of the solar system's formation.
 - Identify early astronomers and their discoveries.
 - Identify and describe the bodies of the solar system and galaxy, including the planets, stars, Earth, Moon, and Sun.
- Explore geology.
 - Define minerals and rocks.
 - Describe and diagram the rock cycle.
 - Identify and define the three types of rocks.
 - Describe the different layers of Earth.
 - Describe the hypothesis of continental drift.
 - Describe the theory of plate tectonics.
 - Compare and contrast the different plate boundaries (converging, diverging, transform fault).
 - Describe and diagram the different types of volcanoes.
 - Describe earthquakes.

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- Explore meteorology.
 - Define basic weather terms, including humidity, wind, and air pressure.
 - Identify and describe the basic cloud forms.
 - Diagram and define the basic elements of weather maps.

Mathematics – (Saxon 6/5)

The student will:

- Read and write numbers up to 100,000
- Round off whole numbers to the nearest 10 or 100
- Understand factors and multiples
- Multiply a 4-digit number by a 1-digit number
- Multiply a 2-digit number or a 3-digit number by a 2-digit number
- Add or subtract like and related fractions
- Understand mixed numbers and improper fractions
- Understand a fraction of a set of objects
- Read and interpret bar graphs
- Estimate and measure angles
- Identify perpendicular and parallel lines
- Find one dimension of a rectangle when given its perimeter or area
- Read and write one place decimal numbers
- Express a decimal as a mixed number and vice versa
- Add and subtract decimals
- Round decimals
- Multiply and divide decimals
- Estimate for the product and quotient
- Review conversion of measurements
- Identify figures with line symmetry
- Identify symmetrical shapes
- Find the volume of a solid

Reading and Grammar

The student will:

- Master all 71 phonograms
- Learn the 47 spelling rules
- Master penmanship and how to write with excellence
- Chant the eight parts of speech.
- Define the eight parts of speech.
- Identify the subject, direct object, predicate adjective, and predicate nominatives in sentences.
- Diagram sentences containing nouns, pronouns, verbs, adverbs, conjunctions, and adjectives.

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- Identify declarative, interrogative, imperative, and exclamatory sentences.
- Use the following punctuation properly in sentences: periods, question marks, exclamation points, quotation marks, colons, and commas.
- Change singular words into plural words.
- Diagram compound subjects and verbs.
- Identify present, past, and future verbs.
- Memorize the abbreviations for titles of respect.
- Leave third grade reading at or above a fourth grade level as determined by McCall Crabbs testing

Literature

Students will learn about literary themes and ideas through the reading of excellent classical literature. Some of these themes include:

- Author's purpose
- Genres
- Summarizing
- Character development
- Cause and effect
- Plot development
- Sequencing
- Main idea and details
- Literature books read may include:
 - *Tom Sawyer* by Mark Twain
 - *A Wrinkle in Time* by Madeline L'Engle
 - *Bud, Not Buddy* by Christopher Paul Curtis
 - *Peter Pan* by J. M. Barrie
 - *Caddie Woodlawn* by Carol Ryrie Brink
 - *Rascal* by Sterling North
 - *Number the Stars* by Lois Lowry
- Read aloud books may include:
 - *Lincoln: A Photobiography* by Russell Freedman
 - Tales from Shakespeare
 - *Old Yeller* by Fred Gipson
 - *The Hobbit* by J.R.R. Tolkien
 - *Heidi* by Joanna Spyri
 - *Bully For You, Teddy Roosevelt* by Jean Fritz

Writing

Students will be able to:

- Identify all eight parts of speech
- Parse simple and complex sentences
- Utilize synonyms and grammatical structure to vary sentences

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- Organize and identify major events of complex fables and fairy tales
- Retell complex fables and fairy tales in their own words
- Write complete sentences with proper capitalization and punctuation
- Write and punctuate direct and indirect dialogue correctly
- Create simple keyword outlines of fables and fairy tales

Geography

Students will:

- Draw and label a map of the United States
 - Label all the states and capitals
 - Label all major mountain ranges and rivers
- Study maps of major battles and understand the importance of terrain