

ACE Class Descriptions

Core History and Science Classes Year 1

Early Grammar Stage (K)

__ The Early Grammar year is focused on building a strong foundation of basic skills and knowledge acquisition. Students will learn to read, write, basic history, science, and math facts. During the classroom days we will focus on history and science. Students will be introduced to the scientific method, physical science, earth science, and life science. Our history will focus on taking a trip around the world and exploring the 7 continents along with various countries and cultures.

Grammar Stage (1-3)

__ In History Year 1, students will explore Ancient Civilizations from around the world. These civilizations include Mesopotamia, Egypt, India, China, Greece, and the Roman Empire. They will learn the impact these civilizations had on history and the many influences they made that shaped the future. Students will learn about these ancient civilizations through picture books, *Story of the World*, United Streaming videos, slides, and fun lessons. They will complete activity pages, participate in simulations, have class discussions, and complete 2 projects throughout the year.

__ In Science Year 1, students will use hands-on, experiment-based approach to investigate life science topics for the year. This will include plants and seeds, animals, animal life, adaptations, life cycles, and the systems of the human body. Students will be required to complete two out of class projects, one in the fall and the Science Fair in the spring.

Upper Grammar Stage (3-5)

__ In History Year 1, students will explore ancient world civilizations, including Mesopotamia, Egypt, India, China, Greece, and the rise and fall of the Roman Empire. They will study the history, the culture, important people and ideas and learn about their influence even today. Students will learn about these ancient civilizations through information/picture books, *Story of the World volume 1*, videos, maps, discussions, games, timelines, and simulations. In addition, students will complete 2 history projects outside of the classroom.

__ In Science Year 1, students will embark on the study of life forms, their structure, and processes. Our exploration will begin with the basic cell, continue with plants, advance to animals (invertebrates & vertebrates), and conclude with the Human body. Life Science vocabulary will be taught through related discussion, interaction, and discovery. Students will conduct lab experiments to reinforce concepts and gain authentic knowledge. Real world connections to learning will be fostered through occasional outside of school observation/collection assignments. At home, students will complete a science project to be presented during class time and displayed at the ACE Science Fair.

Logic Stage (6-8)

___ In History Year 1, students will learn about the history and geography of the ancient world with a focus of attention on the civilizations of Mesopotamia, Egypt, India, China, Greece, and the Roman Empire. Students will research the ideas, beliefs, and technologies of these societies and their influence on the modern world. Students will analyze the geographic, political, economic, religious, and social structures of early civilizations through class activities, discussions, maps, selected readings, and timelines. Students will also uncover information through simulations, readers' theater, and the completion of two projects during the year school year. Information about the ancient civilizations will be presented via textbook chapter readings, videos, slides, and teacher-prepared lessons.

___ In Science Year 1, students will learn about a variety of life sciences. Students will analyze cells, genetics, plants, animals, and the Human Body. While exploring cells students will discover that all living organisms are composed of cells. The discovery of plants will explore the anatomy and physiology of plants and the complementary nature of structure and functions. Vertebrate and invertebrate animals will be explored and their interdependence with the environment. While studying the Human Body students will learn about the coordinated structures and functions of organ systems, the internal environment of the Human Body, and the complementary activity of major body systems. Students will be involved in discussion, interactions, and lab experiments. Students will also explore how organisms are part of an ecosystem and have complex relationships with other organisms and the physical environment. At home students will complete a science fair project to be presented during class and displayed at the ACE Science fair.

Enrichment Classes

Tuesdays

Atelier Art(Grades K-4) Students will learn about artistic elements and principles - including line, color, shape, form, texture, pattern, balance and emphasis. We will also investigate art-history, media exploration, creative self-expression, cultural appreciation, right-brain drawing techniques, and much more. Students will have the opportunity to develop their artistic and creative skills, learn about artists, art-principles and art-history, and develop the creative capacities of the right side of the brain.

Writing (Grades K-3) Students will participate in different grade level appropriate writing centers and activities that will help them to improve their writing. These centers will be a fun way to reinforce some of the writing skills the students are learning at home.

Math (Grades K-3) This class is modeled around the hands-on approach used in Singapore 2A/2B. It will provide an emphasis on concept development, mental techniques, and problem solving skills. While using Singapore Math at home is not a requirement, it is highly recommended. The class is designed to enhance home studies. A syllabus will be provided.

IEW Writing Class (Grades 3-5) Students will learn the structure and style of effective writing using IEW's proven methods. To compliment year one's ancient history studies, this "starter" course will use *Fables, Myths, and Fairy Tales* in which characters and adventures will capture your students' imaginations and provide rich writing content. Students learn how to take notes, speak from a key word outline, summarize narrative stories, summarize references, write from pictures and compose their own fables, myths and fairy tales. Appropriate for 3rd-5th grade. There will be a minimum of 1 hour of homework per week.

IEW Writing Class (Grades 5-8) This beginning IEW writing class covers all nine IEW models of structure, in addition to some poetry. Grammar, vocabulary, and elements of style are integrated into the lessons. Students will engage in brainstorming, form outlines, and learn to properly construct multiple paragraphs. Writing assignments will be based on classic and interesting ancient civilization themes covering: Sumer, Egypt, Israel, Babylon, Greece, and Rome. There will be a minimum of 1 hour of homework each week.

Newspaper & Yearbook (Grades 5-8) This class introduces students to print publication and the basics of journalism. Students will review the editorial process in news journalism and improve their oral and written communication skills by producing articles, interviews, surveys, and cartoons for the school newspaper and yearbook. Students will also create layout designs, ads, and flyers

Introduction to Photography (Grades 4-8) This class introduces students to the basics of photography. Students will learn about line, form, structure, color, and light. Fundamental camera techniques will be taught as well as the skills necessary to manipulate digital photographs in basic post processing techniques. A variety of photography will be explored including photojournalism, portraiture, landscape photography, and nature photography.

Thursdays

Arts and Crafts (Grades K-4) Using natural and/or recycled craft supplies, this Arts and Crafts class will emphasize practical, inventive and creative uses for them. This class will help refine practical, fine motor skills in young children, such as cutting, tying and arranging. It will enable inventive little hands to carry out what they envision in their minds. It will teach resourcefulness and allow creativity to flourish. It is very hands on and well... messy at times! Some examples of craft projects are: Pencil holders made from a tin can covered with wallpaper and other decorations and wreaths built from natural items like pods, seeds, dried grasses and leaves, and much more.

LEGO® Pre-Engineering (Grades K-4) In this course students are given small projects to solve with LEGO® pieces. From cars that sweep leaves, to windmills run by weights, the students work in small teams to build their projects and solve the problem. During the course, the students are taught about physics and engineering, using different sized weights, wheels, and gears to see what 'does it best.' The course builds their teamwork skills as each team member has part of the whole project, requiring the team to work in coherency to make sure their project fits together. LEGO® parts and instruction booklets are supplied.

Choir (Grades K-4)

Illustrating Greek and Roman Mythology (Grades 4-8) In this class we will explore the fascinating world of Greek and Roman mythological characters, creatures and heroes. Students will learn a little historical background on creatures such as Minotaur and Medusa, heroes such as Hercules and a host of temperamental Greco Roman gods. We will do a lot of drawing focusing on a variety of styles such as cartooning, illustration and, of course, mimicking actual art of the time period. Students will work in pen and ink, watercolor, colored pencil and mosaic.

Performing Arts - (Grades 5-8) Students enhance interpersonal skills and self-awareness by studying, creating and performing diverse roles related to Ancient History studies. This performing arts appreciation course provides an opportunity for students to develop aesthetic sensitivity and understanding through artistic collaboration in a cooperative learning environment.

Mock Trial - Guilty or Non-Guilty -The mock trial is an effective learning tool for students. The trial process enables students to better understand law, practice critical thinking, and gain confidence for speaking in public.

Pre-Algebra/Algebra