

WELCOME TO

The Classical Trivium

The **Classical Trivium** is an educational philosophy developed centuries ago and describes the learning stages of children as they mature. The Trivium focuses the educational method in each learning stage to best develop a knowledgeable, thinking, and articulate student.

As its name implies, there are three stages represented in the Trivium: *Grammar*, *Logic*, and *Rhetoric*.

The *Grammar* stage focuses on obtaining foundational knowledge/facts.

The *Logic* stage focuses on critical thinking.

The *Rhetoric* stage focuses on effective communication.

While each stage has a primary focus of skill development, **all skills are developed during all stages**. For example, a third grader will develop some skills in Logic and Rhetoric, while focusing on obtaining the Grammar, the factual foundation for each subject. A high school student continues to acquire extensive factual knowledge – Grammar – in all subjects, while focusing on communicating well, the Rhetoric.

THE CLASSICAL TRIVIUM:

CHRONOLOGICAL STUDY OF HISTORY IS

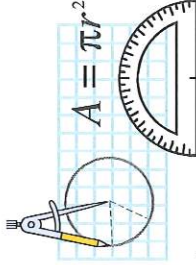
FOUNDATION FOR ALL SUBJECTS

The subject matter taught in each grade is aligned with the chronological study of history and repeat in three four-year cycles during the student's K-12 Trivium education. Each repetition deepens the student's knowledge and understanding.

Because the same time period is taught at the same time in all subjects, students also learn how subjects relate to one another and build over time, as well as how history influences events.

Period	Years Covered	Studied during Grades
Ancient World	5000 BC – 400 AD	1, 5, 9
Medieval – Early Renaissance	400 – 1600	2, 6, 10
Late Renaissance – Early Modern	1600 – 1850	3, 7, 11
Modern Era	1850 – present	4, 8, 12

The periods of scientific discovery generally correspond to the historical periods. Consequently, when studying the history of the Ancient World, students also learn about biology, classification, and the human body, subjects which were known to the Ancients.



manuscripts, calligraphy, and Gothic architecture. While learning the Late Renaissance – Early Modern period, students study the compositions of Vivaldi, Bach, Handel, Beethoven, and Chopin.

THE CLASSICAL TRIVIUM: INSTRUCTIONAL STRATEGIES

THE GRAMMAR STAGE: GRADES K – 4/5

During the Grammar stage, children are adept at memorization. Young children learn songs, rhymes, and recite facts with relative ease. Because young children are so eager to memorize, the Trivium – Grammar challenges them by providing substantive subject matter for them to memorize. Children learn the factual foundation of each subject using songs, chants, rhymes, drills, and games.

THE LOGIC STAGE: GRADES 5/6 – 8

During the middle school years, children begin to think independently and may develop a propensity for argument. Through guided research, writing, and debates, the Trivium – Logic teaches students to think and analyze critically and to argue well by arranging facts into organized statements and arguments. The study of formal logic also helps students understand the fundamentals of a good argument.

THE RHETORIC STAGE: GRADES 9 – 12

Rhetoric is the art of communicating well. Once a student has obtained knowledge of the facts (grammar) and developed the skills necessary to arrange those facts into organized arguments (logic), the student develops the skill of effectively communicating those arguments to others (rhetoric).



Through guided research and numerous papers, speeches, and debates, the Trivium – Rhetoric teaches students to clearly and effectively articulate concepts to others.