

2017-18 Classical Cottage School

GRAMMAR SCHOOL COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Adventures in Narnia II

Deanna Solomon

Prerequisites: 4th Grade Reading Level or Parents read books aloud, Year I not a prerequisite

Ages: 9 to 11

Tuition: \$175.00 This class meets 3 times a month for 1 1/2 hours. This class does not meet on Roman Culture Days.

Materials Fee: \$50 Book Fee: \$36 (if not in Adventures in Narnia I this year.)

"I am 'in your world' said Aslan. 'But there I have another name. You must learn to know me by that name. This was the very reason why you were brought to Narnia, that by knowing me here for a little, you may know me better there." —C. S. Lewis, *The Voyage of the Dawn Treader*.

We will travel through these inspiring fantasy books, exploring the wonderful land of Narnia, learning about the Pevensie children, sharing our impressions of their adventures in Narnia, learning to love Aslan and in turn, developing a love for reading. Students will actively read and discuss important quotes, underlining and highlighting them in our books. Students will also learn literary terms such as symbolism, metaphor, contrast and climax and learn to look for them while reading. We will marvel at the hidden truths, deep mysteries and spiritual treasures throughout the Chronicles of Narnia.

This class will be reading the last three Chronicles of Narnia this year, including *The Voyage of the Dawn Treader*, *The Silver Chair*, *The Last Battle*, and bonus book *Tuck Everlasting*, by Natalie Babbitt. Reading is approximately 25-40 pages per week. Students will also be identifying vocabulary while reading, and completing art projects in a sketchbook such as drawings, paintings, sketches, or a short writing assignment. Anticipate one larger project per semester, and possible extra activities such as a movie screening, a Narnia dress up day or tea party. Students may enter this class without having read the other four books in the series or taking Year I.

American Sign Language: *Everyday Signs*

Leila Robertson

Prerequisites: None

Ages: 8 to 10

Tuition: \$145.00

Materials Fee: \$35.00 (*includes the cost of a text*)

American Sign Language (ASL) is a visual language using shape, placement, and movement of the hands along with facial expression and body movement to communicate. It is primarily used in the United States and Canada. In this class, students will learn the alphabet, the numbers, and a large variety of signs based on themes (animals, food, clothes, colors, family members, holidays, and so forth). We will use these signs to form sentences and have conversations with one another during class using ASL. Finger-spelling, ASL grammar, the importance of facial expressions, and Deaf culture will also be covered. For homework each week the students will need to practice the new signs learned and review previously learned signs and, periodically, complete a homework sheet. Homework sheets and reviewing of signs will take 5-10 minutes each day.

Beginning Speech & Debate

Debbie Snyder

Prerequisites: none

Ages 10 to 12

Tuition: \$175.00 This class meets 3 times a month for 45 minutes. The class does not meet on Roman Culture days.

Materials Fee: \$20.00

This class includes storytelling, impromptu speaking, speech games, beginning debate, & more. Speeches will be developed and memorized. There will be a presentation at the end of each semester for siblings and parents. Outside competitions will be encouraged for students who are 12 or older by October 1st, 2018. (Not mandatory). Younger students will be given reasonable expectations, but will have the advantage of learning from older students.

First Semester Focus: Platform Speeches: Original Oratory and Persuasive + beginning debate

Second Semester Focus: Interpretive Speeches: Monologue, Duo, Open Interpretation + beginning debate.

Note: Those who have taken Storytelling this past school year are encouraged to take this class again. Every year is different. Speech skills build with age. New speeches are written and prepared every year. New goals are set. Many homeschool students participate in this activity for many years. Competitions are for students ages 12-18. Classical Cottage School offers advanced classes at the high school level for both speech and debate for ages 14-18.

Children's Year

Kathleen Moorcones

Prerequisites: none

Ages: 3 to 5

Tuition: \$145.00

Materials Fee: \$20.00

A wonderful exploratory class for ages 3 -5. Students will use manipulatives, songs, and story books to discover numbers, number order and skip counting. We will also learn about the calendar. This class is the second year of a two year rotation. The first year rotation will focus on the alphabet.

Classical Studies: Ancient Rome

Mimi Larsen/Angie Steele

Prerequisites: None

Ages: 9 to 11

Tuition: \$145.00

Materials Fee: \$30.00

This is the second course in a 3-year Classical Studies cycle, although students do not need to take these classes in chronological order. In this one hour class, children will explore Ancient Rome with an emphasis on history, buildings, culture, geography, and famous men. Map work, timelines, interactive copybook and other projects will be used to reinforce the understanding of these people, places and events in Ancient Rome as well as their impact on future societies. Occasional homework assignments will be given, not to exceed thirty minutes.

Community Helpers

Dianne Klopp

Prerequisites: None

Ages: 6 to 8

Tuition: \$145.00

Materials Fee: \$20.00

What does the mayor do? What does a fireman do when he's not putting out fires? How many years do you have to go to school to become a doctor? This class will explore the many community helpers who make our area such a wonderful place to live. Each week, we'll explore a different profession, such as doctor, dentist, fireman, policeman, veterinarian, K9 officer, mailman, the list goes on! Whenever possible, I hope to have a real life community helper come to class each week and share their experiences and knowledge with us.

Discovering the Great Artists

Angie Steele

Prerequisites: None

Ages: 8 to 12

Tuition: \$175.00 This class meets 3 times a month for 1 1/2 hours. The class does not meet on Roman Culture Days.

Materials Fee: \$40.00

Exploring the artists' backgrounds and critiquing their works of art, students will study the Great Masters from the Renaissance to the present. The majority of each class will be spent doing a hands-on activity in which the students will apply the styles and techniques of the artists while allowing for individual creativity. These artists are different than those explored in Discovering the Great Artists II.

Early American History for Children II

Mimi Larsen

Prerequisites: None

Ages: 5 to 7

Tuition: \$145.00

Materials Fee: \$25.00

This class is a continuation of Early American History for Children which is not a prerequisite. The students will learn about our nation's history as they listen to "living" books about famous Americans and notable events and places between the 1800's and present day. In-class activities and craft projects will reinforce and supplement the people, places, and events studied. The children will create their own Early American History Book, completing pages weekly. Homework is optional.

Early Poetry & Recitation A & B

Leila Robertson

Prerequisites: None

Ages: Level A is for ages 4 to 7; Level B is for ages 7 to 10

Tuition: \$90.00 for 32 half hour sessions

Materials Fee: \$20

Good poetry uses words to engage the imagination and stimulate thoughts. It is able to move words from the intellectual realm and connect them to the emotional realm, placing a deeper impression on our mind and heart. Poetry lends itself to memorization and can be used to lift emotions and teach truths.

In this class students will become familiar with high quality poems. Each week we will read new poems together in class, organized either by theme or by type of poem. Class discussions will include interpretation of the poems and exposure to different types of poems, as well as learning about key elements of poetry such as rhythm, meter, and rhyme schemes. Students will be asked to spend 10 minutes each day during the week between classes memorizing an assigned poem and be encouraged to share orally with the class when they achieve mastery. In addition to practicing the skill of memorization, this will preserve good literature in the minds of the students. A spiral book of selected poems for use in class and for memorization will be provided.

Folk Tales and Fairy Tales A & B

Leigh Ann Lynch

Prerequisites: None

Ages: Level A is for ages 4 to 7; Level B is for ages 7 to 9

Tuition: \$90.00 for 32 half hour sessions

Materials Fee: \$30.00

This class will survey three different collections of Tales throughout the year: The Grimms' Fairy Tales, Hans Christian Andersen's Fairy Tales, and American Tall Tales not typically covered. With over 200 Grimm's Tales, 150 Andersen Tales and 20-plus Tall Tales, we will cover the main stories every child should know, but also be sure to include some of the lesser known tales. When applicable, coloring books which feature the tales will be used to illustrate the stories, and a variety of Children's books will be read for comparison purposes. On occasion, if pleasing to the class, opportunities for acting out the tale will be provided. The students will compile a notebook throughout the year containing the 3 themes and the use of Literature Pockets will complement this notebook when applicable. Students will also create their own puppet based on a favorite character as a culminating class project.

Geography: Exploring Physical Features & The United States

Janette Cascio

Prerequisites: none

Ages 10 to 11

Tuition: \$175.00 This class meets 3 times a month for 1 1/2 hours. The class does not meet on Roman Culture Days.

Materials Fee: \$30.00

The information for this class will be taught in two separate semesters. The first semester will cover physical geography. Students will learn about physical features such as mountains, canyons, deserts, rivers, and other bodies of water, as well as natural disasters (earthquakes, volcanoes, tsunamis, etc.) that sometimes shape these features. The second semester will cover the United States. We will visit each state learning locations, capitals, major cities, landmarks, and abbreviations. Students will also learn about the cultural and physical uniqueness of each region. No prior knowledge of geography is needed. Approximately 1 hour of homework each week.

Grammar Revolution

Kelly Summers

Prerequisites: Some exposure to grammar is helpful, but not necessary.

Ages: 10 to 12

Tuition: \$145.00

Materials Fee: \$35.00

Grammar Revolution will focus on learning grammar through diagramming sentences with an eye toward success in Latin. A solid background in English grammar only makes Latin class easier. When your child knows how to find the direct object in English, then the accusative case will never stump him or her again. We will learn the seven basic sentence patterns, all parts of speech and how to recognize their function in a sentence, independent and relative clauses, and more. Diagramming sentences uses the same mental process that is used in Latin. It also helps with proper punctuation. If you can find an introductory relative clause or the appositive in a sentence, then you know commas are needed! This class will require effort and memorization, but the rewards will be worth it!

Great Books: Year 3

Kathleen Moorcones

Prerequisites: None

Ages: 4 to 6

Tuition: \$145.00

Materials Fee: \$15.00

In Great Books your child will be exposed to literature of enduring value. Each week we will read a different story that will help to cultivate a love of reading. We will discuss different elements of stories such as setting, characters, plot, conflict and illustrations. We will introduce literary devices and concepts as relevant to the story and age-appropriate. Your child might recognize authors of some of their favorite stories and will be introduced to unfamiliar authors, even spending a few weeks getting to know a particular author or two through an author study. We will also incorporate an activity that relates to either a theme or a skill set from the story which could involve a craft, game, song or reenactment. If your child was in Great Books 2016/17, new literature will be presented in our Year 3 rotation.

Healthy Habits

Debbie Snyder

Prerequisites: none

Ages: 7-9

Tuition: \$145.00

Materials Fee: \$40.00 (Food & Notebooks)

This class includes information on proper nutrition, food preparation (no nuts or heat cooking), anatomy, benefits of exercise, and more. A more complete syllabus & time-line will be created in the summer.

Learning Through Literature

Angie Steele

Prerequisites: None

Ages: 9 to 12

Tuition: \$145.00

Materials Fee: \$25.00

With a focus on Newbery award winning books, the students will be developing the fundamental skills necessary to recognize literary elements of a story, such as characterization, setting, plot, conflict, and theme. Weekly classroom participation will be expected as we discuss the book. In-class activities will be designed to teach the students to interact with and understand the story. At home, the students will read weekly from the literature and answer comprehension questions which will be discussed in class. There

will be a book response assigned at the end of reading each book. This class is considered a bridge class to the Upper School.

The books the students will be reading include:

Call it Courage by Armstrong Sperry, *From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler* by E.L. Konisburg, *The Cat Who Went to Heaven* by Elizabeth Coatsworth, *The Bronze Bow* by Elizabeth George Speare and *Misty of Chincoteague* by Marguerite Henry.

Learning Through Literature

Melissa McKay

Prerequisites: none

Ages: 9 to 12

Tuition: \$145.00

Materials Fee: \$25.00

With a focus on Newbery Award winning books, students will develop the fundamental skills necessary to recognize literary elements of a story, such as characterization, plot, conflict, and theme. Weekly classroom participation will be expected as we discuss the books. In-class activities will help students understand and interact with the story. At home, students will read weekly from the literature and answer comprehension questions which will be discussed in class. There will be a written book response at the end of reading each book. This class is considered a bridge to the Upper School.

We will be reading the following books: *Mr. Popper's Penguins* by Richard and Florence Atwater, *The Cricket in Times Square* by George Selden, *The Twenty-One Balloons* by du Bois William Pene, *From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler* by E.L. Konisburg, and *Johnny Tremain* by Esther Forbes.

Living History

Dianne Klopp

Prerequisites: none

Ages: 10 to 12

Tuitions: \$145.00

Materials Fee: \$30.00

This new course will attempt to make history come alive for students by examining first-hand accounts of some of the more significant conflicts in American History, from the Revolutionary War through 9/11. This course will be largely based on the "Reading Like a Historian" curriculum from the Stanford History Education Group. Each lesson will be based on students answering a central historical question using information gathered from primary documents. Students will learn to evaluate multiple perspectives (for example, was the use of the atomic bomb justified?). Students will use graphic organizers, and will learn to support and defend different viewpoints. Approximately once a month, a guest speaker will share his or her experiences with the class (e.g., a Civil War re-enactor, a World War II Veteran, etc.). This class will help students to develop the analytical thinking skills required for success in Upper School classes.

Meet the Composers

Heather Frommack

Prerequisites: none

Ages: 10 to 12

Tuitions: \$175.00 This class meets 3 times a month for 1 1/2 hours. The class does not meet on Roman Culture Days.

Materials Fee: \$25.00

The Lord created music and He created us to both make and appreciate music. "Classical" music is uniquely part of our Western civilization and research supports that listening to classical music aids brain development. This course provides students an opportunity to get to know 26 famous composers, their music, their times, character and faith. Students will also learn about 6 eras of music from Baroque to Contemporary and create a music appreciation lap book. Students will learn to recognize and appreciate important pieces of music from each era and composer through class time exposure, explanation, games and quizzes. We will be using "A Young Scholar's Guide to Composers".

Penmanship A & B

Betsy Bellingham

Prerequisites: None

Ages: Level A is for ages 4 to 7; Level B is for ages 7 to 9

Tuition: \$90.00 for 32 half hour sessions

Materials Fee: \$40.00

In Penmanship class your student will improve their printing skills while beginning cursive. Students will transition to cursive beginning with the simple lines that are the building blocks for all of the letters instead of starting with "Aa" and ending with "Zz". Students will learn and practice through copywork which will nourish the mind and heart with beautiful literature, poetry and scripture. Weekly homework should take 30 minutes or less to complete. Writing materials will be provided in class. The older students (Class "B") will begin Calligraphy the second half of the year.

Poetry

Melissa McKay

Prerequisites: None

Ages: 9 to 11

Tuition: \$145.00

Materials Fee: \$30.00

As Robert Frost aptly said, "A poem begins in delight and ends in wisdom." This class will be an exploration of the art of poetry. Students will learn to understand and appreciate poetry by analyzing the works of such notable poets as Emily Dickinson, William Blake, Alfred Lord Tennyson, Robert Louis Stevenson, Walt Whitman, and many others. Through poetry memorization, students will begin to internalize the rhythmic, beautiful patterns of our language. There will be optional weekly homework assignments to reinforce class material.

Prima Lingua Latina II

Julie Shanabrook

Prerequisites: Prima Lingua Latina I

Ages: 7 to 9

Tuition: \$90.00 for 32 half hour sessions

Materials Fee: \$15.00

Prima Lingua Latina II is part two of a 3 year introduction to Latin and a preparatory course for students who plan to continue taking Latin in the Upper School. Using much of the same vocabulary as the first 6 chapters of the Upper School text, *Lingua Latina*, students continue to learn Latin grammar, vocabulary, and mottoes, as well as Roman culture and history centered on the Roman

Republic ("Caesar, mighty Caesar...!") A weekly homework page will require about 30 minutes to complete, and memory work such as poems and endings will benefit from daily repetition. All Prima students are encouraged to take advantage of Memory Period each week.

Prima Lingua Latina IV

Julie Shanabrook

Prerequisites: Prima Lingua Latina III

Ages: 8-10

Tuition: \$90.00 for 32 half hour sessions

Materials Fee: \$15.00

Prima Lingua Latina IV is an advanced Prima Latina for students who have completed the CCS 3 year Prima Latina sequence. We will continue to build vocabulary and grammar knowledge (including Latin sentence diagramming emphasizing endings), translation skills, and knowledge of Roman culture and history. Homework will continue to require about 30 minutes per week. All Prima students are encouraged to take advantage of Memory Period each week.

Primary Learning Through Literature

Kathy Herter

Prerequisites: none

Ages: 6 to 8

Tuition: \$145.00

Materials Fee: \$25.00

The focus of Primary Learning through Literature is to strive to give each child confidence in his/her reading skills. Each class will consist of oral recitation of selections (based on skill and comfort level); basic English grammar review; and practice in writing skills. Worksheets will be given weekly to reinforce class lessons. Students will also have "home reading" assignments which should require little adult supervision [think-reading to siblings]. Once we are "in the groove," students will begin reading books of various genres. Comprehension questions and group discussions stemming from the readings will then be utilized. Book lists will be provided and will have the possibility of revision based on the need for a greater challenge. Most books will be provided out of the materials fees.

Seasons of the Calendar

Betsy Bellingham

Prerequisites: none

Ages: 3 to 6

Tuition: \$145.00

Materials Fee: \$20.00

Learn which holidays and seasons we associate with the calendar months through stories, imaginative play and art. Emphasis will also include number and letter recognition.

Story of the World: Medieval

Kathy Herter

Prerequisites: None

Ages: 7 to 9

Tuition: \$145.00

Materials Fee: \$45.00

This second edition of Story of the World will cover approximately years 400 AD-1600 AD with a few jumps forward or back as relate to specific events. Each class will consist of listening to a section of reading while coloring page(s) connected to it in the workbook, map work, discussion and an activity/craft related to each segment. We will journey through the Middle Ages and possibly jump off into areas of particular interest to students as decided by the group. Come learn history in a fun and exciting way!

Study Hall

Fee: \$10.00

Study Hall is intended for students who are mature enough to sit and work independently for an entire hour. They must bring enough work to occupy their time and understand that Study Hall is not a social hour. Our Study Hall Monitors do not assist with schoolwork. Students must register for Study Hall in advance. Study Hall is offered throughout the day as long as classrooms are available.

Thinking Skills A & B

Deanna Solomon

Prerequisites: None

Ages: Level A is for ages 4 to 6; Level B is for ages 7 to 9

Tuition: \$90.00 for 32 half hour sessions

Materials Fee: \$50.00

This class is designed to provide activities for increasing verbal and non-verbal reasoning skills and figural-spatial skills in several important areas, including: similarities and differences, sequences, following directions, deductive reasoning, observation, classification, making inferences, visual logic and analogies. The skills are designed to improve the child's ability to view problems in different ways and train their minds to stretch in new directions. The skills utilized will cover critical, logical, analytical and creative thinking and help transfer this thinking into almost any subject area--and throughout life! The class will solve puzzles and brainstorm, working independently and in groups. This creative and fun approach will improve each student's attention, observation and memory. Two half-hour sessions will be offered with age-appropriate manipulative-based activities. Homework will be handed out each week but should take less than 30 minutes and it will be optional.

Writing Apprentice

Karen Magro

Prerequisites: none

Ages 10 to 12

Tuition: \$145.00

Materials Fee: \$50.00

*"We become what we behold. We shape our tools, and thereafter our tools shape us."
— Marshall McLuhan*

This class is designed to make writing accessible, imaginative, and fun! Good writing springs from reading, hearing, and imitating quality literature, and that's exactly what we'll do in this class. Your student will fall in love with writing by playing with the building blocks of language and story.

We'll explore a variety of approaches to story, including fables, poetry, and narratives, using strong examples as models for students' own creative writing. Each assignment is designed to fill your young writing apprentice's "toolbelt" with practical, foundational skills. Students will learn to read attentively for comprehension, summarize and deconstruct stories, amplify what they've read through description and dialogue, identify different kinds of writing, recognize point of view, craft their own imitative sentences, revise their work based on constructive teacher feedback, and share their writing with their peers.

The average student should expect to spend about an hour per week on at-home assignments, which will be a combination of listening to audio stories, polishing old work, and writing new material by imitating examples of good writing explored in class. Assignments will be self-explanatory and shouldn't require the help of a parent. Students will need access to a listening device (phone, iPad, iPod, MP3 player, computer with headset to download from Amazon/Audible/library, etc.).