



# Upper School Curriculum Guide

Uniquely designed and carefully sequenced courses for 7-12<sup>th</sup> grade students



**CLASSICAL EDUCATION FOR MODERN STUDENTS**

Classical education seeks to train the **WHOLE** person (intellectual, moral, spiritual, emotional, and physical) to recognize, embrace, communicate, and defend all that is **True, Good, and Beautiful** (the three Transcendental Virtues), not merely to memorize and regurgitate facts without discernment.

Upper School students at NCCS are provided with a survey of history from Creation to the present **TWICE**, each time with different, **developmentally appropriate standards**.

Each of the humanities subjects have been *carefully designed* to correlate with one another, providing a **richer experience** and **fuller understanding** of the ideas and impacts of each era on the present.

All classes are taught at an **honors** level, yet are *accessible to the average student*, using **primary source materials**, the **Great Books**, and timeless **interactive teaching methods** to bring the people, events, and ideas of history to life!

Similarly, our math and science classes aim to instruct our students in the **principles of creation** so lovingly foreordained by the same **God who predestined the works of history**. These are taught through **exploration, experimentation, memorization, and analysis**, so that students are actually using the skills they acquire in their liberal arts courses. Students **cannot afford to compartmentalize subjects**, divorcing art from science or math from history. These studies all serve the same God, and so deserve the time and attention of each student throughout his life of study.

## History & Literature

### LOGIC STAGE (7-9<sup>th</sup> Grades)

Geography  
Religion  
Achievements  
Politics  
Economics  
Society



Establishing God's standards of virtue; Evaluating man's response & the resulting consequences of accepting or rejecting these standards

#### 7<sup>th</sup> Grade: *Ancient Civilizations*

What is the nature & foundation of **TRUTH**?

#### 8<sup>th</sup> Grade: *Castles & Creeds*

What is the nature & foundation of **GOODNESS**?

#### 9<sup>th</sup> Grade: *Modern Western Civilization - European Foundations*

What is the nature & foundation of **BEAUTY**?



**NATURAL VALUES**  
God  
Man  
Law  
Government  
Economics  
Moral Society

### RHETORIC STAGE (10-12<sup>th</sup> Grades)

Responding to questions of epistemology and worldview in the light of God's standards

#### 10<sup>th</sup> Grade: *Ancient Origins*

**ORIGIN** - Where did I come from?

#### 11<sup>th</sup> Grade: *The Age of Christendom*

**MEANING & MORALITY** – Why am I here and how should I live?

#### 12<sup>th</sup> Grade: *Modern Western Civilization – The American Story*

**DESTINY** – Where am I going?

## Science & Mathematics

### Science

- 7<sup>th</sup> Grade: General Science
- 8<sup>th</sup> Grade: Physical Science
- 9<sup>th</sup> Grade: Biology
- 10<sup>th</sup> Grade: Chemistry
- 11<sup>th</sup> Grade: Physics
- 12<sup>th</sup> Grade: Computer Programming

### Mathematics

- 7<sup>th</sup> Grade: Pre-Algebra
- 8<sup>th</sup> Grade: Algebra I
- 9<sup>th</sup> Grade: Geometry
- 10<sup>th</sup> Grade: Algebra II
- 11<sup>th</sup> Grade: Pre-Calculus
- 12<sup>th</sup> Grade: Calculus

## Bible & Theology

### 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grades: *Bible Survey*

Understanding the ancient stories and organization of the Bible, then tracing the journey of the early church

### 9<sup>th</sup> Grade: *Biblical Worldview*

Identifying the worldview of Scripture vs. the competing, cultural worldview of humanism

### 10<sup>th</sup> Grade: *Systematic Theology I*

The doctrines of Scripture, God, Man, and Christ

### 11<sup>th</sup> Grade: *Systematic Theology II*

The doctrines of Redemption, the Church, and the Future

### 12<sup>th</sup> Grade: *Apologetics & Civics*

Crafting a defense of biblical worldview amongst competing ideologies

## Rhetoric: The Art of Communication

Rhetoric instruction begins well before the Rhetoric stage, focusing on analytic and communication skills that our students learned in the Grammar stage. Beginning with formal Logic and writing courses, our students learn that knowledge and information alone are not enough to convince anyone, but rather crafted and beautiful conversation that persuades and wins arguments.

### 7<sup>th</sup> Grade

- *Grammar and Composition*
- *Writing and Rhetoric Program*
- *Logic A*

### 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

- *Writing and Rhetoric Program*
- *Logic B*

### 9<sup>th</sup> Grade

- *Writing and Rhetoric Program*
- *Research Skills*

### 10<sup>th</sup> Grade

- *Rhetoric I*
- *Debate*

### 11<sup>th</sup> Grade

- *Rhetoric II*
- *Junior Thesis*

### 12<sup>th</sup> Grade

- *Senior Thesis*

## Fine Arts: Building Better Worshipers

Students in the Grammar stage primarily study the arts by **imitating the masters** of western art, learning the principles of art and style, and imitating the language of music they hear all around them.

Following years of instruction through imitation, Upper School students develop skills through **larger pieces, group performance, and experimentation.**

Students receive **vocal and choral instruction weekly**, mastering the most important instrument God gave them. Students also work on studio pieces in art class, taking extra time to **craft their own creative expressions of the Beauty they see in creation.**

Musical and artistic projects are chosen to **reflect the time periods students study in history and literature**, exploring each artistic movement every year.