



THE PROGRESSION OF A COVENANT EDUCATION

# *A Classical Education in a Modern World*

**What is the role of classical  
and Christian schooling in  
today's world?**

**Why does my child's education  
make a lasting difference?**

**How can our family extend the  
classical and Christian model  
of education to our home?**





# The Role of Classical and Christian Education

## THE WHOLE PICTURE.

One of the hallmarks of classical education is a rich and engaging curriculum in which all subjects are seamlessly woven together. Each element of the curriculum is intentionally chosen in order to help students recognize the interconnectedness of ideas and find their place in the great conversation.

How great a gift to see a kindergartner progress through the Covenant program in its entirety. Students leave our walls with a deep and comprehensive understanding of our world, of the ideas which have shaped our culture, and of their place in God's plan for His Creation.

*A classical and Christian education is best understood by looking at the portrait of a graduate.*



**A COMPREHENSIVE AND COHESIVE  
PROGRAM FROM START TO FINISH.**





# *The Progression of a Covenant Education*

## **HISTORY**

Through a comprehensive study of world history, students are led to recognize God's providence as it has been revealed throughout time. They come to understand the historical significance and chronological position of influential people and watershed events from creation to the present, as well as the influence of these on contemporary thought and culture. Emphasis is placed on the use of primary sources and historical narrative. A holistic approach to instruction is taken, allowing students to develop empathy and a deeper understanding of each era. History comes alive through special events such as Greek Olympics, a Medieval Tournament, and a Renaissance Faire.

In Grades 1-6, World History is studied chronologically, from ancient to modern times, enabling students to develop a thorough understanding of the context of historical events. In Grades 7-8, students complete a more in-depth study of World History from ancient to modern times. The study of the Roman empire in Grade 8 includes a comparative study of the United States' Constitution.

<b>KINDERGARTEN</b>	Overview of History
<b>1ST GRADE</b>	Ancient Civilizations
<b>2ND GRADE</b>	Greece and Rome
<b>3RD GRADE</b>	Middle Ages
<b>4TH GRADE</b>	Renaissance and Reformation
<b>5TH GRADE</b>	Age of Revolution
<b>6TH GRADE</b>	Modern Era
<b>7TH GRADE</b>	Ancient Civilizations and Greece
<b>8TH GRADE</b>	Rome/American Civics

## BIBLE

Through the sequential study of God's Word, students develop an understanding of the overarching metanarrative of Scripture, basic theological concepts and major biblical themes, the attributes and characteristics of God, and the plan of salvation.

Throughout their time at Covenant, our students are introduced to the big story of God's creative and redemptive work throughout history as revealed in Scripture. In daily Bible classes, they study God's Word sequentially from Genesis to Revelation, developing an understanding of the main events and people in the Bible, major biblical themes, the character of God, and the plan of salvation. Rooting Scripture in its historical context, students learn to recognize patterns of God's sovereign hand throughout the ages and to see how an understanding of time and place informs scriptural interpretation. They also see their own place in the metanarrative of Scripture, as sinners, created in the image of God and in need of God's saving grace, who are invited into a personal relationship with Christ and equipped by the power of the Holy Spirit for all godliness.

We believe that God's Word is truth, and it is applicable to every facet of life and learning.

Under the shepherding of Covenant's teachers and through the power of the Holy Spirit, our students are challenged to hide God's Word in their hearts and to allow it to transform the way that they live. The practice of spiritual disciplines, including regular Bible reading, prayer, and confession, encourages and equips our students to invite the shaping of God's Word and Spirit in their lives and to faithfully love and serve Christ with their whole selves.

### **KINDERGARTEN**

Leading Little Ones to God

### **1ST GRADE**

Genesis-Ruth

### **2ND GRADE**

I Samuel-Malachi

### **3RD GRADE**

Gospels

### **4TH GRADE**

Acts and Paul's Letters

### **5TH GRADE**

General Epistles and John's Writings

### **6TH GRADE**

Old Testament Survey I

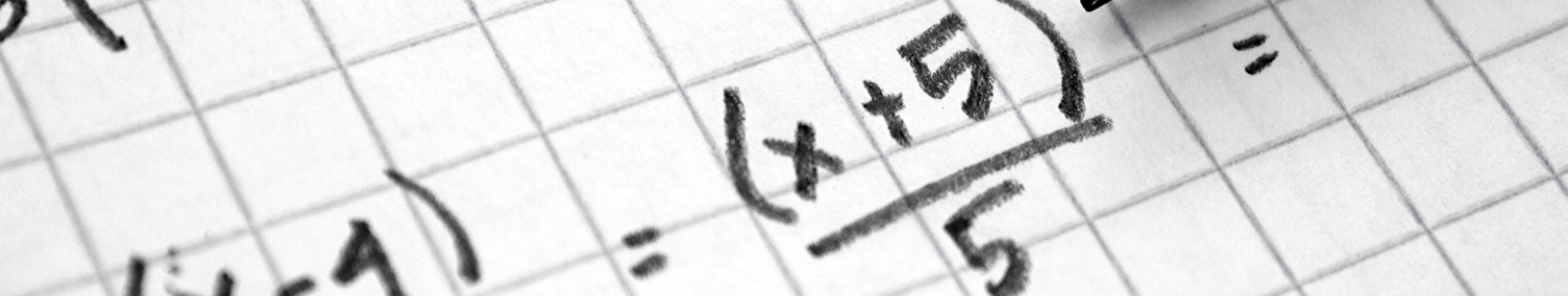
### **7TH GRADE**

Old Testament Survey II

### **8TH GRADE**

New Testament Survey





## MATH

At Covenant, we teach not only the procedures of mathematics, but the underlying concepts as well, yielding a much stronger retention of the material, the flexibility to apply knowledge to new situations, the ability to discern best approaches to problems, and a true delight in the subject matter.

Mathematics is a powerful language used to describe relationships and patterns. The certainty of its results are achieved through the application of pure logic. The language of mathematics communicates truths which are found not only in the physical world, but also in the abstract realm where its outcomes are often surprisingly useful and also astonishingly beautiful. We pray that our students will not only develop an appreciation for the power and beauty of mathematics, but that this appreciation will direct them to gaze upon the living God, the author of all mathematical truth, and that they will worship Him for His limitless power, perfection, and beauty.

In order to derive the greatest benefit from the study of mathematics, it is crucial that students are trained to think deeply about concepts and to trace the logic behind each and every result. Instead of forcing students to rigidly adhere to prescribed steps, we must encourage them to experiment, explore, and to keep asking questions. This has a formative effect on the minds of young students, producing more disciplined, logical thinking. It also yields a much stronger retention of the material, the flexibility to apply knowledge to new situations, the ability to discern best approaches to problems, and a true delight in the subject matter.

<b>KINDERGARTEN</b>	Saxon 1
<b>1ST GRADE</b>	Saxon 2
<b>2ND GRADE</b>	Singapore Math in Focus 2
<b>3RD GRADE</b>	Singapore Math in Focus 3
<b>4TH GRADE</b>	Singapore Math in Focus 4
<b>5TH GRADE</b>	Singapore Math in Focus 5
<b>6TH GRADE</b>	Singapore Math in Focus 6
<b>7TH GRADE</b>	Singapore New Syllabus Math I
<b>8TH GRADE</b>	Elementary Algebra



# SCIENCE

Students are trained to employ scientific methods, engaging in learning that is founded on direct experience and building an understanding that is both functional and deep, allowing students to develop a genuine appreciation of each branch of scientific study.

Simply presenting facts to be memorized is not sufficient for shaping and inspiring young scientists. We train our students to employ the scientific method well, inviting them into hands-on experiences with the concepts they are studying. Beginning in the grammar stage (K-5th grade), students are taught to ask good questions, make logical hypotheses, conduct experiments, and write simple lab reports on their findings. In the logic and rhetoric stages (6-12th grade), this process is more fully developed to encourage greater independence, engagement with more complex procedures, and deeper analysis of results. Students engage in learning that is founded in direct experience and build an understanding that is both functional and deep.

Because of a scope and sequence that focuses our science curriculum on one branch of study each year, teachers are afforded the time that is needed to delve deeply into the topic they cover. Students develop a genuine understanding and appreciation of each science. It is our desire that our students not only develop a solid understanding of scientific concepts, but also learn to integrate them with their faith. Through experimentation and the inquiry process, they are led to rediscover amazing truths about God's magnificent creation, truths that have been observed by great men and women throughout history. Ultimately, we seek to continually point our students beyond the beauty of creation itself to the inexpressible splendor of the Creator.

<b>KINDERGARTEN</b>	God's Creation
<b>1ST GRADE</b>	Zoology
<b>2ND GRADE</b>	Botany and Anatomy
<b>3RD GRADE</b>	Astronomy
<b>4TH GRADE</b>	Geology and Meteorology
<b>5TH GRADE</b>	Introduction to Physics
<b>6TH GRADE</b>	Chemistry
<b>7TH GRADE</b>	Biology
<b>8TH GRADE</b>	Physics





# LITERATURE

Students are trained to read deliberately and thoroughly. Classic works that have stood the test of time serve as the backbone of our literature curriculum, stories that reveal God's beauty, sovereignty, and creativity, reflecting the ultimate story of love and redemption found only in Christ.

Covenant's Language Arts program encompasses and integrates phonics, literature, vocabulary, spelling, grammar, and composition. In Kindergarten through Grade 2, students receive intensive phonics instruction to equip them with the phonetic skills needed to become fluent readers with strong comprehension. At all grade levels, students are trained to read deliberately and thoroughly, taking time to understand a work's complexity, to absorb its richness of meaning, and to analyze how that meaning is embodied in literary form. They are encouraged to discuss great literature with energy and imagination, coming to genuine insight based upon an analytical and critical evaluation of the text.

In all grades, a wide variety of excellent literature is used to teach reading skills and to encourage a lifelong love of books. Because we are asking students to engage in deep literary analysis and to search for what is truly good and beautiful, it is essential that we provide them with rich ground from which to mine.

*A wide variety of classic trade books, Little Bear, Curious George, Frog and Toad Are Friends, Harry the Dirty Dog, Henry and Mudge, Nate the Great, Caps for Sale, Madeline, Miss Nelson is Missing, Stone Soup, Bread and Jam for Frances, Corduroy, The Little Engine that Could, Billy and Blaze, Ox-Cart Man, Make Way for Ducklings, Miss Rumphius, A New Coat for Anna, Bears on Hemlock Mountain, The Courage of Sarah Noble, Little House in the Big Woods, The Boxcar Children, The Odyssey, Pompeii Buried Alive, The Trojan Horse, The Gods and Goddesses of Olympus, Homer Price, Charlotte's Web, Island of the Blue Dolphins, The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe, A Little Pilgrim's Progress, Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, I, Juan de Pareja, Ten Tales from Shakespeare, Amos Fortune, Sign of the Beaver, Johnny Tremain, A Wrinkle in Time, Lincoln: A Photobiography, Out of the Dust, A Christmas Carol, The Hobbit, Treasure Island, Heroes, Gods, and Monsters of the Greek Myths, The Trojan War, The Iliad (selected readings), The Odyssey (selected readings), The Adventures of Tom Sawyer, Bulfinch's Greek and Roman Mythology, Antigone, The Aeneid, American short stories*



## GRAMMAR AND COMPOSITION

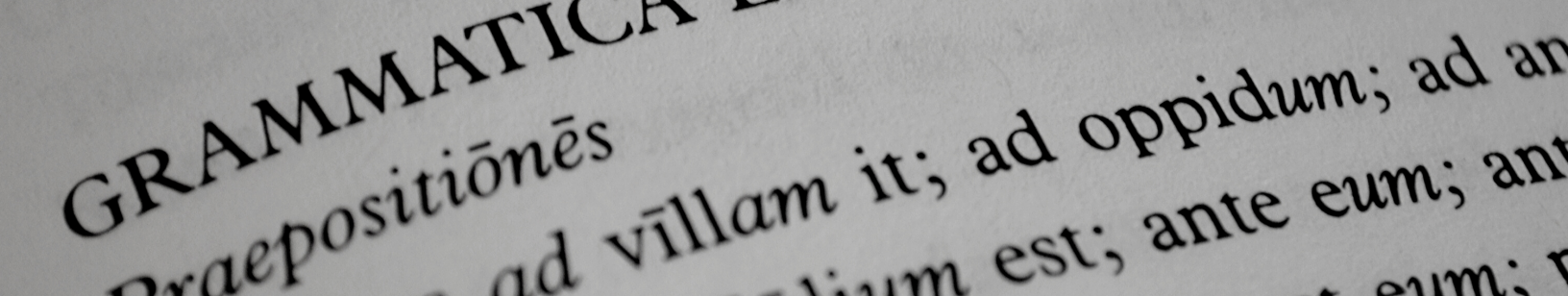
Strong writing skills are developed through intentional teaching of proper grammar and syntax, an expansive vocabulary, and the practice of eloquent wordsmithing.

Writing well requires that each step of the process be practiced and refined, from idea generation to final draft. At Covenant, our students are challenged to wholly embrace the challenge and joy that comes from producing great pieces of written work. They engage with a wide variety of writing styles and formats, develop and incorporate a robust vocabulary, research thoroughly and edit carefully. Strong organization of thought leads to a distinct thesis and compelling arguments, careful word choice and eloquent wordsmithing display the beauty of language, and the rhythm and flow of sentence structure provides a platform from which to convey meaning and purpose. All aspects of the process are considered as students are trained to practice truth, goodness, and beauty through the craft of writing well.

In addition to producing great writing, our students are also given the opportunity to eloquently present and defend their work. From Kindergarten on, our students practice sharing their writing with their peers and other members of our school community. The ability to communicate clearly, persuasively, and respectfully reflects a commitment to building strong rhetorical skill at every age.

<b>KINDERGARTEN</b>	Beginning writing skills
<b>1ST GRADE</b>	Shurley Grammar 1
<b>2ND GRADE</b>	Shurley Grammar 2
<b>3RD GRADE</b>	Shurley Grammar 3
<b>4TH GRADE</b>	Shurley Grammar 4
<b>5TH GRADE</b>	Warriner's 1 (Daily Gram)
<b>6TH GRADE</b>	<i>Logic School uses a combination of Daily Gram, Easy Grammar Systems, and Institute for Excellence in Writing.</i>
<b>7TH GRADE</b>	
<b>8TH GRADE</b>	





## LATIN

Studying the Latin language not only provides an excellent foundation for understanding the roots of English vocabulary and studying other Romance languages, it also trains the mind to think in an orderly fashion, to perform rigorous analysis, and encounter unfamiliar material in a disciplined way.

Latin serves as a foundation of the English language. A formal study of Latin improves a student's ability to decipher new or complex English words, as well as to develop a deeper understanding of their existing vocabulary. Additionally, the romance languages stem directly from Latin, so learning a modern romance language like Spanish becomes a much easier task with a base understanding of Latin. Latin is particularly useful to a student receiving a classical education, as many primary texts are written in Latin or Greek. As a result of their study of Latin, students will be able to read these texts in their original language, appreciating the beauty of the piece and developing a more full understanding of the author's message.

Perhaps the most important benefit of learning the Latin language is the development of critical thinking skills that occurs when students decipher a Latin text. Because of the complexity of the language, students are asked to demonstrate logic, attention to detail, and complex analysis in translation of a text. These skills then transfer to a myriad of other subjects as well. In this way, learning the Latin language is actually a formative experience, shaping the students' minds and allowing them to become better thinkers.

### KINDERGARTEN

#### 1ST GRADE

*Formal Latin instruction begins in 3rd Grade.*

#### 2ND GRADE

#### 3RD GRADE

Latin for Children A

#### 4TH GRADE

Latin for Children A

#### 5TH GRADE

Latin for Children B

#### 6TH GRADE

Lingua Latina

#### 7TH GRADE

Lingua Latina

#### 8TH GRADE

Lingua Latina



# GEOGRAPHY

A comprehensive study of each country and continent of the world empowers students to understand historical events and literary texts in the context of culture, nurturing globally-minded leaders who exhibit compassion and empathy.

Throughout their course of study, students at Covenant learn the location and capital of every nation on earth, incorporating this knowledge into a broader understanding of the geographical, political, and cultural landscape of each region. This comprehensive understanding allows them to identify how geographical and cultural factors influenced the historical figures, significant events, and influential ideas that have shaped civilizations.

In an increasingly accessible world, globally minded students become leaders who exhibit compassion, seek justice, and celebrate unique cultures and people groups. In addition to being well-prepared to participate in a global community, the hearts of our students are nurtured towards virtue in order that they might use their knowledge to serve more effectively, pray more passionately, and spread the good news of Jesus Christ to every corner of the world.

## **KINDERGARTEN**

Continents and Oceans

## **1ST GRADE**

North America

## **2ND GRADE**

Asia

## **3RD GRADE**

Europe

## **4TH GRADE**

South America, Australia, Oceania

## **5TH GRADE**

Africa

## **6TH GRADE**

States and Capitals (History -Review)

## **7TH GRADE**

*Formal geography instruction concludes in 5th grade.*

## **8TH GRADE**

*Consistent review is given throughout history courses in Logic School.*





# LOGIC

A Covenant education encompasses both the forest and the trees, equipping students to not only develop the necessary skills and knowledge base, but also a firm understanding of the concepts and ideas that these are rooted in.

Covenant students begin their formal study of logic in sixth grade. Why do we teach logic and how does it prepare our students for the future?

We have three overarching goals for the study of logic at Covenant. First, we want our students to understand what an argument is and to be able to identify different types of arguments. Second, we want our students to understand the concepts of validity and soundness in arguments. And third, we want our students to be able to evaluate whether or not an argument is valid.

In 6th grade, our curriculum helps students to understand and identify logical fallacies which are commonly found in informal arguments. In 7th grade, students learn various techniques to test formal arguments for validity. In the 8th grade, students continue to learn techniques for discerning whether arguments are valid, and they learn to apply valid reasoning to produce their own arguments in the form of deductive proofs.

A “proof” in logic is a way of forming a valid argument. Below is an example of a proof completed by most of our 8th-grade students last year. The symbols in the proof are a type of shorthand for arguments that are built using complete sentences.

Over the years, Covenant’s faculty has written and developed our logic program using the best portions of the standard logic curriculum books used widely in classical schools.

**6TH GRADE**    Pre-Logic  
(The Fallacy Detective; The Thinking Toolbox)

**7TH GRADE**    Introductory Logic

**8TH GRADE**    Intermediate Logic



## FINE ARTS

The fine arts are an integral part of a classical curriculum, as they shape our students and teach them to love beauty, truth, and goodness. Grammar School students experience an introduction to each of the fine arts areas, and the Logic School students choose their fine arts experience through a series of electives during their time at Covenant.

<b>K-8 ART</b>	Art History and Appreciation, Development of Artistic Skills
<b>K-8 MUSIC</b>	Music History and Appreciation; Music Theory; Vocal Training
<b>K-8 DRAMA</b>	Drama History and Appreciation; Dramatic Skills Development

### ART ELECTIVES (LOGIC SCHOOL)

**Learning from the Masters** - Learning from the Masters is a student-directed art class that provides individuals who want to explore art and art history more deeply the opportunity to plan and create works of their choice inspired by well-known artists such as Van Gogh, Monet, da Vinci, Picasso, etc.

**Classical Art** - Classical Art encompasses the cultures of Greece and Rome and includes innovations in painting, sculpture, decorative arts, and architecture. In Greek and Roman Art II, students pursue the fundamental concepts of line, value, shape, symmetry, perspective, repetition, balance, space, and form while using various media such as pencil, markers, clay, and sculpting tools.

**Asian-Inspired Art** - In addition to being a source of beauty, reflection, expression, and communication, art gives us a glimpse into other cultures. In this class, students gain an understanding of Asian-inspired art, while creating their own beautiful pieces. They pursue the fundamental concepts of shape, line, value, symmetry, balance, positive and negative space, and needlework while using various media such as pencils, markers, ink, papers, needles, and embroidery thread.





## MUSIC ELECTIVES (LOGIC SCHOOL)

**Kusika Marimba Ensemble** – Students learn, practice, and perform African-style pieces, pop music, classical music, and even music newly composed just for the Marimba.

**Jazz Music** – Students focus on the history of jazz, its many unique styles, and the most famous composers and performers of jazz and the blues. Students experience jazz and the blues through performing instrumental pieces and learning to improvise over the twelve bar blues. Students grow in their ability to listen and identify jazz from different decades while identifying the many musical elements found throughout all jazz music.

**Chime Ensemble** – Students learn various chime techniques and how to read chime music, as well as apply the elements of music to individual pieces of music.



## DRAMA ELECTIVES (LOGIC SCHOOL)

**Musical Theater** – Students combine drama, music, and dance and develop these skills together. Students explore what it means to sing, dance, and act at the same time.

**Voice and Diction** – Students focus on how to use voices to communicate and how to manipulate the voice. Students learn about accents, intonation, inflection, tone, and vocal quality of the voice.

**Drama Productions** – Students of all ages have the opportunity to audition for the Grammar School and Logic School drama productions each year.



# *Extending Classical and Christian Schooling to the Home*

## **A PARTNERSHIP THAT BEGINS AND ENDS AT HOME.**

"Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will  
be like a wise man who built his house on the rock."

Matthew 7:24

### **BUILD.**

A home library  
Family hymn time  
Book baskets  
Artwork wall  
Family prayer journal  
Conversation cards  
Travel journals  
Audio book collection  
Family timeline  
Academic portfolios

### **EXPLORE.**

Museums  
Art institutes  
Botanical gardens  
Aquariums  
Forest preserves  
Zoos  
Historical landmarks  
Symphonies  
Travel opportunities  
National Parks

### **SERVE.**

Churches  
Homeless shelters  
FMSC  
Food pantries  
Neighbors  
Ronald McDonald House  
Rafiki Foundation  
Loaves & Fishes  
Nursing homes  
Hospitals