

2018-19 Classical Cottage School GRAMMAR SCHOOL COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Adventures in Narnia I

Deanna Solomon

Prerequisites: 4th Grade Reading Level or Parents read books aloud

Ages: 9 to 11 (*Students already enrolled in the Narnia series may enroll in this class.*)

Tuition: \$175.00 This class meets 3 times a month for 1.5 hours. This class does not meet on Roman Culture Days.

Materials Fee: \$50 + \$30 Additional fee for purchase of all 7 books

"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 first four Chronicles of Narnia this year, including *The Magician's Nephew*, *The Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe*, *The Horse and His Boy*, and *Prince Caspian*, approximately 25 pages per week. Students will also complete approximately three assignments each week: short answer and comprehension questions, art projects 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, Narnia dress up day, or tea party.

American Sign Language: Through Songs and Stories

Leila Robertson

Prerequisites: None

Ages: 8 to 10

Tuition: \$145.00

Materials Fee: \$35.00

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 have the opportunity to learn and use the ASL alphabet, ASL numbers, and a large variety of ASL signs for the purposes of signing songs, poems, prayers, and ASL storytelling of children's books. No previous knowledge of ASL is needed as the focus of this class is learning signs in the context of songs and stories and then performing the final product. Games will be used often to review signs and give the students an opportunity to practice their ASL with one another. 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 Anatomy and Healthy Habits

Debbie Snyder

Prerequisites: none

Ages: 6-8

Tuition: \$145.00

Materials Fee: \$40.00 (Food & Notebooks)

This class was new in the 2017-18 year. It has evolved into three sections.

I. Fun information and self evaluation on proper nutrition, water, & exercise

II. Anatomy using MY BODY (Each child cuts out their own body on butcher paper, learns about each part of the body, and places body parts on their own paper body.)

III. Healthy cooking and food preparation

Beginning Speech & Debate

Debbie Snyder

Prerequisites: none

Ages: 10 to 12

Tuition: \$175.00 This class meets 3 times a month for 1.5 hours. The class does not meet on Roman Culture days.

Materials Fee: \$10.00

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, and beginning debate.

N.B.: Those who have already taken this class are welcome. 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: \$25.00

Children's Year – Welcome to the Zoo! This is a wonderful exploratory class for ages 3 -5. Each letter of the alphabet will be introduced with a coordinating Zoo animal. Students will use manipulatives, sing songs, and listen to a story book to discover the alphabet. Children will develop skills in letter sound recognition and work on fine motor skills all in a fun and positive environment. We will also learn a few fun facts about the Zoo animal of the week. So come and join us on the wild side!

Classical Studies: Founding Fathers

Nancy Juday

Prerequisites: None

Ages: 10-12 (*Students already enrolled in the Classical Study series may enroll in this class.*)

Tuition: \$145.00

Materials Fee: \$30.00

Students in this class will gain insight into early American Government and History through biographical materials, class lectures, and literature. They will focus on the lives and contributions of some of the more prominent Founders and Framers including George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, George Mason, James Madison, Benjamin Franklin, and Patrick Henry. Students will explore the colonization of America, the Revolutionary War, the Declaration of Independence, the U.S. Constitution, and the influence of the Roman Republic on our Founding Fathers. They will also study various Articles of the Constitution, the three branches of government, the amendment process, and the Bill of Rights. Field trips to Montpelier, the home of James Madison, and the U.S. Capitol are also planned. This one hour class is geared toward the older Grammar School student who is able to read and write fairly easily. Students will prepare a biographical presentation of a Founding Father and will be assigned two biographies to be read independently. Weekly homework assignments should take no longer than thirty minutes and will be based on class lectures and activities. Periodically, students will take short quizzes on class assignments.

Creative Writing: Elements of Story

Karen Magro

Prerequisites: Completion of Writing Apprentice class OR a conversation with the teacher (to ensure the student is capable of the writing in quantity and quality)

Ages 10 to 12

Tuition: \$175.00 This class meets 3 times a month for 1.5 hours. The class does not meet on Roman Culture days.

Materials Fee: \$50.00 includes a copy of *The Creative Writer, Level One: Five Finger Exercises* by Boris Fishman, which will be given to each student on the first day of class.

“The muscles of writing are not so visible, but they are just as powerful: determination, attention, curiosity, a passionate heart.” –Natalie Goldberg

In this class we will explore the components of successful stories and learn to write them ourselves! We'll study plot, character, dialogue, description, setting, and point of view. We'll take model stories apart and put them back together, find what works and what doesn't, develop a creative writing habit, and expand our imaginations. Journal prompts, weekly writing assignments, in-class discussion and practice, sharing with the group, and a variety of fun projects will help us increase our creative capacity and develop the discipline of daily practice.

Assignments will be self-explanatory, and students should be able to complete them with little or no help from parents. The teacher's written feedback on assignments will steer students to the next level in their writing ability. Since every student begins in a different place and has different strengths and areas for improvement, the goal is *personal progress*—becoming a better writer by the end of the year than you were on the first day.

The class will culminate in the final writing project—an original short story of at least 1000 words that incorporates all students have learned and practiced over the course of the year.

N.B.:Students need to purchase a writing journal (8 ½" x 11") that inspires them. They'll write in it daily and bring it to class each week.

Discovering the Great Artists II

Angie Steele

Prerequisites: None

Ages: 7-10

Tuition: \$175.00 This class meets 3 times a month for 1.5 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 I.

Early American History for Children I

Mimi Larsen

Prerequisites: None

Ages: 5 to 7

Tuition: \$145.00

Materials Fee: \$30.00

This class is a literature based approach to learning American history for young children. The students will learn about our nation's history as they listen to "living" books about famous Americans and key events. Beginning with the Vikings and the discovery of North America, class will progress through the Colonial Age to the founding of our nation, finishing with Abraham Lincoln and the Civil War. In-class activities and craft projects will reinforce and supplement the readings. The children will create their own Early American History Book, completing pages weekly. Homework is optional.

Elementary Earth Science Exploration

Kacky Kasinski

Prerequisites: None

Ages: 9-11

Tuition: \$145.00

Materials Fee: \$35.00

This is a hands on interactive class covering a wide range of topics in geology, meteorology and astronomy. Each session will not only include lecture time and teacher demonstrations, but also cooperative learning through experiments and other hands-on activities. We will also learn, and practice for memorization, sets of questions and answers about our main topics. These topics will include layers of the Earth, oceans and atmosphere, a thorough look at different kinds of rocks and minerals, the stages of the water cycle and types of weather, natural disasters, natural energy resources, the planets, our moon and stars, and still more! The only homework will be working on memorizing a few simple facts each week. Students can do that orally or through copywork, or whichever method families determine works best for their student.

Geography Through Literature: Physical & U.S.

Kacky Kasinski

Prerequisites: None

Ages: 9-11

Tuition: \$145.00

Materials Fee: \$40.00

Using the Beautiful Feet Literature Guide, we will explore US geography through Holling C. Holling's beautiful books: *Paddle-to-the-Sea*, *Tree in the Trail*, and *Minn of the Mississippi*. We will be introduced to World Geography through the book *Seabird*. After listening to chapters in class, students will label the beautiful map set especially prepared for these book studies. As we follow the stories, we will have discussion each class as we define and learn about new geographic terms and places we encounter. No homework will be given.

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 2

Kathleen Moorcones

Prerequisites: None

Ages: 3 to 6

Tuition: \$145.00

Materials Fee: \$25.00

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. This class is for mature children that can sit through the reading of long story books, particularly older 3 year olds and up.

Learning Through Literature

Angie Steele

Prerequisites: None

Ages: 10 to 12

Tuition: \$145.00

Materials Fee: \$25.00

With a focus on Newbery Award winning books (listed below), 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 4 of the books. This class is considered a bridge class to the Upper School.

The books the students will be reading include: *My Side of the Mountain* by Jean Craighead George, *Number the Stars* by Lois Lowry, *Carry on Mr. Bowditch* by Jean Lee Latham, *Island of the Blue Dolphins* by Scott O'Dell, *Roll of Thunder Hear My Cry* by Mildred D Taylor

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.

The books the students will be reading include: *Call it Courage* by Armstrong Perry, *Because of Winn Dixie* by Kate DiCamillo, *The Door in the Wall* by Marguerite de Angeli, *The Bronze Bow* by Elizabeth George Speare, and *Adam of the Road* by Elizabeth Janet Gray.

Nursery Rhymes

Kathleen Moorcones

Prerequisites: None

Ages: 3 to 5

Tuition: \$145.00

Materials Fee: \$25.00

Guiding children to play together to reach a common goal, play is how young children learn. Through play, children will develop social, emotional and cognitive skills. Music, crafts, puppets, story building blocks, and outdoor fun are a few of the activities offered in this class.

Observation Drawing

Karen Magro

Prerequisites: none

Ages: 8-10

Tuitions: \$145.00

Materials Fee: \$40.00

"If people knew how hard I worked to get my mastery, it wouldn't seem so wonderful at all." –Michelangelo

Learning to draw is a valuable experience regardless of how students feel about their level of natural ability. It lengthens our attention span, teaches us to innovate, develops originality and self-expression, and strengthens our powers of observation. Becoming increasingly observant is an important part of learning in any discipline, so developing the ability to observe well impacts all of life. As in Latin, learning *how* to learn is probably the best benefit of observation drawing. Students get good at drawing when they are willing to

pay attention, practice, make lots of mistakes, and learn from their mistakes without judgment. These things are the foundation of this class!

Drawing skills improve dramatically with daily practice, so the class will include daily homework (about 15 minutes a day) in student drawing journals to help them cultivate a creative habit and see clear personal improvement by the end of the year. In-class drawing practice and instruction will rely heavily on “coaching” with strategic questions to help students change habits of thinking, see objects differently, experiment, and begin to ask questions of themselves that will lead to new ideas and solutions when they’re stuck. Materials fees will include everything needed for the class. We’ll provide the fun, creative environment and coaching—all you need to provide is a student willing to try!

Penmanship A & B

Betsy Bellingham

Prerequisites: None

Ages: Level A is for ages 5 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 child will learn the alphabet using a simplified script. Students will learn and practice through copy work, using poetry, and scripture. Daily practice should be 15-20 minutes. Practice, pencil position, and paper position are stressed. Writing materials will be provided in class. Class B will begin calligraphy the second half of the year.

Pioneering through America: Learning history through literature, geography, art and acting

Kathy Herter

Prerequisites: none

Ages: 7 to 10

Tuitions: \$175.00 This class meets 3 times a month for 1.5 hours. The class does not meet on Roman Culture Days.

Materials Fee: \$40.00

Students will journey from coast to coast studying major landmarks, keeping a geography journal, and discovering the lands and peoples as traversed by the pioneers. Students will participate in a group play working on all aspects of play production: costume, set design, staging, rehearsals. Students will be required to read selections from history, fables, tall tales, and original stories.

The class schedule will follow a lecture format with simple note-taking required, geography note-booking, and an art aspect to each class. The art projects will vary from acting to sketching animal tracks to sculpting Pike’s Peak!

Poetry & Recitation A & B:

Leila Robertson

Prerequisites: None

Ages: Level A is for ages 5 to 7; and Level B is for ages 7 to 9

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 5-10 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 binder of selected poems for use in class and for memorization will be provided.

Prima Lingua Latina I

Julie Shanabrook

Prerequisites: none

Ages: 6 to 8

Tuition: \$90.00 for 32 half hour sessions

Materials Fee: \$15.00

Prima Lingua Latina I is an 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 will learn basic grammar, declensions, and Latin sayings. Students in this class will also be introduced to the geography of Rome ("Rome was Built on Seven Hills!"), Roman culture, history focusing on the kingdom of Rome, and Latin songs and prayers. A weekly homework page will require about 30 minutes to complete, and memory work such as poems and endings from which students will benefit from daily repetition. All Prima students are encouraged to take advantage of Memory Period each week.

Prima Lingua Latina III

Julie Shanabrook

Prerequisites: Prima Lingua Latina II

Ages: 8-10

Tuition: \$90.00 for 32 half hour sessions

Materials Fee: \$15.00

Prima Lingua Latina III is the third year of an 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 in the first 6 chapters of the Upper School text, Lingua Latina, students will learn basic grammar, declensions, and Latin sayings. Students in this class will also be introduced to the geography of Rome, Roman culture and history with an emphasis on the Empire, and the reading and translation of simple fairy tales in Latin. All Prima students are encouraged to take advantage of Memory Period each week.

Primary Learning Through Literature

Kathy Herter

Prerequisites: none

Ages: 7 to 9

Tuition: \$145.00

Materials Fee: \$35.00

The focus of Primary Learning through Literature is to strive to give each child confidence in his/her reading skills. This class will not teach reading, but develop the skills associated (especially for those who may not be as willing to work for "mom"). Classes for the year will be divided into quarters. The first quarter will be independent reading of books with a small worksheet and "fun" sheet for each week. Depending upon class readiness, we will then delve into the "regular" format of learning through literature. The students will begin reading books of various genres as a class.

Each class will consist of oral recitation of selections; basic English grammar review; and practice in writing skills during the first quarter. Then for the remainder of the year, we will use comprehension questions and group discussions stemming from the readings as well as continuing to read aloud from the text. 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.

Science Lab

Debbie Snyder

Prerequisites: None

Ages: 6 to 8

Tuition: \$145.00

Materials Fee: \$40.00

Science lab is a hands on science class featuring new science concepts covering Life Science, Earth Science, and Physical Science with weekly "lab" experiments. Students will learn how to maintain a science journal, work cooperatively with a partner, and discover the fascinating details of God's creation.

Seasons of the Calendar

Betsy Bellingham

Prerequisites: none

Ages: 3 to 5

Tuition: \$145.00

Materials Fee: \$20.00

Learn which holidays and seasons we associate with the calendar months through stories, imaginative play and art while also being introduced to the days of the week and dates. Emphasis will also include number and letter recognition.

Shakespeare for Kids

Melissa McKay

Prerequisites: none

Ages: 9-11

Tuition: \$145.00

Materials Fee: \$25.00

This class will introduce your children to one of the greatest authors of the English language. We'll begin by learning about Shakespeare and the Globe, then investigate several of his plays. We'll begin by reading from Lamb's *Tales from Shakespeare*, a wonderful book designed for making the stories accessible to the young while retaining much of the original Shakespearean language. We'll become familiar with the plays by discussing the stories, the verse, the imagery, and the characters, memorizing passages, and acting out short scenes in class.

Story of the World III: Early Modern

Mimi Larsen

Prerequisites: None

Ages: 7 to 10

Tuition: \$145.00

Materials Fee: \$45.00

This class will offer a broad study with a world-wide view of the Modern Era, beginning with the reign of Elizabeth I. Students will listen to stories about world civilizations as we progress through time to learn the notable people, places, and events spanning a variety of countries on all continents. Come learn about the Sun King, Catherine the Great, the New World, African traditions, Asian influences, the Industrial Revolution, and more. In-class map work, craft activities and projects will enhance this interactive approach to make learning history fun. Copy of the text is not required. Homework is optional.

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.

Wonders of Ancient Egypt

Mimi Larsen

Prerequisites: None

Ages: 9 to 11

Tuition: \$145.00

Materials Fee: \$30.00

How exciting are the many wonders of Ancient Egypt! Come learn about one of the most advanced and fascinating ancient civilizations. We'll make papyrus, wrap a mummy, dress like a pharaoh, write in hieroglyphics, and design our own cartouche. Students will learn about the significant people, places, and events of Ancient Egypt while documenting in an interactive notebook. Homework will be minimal and only necessary when completing assignments.