

# Risen Savior Classical Academy

A Homeschool Community

~Veritas Aeterna~

## Subjects Overview

Every effort is made to select the highest quality materials at an affordable cost for families. Please see the following as the curriculum chosen by RSCA and why. RSCA is open to reviewing other curricula at parents' request.

Parents are required to purchase the Teacher Manual for each course. Please keep these in a separate location from the student. Students should not have access to your Teacher Manual.

### Bible

Iota, Alpha, and Beta classes will familiarize students with the major stories of the Bible using *The Story Bible*. It includes verses, vocabulary, and discussion questions with rich, artistic illustrations reinforcing the stories learned are historical.

*Christian Studies I* and *II* are used in the Gamma and Delta classes as a deeper understanding of our Christian heritage. *Christian Studies I* covers the major stories from Creation to the Entry into Canaan. *Christian Studies II* covers the Rise and Fall of Israel and Prophets. The following year will include *Christian Studies III* that covers the New Testament. *The Golden Children's Bible* is the Bible used as the resource for these courses in class as the pages coordinate with the lessons easily and keep the nature of the Bible, not just retelling of the stories. Note that some of the Memory Work for class will not be the same as the passage in the lessons. This course can be extended as a family Bible study as well for younger children and a great refresher for parents.

### Phonics and Cursive

*Alpha-Phonics* is a systematic method of teaching phonics through decoding the English language. It is a thorough curriculum starting from simple short vowel words to more complex, developing strategies for students as come to unfamiliar words after completion of the book. There are no distracting pictures to keep students focused on the lesson. Parents are strongly encouraged to read the Teacher's Manual of the book (starting on p. 131) prior to any lessons.

*Cursive First* is an inexpensive writing curriculum with license to reproduce writing pages as often as needed. This is a simplified cursive, eliminating unnecessary loops while still maintaining true cursive font. There is great value to teaching children cursive as the first handwriting method. This curriculum teaches step by step how to form each letter. Parents are strongly encouraged to be at the child's side while practicing cursive to immediately correct if needed and to read the instruction portion thoroughly.

### Grammar

Grammar study will begin in the Beta class with *First Language Lessons* program. Students will need to have lined paper for writing out lessons; the text is non consumable. *Grammar for the Well-Trained Mind, Purple Book* and *Core Instructor Text* is the curriculum for Gamma and Delta classes. The *Core Instructor Text* covers a thorough four-year program of study. The Latin courses will reinforce grammar study.

### Latin

Latin study will begin in Beta class with *Prima Latina*. *Latina Christiana* will be taught in the Gamma class, and *First Form Latin* will be taught in the Delta class. These are all introductory level courses suited for the appropriate developmental age of the student. However, all older Latin students should begin Latin study as the First Form curriculum. These courses are designed with the instructor with no Latin background. Each level has a pronunciation CD parents are encouraged to have for home. The publisher also offers flashcards for purchase, although parents can have their student make their own flashcards with index cards. Latin is not a subject done

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only one or two days a week. Parents will need to drill their student every day.

## Writing/Public Speaking

Writing is an extremely valuable skill to expressing one's thoughts. Students will learn handwriting, dictation, and how to develop quality essays. The writing curriculum is from Institute for Excellence in Writing (IEW), *Ancient History Based Writing* for Gamma and Delta classes. Instructors will study the instructional videos from IEW to increase the quality of the writing courses. Alpha will be learning cursive from *Cursive First*. Beta will be using *Writing with Ease* that includes many dictation exercises.

Speaking in front others will begin in the Iota class through short, simple show and tell style of speaking to peers. Beta classes will increase length of speaking through short book reports in front of others. The Delta and Gamma classes will share their writing papers in front of their class. Ease with speaking in front of others is a valuable skill to have and develop at a young age. Exercises are age appropriate with lots of encouragement.

## Literature

The literature selections have been made from Memoria Press publisher suitable to each developmental level. Parents are encouraged to read the book prior to student reading (over the summer is great option either as parent only or as family read aloud). Fewer books are selected for a thorough understanding and fuller study of the novel. Selections are from great books of classical literature.

## Classical History

History for the Iota and Alpha class will utilize quality children's literature books from Memoria Press Enrichment selections. Beta will cover American history. *Famous Men of Rome* covers the history of Rome using biographical stories through the monarchy, republic and empire periods. *Famous Men of Greece* covers the rise, Golden Age, and fall of Greece periods of history. History will also be reinforced through timeline study and memorization.

## Math/Logic Games

Math as a full curriculum will be taught in the Iota and Alpha class with *Rod and Staff I*, supplemented as instructor deems appropriate. As the older children are likely set in a math curriculum and are encouraged not to jump around math publishers, the older classes will focus on using math and logic skills through games and review. As the Iota and Alpha classes progress, each year will incorporate their math curriculum.

## Art, Music, Science

These courses will be a seminar style with all classes meeting together to learn of and appreciate great art and music. After the short instruction, students will separate back into their classes to further understanding, practice, or experiment. Students will learn how to play the tin whistle and practice various artistic techniques.

## Music

Music will concentrate on music history, traditional songs, music theory, and the orchestra. Classes will begin with a presentation for all students, then each level will discuss, practice, or work on an assignment.

Eight weeks will be spent studying each area of concentration. The first area, music history, will focus on studying famous composers. Students will learn about the different periods of music beginning with the Baroque. Classes will study each composer and listen to samples of music. Delta students will identify the music samples and their composers.

The next eight weeks will encompass traditional songs that have been sung by generations but nearly forgotten.

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Students will learn the basic singing technique along with Christmas carols and hymns as the second eight weeks ends with Christmas break.

On return from Christmas, students will study the tin whistle for eight weeks. The tin whistle is an instrument used in traditional Irish music, popular music (Celine Dion's *My Heart Will Go On*), and for classic folk tunes. The techniques learned to play it are similar to those used to play the saxophone, clarinet, and recorder. Students will learn to read fingering charts and some basic music theory. They will be able to transfer these skills to any other instrument they choose to play or to better understand the music they hear.

The final eight weeks students will learn about the orchestra. Students will the instrument families and will be able to identify the instruments of the orchestra by sight and sound. If students play instruments, they may demonstrate for their class. Demonstration of several orchestral instruments will be presented.

## **Art**

Art class will focus on great artists and their techniques. A great artist's life and work will be presented to all students. Then each level will work on an art project using a technique practiced by that artist, or a project based on a theme that artist is known for. Students will draw, paint with various media, use oil pastels, and experiment with a variety of other media.

## **Science**

Students will study a wide variety of topics with frequent hands-on experiments. *Science in the Ancient World* is a classical model of study appropriate for a variety of ages. However, memory work and journal and record pages assignments will be specific to each class level. Study will include the scientific discoveries from approximately 600 B.C. to 1500 A.D. as well as learning what techniques and ideas didn't work!