



The ACADEMY
of Classical Christian Studies

Grammar Curriculum Changes

First, last year, we announced we were piloting a change for our third through seventh grade curriculum, moving from Shurley English to the Well Ordered Language. We started with transitioning to the new curriculum with just our third grade classrooms. While we have received feedback on both ends of the spectrum, overwhelmingly, this change has been perceived as positive. It has provided some relief to the home day workload, and many parents and teachers like that the concepts are applied to authentic poems and fables. So, we are pleased to continue moving forward with the rollout of Well Ordered Language, adding in fourth grade for the 2022-2023 academic year with plans to continue this rollout 1 year at a time.

Second, this year we will be making a change to The Academy's phonics program. As you all know, for many years, we have taught children to read using the phonics-based approach found in Spell to Write and Read (SWR). We have consistently gotten feedback that SWR would be so much better if there were more resources for teachers and parents to reinforce the instructional materials. We have spent the last two years searching for a curriculum that has the same rich phonics-based instruction but also has better resources for extra practice, for enrichment, and for providing parents the tools to support instruction at home. We are excited to announce that after much research and a full pilot program that many teachers participated in, we will be transitioning to a curriculum called The Logic of English. The Logic of English takes everything we love from SWR - a heavy emphasis on phonograms inside of a well thought out scaffolded approach to learning - and builds on it, providing a variety of engaging lessons and activities that can be differentiated based on student ability as well as more accessible teacher and parent support. This program also integrates handwriting and grammar and will serve as a replacement for not only SWR but also Shurley English and our handwriting program in the lower elementary grades. Like changes to our grammar curriculum, this change will be rolled out over time. For the 2022-2023 academic year, we will launch the program with our PreK-Second grade students. In subsequent years, we will add one year at a time.

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Because this is a large change, we are even more excited to share that for each initial launch (so for this year, PreK-2nd), **The Academy will provide the Foundations Set at no cost to parents. They will be able to pick this up when they pick up other consumable materials at the beginning of the academic year.** Our hope is this initial infusion of curriculum into The Academy community will help keep the cost of the program minimal as families resell and share curriculum once their students have finished using it.

Third, in PreK, we will be adding in a teacher resource, *A Year of Playing Skillfully*, published by Classical Academic Press. This addition will be accompanied by additional read-aloud literature books in the classroom and hands-on centers that reinforce our classical curriculum and is **OPTIONAL** for blended parents to purchase.

Finally, we've updated the fourth grade literature selections. Beginning in the fall of 2022, our fourth grade literature will include *Carry On Mr. Bowditch*, *Johnny Tremain*, *Secret Garden*, *Sign of the Beaver*, *Witch of Blackbird Pond*, and *Old Yeller* as well as *The People Could Fly* as an in-class read aloud.

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