

# Academic Standards for The Classical Academy



## First Grade

### **History: Ancient History (5,000 B.C. – 476 A.D.)**

Students are introduced to the story of the ancient world in chronological order and by geographic area. Through stories, myths, pictures, and artifacts, students learn about the places, leaders, and important events or advancements of five major ancient civilizations: Mesopotamia, Egypt, Greece, Rome, and China. Sources used may include *The Story of the World, Volume I: Ancient Times* by Susan Wise Bauer; *The Usborne Book of World History*; *Geography From A to Z: A Picture Glossary*; *Our World: A Child's First Picture Atlas*

The student will:

- Describe the Fertile Crescent.
- Identify Tigris and Euphrates Rivers.
- Draw the Ziggurat at Ur.
- Hear the *Epic of Gilgamesh* read aloud.
- Recite The Seven Wonders of the Ancient World.
- Be able to explain Lower and Upper Egypt.
- Identify the Nile River.
- Study Egyptian gods, mummies, pyramids, and hieroglyphics.
- Name 2 Ancient Greek city-states.
- Recite the Greek alphabet.
- Compete in our own Olympic games.
- List Greek gods and goddesses.
- Hear Homer's *Iliad* and *Odyssey* read aloud (abridged).
- Sing about Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle.
- Describe the life of Alexander the Great.
- Draw Roman architecture: roads, aqueducts, Coliseum.
- Describe the life of Julius Caesar.
- Draw a map of the Roman Empire.
- Hear Virgil's *Aeneid* read aloud.
- Describe the life of Jesus Christ.

### **Science: Biology**

Units include; classification, five kingdoms of living things (Monera, Protista, Fungi, Plantae, and Animalia), vertebrates and invertebrates, botany (plants), cells (animal cells and plant cells), anatomy (eight systems of the body), five senses, and scientist biographies.

The student will:

- Define organisms.
- Classify living things into the five kingdoms.
- Name the parts of plant cells.

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- Recite the parts of a plant and the systems of a plant.
- Diagram an animal cell.
- Sing about the parts of an animal cell.
- Classify invertebrates & vertebrates.
- Explain organs belonging to 10 different systems of the body.
- Identify examples of plants and animals that live in each major biome (aquatic, desert, forest, grassland, and tundra).

## **Mathematics – (Saxon 2)**

Mathematics is taught using Saxon textbooks and workbooks. Manipulatives and games are used to reinforce math concepts, basic facts, and operations.

The student will:

- Count to 100.
- Addition of 2 digit numbers.
- Subtraction of 2 digit numbers.
- Grouping: Basic multiplication and division concepts.
- Read a clock.
- Count money.

## **Literature, Reading and Grammar**

Children will listen to a wide range of literature read aloud, including poetry, rhymes, fables, folktales, ancient myths, and short classics.

TCA uses a direct instruction approach for teaching reading in 1<sup>st</sup> grade. *The Riggs Institute* reading program is used to meet all learners' needs and to build a strong foundation for future grades. In addition, teachers read aloud daily from a selected list of high quality literature. Reading also provides opportunities to call attention to rich imagery, introduce new vocabulary, and make connections to virtuous examples of behavior across the curriculum and content.

The student will:

- Master all 71 phonograms
- Learn the 47 spelling rules
- Master penmanship and how to write with excellence
- Have daily spelling lessons and weekly spelling tests derived from the phonograms and spelling rules learned during the week
- Practice constructing complete sentences and writing summaries.
- Define the parts of speech: common and proper nouns, pronouns, verbs, adjectives, conjunctions, interjections, prepositions, and adverbs.
- Identify types of sentences and the parts of a sentence.

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- Study punctuation marks: periods, question marks, exclamation points, and commas.
- Master plural noun rules.
- Identify synonyms and antonyms.
- Compare homophones, homographs, and homonyms.
- Master capitalization rules.
- Use apostrophes: possessives and contractions.
- Write initials and abbreviations
- Leave first grade reading at or above a second grade level as determined by McCall Crabbs testing

## **Geography**

- Draw and study maps of ancient Mesopotamia and Greek and Roman Empires