



COURSE CATALOG

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SMITH PREPARATORY ACADEMY ~ PO BOX 521522 LONGWOOD, FL 32752

407-260-0157 ~ WWW.SMITHPREP.COM ~ OFFICE@SMITHPREP.COM

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OVERVIEW

Smith Preparatory Academy is a Christian classical school dedicated to providing students with exceptional instruction and the invaluable support of a community of teachers and families committed to the training of virtuous scholars. At the heart of our program is a devotion to cultivating students' love of God, the world He has made, and the Church He has redeemed.

We are a fully accredited private school with a comprehensive week-long program. Fridays are a half-day dedicated to Common Arts, field trips, and schoolwide events that enable students to embody their learning. Monday through Thursday enrichment opportunities for lower school include art, physical education, music, and aviation.

All students of Smith Prep are considered private school students for whom Smith Prep will provide record keeping, curriculum counseling, and standardized testing. High school students will also receive credit advising, an accredited diploma, graduation ceremony, official transcripts, dual enrollment options, Florida Bright Futures and scholarship documentation.

Smith Prep serves students from Preschool through High School and offers Dual Enrollment classes through Palm Beach Atlantic University.

Our Common Arts Program equips students with practical skills that have sustained civilizations throughout history—such as gardening, ceramics, woodworking, sewing, trade, etc.¹ Fine Arts, like drawing, painting, and drama may also be included as these are an extension of the common arts.

At Smith Prep, we offer two distinct programs that allow students to fully engage in our educational experience: the Traditional Program and the Cottage Program.

¹ For more information, we encourage you to read Christopher Hall's book *Common Arts Education*.

TRADITIONAL PROGRAM: Daily Classroom Model

Our Traditional Program is designed for families who value the consistency, accountability, and fellowship of a five-day classroom experience. Students attend school each day under the guidance of quality classical educators who lead them through a rigorous and joyful curriculum. Daily interaction with teachers and peers allows students to receive immediate feedback, engage in meaningful discussions, and form lasting relationships within a vibrant academic community.

This program offers a consistent rhythm that supports character formation, study habits, and a deep sense of belonging. It offers many families the structure and support needed to thrive.

The Traditional Program might be a good fit for your family if you desire:

- A structured, five-day classroom schedule
- More time with a master teacher for deeper study
- Daily academic accountability and feedback
- Consistent social interaction and school community
- Support for working parents or families seeking a clear routine

COTTAGE PROGRAM: Hybrid Model

Our Cottage Program offers a university-model hybrid experience, blending formal instruction in the classroom with independent learning. Students attend class on Mondays and Wednesdays, and complete school-directed academic work off-campus on the other days of the week. Cottage students are fully integrated into the life of the school and are welcome to participate in the Common Arts Program, field trips, and schoolwide events.

On days when Cottage students are not on campus, they are expected to complete 5-7 hours of academic work, guided by lesson plans and assigned by the classroom teacher(s). Parents serve as co-teachers in the early years and transition into mentors as students gain independence and mastery in the upper grades.

The Cottage Program instills a strong sense of personal responsibility and time management, equipping students with skills that serve them well in college and beyond. While it demands a high level of organization, commitment, and parental involvement, it offers a deeply rewarding and formative education experience.

The Cottage Program might be a good fit for your family if you desire:

- Greater involvement in your child's education
- A model that fosters early independence and academic maturity—teaching time management, self-discipline, and personal responsibility skills essential for college and beyond

VISION STATEMENT

Smith Preparatory Academy exists to establish a community of virtuous scholars seeking to advance God's kingdom locally and throughout the world.

MISSION STATEMENT

Smith Prep provides students in grades PreK-12 with the highest quality Christian classical education, seeks to cultivate Christian virtue, and promotes the recovery of Christian humanism.

HISTORY

Smith Prep was founded as a tutorial service in 1994 under the leadership of Scott Smith. Mr. Smith's desire was to make the riches of classical education available to home-educated students. Over the years the program grew to include students ranging from middle to high school.

In 2010, Mr. Michael Phillips took over leadership of the school from Mr. Smith. Under Mr. Phillips' direction, Smith Prep added a lower school program in 2012, began offering dual enrollment classes in 2015, and achieved formal status as a private school in 2016 offering a fully comprehensive program for all students. In 2021, Smith Prep opened its Traditional program, marking a significant milestone in its growth and commitment to providing a robust Christian classical education for many families in Central Florida. We started our pre-school program the same year in order to serve families who wanted an early start on the formation of their children.



HUMANE
EDUCATION

CULTIVATING CHRISTIAN VIRTUE
RECOVERING CHRISTIAN HUMANISM

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Educating the Whole Person

What makes for a good education? To answer that question, we need to ask another: What is an education *for*? We might imagine someone saying that the point of an education is to make students smarter or to equip them for college. Still others might say that an education should prepare students for the job market or help them become good citizens. While these may be important goals to consider, they don't tell us all that we need to know. As human beings we are more than just our intellect; we are more than our value to the economy; we are more than citizens.

To answer the question of what an education is for, we must ask yet another question: What are people for? Whatever our answer to that question, the best and fullest education will help us move toward it.

At Smith Prep, we believe that Scripture and the Christian tradition provide the answer to this all-important question. We are creatures made in God's image, and we were created to love and glorify our Creator. An education, in the fullest sense, moves students toward the fulfillment of our humanity in God.

To put it another way, the Church Father, Irenaeus, wrote, "The glory of God is man fully alive, and the life of man is the vision of God." God is glorified in our humanity when we are wholly oriented toward God. The best education, then, will simultaneously address itself to the fullness of our humanity and point the heart and mind of each student toward God.

It is in this context that we speak of *the cultivation of Christian virtue* and *the recovery of Christian humanism*.

Smith Prep is devoted to creating an environment that is conducive to the flourishing of Christian virtue. Our curriculum and instruction are integral to the fulfillment of this goal, but they are only part of a larger effort. Virtue, after all, is not merely a matter of the intellect. The pursuit of virtue is also a matter of the heart and its habits and is grounded in the life of a community. It is our desire to create a school culture that works as an integrated whole toward the cultivation of Christian virtue. This includes an intentional ordering of our day, the fostering of meaningful relationships, and working together with parents to address the spiritual needs of students.

To speak of Christian humanism is to speak of the dignity of the human person. Christian humanism affirms the dignity of the person by first affirming the wisdom, grace, and goodness of God, our Creator and Redeemer. We seek truth because God is Truth; we pursue what is good because God is Good; we rejoice in what is beautiful because God is the source of all Beauty.

Unfortunately, *humanism* is a word that has fallen into disrepute among Christians by its recent qualification by the adjective *secular*. At Smith Prep, however, we are committed to the recovery of a distinctly *Christian* humanism. What we mean by Christian humanism is simple: a commitment to human flourishing informed by a biblical understanding of the human person. Our educational philosophy is grounded in this commitment.

As human beings made in God's image, we are uniquely equipped to receive creation as God's gift and return to Him our service, gratitude, and praise. In other words, we are created to worship and enjoy God through our stewardship of His creation, work, family life, the arts, politics—the whole of human culture is a product of this mandate. Consequently, we believe an education ordered by the ideals of Christian humanism will lead students to appreciate, celebrate, and promote whatever is true, good, and beautiful in our cultural heritage. It will also equip students to faithfully and joyfully fulfill their own calling to love God and love their neighbors.



CURRICULAR PHILOSOPHY

INTEGRATED CURRICULUM

At Smith Preparatory Academy, we reject the fragmentation of knowledge that often characterizes modern education. Instead, we embrace a robust integration of subjects grounded in the belief that all truth is God’s truth. In the classical Christian tradition, disciplines are not isolated, but united under the lordship of Christ, who is the *Logos*—the source of all wisdom and knowledge.

Our curriculum is deliberately structured to cultivate a coherent Christian worldview, where history, literature, theology, science, mathematics, and the arts are studied in conversation with one another. Students explore how ideas develop across time, how mathematical order reflects divine design, and how the great books reveal perennial questions of truth, virtue, and human nature. Teachers collaborate across subjects to emphasize meaningful connections and to encourage students to see the unity behind what they learn.

This integrated approach fosters deep understanding over shallow accumulation of information. It aims not merely at academic proficiency, but at the formation of the whole person—intellectually, morally, and spiritually. Through the recovery of a distinctly Christian humanism, we seek to cultivate students who are not only well-versed in the liberal arts but also shaped by the virtues, affections, and wisdom that flow from our shared heritage. By nurturing habits of attention, wonder, and contemplation, students come to know the world rightly, love what is true and beautiful, and live out their learning in faithful service to Christ and neighbor.

LOWER SCHOOL

At Smith Preparatory Academy, our Lower School curriculum is rooted in the classical Christian tradition, which seeks to cultivate wonder, moral imagination, and a deep love of learning in young students. We recognize that the early years are a unique and formative time in a child’s life—one in which habits are shaped, affections are ordered, and foundational knowledge is joyfully received.

Young children are naturally eager to memorize, imitate, and explore. We harness this God-given curiosity through practices that engage the whole person—mind, body, and soul. Recitation, song, storytelling, movement, and repetition are woven throughout the curriculum to help students internalize language, Scripture, historical narratives, scientific terms, and mathematical patterns. These practices are not merely techniques, but time-honored means of drawing students into the joy and order of God’s world.

Our goal in the Lower School is to lay a strong foundation for lifelong learning—cultivating attentiveness, humility, and delight. As students grow in knowledge and virtue, they are prepared not only to think clearly and communicate effectively, but to live wisely and faithfully in response to the truth.

Language Arts

Our Language Arts program encompasses phonics, spelling, penmanship, English grammar, vocabulary, composition, and literature. Students are encouraged to develop a passion for reading and they are given the skills to prepare them to become excellent writers and speakers.

Additionally, our students receive a systematic instruction in writing through the classical method known as the *progymnasmata*—a sequence of preliminary rhetorical exercises used from ancient Greece through the Renaissance to train eloquent thinkers and speakers. We use the *Writing & Rhetoric* series by Classical Academic Press as our core resource across the school. This curriculum guides students from the imitation of fables, narratives and oratory. Each book builds incrementally in difficulty, developing essential skills in writing, speaking, listening, and reasoning. Through this approach, students learn not only to write with clarity and beauty, but to engage with truth in a disciplined, imaginative, and meaningful way.

Phonics and Spelling

In lower school, students learn the art of reading and writing through multisensory reinforcement of the rules that govern phonetic decoding and spelling. Students are taught the limited number of sounds represented by letters and letter combinations that express those sounds in the English language. Throughout this process spelling rules are introduced. These keys to reading and writing are memorized and reinforced on a daily basis. Students receive this instruction beginning in Kindergarten through the 6th grade, thus equipping them with the phonetic skills needed to become fluent readers and strong spellers.

We use high quality literature to improve reading skills and to encourage a love for reading. Students are monitored to ensure that they are learning to read fluently and that they are learning to fully comprehend what they are reading. Students in our program are reading fluently by the time they enter the 3rd grade.

Penmanship

In Kindergarten children are taught the formation of cursive letters as it promotes fine and gross motor skills. It is easier for fine and gross motor skills. From this point on, the children continue to write in cursive, improving their script as they mature. In grades 1 through 4, the students

practice their penmanship on a regular basis by copying scripture passages and passages from literature.

English Grammar and Composition

Rules of language usage and style are essential as students mature in their ability to read and write. Introduction to the structure of the language at an early age allows students to develop their reading and writing in a gradual, progressive way. English grammar is taught early, beginning in the 1st grade and continued through 6th grade. The students learn and memorize parts of speech and components of sentences using jingles, chants, and scripted question and answer flows. Students increase their knowledge of English grammar as they mature cognitively and analyze increasingly complex sentences. The earlier students begin to understand the structure of language the stronger base they will have for the study of other subjects.

Literature

Beginning in Kindergarten, students are encouraged to develop a love of reading excellent literature through their introduction to high quality children's literature. Teachers read aloud to the students and they ensure that students are developing listening comprehension skills which provide the foundation for reading comprehension. In the lower school, comprehension is focused on answering questions about the literature and summarizing or narrating what was read. This is done orally and in writing to further develop both their listening comprehension and oral language skills. We want students to not only enjoy what they are reading, but to learn to love good stories and what they teach us about ourselves and God.

Latin

In the early years, students build joyful familiarity with Latin through vocabulary, chanting, and basic translation. As they mature, they begin to dwell more deeply in the language with visual and auditory tools provided by Picta Dicta, a rich and thoughtful language-learning program. Beginning in third grade, students begin to become fluent by reading simple stories and learning basic grammar. In fifth grade and beyond, they study grammar in earnest, internalizing the structure of Latin through careful practice and reflection. Along the way, they read stories that increase in complexity with each lesson. This careful, incremental approach allows students not only to translate Latin, but to think in it, savor its nuances, and appreciate its beauty.

History

History, like all other areas of study, is taught from the perspective of a Christian worldview. Students perceive God's providence as it is revealed in recorded history. They learn the historical significance and chronological position of events in history from creation to the present.

In grades 1 through 4, classes read Susan Wise Bauer's *Story of the World*. By the end of 4th grade, students have read about the ancient, medieval, early modern, and modern periods respectively. Grades 5 and 6 use the "Famous Men" series from Memoria Press which covers the same four eras in biographical perspective. Geography is studied within each year's historical content.

Bible

Students learn that God's Word is truth, and that it is applicable to all life and learning. Throughout the grammar school years, the teaching of God's Word is integrated into all areas of study, laying a foundation for more in-depth study and understanding of God in later years.

Beginning in Kindergarten students learn and memorize the Westminster Shorter Catechism. Through the study of God's Word, students learn about basic theological concepts and major biblical themes, the attributes and characteristics of God, and the plan of salvation. By practice, students are encouraged to develop the Christian discipline of memorization of scripture and consistent prayer.

Science

Through exposure to the sciences, students begin to develop an appreciation for God's perfect design in His creation. Students see order and precision in His creation. They discover that because of His design it is possible to hypothesize and experiment, as well as to identify and classify parts of creation.

In lower school, students are introduced to basic scientific terminology, vocabulary, and the scientific method. Students memorize foundational scientific information and practice the scientific method through many hands-on experiments. Teaching students to observe God's creation and to think like scientists is the focus of their early years.

Math

Through the study of mathematics, students see the order and precision of God's creation. A solid foundation in mathematics is necessary before children can pursue higher mathematical reasoning. Our Lower School program facilitates this by extensive use of hands-on manipulatives to ensure that students understand mathematical concepts. During these early years, students also begin to memorize basic math facts and rules. Conceptual and practical understanding of mathematics and a mastery of mathematical facts are critical to ensure success at higher levels of math and reasoning.

Art

In our visual arts program, Lower School students are encouraged to develop both interest in and appreciation of art. Projects relate to understanding and demonstration of the elements of art and the principles of design, the study of great artists and their work, and drawing from observation. Seeing the beauty of God's creation can spark awe and wonder and be a source of inspiration for our own creative work. Art makes this connection tangible.

Music

The purpose of music instruction is to cultivate an awareness of and an appreciation for various musical forms. Attention is also given to learning basic music theory as it relates to choral performance. Students are introduced to a wide range of music from the Renaissance period to modern times. Students listen to the works of great composers while they learn about the composer's lives and the culture in which they lived. Students are also introduced to various musical instruments and learn about the different musical sections used in performing classical music. Each semester ends with a program where students can bless others with the vocal gifts and abilities they have developed through their study of music.

Aviation Lab

Students engage in physics-oriented activities, learning about the properties of flight. They construct various mechanisms and test their flight ability.

Physical Education

We encourage group participation, collaboration, and sportsmanship in our Physical Education program. We incorporate team building with games and activities so students learn how to glorify God as they joyfully engage in physical activity.

Kindergarten Curriculum

Reading: Various Readers (A Beka, leveled readers)

Phonics: *First Start Reading*, Memoria Press

History: *History for Little Pilgrims*, Christian Liberty Press

Bible: *DK Children's Illustrated Bible*

Science: *Our Father's World*, Christian Liberty Press

Math: *Rod & Staff, Book 1*, Milestone

First Grade Curriculum

Language Arts: *First Start Reading, Traditional Spelling I*, Memoria Press, *Shurley Grammar*

Literature: various read-aloud and literature selections

Latin: Latin prayers

History: *The Story of the World, Volume 1* by Susan Wise Bauer, Veritas Press Bible Timeline Cards

Bible: *Westminster Shorter Catechism for Kids*, ESV Bible

Math: *Rod & Staff, Level 1*, Milestone

Science: *Exploring Creation* series, Apologia

Second Grade Curriculum

Language Arts: *First Start Reading*, Memoria Press, *Traditional Spelling II*, Memoria Press, *Shurley Grammar Level 2*

Literature: various read-aloud and literature selections

Latin: Latin prayers

History: *The Story of the World, Volume 2* by Susan Wise Bauer, Veritas Press Bible Timeline Cards

Bible: *Westminster Shorter Catechism for Kids*, ESV Bible

Math: *Rod & Staff, Level 2*, Milestone

Science: *Exploring Creation* series, Apologia

Third and Fourth Grade Curriculum

Language Arts: *Traditional Spelling III & IV*, Memoria Press, *Shurley Grammar Level 4* (used both years), *Writing & Rhetoric*, Classical Academic Press

Literature: various read-aloud and literature selections

Latin: *Picta Dicta, Primer*

History: *Story of the World, Volumes 3 & 4* by Susan Wise Bauer

Bible: Westminster Shorter Catechism for Kids, ESV Bible

Math: *Rod & Staff Grades 3 & 4*, Milestone

Science: *Exploring Creation* series, Apologia

Fifth and Sixth Grade Curriculum

Language Arts: *Writing & Rhetoric*, Classical Academic Press, *Well-Ordered Language*, Classical Academic Press

Latin: *Picta Dicta, Grammar*

History: *Famous Men Series*, Memoria Press

Bible: Westminster Shorter Catechism in Modern English, ESV Bible

Math: *Rod & Staff 5 & 6*, Milestone

Science: *Exploring Creation with Human Anatomy & Physiology*, *Exploring Creation with Chemistry and Physics*, Apologia

UPPER SCHOOL

Humanities

Our sovereign God providentially directs the course of history. Paul reminded those in Athens that it was God who “made from one, every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined their appointed times, and the boundaries of their habitation” (Acts 17:26). Elsewhere, he reminded the Romans, “For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things” (Rom. 11:36). The study of history, then, is a study of God’s purposes worked out in time.

Therefore, the study of history, while capable of providing intellectual stimulation and aesthetic pleasure, cannot be an end unto itself. Rather, it is a tool for sharpening our character and equipping us to live faithfully. With this in mind, the study of history is not the mere memorization and regurgitation of facts and dates, but an exploration of human nature with a view to the shaping our own moral understanding. We study history for the pleasure of a good story, but also for insights into the ways that human beings have dealt with the moral dimensions of existence. We seek wisdom from the ideas and behaviors that have shaped our society, and we aim to free students from the chronological provincialism of modern culture by opening to them a past rich in fresh resources for their moral and intellectual development.

Smith Prep’s Lower School systematically studies the earliest civilizations through the present era. The Upper School students begin again with Ancient Civilizations but look at the unfolding of history with greater critical awareness. Students are encouraged to evaluate cause and effect patterns found in historical events and are challenged to critique their own historical assumptions. Throughout the year, students are also provided with multiple opportunities to conduct in-depth research of historical events and significant people of their choosing. During each semester, students give persuasive speeches and engage in full length debates to flesh out some of the more consequential historical issues.

- **7th Grade – Ancient History and Greco-Roman History**
Streams of Civilization Vol. 1, Eusebius’ *Church History*, and Plutarch’s *Lives*
- **8th Grade – Modern and Contemporary History**
Streams of Civilization Vol. 2, Selected readings from the Western tradition
- **9th Grade – American History**
Selected primary sources and Paul Johnson’s *A History of the American People*
- **10th Grade – Government and Economics**
Selected readings from the Western tradition of government and economics
- **11th Grade – World History**
Selected readings from the Western philosophical tradition and Colin Brown’s *Christianity and Western Thought*

- **12th Grade – Origins of Western Civilization**
Selected readings
- **12th Grade - History of Scientific Revolutions**
Selected reading

Logic and Rhetoric

Logic and Rhetoric are essential tools for effective communication and integral to the classical tradition. At Smith Prep, students begin formal instruction in logic in 7th grade, where they are trained in the principles of sound reasoning. This study continues into 8th grade and beyond, as students cultivate habits of clear thinking and intellectual integrity. Logic trains the mind to discern what is true; rhetoric trains the heart and tongue to express that truth persuasively and beautifully.

Together, these arts shape more than just skillful communicators—they form virtuous persons. Both logic and rhetoric are taught with the aim of cultivating *prudence* and *fortitude*: prudence in discerning what to say and how to say it, and fortitude in speaking truth when it is difficult. In the Christian tradition, these disciplines are not neutral tools of persuasion, but gifts to be stewarded in the service of neighbor and truth. We aim to train students who speak not to dominate or impress, but to build others up in love and to bear witness to what is good, true, and beautiful.

To the ancients, rhetoric was the crowning intellectual discipline. It took the knowledge the student had gained over the course of their years of schooling and the understanding of logical principles gained from the study of traditional logic and molded them into powerful tools of persuasion. To Aristotle, whose *Rhetoric* is the discipline’s foundational text, the art of rhetoric was the chief weapon in the service of truth. Throughout their Upper School experience, our students are encouraged to hone their skills in logic and rhetoric in every class.

- **7th Grade** – *Pursuing Wisdom: Introduction to Critical Thinking*
- **8th Grade** – Informal Logic, Veritas
- **9th Grade** – *Formal Logic, Veritas*
- **10th Grade** – Rhetoric I
- **11th Grade** – Rhetoric II
- **12th Grade** – Senior Research Seminar

Classical Languages

At Smith Prep, the study of Latin is not merely an academic requirement but a formative discipline that cultivates precision, attentiveness, and delight in language. Latin sharpens a student’s ability to think logically, reason clearly, and express ideas with beauty and clarity.

As the language of the Church, the academy, and much of the Western tradition, Latin offers students direct access to the foundational texts of our civilization and the Christian faith.

In the early years, students build joyful familiarity with Latin through vocabulary, chanting, and basic translation. As they mature, they begin to dwell more deeply in the language with visual and auditory tools provided by *Picta Dicta*, a rich and thoughtful language-learning program. In fifth grade and beyond, they study grammar in earnest, internalizing the structure of Latin through careful practice and reflection. Along the way, they read stories that increase in complexity with each lesson—eventually encountering adapted poetic forms modeled on the works of Virgil and Ovid. This careful, incremental approach allows students not only to translate Latin, but to think in it, savor its nuances, and appreciate its beauty.

Through this progression, students come to see that Latin is not a dead language but a language of life—one that forms the intellect, enriches the imagination, and connects them to the great conversation of Western civilization.

Language Arts

Language is a gift of God. In the garden, Adam’s first act was to deploy language to name the animals. By doing so, Adam reflected the God in whose image he was made. God spoke, and it was so; words became worlds. By using words to make sense of his world, Adam laid the foundation of all human civilization. Because we are awash in a sea of language and learning, to recognize and make use of the potential of language for meaning, truth, and beauty is not merely an academic exercise. It is an exercise in fully inhabiting the world God created by His words and redeemed by the Word made flesh.

For these reasons, literature is at the heart of Smith Prep’s English curriculum. The best way to become skillful readers and writers is to thoughtfully and generously engage the very best of the literary tradition. Such engagement yields a variety of rewards.

Students are brought into a longstanding conversation about the meaning of human life. The best stories and poems of the Western tradition explore what is most significant in our experience, such as the nature of justice, hope, love, friendship, and courage. These stories give readers the opportunity not only to think about and discuss these themes, but also to feel and imagine their very reality.

However, to reach this level of engagement students must also cultivate certain habits of the mind. They must learn to be patient and generous because stories and poetry do not immediately surrender their beauty and wisdom. They must learn, as well, to recognize and appreciate metaphor, imagery, and symbolism. In so doing, they will learn not only about relationships

among words, but about the texture of reality as well. For example, bread and light can tell us something about God because God created a world in which meaning surprisingly and beautifully spills over from words to things and back into words again. Literature, then, trains the imagination as well as the intellect and the emotions.

At Smith Preparatory Academy, students receive systematic instruction in writing through the classical method known as the *progymnasmata*—a sequence of rhetorical exercises developed in ancient Greece and refined through the Renaissance to train eloquent thinkers and speakers. Our core resource is the Writing & Rhetoric series by Classical Academic Press, which guides students step by step into advanced forms of composition, including persuasive argumentation, comparative analysis of virtues and vices, and formal oratory. Each book builds incrementally in complexity, cultivating essential skills in writing, speaking, listening, and reasoning. Writing is integrated across our humanities curriculum, allowing students to engage deeply with great ideas while refining their rhetorical craft. This training equips students with the ability to think critically and communicate persuasively—skills essential for success in higher education, leadership, and life. In an age of rapid communication, our program fosters thoughtful, articulate voices capable of shaping culture with wisdom and clarity. Through their engagement with literature, students learn not only to appreciate great writing, but also how to write clear, articulate, compelling prose themselves so that they may fully partake in God’s gift of language.

Sample Literature Lists

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| <p>Seventh Grade <i>April Morning</i> <i>Longfellow – Poems</i> <i>Around the World in 80 Days</i> <i>The Lost World</i> <i>Treasure Island</i> <i>God’s Smuggler</i> <i>The Hiding Place</i> <i>Through Gates of Splendor</i> <i>Across Five Aprils</i> <i>Johnny Tremain</i> <i>Father Brown Stories</i> <i>Sherlock Holmes</i></p> | <p>Eighth Grade <i>Out of the Silent Planet & Perelandra</i> <i>The Lord of the Rings</i> <i>Red House Mystery</i> <i>Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass</i> <i>Red Badge of Courage</i> <i>The Chosen</i> <i>The Island of Dr. Moreau</i> <i>Death Be Not Proud</i> <i>A Midsummer Night’s Dream</i> <i>Animal Farm</i> <i>20,000 Leagues Under the Sea</i> <i>Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglas</i></p> |
| <p>9th Grade – American Literature <i>The Scarlet Letter</i> – Nathaniel Hawthorne Short Stories – Nathaniel Hawthorne American Puritan Sermons <i>Huckleberry Finn</i> – Mark Twain Selected Poems – Emily Dickinson Essays – Ralph Waldo Emerson <i>Walden</i> – Henry David Thoreau Short Stories – Edgar Allen Poe <i>The Old Man and the Sea</i> – Earnest Hemingway <i>Ethan Frome</i> – Edith Wharton <i>O Pioneers</i> – Willa Cather <i>To Kill A Mocking Bird</i> – Harper Lee</p> | <p>10th Grade – British Literature <i>Beowulf</i> – Anonymous <i>The Canterbury Tales</i> – Geoffrey Chaucer <i>Frankenstein</i> – Mary Shelley Three Shakespearean Plays <i>Pride and Prejudice</i> – Jane Austen <i>A Tale of Two Cities</i> – Charles Dickens <i>Wuthering Heights</i> – Emily Brontë <i>Silas Marner</i> – George Elliot <i>The Picture of Dorian Gray</i> – Oscar Wilde “The Importance of Being Earnest” – Oscar Wilde <i>A Brave New World</i> – Aldous Huxley</p> |
| <p>11th Grade – Word Literature <i>The Iliad</i> – Homer The Theban Plays – Sophocles <i>The Divine Comedy</i> -- Dante <i>Paradise Lost</i> – John Milton <i>Crime and Punishment</i> – Fyodor Dostoyevsky <i>The Odyssey</i> - Homer <i>The Aeneid</i> – Virgil</p> | <p>12th Grade – Dual Enrollment <i>English Composition I</i> <i>English Composition II</i></p> |

Science

God is the creator of the universe and His imprint is on the visible world. According to Paul, “His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made” (Rom. 1:20b). The psalmist declares, “The heavens are telling of the glory of God; and their expanse is declaring the work of His hands. Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night reveals knowledge” (19:1-2). The study of our world through the sciences leads us to worship and serve the Creator. Moreover, human beings have been called to be faithful stewards of both creation and scientific knowledge. With our study of the sciences, we are able to fulfill that calling.

In the Upper School, we strive to impart more than the knowledge of basic facts and formulas. We encourage students to engage the sciences from a broader and more comprehensive framework. We want our students to achieve honors level competency in the sciences and also to understand the social and moral consequences of science and technology. Science carries philosophical and theological implications, so students must be prepared to critically evaluate these implications.

In order to accomplish this, Smith Prep emphasizes not only an understanding of the scientific disciplines, we also encourage an understanding of the history of science. By exploring scientific concepts as they developed throughout history students grasp the impact and influence of science and its technological application.

- **7th Grade** – Earth Science & Astronomy (Novare, Memoria Press)
- **8th Grade** – Life Science (Novare, Memoria Press)
- **9th Grade** – Physics (Novare)
- **10th Grade** – Biology (Novare)
- **11th Grade** – Chemistry (Novare)
- **12th Grade** – Dual Enrollment Psychology (PBA required text)

Mathematics

Mathematics is the language by which we can observe, study, and understand God’s created order within the universe. A true liberal arts education always included the study of arithmetic (number in abstract), music (number in time), geometry (number in space), and astronomy (number in space and time). In our Christian classical paradigm, we see mathematics as a language by which God reveals Himself to us.

After gaining a firm foundation of digit and quantity in the lower school, students then proceed through Pre-Algebra, Algebra, Algebra II, Geometry, and Pre-Calculus. As students work through equations or geometric proofs, our goal for them is to see the rational order and harmony which has been imposed on creation by God. The discipline required to master mathematics requires fortitude and patience. Our instructors are eager to lead students to worship God more fully and serve Him more faithfully through the study of mathematics.

Dual Enrollment

Dual enrollment gives a high school junior or senior a jump start on a college education, allowing you to complete college credits while simultaneously earning a high school diploma. Smith Preparatory Academy partners with Palm Beach Atlantic University offering multiple courses taught by our Smith Prep faculty. The classes include Composition I & II, Bible, and Psychology. All Smith Prep seniors are eligible for these dual enrollment classes.

Upon approval, Smith Prep students may also take dual enrollment classes at their community college that do not conflict with other Smith Preparatory Academy classes or schedule. Smith Preparatory Academy may approve these alternative dual enrollment classes only if a student has completed more than 12 high school credits, has at least a 3.0 unweighted grade point average, and the appropriate SAT and ACT scores according to our Smith Preparatory Academy policies.

Each college has its own set of guidelines once an application is received. The Dual Enrollment Program is not for every student and is reserved for the top students in our program.

Theological Studies

God is Truth and He is the source of all truth. God has revealed Himself through the created order, through His Son, and through His Word. Since God is the source of all truth, we believe that Christians may confidently pursue truth wherever it may be found with humility, wonder, and joy. These convictions are the foundation of all academic pursuits at Smith Prep and they guide our approach to learning in every discipline.

Mankind is created in God's image and blessed with the gifts of intellect and reason. We believe that it is part of our calling as disciples of Christ to love Him with our whole mind. Training our minds and cultivating our intellect is, therefore, an act of faithfulness and worship.

Scripture is God's truthful and authoritative revelation. We must pursue knowledge in humble reliance upon God's Word. We do not merely correlate Bible verses with what we learn apart from the Bible. Rather, we allow biblical wisdom to frame all of our learning. God's word provides the philosophical and moral foundations for the pursuit of knowledge, establishes its parameters, and determines the ends toward which that pursuit strives.

All disciplines at Smith Prep are taught in light of these convictions. Writing during the Second World War, C.S. Lewis summarized these convictions well: "If we thought that for some souls, and at some times, the life of learning, humbly offered to God, was, in its own small way, one of the appointed approaches to the Divine reality and the Divine Beauty which we hope to enjoy hereafter, we can think so still."

- **7th Grade** – Old Testament Survey
- **8th Grade** – New Testament Survey
- **9th Grade** – Introduction to Theological & Educational Studies
- **10th Grade** – Biblical Theology
- **11th Grade** – Systematic Theology
- **12th Grade** – Worldview & Apologetics, Dual Enrollment Exploring the Bible

COMMON ARTS

Many classical programs mistakenly conflate the subjects of the humanities and make them equivalent to classical schooling. Language and math were never meant to stand alone but were part of a much larger enterprise integrating wonder and worship into something that benefited the common community. In fact, the scientific revolutions were birthed out of this conviction. Christian classical education shapes a person to a particular way of life. It is this way of life, properly understood, that manifests itself in communities with vision to see the advancement or growth of God's kingdom everywhere.

The Common Arts are an essential part of the Christian classical paradigm and necessary in the establishment of a genuine community. For a millennia classical educators knew that the liberal arts tradition was practical and that our practices were to be grounded in the skills of life. Building, planting, and creating are pursuits that have been lost and must be revived in our current cultural context. The Common Arts, taken together with God's commands and virtuous living, become more than a useful skill for survival. They are the path to human flourishing. The great poet John Milton said that these arts are a chance for students to gain that "real tincture of natural knowledge, as they shall never forget, but daily augment with delight." It is our desire that our students grow in Godly virtue and that we prepare every student to dwell in God's Kingdom, enjoying a life of leisure (from Greek *scholé*, meaning "restful learning") while engaging this material world rightly.