

## **Grammar School Coursework Distinctives – Grades K-5**

### **Integration of the Christian Worldview**

The Grammar School classroom begins each day with devotions and Scripture, using a story-based chronological approach to teaching the Bible, whereby its entire sequence will be presented three times over the course of a student's grammar school years. This foundation prepares the student for more advanced study in Bible interpretation, doctrine, and apologetics at the upper school level. Through their personal example and their instruction, the teachers apply a Biblical worldview in every subject, training the students to think with a Christian approach to all of life.

### **Extensive Training in Reading and Writing**

Beginning with comprehensive phonics instruction, students are guided directly to the reading and enjoyment of the best in children's literature. The "tools" necessary for constructing well-written sentences, paragraphs, and reports are acquired through carefully guided instruction and repeated practice. Students will develop their thinking, writing and study skills as they learn about and imitate the great writers of history.

### **Quality Instruction in Core Academic Disciplines**

Veritas' program focuses on quality instruction in the six core academic disciplines: Biblical studies, history, English/literature, science, mathematics, and Latin. At the grammar level, students are introduced to the essential facts, or "grammar," of each of these disciplines. Students sing, recite poetry, and complete projects and journals as they acquire a body of foundational knowledge essential to more advanced studies in all subject areas. Excellent instruction in the fine arts develops creative gifts and deeper understanding of beauty and history. Physical Education is also taught as an important component in a well-rounded course of study.

### **Introductory Study of Latin and Our Western Cultural Heritage**

The study of Latin provides many proven benefits including increased vocabulary skills, advanced thinking skills, and a foundation for the study of other languages. Classical language study begins in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade with an introduction to Latin grammar and syntax and beginning translation work. English grammar is more completely understood and appreciated as Latin study continues. The understanding of Latin culture provides a critical context to understanding our Western cultural heritage. A narrative and linear approach to history brings it to life and develops understanding for more advanced study in later school years.

# Grammar School (Elementary) Course of Study

	K	First	Second	Third	Fourth	Fifth
<b>Bible</b>	Introduction to the works of God on behalf of His people and stories of Jesus' life, death and ascension	Emphasis on Old Testament times, learning that God has a purpose for His chosen people, Israel	Review of Creation through exile from Jerusalem. Jesus' life & teachings and unit on the book of James.	Study of the life of the Israelites as slaves, nomads & conquerors of Canaan. Write diaries, work on projects & charts.	Learn about Bible as a book. Focus on the kings and prophets of Israel and Judah during the rebuilding of Jerusalem.	Learn to understand the writings of the Bible. Examine the Gospels, New Testament letters & Revelation.
<b>Reading &amp; Language Arts</b>	Spell to Write & Read, reading readiness, beginning primers, handwriting	Spell to Write & Read, reading skills, children's stories, handwriting, First Language Lessons-pt 1	Well-written children's literature at appropriate reading level Biographies and fiction that are integrated with history curriculum Grade appropriate phonics review, reading skills development, grammar, spelling, vocabulary, penmanship, and writing instruction			
<b>History &amp; Geography</b>	Introductory American History, map skills, holidays, patriotic stories	Introduction Virginia history and geography, map skills, holidays, patriotic stories	2 <sup>nd</sup> – 6 <sup>th</sup> grade: Five year study of history. Each unit includes study and memorization of the major events, people, and dates of the era, readings in historical literature, integrated geography lessons, and creative projects.			
			Creation & Ancient Times	Ancient Greece & Rome	Middle Ages, Renaissance & Reformation	Early Modern Times 1600-1850
<b>Math</b>	Math K	Math 1	Math 2	Math 3	Math 4	Math 5
<b>Science</b>	Studies in senses, seasons, nutrition, plants and animals	Instruction and activities that nurture love and wonder for God's wisdom, power, and order in creation using observation, discovery, demonstration and journaling.				
		Life Science (Animals/Plants)	Life Science (Birds, fish, insects, amphibians )	Earth Science and Astronomy	Introductory Biology	Introductory Chemistry
<b>Latin</b>				3 <sup>rd</sup> – 6 <sup>th</sup> grade: Students are introduced to formal Latin grammar through vocabulary words, sentences, and simple passages in preparation to read Latin authors in later grades. Attention is paid to similarities between Latin and English grammar. Students also study derivatives and Greco-Roman culture. (3 hours per week)		
<b>Art</b>			Grade-appropriate instruction in color, value, perspective, design, composition, and imitation of the masters. Projects are integrated with history curriculum whenever possible. One hour per week.			
<b>Music</b>	Integrated arts, crafts, music and physical activity		Grade-appropriate instruction in music theory, history, performance, and appreciation. Each student develops strong choral ability. One hour per week.			
<b>Physical Education</b>			Grade-appropriate instruction in fitness, nutrition, skills development, team competition, and sportsmanship. One hour per week.			