

INTRODUCTION

The Logic School: Eighth 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.

8th 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.

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- **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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Early European History

The six general goals of Early European 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 Imperial Rome to the Middle Ages.
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, 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 focuses on the time period from the emergence of Imperial Rome to the end of the Medieval period. This course covers the birth of Christian Rome, the decline of the Roman Empire, the separation of the

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Eastern and Roman church, the rise of feudalism and Islam, and the formation of European nations.

Students will be able to recall significant dates, people, events, and movements along with the geographies of Imperial Rome and Medieval Europe. They will also be able to evaluate the significance of important religious, political, economic, and philosophical movements in light of God's Word and relate this understanding to the progress and flow of Christianity and to God's providence.

Early European Literature

This course will introduce students to classic works of literature from Europe's earliest years. Shakespeare's *Julius Caesar*, representing the "golden age" of Elizabethan English, will correspond with Early European History. Students will then follow English's evolution from the Anglo Saxon work *Beowulf* to Middle English works *The Canterbury Tales* and *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*. The course will culminate with Tolkien's *The Return of the King*.

Students will continue to apply a Christian worldview and logical thinking skills to the study of words and the craft, themes, and effects of literature. The student will demonstrate that he has independently read, analyzed, and evaluated works by their relationship to God's truth revealed through Scripture, imagination, reason, and nature. Students will also read and analyze poems, and identify 30 literary terms.

Composition

In Composition, students review stages of Progymnasmata from 7th grade (Chreia, Refutation/Confirmation, and Common Topic) and begin Encomium/Invective, Description/Characterization, and Thesis). Eighth graders will expand their ability to integrate deeper thought and learned vocabulary into their own verbal and written communication. They will also develop a higher view of God through an examination of truth and beauty. Using the *Lost Tools of Writing I*, they will continue to learn classical rhetorical concepts and literary figures and develop persuasive essays.

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New Testament Survey

The aim of this is to continue the development of Scripture that culminates in the Christ event and then continues through Christ's Followers. This class will also continue the preliminary understanding of Biblical theology by emphasizing the larger story of God's redemptive work that we see in the New Testament. Student's will be able to explain the overarching meaning of Scripture as well as articulate central verses and themes of each book of the New Testament.

Latin II

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.

In 8th grade, students will continue to develop their grammar and Latin reading, using *Latin for Americans, Level 2*. Students will also read *Cupid and Psyche*, preparing them for their unabridged Latin readings in rhetoric school. *8th-10th graders who have never taken Latin are required to take zero period Latin, which condenses Latin I and Latin II into one class.

Intermediate Logic

The class continues introducing students to traditional logic and epistemology in preparation for a more advanced study of the liberal arts in the school of Rhetoric. Specifically, the study of deductive logic continues in the first semester by studying and focusing on propositional logic. The second semester continues the study in focusing on the application of Propositional Logic and practical argumentation that culminates in a formal debate. In addition to the study of deductive logic, the second semester goes more in depth into the study of informal logic, fallacies, argument mapping, and reasoning through real-life dilemma situations.

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Debate II

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.

Virtue/Wisdom Track: Proverbs

This course regards a proper understanding of virtue formation in a Christian ethic, the difficulties of moral growth, and the overall benefits of growing in the virtues. I will also guide the student through the process of implementing the virtues through developing intentional planning and adapting those plans. This course will use the traditional four cardinal virtues and examine particular virtues through that grid. Furthermore, I will offer feedback and insight through the development of these virtues, in addition to in depth discussion of the feedback of the results and encourage the student in that process. This will continue to be integrated into cultivating wisdom (Phronesis) through the application of Proverbs in the second semester. This will continue into the Rhetoric stage by being integrated into the Bible track and Great Ideas.

Physical Science

A study of how the physical world functions based on explanations and models. Students will study earth science, chemistry, physics, and astronomy in order to observe the validity of scientific laws. This study goes from the smallness of the atom to the bigness of the universe providing an overview of different aspects of God's created physical world.

The first half of the course emphasizes earth science by studying the atomic composition and properties of air and water, and their presence on earth in the atmosphere and the hydrologic cycle. This leads the students to understand weather, its factors, and prediction.

The second half of the course goes into the study of motion focusing on Newton's Laws of Motion as applied to real world situations. Then students learn about the four fundamental forces of creation (gravity, electromagnetism, strong force, weak force). The understanding of

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forces leads students to learn about waves and its relation to sound, light, and ends with the classification stars.

Algebra 1

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.

Geometry (Accelerated Track)

A Study of 2D and 3D shapes using formulas, definitions, properties, postulates, and theorems found in the concepts of Euclidean Geometry. Topics include logic and proofs, parallel lines and polygons, perimeter and area analysis, volume and surface area analysis, similarity and congruence, trigonometry and analytic geometry. Students will also use a compass and protractor to draw angles and shapes. As students relate logical reasonings to write proofs to evaluate properties of geometry, emphasis will be placed on developing critical thinking skills. This course also includes ongoing review of Algebra 1 skills.