

**The Logic School: Seventh Grade Overview**

In the Logic stage (7th and 8th), students focus on developing discernment, both the logical side and the moral side. On the logic side, students develop their logical thinking as they engage in Socratic dialogue in Literature and History classes, learn and apply the logic of the scientific method in Science, analyze mathematical proofs in Math, and dissect the soundness of arguments in the Logic/Debate class. On the moral side, they learn to discern and articulate the rationale behind key biblical teachings, to discern truth and falsehood, good and evil, and to apply biblical truths to all subjects.

**7th Grade Trip: Catalina Island**

Date: Spring Semester

Seventh grade students will deepen their knowledge of life sciences by experiencing marine biology up close on beautiful Catalina Island. They will explore the island by snorkeling, hiking, kayaking, and stargazing.

The goals of the field trip are as follows:

1. Hands-on extension of our science curriculum including animal plant anatomy and physiology, ecology, and astronomy.
2. Contemplation of nature that celebrates the goodness of the greater Creator God.
3. An extension of outdoor physical education as we swim, kayak, and play together as a class.

**Required and Recommended Events for Our Parent Community**

- [Peacemakers Seminar \(required for new parents\)](#)  
Learning the importance of how Veritas deals with issues of conflict in its classrooms and community.
- [Faith & Culture Seminars \(required\)](#)  
Once in the Fall and once in the Spring, the seminar addresses an important topic related to parenting or classical education, usually with a distinguished speaker.
- [Logic School Coffee \(required\)](#)

Meaningful, open time to share with other logic school parents, teachers, and administration about the joys and concerns of upper school.

- [Open House \(recommended\)](#)

An opportunity to peruse through sample works of students, listen to student demonstrations, view curriculum, and speak with teachers about relevant topics.

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**Ancient History**

The six general goals of Ancient History are:

Students will

1. Understand a Christian (or providential) view of history, and learn how God sovereignly guides history.
2. Interact frequently with primary sources, especially those from the canon of Western Civilization.
3. Practice close reading and critically evaluating reading material.
4. Identify distinct movements and patterns in history, and understand how worldviews, ideas, and cultures, shape one another.
5. Know a general timeline of historical events from the Biblical era to the present.
6. Students will identify and emulate great qualities of historical figures, and incorporate Biblical precept and historical example in pursuit of godliness.

In the Logic stage (7th & 8th), students will examine the reasons, causes, and connections of history. In addition to the who, what when, and where, they will seek the how and why of history.

This course will cover the early Mesopotamian cultures, Biblical history, and Egyptian culture before turning its focus to Ancient Greece and Rome. Much of the course will be spent on understanding Greek thought, philosophy, culture, literature, and art as the foundation of Western civilization. It will then turn to the Roman culture and its influence on the

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world as well as Christianity's influence on Rome. The integration of Hebrew scripture, Roman culture, and Greek thought into Christianity is taught from the perspective of God's divine plan for His Church. Students will focus on logical applications and inquiries from this time period.

### **Ancient Literature**

This course focuses on key works of literature that correspond to the historical time period covered in Ancient History. A diverse variety of genres will be read: *Iliad*, *Odyssey*, *Aeneid*, *Eagle of the Ninth*, *Oresteia*, *Till We Have Faces*. Dominant themes examined are the contrast between monotheism and polytheism, the world's need for justice and a savior, and the universal longings that all people experience. Students will also read and analyze poems, and identify 30 literary terms.

In this logic stage of learning, logical and abstract thought is added to the earlier focus on wonder and imagination. Discernment for truth, and discernment in logical structure and elements of the story are emphasized. For discernment of truth, the following questions are asked: Is this the way the world works? Is this an accurate portrayal of human nature? In what way does this story point to truth or falsehood? For discernment of logical structure, internal logic of the story as well as the literary argumentation is analyzed.

### **Composition**

In Composition, students review the earlier stages of Progymnasmata (Fable and Chreia) and begin persuasive stages (Refutation/Confirmation, Common Topics) through which they learn to sharpen logical structure of their arguments. Using the *Lost Tools of Writing I*, they will also be introduced to classical rhetorical concepts and literary figures and begin to craft persuasive essays. For Grammar, students will review the English grammar using *Our Mother Tongue*, which includes sentence diagramming and etymology of key words.

### **Old Testament Survey**

The aim of this course is to introduce students to the Old Testament, the Bible of Jesus. Students will learn about the context, authors, and

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messages of each book, and will be taught to discern the overarching meaning of the Old Testament and its place in the Christian canon. Students will be able to explain the necessity of the Old Testament to God's redemptive plan for history.

### **Latin I**

At Veritas, students learn Latin to 1) read the great works in Latin, 2) refine the grasp of the English language, 3) better appreciate English literature 4) better understand the source of western civilization, 5) sharpen the mind, 6) set the platform from which to learn other languages.

For the 7th & 8th grade, the approach to Latin will emphasize a deepening of the grammar and vocabulary, while integrating Roman history and culture, so that students are engaged and develop a love for Latin. Textbook used is *Latin for Americans*. In tandem with their English class, students will also read Vergil's *Aeneid* in both Latin (abridged specifically for intermediate Latin learner) and English. \*First time Latin students are required to take a 2-week summer Latin.

### **Introductory Logic**

This course introduces students to traditional logic and epistemology in preparation for a more advanced study of the liberal arts in the school of Rhetoric. The class focuses on a particular species of deductive logic named Categorical Logic for the first semester. The second semester continues the study in application of Categorical Logic and practical argumentation that culminates in a formal debate. In addition to the study of deductive logic, the second semester includes the study of informal logic, fallacies, and practical argumentation.

### **Debate I**

As part of the Logic class, students will participate in the debate team in preparation to compete in the Orange County Debate League. In the first semester, students will hone their debate skills in class, and in the second, students will participate in the the OCDL debate competition.

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### **Study Skills**

This course introduces and educates students on how to cultivate “study skills” and other virtues, to be more fully able to flourish in school, home, and the rest of their life. The class focuses on cultivating “study skills” by lecturing on what those are and personally coaching student’s on their strengths and weaknesses, and helping them develop intentional plans to reach their goals. The teacher will then provide feedback on those plans and help to adapt and try those plans again. This is the beginning of the Virtue/Wisdom track that will integrate into the Bible and Great Ideas Track later in the curriculum.

### **General Science**

As the introduction to secondary science, students will be introduced to the history of science, learning how various scientists have contributed to the progress of science, and how scientific discoveries and progress is closely connected with worldviews.

Students will also learn the “scientific method” and the “logic” of science, and how to formulate a scientific argument and evaluate scientific claims. Students will also learn about geology and the fossil record to analyze the claims of evolution. The end of the course focuses on the characteristics of life, including classification, with an emphasis on the human body since we are made in God's image distinct from other life.

Ultimately, students will learn to be filled with wonder of God’s truth, goodness, and beauty through their observation, experimentation, analysis, and historical study, in order to be moved to worship God by knowing the uniqueness of life.

### **Pre-Algebra**

A study of foundational algebra concepts, using arithmetic to solve algebraic equations, some basic geometry, and general concepts of measurement, statistics and graphing.

The students will gain a mastery of basic mathematical functions and be shown how the more complex math procedures develop out of the simpler procedures in order to apply the learned problem solving procedures to the problems in daily life.

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### **Algebra 1 (Accelerated Track)**

In this course the student will learn the essential building blocks of algebra. Through the introduction of concepts in small units followed by practice problems throughout the remainder of the course, the student will learn basic elements of algebra building these basic elements into complex solutions to ever more complex problems. Students will learn to analyze word problems, isolating the type of problem and the correct processes needed to solve the problem, in a context very much like they will encounter later in life, in the office or the laboratory.

Students will also be introduced to using properties and theorems to provide proofs in solving equations. They will also be asked to provide different approaches to solving problems. This enables students to become fluent in the language of mathematics.

### **Physical Education**

The aim of this course is to build off of the basic and intermediate principles of physical education and sportsmanship learned in the earlier grades. Students will improve their knowledge stretches, warm ups, games, sports, and how to be sportsmanlike. They will also grow in obedience to instructions with respect and cheerfulness.