

**Excelsior Classical Homeschool
Books/Materials to Purchase for Each Grade Level**

2026-2027 Classes and Book List

ALWAYS BUY THE MOST UPDATED EDITIONS (Sometimes older books work ok but sometimes they are complete rewrites. We will always use the newest editions of curriculum manuals, teacher books, student books, and texts.)

Things highlighted in yellow on class pages are required to buy items. Please note that I often have **NOT** highlighted teacher manuals and such as I have highlighted only the **bare minimum needed**. It is up to you to do the research and learn the curriculum and decide if you need the manuals if they are not required. There are PDF samples online, as well as the AFHE convention always has the MP curriculum booth. You can also call the MP hotline number and if the phone person doesn't know the answer they'll often let you chat with the curriculum author. They are a very generous company in that way allowing you to chat with authors and sub out books in the curriculum package.

Clickable Table of Contents

(click to jump down to your selection)

Clickable Table of Contents	1
Preschool and Junior K Book List (pages 3-6)	3
Kindergarten Classes and Book List (pages 7-10)	7
First Grade Classes and Book List (pages 11-14)	11
Second Grade Classes and Book List (pages 15-17)	15
Third Grade Classes and Book List (pages 18-24)	18
Fourth Grade Classes and Book List (pages 25-30)	25
Fifth Grade Classes and Book List (pages 31-35)	31
Sixth Grade Classes and Book List (pages 36-40)	36
Seventh Grade Classes and Book List (pages 41-46)	41
Eighth Grade Classes and Book List (pages 47-53)	47
Ninth Grade Classes and Book List (pages 54-61)	54
Tenth Grade Classes and Book List (pages 62-68)	62
Eleventh Grade Classes and Book List (pages 69-73)	69
Twelfth Grade Classes and Book List (pages 71-77)	74
Appendix:	78
Backpack Shopping List:.....	78
Primary students (Kinder-2nd) Backpack Shopping List.....	78
Grammar School students (3rd-6th) Backpack Shopping List.....	79

Excelsior Classical Homeschool
Books/Materials to Purchase for Each Grade Level

Upper School students (7th-12th) Backpack Shopping List.....	80
Excelsior Upper School Students: Reading the Entire Bible in Six Years Summary.....	82
Six Year Plan.....	82
Math Recommendations.....	84
Easier Math Curriculums:.....	84
Math U See - Daily Workload (15-20 problems depending on level).....	84
Harder, more rigorous (also covers more ground):.....	84
Singapore Math (through 5th or 6th grade).....	84
Saxon.....	85

Excelsior Classical Homeschool
Books/Materials to Purchase for Each Grade Level

Preschool and Junior K Book List *(pages 3-6)*

Ordering directions *(This same info was copied from an email I sent to you.)*

Everyone will order their preschooler/Jrk (18m+) the required books below, on their own, from Abeka.com. (Direct links below in each age subsection). It is always free shipping on Abeka, so each mom will order on their own and it will come right to them.

If your preschooler is under 18m at the start of the school year you don't need to order anything.

If they give you the option of "bound" or "unbound" choose "bound" (otherwise it's just loose sheets getting lost and mixed up).

Memoria Press vs Abeka preschool

I have done the MP JrK (4's) for 3 years now and their preschool we tried for the 2's/3's and it just has a long way to go. The student books are ok but it could be better. The Memoria Press preschool curriculum leaves a lot wanting. In both curricula, the best parts are the well-chosen literature books and we've retained that in my preschool curriculum manual I've written (everyone will receive a copy).

Preschool: 18m, 2s and 3s curriculum manual

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1VGOU39AXIn9C7GZKOT7VX5367hfgoAmOvtUTyy1dpJE/edit?tab=t.0#heading=h.vyd8pft2sr81>

Junior Kindergarten aka JrK/4's/K4 curriculum manual

https://docs.google.com/document/d/14Fr0F9IJ_rKU9WDMreAvYrJqgOaPrzmvavLWLOo5eiM/edit?tab=t.0

Abeka is the consumable portion you'll buy- **you don't need to buy any of their teacher, manuals or teacher products**, we have everything we need at Excelsior and you won't need that at home just the curriculum manual I wrote, which are the links above. We will do all the main instruction on Mondays. You will just follow up and do any consumable "homework" or Bible verse review you'd like to do at home. If life is stressful at home, *you certainly don't need to do anything at home*, whatever they get at Excelsior is plenty for their age level.

Why Abeka?

For preschool/JrK, Abeka just outshines MP in nearly every regard and they really know what preschoolers are needing and will love. We have had great success with it at Excelsior and it is just a sweet, lovely Christian curriculum that encompasses solid instruction, with beautiful nursery rhymes and songs, manners, Bible, games, and the fun and whimsy of the puppets of Button Bear, Amber Lamb, and Katie Cat.

Excelsior Classical Homeschool Books/Materials to Purchase for Each Grade Level

SHOPPING LINKS TO PURCHASE:

18 -23 months will need *(if your student is at least 18m at the start of school but not yet 2):*

☐ Nursery Arts & Crafts:

[Abeka | Product Information | Nursery Arts & Crafts](#)

The 2's will purchase *(if your student is 2 at the start of the school year):*

☐ Learning Numbers with Button Bear:

[Abeka | Product Information | Learning Numbers with Button Bear](#)

☐ Arts and Crafts with Button Bear:

[Abeka | Product Information | Arts and Crafts with Button Bear](#)

☐ Child Art for 2's

[Abeka | Product Information | Child Art for 2s](#)

☐ Bible verse cards:

[Abeka | Product Information | Bible Memory Picture Cards](#)

The 3s will purchase: *(if your student is 3 at the start of the school year)*

☐ Numbers and Skills with Button Bear:

[Abeka | Product Information | Numbers and Skills with Button Bear](#)

☐ Letters and Sounds for 3's:

[Abeka | Product Information | Letters and Sounds for 3s](#)

☐ Child Art for 3's:

[Abeka | Product Information | Child Art for 3s](#)

☐ 3's preschool Bible coloring sheets:

[Abeka | Product Information | Preschool Bible Coloring Sheets](#)

☐ Arts and crafts with Amber Lamb:

[Abeka | Product Information | Arts and Crafts with Amber Lamb](#)

☐ Bible verse cards *(these are the same ones from 2's class):*

[Abeka | Product Information | Bible Memory Picture Cards](#)

Excelsior Classical Homeschool

Books/Materials to Purchase for Each Grade Level

4's will order (if your student is 4 at the start of the school year):

- ☐ The K4 Student consumable kit
- ☐ Bible verse cards
- ☐ K4 art projects
- ☐ K4 Bible Activity book
- ☐ K4 Readiness Skills

(Direct links are at bottom)

Handwriting thoughts for 4's:

Like most four-year-old curriculums, there is a big push to teach them to write at such a young age. I think this is a mistake and paves the way for bad handwriting habits in most children. The dexterity that develops between 4 yrs and 3rd grade is astronomical. Their joints are still growing and developing.

Certainly 4 yr olds can be taught to write, but with much difficulty and frustration (for mom and child) that could have been avoided had they held off for a couple years. They do not need to write to learn how to read.

However, most 4 yr old phonics curricula (MP and Abeka included) include lots of writing. This was not the way it was done for the last thousand years. Students would learn to read, as its own subject, and then a dedicated handwriting teacher would come to the village and teach the students to write. If you couldn't get that guy to come then the teacher did the best he could and taught, but handwriting was its own subject, not done for the purpose of phonics instruction but solely focused on the skill of writing.

When/if you do have the children learn to write letters, it must be a dedicated time, maybe where you sit and drink your coffee and ensure they hold the pencil correctly, proper posture, correct formation of letters. **It is better to do very, very little with complete excellence than to do lots poorly.**

I see many students come to co-op from public schools or just poor learned habits holding pencils in the most bizarre ways and some with unreadable writing. By third grade it becomes nearly impossible to train the habits out of them. It would require the diligent daily perseverance of the mother. So, the lesson learned is: *don't allow bad habits to form in the first place.*

I mention this because there are two books in the K4 student kit that are intensive writing. The Cursive ABC Writing Tablet and Cursive Writing with Phonics. Two ways to go about that--

1. You could use them for the next 2 years at a slow pace and they would be perfectly appropriate and serve you well. For learning handwriting they are very good books. Or,
2. you could *not* order them and save money. You'd just need to order items individually and not the grouped link below (*which you wouldn't get the 5% full package discount-- but eliminating those two books would still be a cheaper deal*).
3. Elisheva actually loved the cursive book and asked to do it. Up to you- it's for at home so no pressure. If you don't finish it, it's a perfectly suitable cursive book for kindergarten too.

If you were to get just one over the other, I'd do the Cursive Writing with Phonics over the writing tablet but they are both very similar. You can look them up individually to see PDF samples. They *are excellent* books (I ordered both to see) but you definitely won't need both all in one year (in my opinion). Again, handwriting is done best with excellence vs doing lots poorly. You need to know your student, his ability level, and your patience level 😊 There is truly no rush on handwriting. Either way- handwriting will be mostly for home. **Those two books won't be assigned for class.** They will write in class but not as much as those books would call for. We'll leave that at home under a parent's watchful eye and discretion.

Excelsior Classical Homeschool Books/Materials to Purchase for Each Grade Level

Cursive for 4 year olds?!

Lastly - it might be surprising to see cursive in a 4 yr old set but their reasoning is really good (they answer why cursive first in this blog article: [Answers to Two Cursive Questions: Why Teach Cursive, and Why Teach Cursive First - Abeka](#)).

Cursive was always taught first up until the 1950s. I personally have done both ways-- cursive first and also not--I will say of my kids who learned cursive first, they were the ones most likely to write in cursive later. Not 100% of them-- but 3/4 of the oldest 4 mostly write in cursive. Deklan (my fourth child) won't write in anything but cursive.

So, I personally chose the cursive option for Elisheva BUT they do have a button to choose the manuscript if parents want. Again, either is fine -- it won't affect co-op since those 2 books are optional and for at home. I will have them on the checklist schedule as optional assignments--so they just won't appear on Mondays

COMPLETE K4 student kit:

[Abeka | Product Information | K4 Child Kit](#)

Other items not included in student kit you will need:

☐ Same Bible verse cards as 3's (*so if you have one set they can share*):

[Abeka | Product Information | Bible Memory Picture Cards](#)

☐ Art projects K4:

[Abeka | Product Information | Art Projects K4](#)

☐ K4 Bible Activity book:

[Abeka | Product Information | K4 Bible Activity Book](#)

☐ K4 Readiness Skills:

[Abeka | Product Information | Readiness Skills K4](#)

Excelsior Classical Homeschool
Books/Materials to Purchase for Each Grade Level

Kindergarten Classes and Book List (pages 7-10)

Please purchase each **yellow highlighted** item below for your child's level.

CHOOSE ONE FORMAT FOR YOUR LESSON PLANS:

- ☐ **Kindergarten Curriculum Manual**—this teaches you how to use the curriculum, has an appendix full of helps, and daily lesson plans. It is well worth \$30. Any of the appendix stuff that is meant to be copied is given to you as a pdf when you purchase from MP (that's a really nice perk). You never need to scan with Memoria Press. **OR**
- ☐ **NOTE: If you are not using all MP products they now offer a customizable curriculum manual.** You select which classes and it populates your customized manual. **PLEASE NOTE: If you choose the customized manual, lessons are set into specific weeks so if a specific class doesn't follow the normal schedule your manual may need to be adjusted by hand. Once it's printed it cannot be edited.** **OR**
- ☐ **You can print the specific pdf lesson plans yourself from our Excelsior MP account. This is the free option.** Please know that on rare occasions sometimes the pdf lesson plans will differ from the curriculum manual. If that happens I leave that up to the teacher to decide which will work better for co-op.

If you find you are buying a lot of the recommended items you may consider buying their package deal. It is discounted heavily and it may be a better deal if you are buying enough things.

Kindergarten Morning Workbook

For Reading Class A:

This class is phonics and some handwriting. It is a kindergarten class though we call it Reading Class A. This allows parents to put their students in the appropriate class without the stigma of "grade" level.

- **Fun in the Sun reader**
- **Soft and White reader**
- **Scamp and Tramp reader**
- **Kindergarten Phonics Supplemental Workbook**
- **First Start Reading Workbook A**
- **First Start Reading Workbook B**
- **First Start Reading Workbook C**
- **First Start Reading Workbook D**
- First Start Reading Storybooks A, B, C, and D (*we enjoy these little reader books—they are duplicate content of the written stories that appear in the workbooks, however these little readers have illustrations, whereas the ones in the workbooks do not as the student gets to illustrate their own pictures. The curriculum will often have them re-read the stories so it is enjoyable to do the second reading in these little readers and see pictures. They do a good job of making interesting pictures to build a story out of very simple sentences/simple stories.*)

Excelsior Classical Homeschool Books/Materials to Purchase for Each Grade Level

*NOTE: **This above and alone is not a complete phonics curriculum**—this is just what you absolutely need to buy for co-op. If you do not have a phonics curriculum see below the items I recommend purchasing for home.*

Math Games— We will do math games at co-op to reinforce basic concepts they will be learning in kindergarten math books. No purchase required (however you will need a math curriculum for at home—see my recommendations below).

Excelsior Classical Homeschool Books/Materials to Purchase for Each Grade Level

Books you will NEED to buy for home:

MATH

See the Appendix for MATH CURRICULUM RECOMMENDATIONS

Do you have a phonics curriculum? You will need one ---the above books are just what you have to have for co-op but are only a piece of the MP phonics curriculum. I have used it with my daughter and it taught her to read very well so I can recommend it.

The rest of the phonics curriculum (see pg 5 of MP catalog) includes:

- **Copybook I**
- **Primary Phonics Readers Set 1** (used more towards the end of the year, simple paper readers but the stories are fun and interesting and match what phonics they've learned)
- **Spiral bound small book called Classical Phonics**—this is used through second grade and contains word lists to practice reading with—essential book.
- **Phonics Flashcards** (also used through second grade—you'll refer to these often. We'll cover them on Mondays but they are used throughout the week).
- **First Start Reading Teacher Guide** (this goes with the First Start Reader Workbooks. It has good discussion prompts to make the stories more interesting. When they only know a handful of sounds the stories are short and boring—you asking question like “why do you think the rat sat on the cat?” make story time fun.
- **Cut & Paste Book** (works on their motor skills as well as reviewing phonic sounds)
- **Nature Reader**

Also great to own but not required:

- **Children's Bible**
(we have the Children's Bible and Christian Studies Enrichment, we'll cover the Bible readings in class so you don't need to buy it unless you want to)
- **Kindergarten Literature Read-alouds**
(we follow the MP read-aloud schedule in the curriculum manual, we have all the read-alouds, you don't need to buy unless for your own library, nearly all can be found at library or ebay.com/thriftbooks.com)
- **Poetry Books**
We will cover the MP slated poems in class
- **Music Enrichment Book**
(learning about a classical piece and listening to it) - we will cover this in class
- **Kindergarten Art Cards**
These are for viewing and studying a famous work of art - we cover this in class, we have the large 9x13 art cards, however, we do recommend that you buy the small 5x7 set to reinforce what your student learned in co-op. I personally display these in my home—one student memorized all of them by having them all on the wall and reviewing them weekly—beautiful God honoring works of art.
- **Kindergarten Craft book** We will not do the crafts from the craft book at Excelsior, instead we have a manual arts class for K-2nd. The crafts are better suited for 1-2 children, they are not great for a large class as it becomes labor intensive (tons of cutting for the adult).

Excelsior Classical Homeschool Books/Materials to Purchase for Each Grade Level

- **Kindergarten Science and History Read-alouds** Note on buying these books yourself—It is not needed as we'll have them all in class. Buying all these books can be a big investment and we'll cover them in class. If you do want to buy them for your personal library you'll see that many of the books are repeated in first and second grades. Nearly all can be found on ebay/thriftbooks/library.
- **Manners Flashcards** (We cover these in class as they are in the kindergarten morning workbook, flashcards are optional for review at home)

Excelsior Classical Homeschool
Books/Materials to Purchase for Each Grade Level

First Grade Classes and Book List *(pages 11-14)*

Please purchase each **yellow highlighted** item below for your child's level.

CHOOSE ONE FORMAT FOR YOUR LESSON PLANS:

- ☐ **First Grade Curriculum Manual**—this teaches you how to use the curriculum, has an appendix full of helps, and daily lesson plans. It is well worth \$30. Any of the appendix stuff that is meant to be copied is given to you as a pdf when you purchase from MP (that's a really nice perk). You never need to scan with Memoria Press. **OR**
- ☐ **NOTE: If you are not using all MP products they now offer a customizable curriculum manual.** You select which classes and it populates your customized manual. **PLEASE NOTE: If you choose the customized manual, lessons are set into specific weeks so if a specific class doesn't follow the normal schedule your manual may need to be adjusted by hand. Once it's printed it cannot be edited.** **OR**
- ☐ **You can print the specific pdf lesson plans yourself from our Excelsior MP account.** *(Please request the login information for this account from Pauline Abello.)* **This is the free option.** Please know that on rare occasions sometimes the pdf lesson plans will differ from the curriculum manual. If that happens I leave that up to the teacher to decide which will work better for co-op.

If you find you are buying a lot of the recommended items you may consider buying their package deal. It is discounted heavily and it may be a better deal if you are buying enough things.

Reading Class 1

This class is phonics and some handwriting. It is a first grade class though we call it Reading Class 1. This allows parents to put their students in the appropriate class without the stigma of "grade" level.

This class will begin with *First Start Reading E* and learn the last of the more difficult phonetic sounds and then go into readers like *Frog and Toad* and *Little Bear*. They will soon progress into beautiful children's picture books that have simple words like *Make Way for Ducklings* and *Miss Rumphius*. The reading assignments will build to 5 pages with a good sized paragraph on each page. They are getting ready to read chapter books in second grade. A common wonder is "Should my intelligent 4 year old be in first grade or kindergarten?" I have only seen it once where a 5 year old really was meant for first grade, but they basically need to be ready to read *Frog and Toad*. Ideally, they are not sounding out basic words anymore like jet or dog but rather just read them quickly. If they are reading some—but really still learning and sounding words out, and they are at a kindergarten age—keep them in kinder—there is no rush.

Books you need for Reading Class 1:

- ☐ **First Start Reading Workbook E (student book)**

Excelsior Classical Homeschool

Books/Materials to Purchase for Each Grade Level

- ☐ First Start Reading Storybook E (we enjoy this book—it is a duplicate of the written stories that are in the workbook, however these ones have illustrations, the ones in the workbook the student gets to illustrate their own pictures. The curriculum will often have them re-read the stories so it is enjoyable to do the second reading in this book and see pictures. They do a good job of making interesting pictures to build a story out of very simple sentences/simple stories.)
- ☐ Story Time Treasures SET:
 - *StoryTime Treasures Student Guide*
 - *StoryTime Treasures Teacher Guide*
 - *Little Bear* by Else Holmelund Minarik
 - *Frog and Toad are Friends* by Arnold Lobel
 - *Caps for Sale* by Esphyr Slobodkina
 - *Make Way for Ducklings* by Robert McCloskey
- ☐ More StoryTime Treasures Set:
 - *Billy and Blaze* by C.W. Anderson
 - *Blaze and the Forest Fire* by C.W. Anderson
 - *The Story About Ping* by Marjorie Flack and Kurt Wiese
 - *Keep the Lights Burning, Abbie* by Peter and Connie Roop
 - *Stone Soup* by Marcia Brown
 - *The Little House* by Virginia Lee Burton
 - *Miss Rumphius* by Barbara Cooney
 - *More StoryTime Treasures Student Guide*
 - *More StoryTime Treasures Teacher Guide*

NOTE: I recommend the StoryTime TEACHER guides for the continuation of phonics training that is specifically curtailed to the reading books we are doing in class (there will be various mid-week lessons that go over phonic instruction that will accompany their reading). Without the teacher manuals it would not be a complete phonics curriculum. The student books might also be difficult to complete without the teacher manual.

Books you need for Spelling Class 1:

Spelling class is a phonics based class—so truly it is an extension of phonics learning

- ☐ **Memoria Press Traditional Spelling I Student Workbook** heavily recommend the Teacher Manual for answers and directions on what to do)
- ☐ **Memoria Press Traditional Spelling I Practice Sheets**

NOTE: Without the Teacher Manuals **the above is not a complete spelling/phonics curriculum**—this is just what you absolutely need to buy for co-op. If you do not have a spelling or phonics curriculum you will want to buy the remainder of the Traditional Spelling books.

Math Games and Cursive: At co-op we will do math games to help master addition facts using the “Addition Facts that Stick” curriculum from WellTrainedMind.com. No purchase is required. On the non-lesson weeks, the math games may be shorter and we will try and get some cursive done. Students will keep up with cursive at home per the Memoria Press

Excelsior Classical Homeschool Books/Materials to Purchase for Each Grade Level

schedule and when we can complete in class we will do so. Additionally, the students will compete in the annual cursive contest.

Cursive – *New American Cursive 1*

Books you will NEED to buy for home:

MATH

See the Appendix for MATH CURRICULUM RECOMMENDATIONS

Do you have a phonics curriculum? You will need one ---the above books are just what you have to have for co-op but are only one piece of the MP phonics curriculum. I have used it with my daughter and it taught her to read very well so I can recommend it.

The rest of the phonics curriculum includes:

- **Copybook II**
- **First Start Reading E Teacher Guide**
- **Story Time Treasures Teacher Books** The teacher book will tell you which flashcards to pull each day as your student is introduced to new words in their books they are reading. **I heavily recommend the TEACHER for the continuation of phonics training that is specifically curtailed to the reading books we are doing in class.**
- **Spiral bound small book called Classical Phonics**—this is used through second grade and contains word lists to practice reading with—essential book.
- **Phonics Flashcards** (also used through second grade—you'll refer to these often. We'll cover them on Mondays but they are used throughout the week).
- **The Complete Traditional Spelling I Set (including Teacher Guide)**
- **Primary Phonics Readers Sets 2-6** they are pricey but fun and excellent

Also great to own but not required:

- **Children's Bible**
(we have the Children's Bible and Christian Studies Enrichment, we'll cover the Bible readings in class so you don't need to buy it unless you want to)
- **First Grade Literature Read-alouds**
(we follow the MP read-aloud schedule in the curriculum manual, we have all the read-alouds, you don't need to buy unless for your own library, nearly all can be found at library or ebay.com/thriftbooks.com)
- **Poetry Books**
We will cover the MP slated poems in class
- **Music Enrichment Book**
(learning about a classical piece and listening to it) - we will cover this in class
- **First Grade Art Cards**
These are for viewing and studying a famous work of art - we cover this in class, we have the large 9x13 art cards, however, we do recommend that you buy the small 5x7 set to reinforce what your student learned in co-op. I personally display these in my home—one student memorized all of them by having them all on the wall and reviewing them weekly—beautiful God honoring works of art.

Excelsior Classical Homeschool Books/Materials to Purchase for Each Grade Level

- **First Grade Craft book** We will not do the crafts from the craft book at Excelsior, instead we have a manual arts class for K-2nd. The crafts are better suited for 1-2 children, they are not great for a large class as it becomes labor intensive (tons of cutting for the adult).
- **Science and History Read-alouds** Note on buying these books yourself—It is not needed as we'll have them all in class. Buying all these books can be a big investment and we'll cover them in class. If you do want to buy them for your personal library you'll see that many of the books are repeated in first and second grades. Nearly all can be found on ebay/thriftbooks/library.
- **Manners Flashcards** (We cover these in class as they are in the kindergarten morning workbook, flashcards are optional for review at home)

Excelsior Classical Homeschool
Books/Materials to Purchase for Each Grade Level

Second Grade Classes and Book List *(pages 15-17)*

Please purchase each **yellow highlighted** item below for your child's level.

CHOOSE ONE FORMAT FOR YOUR LESSON PLANS:

- ☐ **Second Grade Curriculum Manual**—this teaches you how to use the curriculum, has an appendix full of helps, and daily lesson plans. It is well worth \$30. Any of the appendix stuff that is meant to be copied is given to you as a pdf when you purchase from MP (that's a really nice perk). You never need to scan with Memoria Press. **OR**
- ☐ **NOTE: If you are not using all MP products they now offer a customizable curriculum manual.** You select which classes and it populates your customized manual. **PLEASE NOTE: If you choose the customized manual, lessons are set into specific weeks so if a specific class doesn't follow the normal schedule your manual may need to be adjusted by hand. Once it's printed it cannot be edited.** **OR**
- ☐ **You can print the specific pdf lesson plans yourself from our Excelsior MP account. This is the free option.** Please know that on rare occasions sometimes the pdf lesson plans will differ from the curriculum manual. If that happens I leave that up to the teacher to decide which will work better for co-op.

If you find you are buying a lot of the recommended items you may consider buying their package deal. It is discounted heavily and it may be a better deal if you are buying enough things.

Reading Class 2

This class is phonics and some handwriting. It is a second grade class though we call it Reading Class 2. This allows parents to put their students in the appropriate class without the stigma of "grade" level.

- o **Memoria Press Second Grade Literature Guide Set with Novels and Student Workbooks**

NOTE: If you do not have a phonics curriculum I heavily recommend the **TEACHER manuals at minimum for the continuation of phonics training that is specifically curtailed to the reading books we are doing in class.**

Spelling Class 2

Spelling class is a phonics based class—so truly it is an extension of phonics learning

- o **Memoria Press Traditional Spelling II Student Workbook and Teacher Manual** (I heavily recommend the Teacher Manual for answers and directions on what to do)
- o **Memoria Press Traditional Spelling II Practice Sheets**

NOTE: Without the Teacher Manuals **the above is not a complete spelling/phonics curriculum**—this is just what you absolutely need to buy for co-op. If you do not have a spelling or phonics curriculum you will want to buy the remainder of the Traditional Spelling books as this is part of their last year of phonics).

Excelsior Classical Homeschool Books/Materials to Purchase for Each Grade Level

Complete Prima Latina Set – the second graders will begin their first baby steps into latin. They will come to class having watched the video. We expect our moms to also watch as well. You are not required to do the workbooks like the students nor memorize the words, but we ask that all homeschool parents begin the process of *understanding* Latin as we are not a 5 day a week school and you are required to teach your child some in Latin. You don't have to know Latin to teach it –but you do need to know where to point them if they need to relearn something. I don't expect you to memorize a declension but I expect you to know what it is and where to point your student to it if they need to review. Same with conjugations. Same with vocab. Same with Latin sayings. Watch the video with the child while you are prepping dinner and that will do the trick. Have them come to class with that week's lesson watched so the teacher can review and get right into the assignment with them.

Prerequisite is that they are reading.

Math Games and Cursive: At co-op we will do math games to help master addition facts using the "Subtraction Facts that Stick" curriculum from WellTrainedMind.com. No purchase is required. On the non-lesson weeks, the math games may be shorter and we will try and get some cursive done. Students will keep up with cursive at home per the Memoria Press schedule and when we can complete in class we will do so. Additionally, the students will compete in the annual cursive contest.

- [New American Cursive 2: Famous Quotations & Scripture, Fourth Edition](#)
- OR Students **who have never learned cursive before** should start with [New American Cursive 1](#).

Books you will NEED to buy for home:

MATH

See the Appendix for MATH CURRICULUM RECOMMENDATIONS

Do you have a phonics curriculum? You will need one ---the above books are just what you have to have for co-op but are only a piece of the MP phonics curriculum. I have used it with my daughter and it taught her to read very well so I can recommend it.

The rest of the phonics curriculum (see pg 7 of MP catalog) includes:

- **Copybook II**
- **Introduction to English Grammar + Teacher Key** (*This English grammar course is designed for use alongside Prima Latina, the first Latin course in the Memoria Press curriculum. These single-page worksheets reinforce the grammar concepts students are learning in Prima Latina, while also teaching proper sentence structure and mechanics*).
- **Second Grade Literature Guides, Teacher Guides, and Dictionary**
- **Spiral bound small book called Classical Phonics** –this is used through second grade and contains word lists to practice reading with –essential book.
- **Phonics Flashcards** (also used through second grade—you'll refer to these often. We'll cover them on Mondays but they are used throughout the week).
- **The Complete Traditional Spelling II Set (including Teacher Guide)**

Excelsior Classical Homeschool Books/Materials to Purchase for Each Grade Level

Also great to own but not required:

- **Children's Bible**
(we have the Children's Bible and Christian Studies Enrichment, we'll cover the Bible readings in class so you don't need to buy it unless you want to)
- **Second Grade Literature Read-alouds**
(we follow the MP read-aloud schedule in the curriculum manual, we have all the read-alouds, you don't need to buy unless for your own library, nearly all can be found at library or ebay.com/thriftbooks.com)
- **Poetry Books**
We will cover the MP slated poems in class
- **Music Enrichment Book**
(learning about a classical piece and listening to it) - we will cover this in class
- **Second Grade Art Cards**
These are for viewing and studying a famous work of art - we cover this in class, we have the large 9x13 art cards, however, we do recommend that you buy the small 5x7 set to reinforce what your student learned in co-op. I personally display these in my home—one student memorized all of them by having them all on the wall and reviewing them weekly—beautiful God honoring works of art.
- **Second Grade Craft book** We will not do the crafts from the craft book at Excelsior, instead we have a manual arts class for K-2nd. The crafts are better suited for 1-2 children, they are not great for a large class as it becomes labor intensive (tons of cutting for the adult).
- **Second Grade Science and History Read-alouds** Note on buying these books yourself—It is not needed as we'll have them all in class. Buying all these books can be a big investment and we'll cover them in class. If you do want to buy them for your personal library you'll see that many of the books are repeated in first and second grades. Nearly all can be found on [ebay/thriftbooks.com](http://ebay.com/thriftbooks.com)/library.
- **Manners Flashcards**

Excelsior Classical Homeschool
Books/Materials to Purchase for Each Grade Level

Third Grade Classes and Book List *(pages 18-24)*

Please purchase each **yellow highlighted** item below for your child's level.

CHOOSE ONE FORMAT FOR YOUR LESSON PLANS:

- ☐ **Third Grade Curriculum Manual**—this teaches you how to use the curriculum, has an appendix full of helps, and daily lesson plans. It is well worth \$30. Any of the appendix stuff that is meant to be copied is given to you as a pdf when you purchase from MP (that's a really nice perk). You never need to scan with Memoria Press. **OR**
- ☐ **NOTE: If you are not using all MP products they now offer a customizable curriculum manual.** You select which classes and it populates your customized manual. **PLEASE NOTE: If you choose the customized manual, lessons are set into specific weeks so if a specific class doesn't follow the normal schedule your manual may need to be adjusted by hand. Once it's printed it cannot be edited.** **OR**
- ☐ **You can print the specific pdf lesson plans yourself from our Excelsior MP account. This is the free option.** Please know that, on rare occasions, sometimes the pdf lesson plans will differ from the curriculum manual. If that happens I leave that up to the teacher to decide which will work better for co-op.

If you find you are buying a lot of the recommended items you may consider buying their package deal. It is discounted heavily and it may be a better deal if you are buying enough things.

Grammar and Upper School Planners

Once your student is old enough to write out their assignments and plan their week themselves, **I highly recommend getting a student planner like this one: [Elan Publishing Company Deluxe Full-Year Student Planner for High School 40 Weeks \(HS-90\)](#)**

And for students who are too young, this is still very beneficial for the moms who plan the younger kids' days.

While the lesson plans I mentioned above are SO incredibly helpful, if you follow them to a T it may not work very well for your life. Last year, I tried using this student planner with my upper school kids and they at first didn't see the point. They said, "We already have the lesson plans why do we need this?" And I explained to them that it is in their benefit to assign the assignments from the lesson plan in a more balanced way. Perhaps you have sports or music lesson on a certain day and you need that day to be lighter—the lesson plans don't account for that. And while we do an entire day of school on Mondays, sometimes we are doing assignments from other days of the week, so if you are following the lesson plan exactly as given your Tuesday might be a really huge day. I've had upper school kids complain that their Tuesday is a huge day because they have to do all that we didn't do on Monday and also all of Tuesday. Using this planner allows you to balance out the week in a way that will work for you and also puts them in charge of their week (with your guidance). Also, the teachers will assign assignments that are not in the student planner. Being able to write this in, and other items like

Excelsior Classical Homeschool Books/Materials to Purchase for Each Grade Level

the Science Fair, etc is very helpful and good training for life. After using it for a week or two the kids told me they felt like it was so crucial.

Bible

Christian Studies I Student Book *Note: In 3rd grade they will cover the FIRST HALF of this book.*

- Optional: Golden Children's Bible - we'll cover the Bible readings in class so you don't need to buy those unless you want to or if you are absent and want to do the reading
- Optional: Teacher Key - We can't complete everything in class so if you want to do some at home or will be absent you may want the teacher guide for an answer key.
- Optional: Bible Verse Flashcards (this one set is used for all grammar school years— it covers all the verses from 3rd-6th) They will be expected to come to class with their verses ready to recite, they will earn points for their houses and their bank account for the student store by reciting.

Poetry—Buy the 3rd-7th grade Anthology book at a minimum. It is also called for in the curriculum manuals. Children may use it to do individual house recitations for points. If you want to dig deeper into poetry the teacher manual helps you go over vocab and cadence (how the poem rhymes, the rhyming structure). The student book you could save on as it is the same as TM but just wants the student to write it all in. Optional: For more poetry, IEW makes a great poetry book (*Linguistic Development through Poetry Memorization*) with different poems and speeches.

Complete Latina Christiana Set – Trust me you need the whole set. This is the course for 3rd or 4th graders. They will come to class having watched the video. We expect our moms to also watch as well. You are not required to do the workbooks like the students nor memorize the words, but we ask that all homeschool parents begin the process of *understanding* Latin as we are not a 5 day a week school and you are required to teach your child some in latin. You don't have to know Latin to teach it –but you do need to know where to point them if they need to relearn something. I don't expect you to memorize a declension but I expect you to know what it is and where to point your student to it if they need to review. Same with conjugations. Same with vocab. Same with latin sayings. Watch the video with the child while you are prepping dinner and that will do the trick. Have them come to class with that week's lesson watched so the teacher can review and get right into the assignment with them.

Note: IF you bought the flashcards for Prima Latina they are the same ones.

SCIENCE: We alternate between TWO science tracks:

Track 1: Apologia Zoology 2 (occurs when the school year start is an odd numbered year ex: 2025, 2027, etc)

Purchase the **Apologia Zoology 2 Textbook and Apologia Zoology 2 Notebooking Journal** (there was an update in 2025, DO buy the most up to date versions—older versions are NOT compatible with the update).

Excelsior Classical Homeschool Books/Materials to Purchase for Each Grade Level

Track 2: Astronomy (occurs when the school year start is an even numbered year ex: 2022, 2024, 2026, etc) — We will use Memoria Press Astronomy the first semester (focuses heavily on constellations, light on planets) and second semester we will teach Apologia Astronomy (they heavy on planets light on constellations).

- First Semester: **Memoria Press Astronomy Student Book**
 - We will NOT fill out this book entirely in class
 - It has a lot of repetition which can be boring/unnecessary for that age in my opinion. We will use it as a guide for tracing the stars but we may not do much beyond that.
 - In class we will focus on: Learning and tracing the constellation, memorizing the 10 brightest stars, hearing the Greek myth story behind the constellation, finding the constellation in the “night sky” (we have a constellation projector)
 - If you really want the whole thing filled out you may want to buy the Teacher Key to complete at home
 - If you are absent some day you may want the D’Aulaires Greek Myths Book. We will read from that regularly. It’s a great book. One the kids will read again and again. But optional purchase for this class. We will have a copy we read from in class.
- Second semester **Apologia Astronomy text book and student notebooking journal** (always get the newest edition)

Composition – Introduction to Composition student book or a Commonplace book. You don’t need the Teacher Manual—we’ll cover this book in class, no homework for this text. This will teach them how to formulate their thoughts and summarize what they heard in 3 complete sentences (practicing good handwriting, perfect spelling). This curriculum will have us progress to letter writing, book summaries, and more. NOTE: if you are a MP “box kit” buyer—you can choose the “customizable” curriculum package and choose this text instead of IEW Adventures in Writing and you’ll still get your package discount.

Q/A—

Question: Why don’t we use what MP offers IEW Adventures in Writing for 3rd grade?

Answer: They won’t complete the book by the end of the year (slightly annoying) and then what they do learn, so much of it is repeated in Fable for 4th grade. And for many third graders, IEW will require a LOT of hand holding and be a frustrating experience for some as they are still learning how to write, the bones in their hands are still forming, and it’s an every day writing course. Ours is just on Mondays.

MP’s Intro to Comp is much more gentle of an introduction. This has been very well received with our parents, especially as the students are now fully in classical education in third grade, with the addition of Latin, and states and capitals, and a more in depth Christian studies, it feels like a lot all at once, so it’s nice to have a gentle composition. And there are lots of years for IEW.

If you normally buy the full curriculum package and need to sub this out for IEW but want to still get the package discount search the term “customizable third grade curriculum” and that will give you options to sub)

Excelsior Classical Homeschool Books/Materials to Purchase for Each Grade Level

Question: do we need to buy the literature books that go with Intro to Comp?

*Answer: You will **not** need those books, as portions will be read aloud in class. It is a no homework class, which is lovely. The teacher will read one to two pages of the book and then they will form a summary together in class. They will write what happened in the beginning Of the excerpt, what happens in the middle, and what happens at the end for a three sentence summary. In the beginning of the class, they will need lots of teacher assistance, formulating together as a class she writing it on the board, and they copying it into their notebooks. As the year moves on, they will begin to be able to do the summaries more independently. They will also learn some basic writing skills like how to write a letter and how to do a book summary. We will also focus on good penmanship, good handwriting, capital letters of the beginning, periods at the end, correct grammar usage, etc. All the things they are just trying to work on in third grade. It is definitely a much gentler introduction than IEW would have them do in third grade, which I actually preferred. There are lots of years to do IEW. And again, it is a no homework class.*

I think some of the books they read from in intro to comp are actually assigned for the third grade literature so you might be buying them anyway, but they are not required for the intro to composition class. However, if your student is wondering what happens in between the excerpts that are read a lot in class, you might want to own the books so that you could read the in-between parts.

Timeline—Each student will have a personal Excelsior timeline book—a book to last a lifetime, it is hard back, high quality. \$40 (note this is NOT the timeline book that MP offers)
Excelsior provides this book to each new student.

States and Capitals PART 1

For Geography we will do the first half of states and capitals, working on memorizing all 50 states and capitals and their spellings by the end of 4th grade. **You need the States and Capitals Student Book, Don't Know Much about 50 States book**, and optional is the teacher manual and the state flashcards. This class won't have homework but you may want the teacher manual for answers, you probably want the state flashcards---they correspond to the regions we are learning and your child will likely need to review at least once more at home each week to really memorize. In class only may not be enough. **We will NOT complete the entire states and capitals book in 1 year.** It is a nice gentle pace of one state per week + review and they'll complete it in 2 years.

Classical Studies—We alternate between TWO Classical Studies tracks (classes are ~~stricken~~ if we don't offer this year):

1. **D'Aulaire's Greek Myths-** (2023, '25, '27, '29—odd start years)

Excelsior Classical Homeschool

Books/Materials to Purchase for Each Grade Level

a. This picture book is excellent. We will read excerpts from it in when we do Astronomy (we learn the story behind the constellations). And we also will offer it as a one year course for 3rd/4th combined.

Purchase: Student book OR commonplace book will work to take notes. Flashcards optional.

b. Tip: If you have an older child than 5th grade who hasn't read it I would recommend reading it as a read aloud for enjoyment by 7th grade as they'll review it some in Famous Men of Greece and then also give great perspective to the Iliad and Odyssey they read in 8th.

~~2.—Story of the World 1 (SOTW1) Activities, Geography, and Read Aloud Picture Books (2024, '26, '28, '30—even start years)~~ The Activity book is different than the SOTW1 reader—it does include a review of the story but it also has timeline, geography map work, great picture read alouds, and an activity/craft. It's really very fun! There are no required purchases for this class. We will provide the activity guide.

~~a.—Optional—read SOTW1 at home~~ We will not actually read the SOTW1 in class and it would be optional to listen/read at home. If you have a busy week or you just listened to it last year, the class at Excelsior could stand alone—so it is a non-homework class. To get the most out of the class I would say do read/listen to The SOTW1 at home prior to class—it would definitely add to the class and be beneficial to the student, but it's not like they'd be lost in class if they didn't listen to it. We will not cover all 40+ lessons. We will end right where Rome begins (and then in 5th grade they will pick up with Rome in “Famous Men of Rome”). Or you can finish the Roman stories over the summer on in your free time for fun.

Things we won't cover in class but I heavily recommend for at home:

Grammar—English Grammar Recitation I (you'll likely want the Teacher's Manual too for answers but you *don't* need the little green recitation book or the flashcards)

MATH CURRICULUM RECOMMENDATION

MATH

See the Appendix for MATH CURRICULUM RECOMMENDATIONS

SPELLING AND GRAMMAR

- Core Skills 3
- Memoria Press Grammar
- The Complete Traditional Spelling III Set (including Teacher Guide) Spelling is no longer done at co-op as we make way for other higher level classes on Mondays.

CURSIVE

New American Cursive 3 (MP students begin cursive in first grade) Cursive – Cursive will be at home. We don't have time at Excelsior for cursive instruction. I recommend MP's 1st grade cursive if you want no frills (also complements what they are learning at every

Excelsior Classical Homeschool Books/Materials to Purchase for Each Grade Level

grade—kind of like a review of other content) OR A Beka's K5 cursive if you want more "frills" (the kinder cursive is more than ample for starting with and reviews phonics and simple sentences). No matter what grade you start cursive in, you should buy the "first" book because the lines are bigger and connecting the letters builds. If they grasp concepts quickly you can progress quickly and not do the entire book (if they are an older student) but I would start them on the kindergarten A Beka or First grade Memoria Press (depending if you want frills or no frills).

- **Literature Set and Literature Guides** – see MP catalog--These are their readers. They are working through wonderful classics building on their reading skills, expanding vocab, and comprehension. I LOVE the literature guides TEACHER manuals as we can have a discussion about what they've read *but I don't have to read the book!* It has the questions and answers RIGHT there for you. I don't make them write out the comprehension questions (we get plenty of writing practice in MP) but we do audibly discuss. I do make them write out the vocab as I found they weren't learning it without writing it out. The enrichment suggestions each chapter can be really neat. In Mr. Popper's Penguins it suggested we write to a zoo about penguins and the San Diego zoo wrote us back and answered every question! Super fun. It has you track adventures on maps so you get map work. Dig deeper in history, Memorize poems etc. You could get by with just the teacher manual and save money by not purchasing the blank student guide. But literature is one of MP's shining subjects—by 7th grade the lit guides start to go deep and really focus on things they need to learn for college—literary devices and terms. So I heavily recommend the guides.)

History Read Alouds and Literature Read Alouds – These are TREASURES. Memory making time in my house! The children and I sit down and spend precious moments together. The MP curriculum manual schedules these books week by week. The history ones are an excellent way to learn history through a captivating novel. You can add dates and names to your timeline book. By 4th/5th grade I let my kids read the history read alouds independently. Note: in 3rd grade if you are doing the Story of the World 1 read aloud at home (in even year start dates—see above for Classical Studies) you can skip the MP History read alouds to take that off your plate as you will already be doing a History read aloud.

The literature read alouds we read together always. Lots of amazing discussion points. Typically a little above their reading level so good for read alouds though. Great moral stories. Such good family memories reading together!

These books will drop off in the 7th grade curriculum so treasure the read aloud time together! They can nearly all easily be found on ebay.com or thriftbooks.com or library.

Excelsior Classical Homeschool
Books/Materials to Purchase for Each Grade Level

Fourth Grade Classes and Book List *(pages 25-30)*

Please purchase each **yellow highlighted** item below for your child's level.

CHOOSE ONE FORMAT FOR YOUR LESSON PLANS:

- ☐ **Fourth Grade Curriculum Manual**—this teaches you how to use the curriculum, has an appendix full of helps, and daily lesson plans. It is well worth \$30. Any of the appendix stuff that is meant to be copied is given to you as a pdf when you purchase from MP (that's a really nice perk). You never need to scan with Memoria Press. **OR**
- ☐ **NOTE: If you are not using all MP products they now offer a customizable curriculum manual.** You select which classes and it populates your customized manual. **PLEASE NOTE: If you choose the customized manual, lessons are set into specific weeks so if a specific class doesn't follow the normal schedule your manual may need to be adjusted by hand. Once it's printed it cannot be edited.** **OR**
- ☐ **You can print the specific pdf lesson plans yourself from our Excelsior MP account. This is the free option.** Please know that on rare occasions sometimes the pdf lesson plans will differ from the curriculum manual. If that happens I leave that up to the teacher to decide which will work better for co-op.

If you find you are buying a lot of the recommended items you may consider buying their package deal. It is discounted heavily and it may be a better deal if you are buying enough things.

Grammar and Upper School Planners

Once your student is old enough to write out their assignments and plan their week themselves, **I highly recommend getting a student planner like this one: [Elan Publishing Company Deluxe Full-Year Student Planner for High School 40 Weeks \(HS-90\)](#)**

And for students who are too young, this is still very beneficial for the moms who plan the younger kids' days.

While the lesson plans I mentioned above are SO incredibly helpful, if you follow them to a T it may not work very well for your life. Last year, I tried using this student planner with my upper school kids and they at first didn't see the point. They said, "We already have the lesson plans why do we need this?" And I explained to them that it is in their benefit to assign the assignments from the lesson plan in a more balanced way. Perhaps you have sports or music lesson on a certain day and you need that day to be lighter—the lesson plans don't account for that. And while we do an entire day of school on Mondays, sometimes we are doing assignments from other days of the week, so if you are following the lesson plan exactly as given your Tuesday might be a really huge day. I've had upper school kids complain that their Tuesday is a huge day because they have to do all that we didn't do on Monday and also all of Tuesday. Using this planner allows you to balance out the week in a way that will work for you and also puts them in charge of their week (with your guidance). Also, the teachers will assign assignments that are not in the student planner. Being able to write this in, and other items like

Excelsior Classical Homeschool Books/Materials to Purchase for Each Grade Level

the Science Fair, etc is very helpful and good training for life. After using it for a week or two the kids told me they felt like it was so crucial.

Bible

Christian Studies I Student Book *Note: In 4th grade they will cover the SECOND HALF of this book.*

- Optional: Golden Children's Bible - we'll cover the Bible readings in class so you don't need to buy those unless you want to or if you are absent and want to do the reading
- Optional: Teacher Key - We can't complete everything in class so if you want to do some at home or will be absent you may want the teacher guide for an answer key.
- Optional: Bible Verse Flashcards (this one set is used for all grammar school years— it covers all the verses from 3rd-6th) They will be expected to come to class with their verses ready to recite, they will earn points for their houses and their bank account for the student store by reciting.

Poetry—Buy the 3rd-7th grade Anthology book at a minimum. It is also called for in the curriculum manuals. Children may use it to do individual house recitations for points. If you want to dig deeper into poetry the teacher manual helps you go over vocab and cadence (how the poem rhymes, the rhyming structure). The student book you could save on as it is the same as TM but just wants the student to write it all in. Optional: For more poetry, IEW makes a great poetry book (*Linguistic Development through Poetry Memorization*) with different poems and speeches.

Complete Latina Christiana Set – If you already purchased in 3rd grade you don't need to buy anything new. They cover this course in 2 years. If you are new to buying, trust me you need the whole set. This is the course for 3rd or 4th graders. They will come to class having watched the video. We expect our moms to also watch as well. You are not required to do the workbooks like the students nor memorize the words, but we ask that all homeschool parents begin the process of *understanding* Latin as we are not a 5 day a week school and you are required to teach your child some in latin. You don't have to know Latin to teach it –but you do need to know where to point them if they need to relearn something. I don't expect you to memorize a declension but I expect you to know what it is and where to point your student to it if they need to review. Same with conjugations. Same with vocab. Same with latin sayings. Watch the video with the child while you are prepping dinner and that will do the trick. Have them come to class with that week's lesson watched so the teacher can review and get right into the assignment with them.

Note: If you bought the flashcards for Prima Latina they are the same ones.

Science—We alternate between TWO science tracks:

Track 1: Apologia Zoology 2 (occurs when the school year start is an odd numbered year ex: 2025, 2027, etc)

Purchase the **Apologia Zoology 2 Textbook and Apologia Zoology 2 Notebooking Journal** (there was an update in 2025, DO buy the most up to date versions—older versions are NOT compatible with the update).

Excelsior Classical Homeschool

Books/Materials to Purchase for Each Grade Level

Track 2: Astronomy (occurs when the school year start is an even numbered year ex: 2022, 2024, 2026, etc)—We will use Memoria Press Astronomy the first semester (focuses heavily on constellations, light on planets) and second semester we will teach Apologia Astronomy (they heavy on planets light on constellations).

- First Semester: **Memoria Press Astronomy Student Book**
 - We will NOT fill out this book entirely in class
 - It has a lot of repetition which can be boring/unnecessary for that age in my opinion. We will use it as a guide for tracing the stars but we may not do much beyond that.
 - In class we will focus on: Learning and tracing the constellation, memorizing the 10 brightest stars, hearing the Greek myth story behind the constellation, finding the constellation in the “night sky” (we have a constellation projector)
 - If you really want the whole thing filled out you may want to buy the Teacher Key to complete at home
 - If you are absent some day you may want the D’Aulaires Greek Myths Book. We will read from that regularly. It’s a great book. One the kids will read again and again. But optional purchase for this class. We will have a copy we read from in class.
- Second semester **Apologia Astronomy text book and student notebooking journal** (always get the newest edition)

Classical Studies—We alternate between TWO Classical Studies tracks (classes are stricken if we don’t offer this year):

1. **D’Aulaire’s Greek Myths- (2023, ’25, ’27, ’29—odd start years)**

- a. This picture book is excellent. We will read excerpts from it when we do Astronomy (we learn the story behind the constellations). And we also will offer it as a one year course for 3rd/4th combined. **Purchase: Student book OR commonplace book will work to take notes.** Flashcards optional. Teacher guide with answer key also optional (useful if you want the answer for at home—we will not complete the entire book in class).
- b. Tip: If you have an older child than 5th grade who hasn’t read it I would recommend reading it as a read aloud for enjoyment by 7th grade as they’ll review it some in Famous Men of Greece and then also gives a great perspective to the Iliad and Odyssey they read in 8th.

2. **–Story of the World 1 (SOTW1) Activities, Geography, and Read Aloud Picture Books (2024, ’26, ’28, ’30— even start years)** The Activity book is different than the SOTW1 reader—it does include a review of the story but it also has timeline, geography map work, great picture read alouds, and an activity/craft. It’s really very fun! There are no required purchases for this class. We will provide the activity guide.

- a. Optional—read SOTW1 at home**—We will not actually read the SOTW1 in class and it would be optional to listen/read at home. If you have a busy week or you just listened to it last year, the class at Excelsior could stand alone—so it is a non homework class. To get the most out of the class I would say do read/listen to The SOTW1 at home prior to class—it would definitely add to the class and be beneficial to the student, but it’s not like they’d be lost in class if they didn’t listen to it. We will not cover all 40+ lessons. We will end right where Rome begins (and

Excelsior Classical Homeschool Books/Materials to Purchase for Each Grade Level

~~then in 5th grade they will pick up with Rome in “Famous Men of Rome”). Or you can finish the Roman stories over the summer in your free time for fun.~~

Composition –

Most of our 4th-6th graders will complete their second year of IEW. In previous years at Excelsior we had been doing the Memoria Press Classical Composition which takes you through the 14 different genres of the Progymnasmata. IEW is complementary to Memoria Press’s Classical Composition. It teaches them formal essay writing that is needed for academia (especially college).

Choose 1 Composition Class (please let me know right away your selection—I need at least 3 students to make a class):

IEW (Video Course) Level A Year 1

OR

IEW (Video Course) Level A Year 2 (*choose only if they have had a prior year of IEW*)

OR

Classical Composition I: Fable Complete Set with DVD or Streaming Video

- ☐ **Student Workbook**
- ☐ **Teacher Guide** as it is not the way you probably have learned composition. This is the *progymnasmata*—the 14 step method that Thomas Jefferson, Shakespeare and thousands of others would have learned. It dates back to the Greeks 2000+ years. No silly venn diagrams or things we learned in elementary school. The Teacher Guide and videos will be so helpful.
- ☐ **DVDs or Streaming** - I especially love the videos whenever I need it to teach that day's lesson of composition or the outline days! The teacher will teach exactly what they ne

Timeline—Each student will have a personal Excelsior timeline book—a book to last a lifetime, it is a hard back, high quality. \$40 (note this is NOT the timeline book that MP offers) Excelsior provides this book to each new student.

States and Capitals PART 2

For Geography we will finish the second half of states and capitals, working on memorizing all 50 states and capitals and their spellings by the end of 4th grade. **You need the States and Capitals Student Book, Don't Know Much about 50 States book**, and optional is the teacher manual and the state flashcards. This class won't have homework but you may want the teacher manual for answers, you probably want the state flashcards---they correspond to the regions we are learning and your child will likely need to review at least once more at home each week to really memorize. In class only may not be enough. **We will NOT complete the entire states and capitals book in 1 year.** It is a nice gentle pace of one state per week + review and they'll complete it in 4th grade. If your student is brand new to this and didn't get 3rd and the first half you have two options: 1) complete it in 1 year working

Excelsior Classical Homeschool Books/Materials to Purchase for Each Grade Level

on the missed states at home or 2) enroll in the 3rd grade class and complete over the summer (or don't complete—there will be a states and capitals review book in 5th grade).

Things we won't cover in class but I heavily recommend for at home:

- **MATH** (See the Appendix for MATH CURRICULUM RECOMMENDATIONS)
- **Core Skills Language Arts 4**
- **Grammar—English Grammar Recitation Workbook I** (you'll likely want the Teacher's Manual too for answers but you *don't* need the little green recitation book or the flashcards). Note—this is the same book as last year—they'll finish it this year.
- **Spelling Workout E set** Spelling is no longer done at co-op as we make way for other higher level classes on Mondays.
- **Copybook Cursive II** (*MP students begin cursive in first grade*)
- **Literature Set and Literature Guides** – see pg 11--These are their readers. They are working through wonderful classics building on their reading skills, expanding vocab, and comprehension. I LOVE the literature guides TEACHER manuals as we can have a discussion about what they've read *but I don't have to read the book!* It has the questions and answers RIGHT there for you. I don't make them write out the comprehension questions (we get plenty of writing practice in MP) but we do audibly discuss. I do make them write out the vocab as I found they weren't learning it without writing it out. The enrichment suggestions each chapter can be really neat. In Mr. Popper's Penguins it suggested we write to a zoo about penguins and the San Diego zoo wrote us back and answered every question! Super fun. It has you track adventures on maps so you get map work. Dig deeper in history, Memorize poems etc. You could get by with just the teacher manual and save money by not purchasing the blank student guide. But literature is one of MP's shining subjects—by 7th grade the lit guides start to go deep and really focus on things they need to learn for college—literary devices and terms. So I heavily recommend the guides.)

History Read Alouds and Literature Read Alouds – These are TREASURES. Memory making time in my house! The children and I sit down and spend precious moments together. The MP curriculum manual schedules these books week by week. The history ones are an excellent way to learn history through a captivating novel. You can add dates and names to your timeline book. By 4th/5th grade I let my kids read the history read alouds independently. **The literature read alouds we read together always.** Lots of amazing discussion points. Typically a little above their reading level so good for read alouds though. Great moral stories. Such good family memories reading together!

These books will drop off in the 7th grade curriculum so treasure the read aloud time together! They can nearly all easily be found on ebay.com or thriftbooks.com or library.

Excelsior Classical Homeschool
Books/Materials to Purchase for Each Grade Level

Fifth Grade Classes and Book List *(pages 31-35)*

Please purchase each **yellow highlighted** item below for your child's level.

CHOOSE ONE FORMAT FOR YOUR LESSON PLANS:

- ☐ **Fifth Grade Curriculum Manual**—this teaches you how to use the curriculum, has an appendix full of helps, and daily lesson plans. It is well worth \$30. Any of the appendix stuff that is meant to be copied is given to you as a pdf when you purchase from MP (that's a really nice perk). You never need to scan with Memoria Press. **OR**
- ☐ **NOTE: If you are not using all MP products they now offer a customizable curriculum manual.** You select which classes and it populates your customized manual. **PLEASE NOTE: If you choose the customized manual, lessons are set into specific weeks so if a specific class doesn't follow the normal schedule your manual may need to be adjusted by hand. Once it's printed it cannot be edited.** **OR**
- ☐ **You can print the specific pdf lesson plans yourself from our Excelsior MP account. This is the free option.** Please know that on rare occasions sometimes the pdf lesson plans will differ from the curriculum manual. If that happens I leave that up to the teacher to decide which will work better for co-op.

If you find you are buying a lot of the recommended items you may consider buying their package deal. It is discounted heavily and it may be a better deal if you are buying enough things.

Grammar and Upper School Planners

Once your student is old enough to write out their assignments and plan their week themselves, **I highly recommend getting a student planner like this one:**

https://www.amazon.com/dp/B00Q56PRSS?ref=ppx_pop_mob_ap_share

And for students who are too young, this is still very beneficial for the moms who plan the younger kids' days.

While the lesson plans I mentioned above are SO incredibly helpful, if you follow them to a T it may not work very well for your life. Last year, I tried using this student planner with my upper school kids and they at first didn't see the point. They said, "We already have the lesson plans, why do we need this?" And I explained to them that it is in their benefit to assign the assignments from the lesson plan in a more balanced way. Perhaps you have sports or music lessons on a certain day and you need that day to be lighter—the lesson plans don't account for that. And while we do an entire day of school on Mondays, sometimes we are doing assignments from other days of the week, so if you are following the lesson plan exactly as given, your Tuesday might be a really huge day. I've had upper school kids complain that their Tuesday is a huge day because they have to do all that we didn't do on Monday and also all of Tuesday. Using this planner allows you to balance out the week in a way that will work for you and also puts them in charge of their week (with your guidance). Also, the teachers will assign assignments that are not in the student planner. Being able to write this in, and other items like

Excelsior Classical Homeschool Books/Materials to Purchase for Each Grade Level

the Science Fair, etc is very helpful and good training for life. After using it for a week or two the kids told me they felt like it was so crucial.

Bible

Christian Studies II Student Book

- Optional: Golden Children's Bible - we'll cover the Bible readings in class so you don't need to buy those unless you want to or if you are absent and want to do the reading
- Optional: Teacher Key - We can't complete everything in class so if you want to do some at home or will be absent you may want the teacher guide for an answer key.
- Optional: Bible Verse Flashcards (this one set is used for all grammar school years— it covers all the verses from 3rd-6th) They will be expected to come to class with their verses ready to recite, they will earn points for their houses and their bank account for the student store by reciting.

Poetry—Buy the 3rd-7th grade Anthology book at a minimum. It is also called for in the curriculum manuals. Children may use it to do individual house recitations for points. If you want to dig deeper into poetry the teacher manual helps you go over vocab and cadence (how the poem rhymes, the rhyming structure). The student book you could save on as it is the same as TM but just wants the student to write it all in. Optional: For more poetry, IEW makes a great poetry book (*Linguistic Development through Poetry Memorization*) with different poems and speeches.

Complete First Form Latin Set – Trust me you need the whole set. This is the course where 5th graders start (if they didn't do Latina Christiana that's fine—it is not a prerequisite to First Form Latin). **They will come to class having watched the video for the week. We expect our moms to also watch as well.** You are not required to do the workbooks like the students nor memorize the words, but we ask that all homeschool parents begin the process of *understanding* Latin as we are not a 5 day a week school and you are required to teach your child some in latin. You don't have to know Latin to teach it –but you do need to know where to point them if they need to relearn something. I don't expect you to memorize a declension but I expect you to know what it is and where to point your student to it if they need to review. Same with conjugations. Same with vocab. Same with latin sayings. Watch the video with the child while you are prepping dinner and that will do the trick. Have them come to class with that week's lesson watched so the teacher can review and get right into the assignment with them.

Excelsior Classical Homeschool Books/Materials to Purchase for Each Grade Level

SCIENCE:

Apologia Zoology 3 Textbook and student notebooking journal (always buy the most up to date edition—see Apologia website to ensure you have the newest edition).

COMPOSITION:

This year most of our 5th-7th graders will complete their second year of IEW. It is complementary to Memoria Press's Classical Composition which we have done in years prior. It teaches them formal essay writing that is needed for academia (especially college).

I have two classes (possibly 3 if there is enough interest) appropriate for a 5th grade level student CHOOSE ONE:

1) IEW Year 2, Level B Video Course

a. For 2024-25 most of our 5th grade students will be doing this course. It is slated for 3-5 graders so it would be the natural next step for this group who have completed a first year. I do feel like it is important to do IEW another year as the first year nobody is going to "get it" perfectly--the first year is going to be shaky and brand new. The first year students will all need a follow up second year. A nice bonus is the video courses are 24 weeks long so we can fit in a who's who paper spread out over several weeks very easily.

Here is the link for the IEW Year 1, Level B Video Course:

([Structure and Style for Students: Year 2 Level A Basic \[Forever Streaming or DVD\]](#))

b. **NOTE: to take a "B" course necessitates that you have taken a year of IEW.** If you have not, I would recommend joining our Fable Class (see below).

2) Memoria Press Classical Composition: Fable (Purchase Complete Set- Teacher manual, Student book, DVD)

3) ~~IEW Level B Year 1~~ – I do not currently have a class for this for 2025-2026 but let me know right away if you are interested and I can put you on a waitlist and see if I can't get 3 students to form a class.

HISTORY, GEOGRAPHY & TIMELINE:

Famous Men of Rome Textbook (reader and student book)

Timeline—Each student will have a personal Excelsior timeline book—a book to last a lifetime, it is hard back, high quality. \$40 (note this is NOT the timeline book that MP offers) Excelsior provides this book to each new student.

Literature

Fifth grade literature set with student guides and novels And answer keys

<https://www.memoriapress.com/curriculum/literature-and-poetry/fifth/fifth-grade-literature-guide-set-with-novels/>

Excelsior Classical Homeschool Books/Materials to Purchase for Each Grade Level

Things we won't cover in class but I heavily recommend for at home:

Geography I: *in 5th and 6th grades they each will cover 1/2 of the world. The goal by 8th grade is to memorize all countries and capitals, learn about them, spell them correctly, and identify them on a map.*

- **(Memoria Press Publisher)**
- **Complete set with:**
 - **Teacher book/ Student book**
 - **and also US state review teacher book/ and Student book**
 - **Geography Flashcards** (if you purchased in previous grades you don't need to purchase again, the stack is used for all three courses)

Many recommend the Seterra website as a great geography aid.

Grammar—English Grammar Recitation Workbook II (you'll likely want the Teacher's Manual too for answers but you *don't* need the little green recitation book or the flashcards).

MATH CURRICULUM RECOMMENDATION:

- **MATH** (See the Appendix for MATH CURRICULUM RECOMMENDATIONS)
- **Core Skills Language Arts 5**
- **Spelling Workout F set** Spelling is no longer done at co-op as we make way for other higher level classes on Mondays.
- **Copybook Cursive III** (*MP students begin cursive in first grade*)
- **Literature Set and Literature Guides** – see pg 12--These are their readers. They are working through wonderful classics building on their reading skills, expanding vocab, and comprehension. I LOVE the literature guides TEACHER manuals as we can have a discussion about what they've read *but I don't have to read the book!* It has the questions and answers RIGHT there for you. I don't make them write out the comprehension questions (we get plenty of writing practice in MP) but we do audibly discuss. I do make them write out the vocab as I found they weren't learning it without writing it out. The enrichment suggestions each chapter can be really neat. In Mr. Popper's Penguins it suggested we write to a zoo about penguins and the San Diego zoo wrote us back and answered every question! Super fun. It has you track adventures on maps so you get map work. Dig deeper in history, Memorize poems etc. You could get by with just the teacher manual and save money by not purchasing the blank student guide. But literature is one of MP's shining subjects—by 7th grade the lit guides start to go deep and really focus on things they need to learn for college—literary devices and terms. So I heavily recommend the guides.)

History Read Alouds and Literature Read Alouds – These are TREASURES. Memory making time in my house! The children and I sit down and spend precious moments together. The MP curriculum manual schedules these books week by week. The history ones are an excellent way to learn history through a captivating novel. You can add dates and names to your timeline book. By 4th/5th grade I let my kids read the history read alouds independently.

Excelsior Classical Homeschool Books/Materials to Purchase for Each Grade Level

The literature read alouds we read together always. Lots of amazing discussion points. Typically a little above their reading level so good for read alouds though. Great moral stories. Such good family memories reading together!

These books will drop off in the 7th grade curriculum so treasure the read aloud time together! They can nearly all easily be found on ebay.com or thriftbooks.com or library.

D'Aulaire's Greek Myths- This picture book is excellent. I would recommend reading it by 7th grade though as they'll review it some in Famous Men of Greece and then also gives great perspective to the Iliad and Odyssey they read in 8th.

Excelsior Classical Homeschool
Books/Materials to Purchase for Each Grade Level

Sixth Grade Classes and Book List *(pages 36-40)*

Please purchase each **yellow highlighted** item below for your child's level.

CHOOSE ONE FORMAT FOR YOUR LESSON PLANS:

- ☐ **Sixth Curriculum Manual**—this teaches you how to use the curriculum, has an appendix full of helps, and daily lesson plans. It is well worth \$30. Any of the appendix stuff that is meant to be copied is given to you as a pdf when you purchase from MP (that's a really nice perk). You never need to scan with Memoria Press. **OR**
- ☐ **NOTE: If you are not using all MP products they now offer a customizable curriculum manual.** You select which classes and it populates your customized manual. **PLEASE NOTE: If you choose the customized manual, lessons are set into specific weeks so if a specific class doesn't follow the normal schedule your manual may need to be adjusted by hand. Once it's printed it cannot be edited.** **OR**
- ☐ **You can print the specific pdf lesson plans yourself from our Excelsior MP account. This is the free option.** Please know that on rare occasions sometimes the pdf lesson plans will differ from the curriculum manual. If that happens I leave that up to the teacher to decide which will work better for co-op.

If you find you are buying a lot of the recommended items you may consider buying their package deal. It is discounted heavily and it may be a better deal if you are buying enough things.

Grammar and Upper School Planners

Once your student is old enough to write out their assignments and plan their week themselves, I highly recommend getting a student planner like this one: [Elan Publishing Company Deluxe Full-Year Student Planner for High School 40 Weeks \(HS-90\)](#)

And for students who are too young, this is still very beneficial for the moms who plan the younger kids' days.

While the lesson plans I mentioned above are SO incredibly helpful, if you follow them to a T it may not work very well for your life. Last year, I tried using this student planner with my upper school kids and they at first didn't see the point. They said, "We already have the lesson plans, why do we need this?" And I explained to them that it is in their benefit to assign the assignments from the lesson plan in a more balanced way. Perhaps you have sports or music lessons on a certain day and you need that day to be lighter—the lesson plans don't account for that. And while we do an entire day of school on Mondays, sometimes we are doing assignments from other days of the week, so if you are following the lesson plan exactly as given, your Tuesday might be a really huge day. I've had upper school kids complain that their Tuesday is a huge day because they have to do all that we didn't do on Monday and also all of Tuesday. Using this planner allows you to balance out the week in a way that will work for you and also puts them in charge of their week (with your guidance). Also, the teachers will assign assignments that are not in the student planner. Being able to write this in, and other items like

Excelsior Classical Homeschool Books/Materials to Purchase for Each Grade Level

the Science Fair, etc is very helpful and good training for life. After using it for a week or two the kids told me they felt like it was so crucial.

Bible

Christian Studies III Student Book

- Optional: Golden Children's Bible - we'll cover the Bible readings in class so you don't need to buy those unless you want to or if you are absent and want to do the reading
- Optional: Teacher Key - We can't complete everything in class so if you want to do some at home or will be absent you may want the teacher guide for an answer key.
- Optional: Bible Verse Flashcards (this one set is used for all grammar school years— it covers all the verses from 3rd-6th) They will be expected to come to class with their verses ready to recite, they will earn points for their houses and their bank account for the student store by reciting.

Poetry—Buy the 3rd-7th grade Anthology book at a minimum. It is also called for in the curriculum manuals. Children may use it to do individual house recitations for points. If you want to dig deeper into poetry the student and teacher manual for answer key helps you go over vocab and cadence (how the poem rhymes, the rhyming structure). The student book you could save on as it is the same as TM but just wants the student to write it all in. Optional: For more poetry, IEW makes a great poetry book (*Linguistic Development through Poetry Memorization*) with different poems and speeches.

6th grade students will memorize this poem from the the Memoria Press anthology for closing ceremony:

<https://www.memoriapress.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/11/Englands-Sovereigns-in-Verse-King-Charles-Added-1.pdf>

Complete Second Form Latin Set – Trust me you need the whole set. If they didn't do Latina Christiana that's fine—it is not a prerequisite to First Form Latin—but **if they haven't done First Form Latin that is the class they will start on. Like math, latin builds.**

They will come to class having watched the video. We expect our moms to also watch as well. You are not required to do the workbooks like the students nor memorize the words, but we ask that all homeschool parents begin the process of *understanding* Latin as we are not a 5 day a week school and you are required to teach your child some in latin. You don't have to know Latin to teach it –but you do need to know where to point them if they need to relearn something. I don't expect you to memorize a declension but I expect you to know what it is and where to point your student to it if they need to review. Same with conjugations. Same with vocab. Same with latin sayings. Watch the video with the child while you are prepping dinner and that will do the trick. Have them come to class with that week's lesson watched so the teacher can review and get right into the assignment with them.

LITERATURE:

☐ Memoria Press *Adam of the Road* (novel, student workbook, teacher guide)

Excelsior Classical Homeschool Books/Materials to Purchase for Each Grade Level

- ☐ Memoria Press *The Door in the Wall* (novel, student workbook, teacher guide)
- ☐ Memoria Press *Robin Hood* (novel, student workbook, teacher guide)
- ☐ Memoria Press *King Arthur* (novel, student workbook, teacher guide)

- ☐ Optional Summer Reading: *Story of the World Volume 3: Early Modern Times*

SCIENCE:

From Apologia.com

- ☐ *Exploring Creation with Human Anatomy and Physiology*
- ☐ *The Student Notebooking Journal for Exploring Creation with Human Anatomy and Physiology*

COMPOSITION:

IEW Year 2, Level B Video Course This year 4th-6th have completed their first year of IEW. For 2025-26 most of our 6th and 7th grade students will be doing IEW Year 2, Level B Video Course for next year. It is slated for 6-8 graders (we just like the Medieval Book) so it would be the natural next step for this group. I do feel like it is important to do IEW another year as the first year nobody is going to "get it" perfectly--the first year is going to be shaky and brand new. The first year students will all need a follow up second year. For this curriculum, the description says they will review the 9 units they learned this year and continue to refine them. A nice bonus is the video courses are 24 weeks long so we can fit in a who's who paper spread out over several weeks very easily.

Here is the link for the IEW Year 2, Level B Video Course:

[Structure and Style for Students: Year 2 Level B Basic \[Forever Streaming or DVD\]](#)

Optional but strongly recommended:

Portable Walls for Structure and Style (new edition) Sku: PWSS

It is their newly revised tri fold reference that includes unit models and extensive word lists. When students need to work independently they will have the tools at their fingertips.

Here is the link for the newly revised Portable Walls:

[Portable Walls™ for Structure and Style® Students | PWSS](#)

*****NOTE: Level B Year 2 necessitates having done a prior year of IEW, if you have not and need a first year, please reach out to me right away and I'll get you on a wait list. There may be other students also and I can put together a class if I get 3 or more students. Otherwise we can also offer an independent study option. Reach out and we can discuss.**

Excelsior Classical Homeschool Books/Materials to Purchase for Each Grade Level

HISTORY, GEOGRAPHY & TIMELINE:

Famous Men of Middle Ages:

Textbook, Student Guide (Workbook), and Flashcards (either digital or hard copy flashcards)

Timeline—Each student will have a personal Excelsior timeline book—a book to last a lifetime, it is hard back, high quality. \$40 (note this is NOT the timeline book that MP offers) Excelsior provides this book to each new student.

Things we won't cover in class but I heavily recommend for at home:

- **Grammar—English Grammar Recitation Workbook III** (you'll likely want the Teacher's Manual too for answers but you *don't* need the little green recitation book or the flashcards).
- **Geography II-** *in 5th, 6th grades they will each cover 1/2 of the world. The goal by 8th is to memorize all countries and capitals, learn about them, spell them correctly, and identify them on a map.*
 - · **(Memoria Press Publisher)**
 - · **Complete set with:**
 - ○ **Teacher book/ Student book**
 - ○ **and also Geography I review teacher book/ and Student book**
 - ○ **Geography Flashcards** (if you purchased in previous grades you don't need to purchase again, the stack is used for all three courses)
- **MATH** (See the Appendix for MATH CURRICULUM RECOMMENDATIONS)
- **Core Skills Language Arts 6**
- **Spelling Workout G set** Spelling is no longer done at co-op as we make way for other higher level classes on Mondays.
- **Copybook Cursive IV** (*while they are practicing cursive this book will have them practice their Bible verses they are working on and other info they are learning in fifth grade*).
- **Literature Set and Literature Guides** – see pg 12--These are their readers. They are working through wonderful classics building on their reading skills, expanding vocab, and comprehension. I LOVE the literature guides TEACHER manuals as we can have a discussion about what they've read *but I don't have to read the book!* It has the questions and answers RIGHT there for you. I don't make them write out the comprehension questions (we get plenty of writing practice in MP) but we do audibly discuss. I do make them write out the vocab as I found they weren't learning it without writing it out. The enrichment suggestions each chapter can be really neat. In Mr. Popper's Penguins it suggested we write to a zoo about penguins and the San Diego zoo wrote us back and answered every question! Super fun. It has you track adventures on maps so you get map work. Dig deeper in history, Memorize poems etc. You could get by with just the teacher manual and save money by not purchasing the blank student guide. But literature is one of MP's shining subjects—by 7th grade the lit guides start to go deep

Excelsior Classical Homeschool Books/Materials to Purchase for Each Grade Level

and really focus on things they need to learn for college—literary devices and terms. So I heavily recommend the guides.)

History Read Alouds and Literature Read Alouds – These are TREASURES. Memory making time in my house! The children and I sit down and spend precious moments together. The MP curriculum manual schedules these books week by week. The history ones are an excellent way to learn history through a captivating novel. You can add dates and names to your timeline book. By 4th/5th grade I let my kids read the history read alouds independently.

The literature read alouds we read together always. Lots of amazing discussion points. Typically a little above their reading level so good for read alouds though. Great moral stories. Such good family memories reading together!

These books will drop off in the 7th grade curriculum so treasure the read aloud time together! They can nearly all easily be found on ebay.com or thriftbooks.com or library.

D'Aulaire's Greek Myths– This picture book is excellent. I would recommend reading it by 7th grade though as they'll review it some in Famous Men of Greece and then also gives great perspective to the Iliad and Odyssey they read in 8th.

Excelsior Classical Homeschool
Books/Materials to Purchase for Each Grade Level

Seventh Grade Classes and Book List *(pages 41-46)*

Please purchase each **yellow highlighted** item below for your child's level.

CHOOSE ONE FORMAT FOR YOUR LESSON PLANS:

- ☐ **Seventh Grade Curriculum Manual**—this teaches you how to use the curriculum, has an appendix full of helps, and daily lesson plans. It is well worth \$30. Any of the appendix stuff that is meant to be copied is given to you as a pdf when you purchase from MP (that's a really nice perk). You never need to scan with Memoria Press. **OR**
- ☐ **NOTE: If you are not using all MP products they now offer a customizable curriculum manual.** You select which classes and it populates your customized manual. **PLEASE NOTE: If you choose the customized manual, lessons are set into specific weeks so if a specific class doesn't follow the normal schedule your manual may need to be adjusted by hand. Once it's printed it cannot be edited.** **OR**
- ☐ **You can print the specific pdf lesson plans yourself from our Excelsior MP account. This is the free option.** Please know that on rare occasions sometimes the pdf lesson plans will differ from the curriculum manual. If that happens I leave that up to the teacher to decide which will work better for co-op.

If you find you are buying a lot of the recommended items you may consider buying their package deal. It is discounted heavily and it may be a better deal if you are buying enough things.

Grammar and Upper School Planners

Once your student is old enough to write out their assignments and plan their week themselves, **I highly recommend getting a student planner like this one: [Elan Publishing Company Deluxe Full-Year Student Planner for High School 40 Weeks \(HS-90\)](#)**

And for students who are too young, this is still very beneficial for the moms who plan the younger kids' days.

While the lesson plans I mentioned above are SO incredibly helpful, if you follow them to a T it may not work very well for your life. Last year, I tried using this student planner with my upper school kids and they at first didn't see the point. They said, "We already have the lesson plans, why do we need this?" And I explained to them that it is in their benefit to assign the assignments from the lesson plan in a more balanced way. Perhaps you have sports or music lessons on a certain day and you need that day to be lighter—the lesson plans don't account for that. And while we do an entire day of school on Mondays, sometimes we are doing assignments from other days of the week, so if you are following the lesson plan exactly as given your Tuesday might be a really huge day. I've had upper school kids complain that their Tuesday is a huge day because they have to do all that we didn't do on Monday and also all of Tuesday. Using this planner allows you to balance out the week in a way that will work for you and also puts them in charge of their week (with your guidance). Also, the teachers will assign assignments that are not in the student planner. Being able to write this in, and other items like

Excelsior Classical Homeschool Books/Materials to Purchase for Each Grade Level

the Science Fair, etc is very helpful and good training for life. After using it for a week or two the kids told me they felt like it was so crucial.

Bible-Christian Studies

The Amazing Collection student book will be very useful to assist students when they have their homework reading. To accomplish the goal of reading the entire Bible in 6 years (with summers off) students will be asked to read a small amount each week at home (about 30 min a week) without a teacher guiding them. The student book has maps and also Bible verses "baked" in so that will be really wonderful. We will quiz over Bible verses in class, they can earn house points. For many students it will be very helpful as it will assist students with their Bible reading homework so they have an understanding of what they are reading at home. See Appendix for the detailed 6 year plan.

For 2025-2026 All 7th-12th (Upper School) Bible classes will be going through the same 5 books of the Bible this year: Joshua-2 Kings: "The Kingdom Books". But what I love is that no matter what book they are in—the curriculum makes great effort to tie what they are learning back to the greater salvation message. So even though we won't be doing the Gospels for a while, we are always thinking about Jesus and what this text means in the grand plan of our walk with Jesus. We made great effort to ensure that the Bible homework reading will be predictable (around 30 min a week).

The Student Book to purchase \$12.56: [The Kingdom Books: Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1 Samuel, 2 Samuel, 1 Kings, and 2 Kings](#)

There is also a teacher guide \$25 if you want the answers or mom wants deeper insight (optional): [The Amazing Collection the Kingdom Books Teaching Curriculum: Joshua Through 2 Kings](#)

Bible Awards/Trophies/Points:

- **If you read the entire Bible you get the Bible trophy and pin**
 - note—you must have something on paper to demonstrate this for accountability sake. You have 1 of 3 choices:
 - Complete all of the Amazing collection books (this will naturally be done year by year at Excelsior, however if your student doesn't have 6 years left you can certainly buy any you will miss and complete on your own)
 - Complete the [MP Christian Studies IV student book](#) - it would be a much lighter option - less in-depth than *The Amazing Collection*-- it has fill in the blanks and is very well done with maps and key points they would fill in to demonstrate what they have read (*this is really only for students who are 8th grade+ and have missed some years of the Amazing Collection*)

Excelsior Classical Homeschool Books/Materials to Purchase for Each Grade Level

- Write a 5-6 sentence paragraph summary of each book they read. Could include key points and your thoughts/reflections. (*this is really only for students who are 8th grade+ and have missed some years of the Amazing Collection*)
 - Keep all together and show me upon completion to qualify for the award.
- **Bible Verse Memory:**
 - Students earn 1 point for their house for each correct word of the Bible verse they recite to their teacher on Mondays + a bonus 25 points for it being a Bible verse (there is a cap of 250 words for time's sake).
 - Ability to earn the Bible Verse Memory Pin
 - Recite 30 different verses in a year
 - verses must be longer than 15 words to be counted as a verse (so you can't do "Jesus wept.")
 - You must give Mrs. Abello a list of accomplished verses by the last Monday of co-op.

Poetry— 3rd-7th grade Anthology. It is also called for in the curriculum manuals. Children may use it to do individual house recitations for points. If you want to dig deeper into poetry the teacher manual helps you go over vocab and cadence (how the poem rhymes, the rhyming structure). The student book you could save on as it is the same as TM but just wants the student to write it all in. Optional: For more poetry, IEW makes a great poetry book (*Linguistic Development through Poetry Memorization*) with different poems and speeches.

Commonplace Book if you are not buying the student books – this was John Locke's method for organizing information – We have a commonplace book we sell for \$5 made of the highest quality paper which aides in good penmanship as the pencil slide across the paper (also will not bleed if using markers or pens)

Complete Third Form Latin Set – Trust me you need the whole set. If they didn't do Latina Christiana that's fine—it is not a prerequisite to First Form Latin—but **if they haven't done First Form Latin that is the class they will start on. Like math, latin builds.** They will come to class having watched the video. We expect our moms to also watch as well. You are not required to do the workbooks like the students nor memorize the words, but we ask that all homeschool parents begin the process of *understanding* latin as we are not a 5 day a week school and you are required to teach your child some in latin. You don't have to know latin to teach it—but you do need to know where to point them if they need to relearn something. I don't expect you to memorize a declension but I expect you to know what it is and where to point your student to it if they need to review. Same with conjugations. Same with vocab. Same with latin sayings. Watch the video with the child while you are prepping dinner and that will do the trick. Have them come to class with that week's lesson watched so the teacher can review and get right into the assignment with them.

Excelsior Classical Homeschool Books/Materials to Purchase for Each Grade Level

Science—

- **Apologia General Science Text book**
- **Apologia General Science Student Notebook must be current edition –**
- Consider purchasing the self pace course—remember that you are the teacher for the other 3 days of the week. Do your research—if you don't do self pace you may want quizzes and answer key. We will prioritize labs and reviewing content just read each week.

Composition –

- ☐ **Classical Composition IV: Refutation and Confirmation Complete Set with DVD or streaming**
 - ☐ **Student Workbook**
 - ☐ **Teacher Guide** as it is not the way you probably have learned composition. This is the *progymnasmata*—the 14 step method that Thomas Jefferson, Shakespeare and thousands of others would have learned. It dates back to the Greeks 2000+ years. No silly venn diagrams or things we learned in elementary school. The Teacher Guide and videos will be so helpful.
 - ☐ **DVDs or Streaming** - I especially love the videos whenever I need it to teach that day's lesson of composition or the outline days! The teacher will teach exactly what they need to know. For any day you don't want to teach, have them watch the video.

NOTE: MP normally recommends everyone start at Fable, however most of our students come from an IEW background and have Fable and plenty of composition. We will teach the course in a way that anyone with a composition background can jump right in. We don't recommend this course as a first-ever composition course.

OR

- ☐ You student can take any of the other levels of composition offered (so long as prerequisites are met) For IEW purchase all student books, Teacher manuals or streaming options if required.

American History, Geography, and Timeline—see MP catalog for the American/Modern box—you'll need all that is in it. Get the complete set (you'll want the TM for answer key helps—it is more than a one day a week class. We'll cover the best stuff to do in class together but there will be work at home as it is a 3 day a week class)

Get:

- ☐ · **The Story of the Thirteen Colonies & the Great Republic set**
- ☐ · **200 Questions About American history set**
- ☐ · **Flashcards***
- ☐ · **The Story of the World vol 4**

**These are helpful, but if trying to cut costs, this can be dropped. The 200 questions workbook has quick drill questions that serve the same purpose and cover exactly the same material. You don't need the outline book they sell.*

Excelsior Classical Homeschool Books/Materials to Purchase for Each Grade Level

Timeline—Each student will have a personal Excelsior timeline book—a book to last a lifetime, it is a hard back, high quality. \$40 (note this is NOT the timeline book that MP offers) Excelsior provides this book to each new student.

We will add dates from Christian Studies, American History and any other dates. You buy this from us and we bill it on tuition.

Horatius at the Bridge Textbook and Student Guide (TM not needed, we'll have it in class)

The Greek Alphabet Student Book

Things we won't cover in class but I heavily recommend for at home:

- **Grammar—English Grammar Recitation Workbook IV** (you'll likely want the Teacher's Manual too for answers but you *don't* need the little green recitation book or the flashcards).
- **MATH** (See the Appendix for MATH CURRICULUM RECOMMENDATIONS)
- **Core Skills Language Arts 7**
- **Spelling** - NOTE: 6th grade is the last year for spelling in MP curriculum so we no longer offer/recommend spelling for this age level.
- **Literature Set and Literature Guides** – see pg 13--These are their readers. They are working through wonderful classics building on their reading skills, expanding vocab, and comprehension. I LOVE the literature guides TEACHER manuals as we can have a discussion about what they've read *but I don't have to read the book!* It has the questions and answers RIGHT there for you. I don't make them write out the comprehension questions (we get plenty of writing practice in MP) but we do audibly discuss. I do make them write out the vocab as I found they weren't learning it without writing it out. The enrichment suggestions each chapter can be really neat. In Mr. Popper's Penguins it suggested we write to a zoo about penguins and the San Diego zoo wrote us back and answered every question! Super fun. It has you track adventures on maps so you get map work. Dig deeper in history, Memorize poems etc. You could get by with just the teacher manual and save money by not purchasing the blank student guide. But literature is one of MP's shining subjects—by 7th grade the lit guides start to go deep and really focus on things they need to learn for college—literary devices and terms. So I heavily recommend the guides.)
- **Famous Men of Greece Textbook Reader** Follow the schedule to read this book at home. Student workbook optional –up to you. It has comprehension questions, vocab, mapwork. You can see a pdf sample on the MP website.
- **D'Aulaire's Greek Myths-** This picture book is excellent. We will read excerpts from it in Astronomy as we learn the story behind the constellations. I would recommend reading it by 7th grade though as they'll review it some in Famous Men of Greece and then also gives great perspective to the Iliad and Odyssey they read in 8th.

Excelsior Classical Homeschool
Books/Materials to Purchase for Each Grade Level

Eighth Grade Classes and Book List *(pages 47-53)*

Please purchase each **yellow highlighted** item below for your child's level.

CHOOSE ONE FORMAT FOR YOUR LESSON PLANS:

- ☐ **Eighth Grade Curriculum Manual**—this teaches you how to use the curriculum, has an appendix full of helps, and daily lesson plans. It is well worth \$30. Any of the appendix stuff that is meant to be copied is given to you as a pdf when you purchase from MP (that's a really nice perk). You never need to scan with Memoria Press. **OR**
- ☐ **NOTE: If you are not using all MP products they now offer a customizable curriculum manual.** You select which classes and it populates your customized manual. **PLEASE NOTE: If you choose the customized manual, lessons are set into specific weeks so if a specific class doesn't follow the normal schedule your manual may need to be adjusted by hand. Once it's printed it cannot be edited.** **OR**
- ☐ **You can print the specific pdf lesson plans yourself from our Excelsior MP account. This is the free option.** Please know that on rare occasions sometimes the pdf lesson plans will differ from the curriculum manual. If that happens I leave that up to the teacher to decide which will work better for co-op.

If you find you are buying a lot of the recommended items you may consider buying their package deal. It is discounted heavily and it may be a better deal if you are buying enough things.

Grammar and Upper School Planners

Once your student is old enough to write out their assignments and plan their week themselves, I highly recommend getting a student planner like this one: [Elan Publishing Company Deluxe Full-Year Student Planner for High School 40 Weeks \(HS-90\)](#)

And for students who are too young, this is still very beneficial for the moms who plan the younger kids' days.

While the lesson plans I mentioned above are SO incredibly helpful, if you follow them to a T it may not work very well for your life. Last year, I tried using this student planner with my upper school kids and they at first didn't see the point. They said, "We already have the lesson plans, why do we need this?" And I explained to them that it is in their benefit to assign the assignments from the lesson plan in a more balanced way. Perhaps you have sports or music lessons on a certain day and you need that day to be lighter—the lesson plans don't account for that. And while we do an entire day of school on Mondays, sometimes we are doing assignments from other days of the week, so if you are following the lesson plan exactly as given, your Tuesday might be a really huge day. I've had upper school kids complain that their Tuesday is a huge day because they have to do all that we didn't do on Monday and also all of Tuesday. Using this planner allows you to balance out the week in a way that will work for you and also puts them in charge of their week (with your guidance). Also, the teachers will assign assignments that are not in the student planner. Being able to write this in, and other items like

Excelsior Classical Homeschool Books/Materials to Purchase for Each Grade Level

the Science Fair, etc is very helpful and good training for life. After using it for a week or two the kids told me they felt like it was so crucial.

Bible-Christian Studies

The Amazing Collection student book will be very useful to assist students when they have their homework reading. To accomplish the goal of reading the entire Bible in 6 years (with summers off) students will be asked to read a small amount each week at home (about 30 min a week) without a teacher guiding them. The student book has maps and also Bible verses "baked" in so that will be really wonderful. We will quiz over Bible verses in class, they can earn house points. For many students it will be very helpful as it will assist students with their Bible reading homework so they have an understanding of what they are reading at home. See Appendix for the detailed 6 year plan.

For 2025-2026 All 7th-12th (Upper School) Bible classes will be going through the same 5 books of the Bible this year: Joshua-2 Kings: "The Kingdom Books". But what I love is that no matter what book they are in—the curriculum makes great effort to tie what they are learning back to the greater salvation message. So even though we won't be doing the Gospels for a while, we are always thinking about Jesus and what this text means in the grand plan of our walk with Jesus. We made great effort to ensure that the Bible homework reading will be predictable (around 30 min a week).

The Student Book to purchase \$12.56: [The Kingdom Books: Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1 Samuel, 2 Samuel, 1 Kings, and 2 Kings](#)

There is also a teacher guide \$25 if you want the answers or mom wants deeper insight (optional): [The Amazing Collection the Kingdom Books Teaching Curriculum: Joshua Through 2 Kings](#)

Bible Awards/Trophies/Points:

- **If you read the entire Bible you get the Bible trophy and pin**
 - note—you must have something on paper to demonstrate this for accountability sake. You have 1 of 3 choices:
 - Complete all of the Amazing collection books (this will naturally be done year by year at Excelsior, however if your student doesn't have 6 years left you can certainly buy any you will miss and complete on your own)
 - Complete the [MP Christian Studies IV student book](#) - it would be a much lighter option - less in-depth than *The Amazing Collection*-- it has fill in the blanks and is very well done with maps and key points they would fill in to demonstrate what they have read (*this is really only for students who are 8th grade+ and have missed some years of the Amazing Collection*)

Excelsior Classical Homeschool Books/Materials to Purchase for Each Grade Level

- Write a 5-6 sentence paragraph summary of each book they read. Could include key points and your thoughts/reflections. (*this is really only for students who are 8th grade+ and have missed some years of the Amazing Collection*)
 - Keep all together and show me upon completion to qualify for the award.
- **Bible Verse Memory:**
 - Students earn 1 point for their house for each correct word of the Bible verse they recite to their teacher on Mondays + a bonus 25 points for it being a Bible verse (there is a cap of 250 words for time's sake).
 - Ability to earn the Bible Verse Memory Pin
 - Recite 30 different verses in a year
 - verses must be longer than 15 words to be counted as a verse (so you can't do "Jesus wept.")
 - You must give Mrs. Abello a list of accomplished verses by the last Monday of co-op.

Complete Fourth Form Latin Set –

<https://www.memoriapress.com/curriculum/latin/fourth-form-latin/>

You need the set that contains Henle 1 (if you already own it, there is a set that it is omitted from)

And as always- trust me you need the whole set. If they didn't do Latina Christiana that's fine—it is not a prerequisite to First Form Latin—but **if they haven't done First Form Latin that is the class they will start on. Like math, latin builds.**

They will come to class having watched the video. We expect our moms to also watch as well. You are not required to do the workbooks like the students nor memorize the words, but we ask that all homeschool parents begin the process of *understanding* Latin as we are not a 5 day a week school and you are required to teach your child some in latin. You don't have to know Latin to teach it –but you do need to know where to point them if they need to relearn something. I don't expect you to memorize a declension but I expect you to know what it is and where to point your student to it if they need to review. Same with conjugations. Same with vocab. Same with latin sayings. Watch the video with the child while you are prepping dinner and that will do the trick. Have them come to class with that week's lesson watched so the teacher can review and get right into the assignment with them.

Physical Science with labs (afternoon class 1-2pm)—

- **Apologia Physical Science Textbook NEWEST edition (purchase or check on Apologia.com)**
- **Apologia Physical Science Notebook NEWEST edition (spiral bound notebook)**
- **Quizzes and Tests booklet NEWEST edition**
- **Answer Key Teacher Booklet NEWEST edition**

Optional: I highly recommend the self paced option (see below for info on that)– the teacher on the video will teach the lessons that we don't get to in class

Excelsior Classical Homeschool Books/Materials to Purchase for Each Grade Level

- If you don't get some sort of video option—that means that YOU are the teacher for all new content covered during the week. Remember, this is a 5 day a week class and we can't cover all teaching on Mondays so the other days of the week you will want someone teaching the material. This is where the video option is very helpful.
- Optional: audiobook if you have an audible learner (you still need the paper textbook though)—note: the audio is included in the Self Paced option.

The afternoon class is an hour, but it is worth noting, it is a four day a week class (preparing for a five day a week freshman Biology class). We chose this text because it is the same author as highschool Biology for 9th grade. This 8th grade year prepares them for what they will encounter in 9th.

Our focus on Mondays together will be to do the labs together and cover whatever material we can. There is no way we can cover 4 days of material *and* labs all in one hour on Monday. It will be needed at home reading.

Self paced: \$249 I heavily recommend the self paced option that Apologia offers.

Remember that you are the teacher the other 4 days of the week. Self paced will grade and play teaching videos etc. In class we will prioritize labs and if there is time, then we go over whatever they were to have read. But it will be lab heavy. The self pace course teacher videos will provide instruction to the textbook. Also, it will grade the tests for you online (the students can complete the tests online). You do get all the above bullet points (digital and audio book, video lessons etc) included so it can be a *really* good deal—but please note—you **still need a physical copy of the textbook and notebook**. If your student attends a college that will require physical verification proof of labs for homeschoolers and the notebook will be something you want to save.

Composition –

- ☐ **Classical Composition IV: Refutation and Confirmation Complete Set with DVD or streaming**
 - ☐ **Student Workbook**
 - ☐ **Teacher Guide** as it is not the way you probably have learned composition. This is the *progymnasmata*—the 14 step method that Thomas Jefferson, Shakespeare and thousands of others would have learned. It dates back to the Greeks 2000+ years. No silly venn diagrams or things we learned in elementary school. The Teacher Guide and videos will be so helpful.
 - ☐ **DVDs or Streaming** - I especially love the videos whenever I need it to teach that day's lesson of composition or the outline days! The teacher will teach exactly what they need to know. For any day you don't want to teach, have them watch the video.

NOTE: MP normally recommends everyone start at Fable, however most of our students come from an IEW background and have Fable and plenty of composition. We will teach the course in a way that anyone with a composition background can jump right in. We don't recommend this course as a first-ever composition course.

OR

Excelsior Classical Homeschool Books/Materials to Purchase for Each Grade Level

- ☐ You student can take any of the other levels of composition offered (so long as prerequisites are met) For IEW purchase all student books, Teacher manuals or streaming options if required.

Geography III- in 5th, 6th grades they will cover all of the world geography, in 8th they will review all of it and go deeper.

(Memoria Press Publisher)

Complete set with:

- **Teacher book/ Student book**
- **and also Geography III review teacher book/ and Student book**
- **Geography Flashcards** (if you purchased in previous grades you don't need to purchase again, the stack is used for all three courses)
- The Atlas MP sells is not really needed. The teacher may show it a few times at co-op in class but they will never use it at home.

Timeline—Each student will have a personal Excelsior timeline book—a book to last a lifetime, it is a hard back, high quality. \$40 (note this is NOT the timeline book that MP offers) Excelsior provides this book to each new student.

We will add dates from Christian Studies, Book of the Ancient World (they'll be reading at home), American History from Literature and any other dates. You buy this from us and we bill it on tuition.

Classical Composition:

- ☐ **Iliad and Odyssey textbooks** (Make sure to get the same edition that MP sells because there are different translators. Also, because the teacher may say "flip to such and such page". The teacher manual will have the answers and tell the teacher what page the answer is on. He or she may refer students to look at a certain page).

AND

- ☐ **The Book of the Ancient Greeks textbook** (or if already studied choose a classical studies class you haven't yet taken such as the Aeneid, etc)

Purchase:

- **the MP published textbooks (so we all have the same page numbers and translation) we will read together in class (sometimes the teacher guide will say turn to page 45 to see the answer and it's nice if everyone has the same text) to do so**
- **OPTIONAL: student books, Teacher Manual or DVD. We'll cover all that material in class. The only reason you might want the student guides as that is the exact format of the tests. I usually don't make my children take the tests of this particular class. We read it for understanding and enjoyment. Your call. OR**
- **If you don't purchase the student book then use a Commonplace book for this class. This was John Locke's method for organizing information – We have a commonplace book we sell for \$5 made of the highest quality paper which aids in good penmanship as the pencil slide across the paper (also will not bleed if using markers or pens). But if you have already purchased the student guide and prefer to use that your student may.**

Excelsior Classical Homeschool

Books/Materials to Purchase for Each Grade Level

- **Prerequisites for those who don't have any prior reading in Greek Myths or Ancient Greek History:**
 - We highly recommend that your student reads *Famous Men of Greece* and *The Trojan War* prior to the start of the class if the student has no background in the ancient world.
 - If those texts are more than you can do in the summer, at minimum you can do **D'Aulaire's Greek Myths**- if they don't have any previous background on Greek mythology, this is a great starter book. It is an excellent picture book we use in 3rd/4th grades that even rising 8th graders will find interesting. It is an easy fun read (maybe in 1 or 2 afternoons) and gives great perspective to the Iliad and Odyssey they read in 8th. It is very appropriate for all ages.
 - Why Greek Myths in a Classical Christian education? Greek Myths show up everywhere in our American culture (references in literature and life such as "Achilles Heel", "Muses", "Cupid", "Trojan Horse" and so many more) as well as Shakespeare and other classical authors mention them extensively. The older writers will mention the Greek Myths and assume that you have an understanding of them. They'll drop names and offer no explanation. So it's very good to have a working understanding of them to understand and appreciate classical texts. And in the Iliad and the Odyssey there will have a lot of Greek mythology in it, the gods are big players in these books. It is an epic written in a poetic format, a very appropriate read for an 8th grader but nevertheless will challenge them. Having a working understanding of the gods going into the epic will give them a leg up.

Literature/Poetry

Such a great year—probably my favorite! We will cover American classics. The students will come to class having read the assigned chapter, gone over the vocab in the student guide and the comprehension questions and come ready to discuss in a Socratic discussion.

Get these sets (student book and textbook—optional is the teacher guide) Note: It does help if we all have the same edition as the text because the teacher may say "flip to such and such page". The teacher manual will have the answers and tell the teacher what page the answer is on. He or she may refer students to look at a certain page.

- **Treasure Island set**
- **The Wind in the Willows set**
- **Shakespeare's Julius Caesar set** (note: this one starts at week 28 and will be completed in the summer. The 1950s movie that's black-and-white is exceptional. A great follow up to reading the play. Or even doing beforehand so they have a better understanding as they read).
- **Poetry and Short Stories set**

I say "set" because you'll probably want the Teacher guide if students get stuck on comprehension questions or if you have them take test/quizzes. I usually start making my children takes tests in 7th grade to prepare for high school (test taking is a skill) and we take

Excelsior Classical Homeschool Books/Materials to Purchase for Each Grade Level

grades in 8th to prepare for when it counts—in 9th. But up to you if you want to get the teacher guide.

Optional Summer Reading:

- *Mr. Midshipman Hornblower* (boys)
- *The Call of the Wild* (boys)
- *Little Women* (girls)

Things we won't cover in class but I heavily recommend for at home:

Grammar—English Grammar Recitation Workbook V (you'll likely want the Teacher's Manual too for answers but you *don't* need the little green recitation book or the flashcards).

MATH (See the Appendix for MATH CURRICULUM RECOMMENDATIONS)

The Book of the Ancient World – to be read at home

NOTE It does a good job of covering all the ancient people in a nice story-like format (Egyptians, Mesopotamians, etc) but just make sure to discuss with your child that *our* God is the one true God and His decrees and laws are righteous. It is written by a Catholic author, but she doesn't seem to give any special emphasis on God's chosen people. My children all noticed that when they were reading it.

What about Spelling? Memoria Press Concludes Spelling in 7th grade. We appreciate that as it makes way for more time for higher levels of studies. I just always tell my kids “never let yourself spell a word incorrectly” and so we continue perfecting our spelling that way. I also never will allow them to spell a word incorrectly, whether it is a short note they've written, a letter to a friend, anything.

Excelsior Classical Homeschool
Books/Materials to Purchase for Each Grade Level

Ninth Grade Classes and Book List *(pages 54-61)*

Please purchase each **yellow highlighted** item below for your child's level.

CHOOSE ONE FORMAT FOR YOUR LESSON PLANS:

- ☐ **Ninth Curriculum Manual**—this teaches you how to use the curriculum, has an appendix full of help, and daily lesson plans. It is well worth \$30. Any of the appendix stuff that is meant to be copied is given to you as a pdf when you purchase from MP (that's a really nice perk). You never need to scan with Memoria Press. **OR**
- ☐ **NOTE: If you are not using all MP products they now offer a customizable curriculum manual.** You select which classes and it populates your customized manual. **PLEASE NOTE: If you choose the customized manual, lessons are set into specific weeks so if a specific class doesn't follow the normal schedule your manual may need to be adjusted by hand. Once it's printed it cannot be edited.** **OR**
- ☐ **You can print the specific pdf lesson plans yourself from our Excelsior MP account. This is the free option.** Please know that on rare occasions sometimes the pdf lesson plans will differ from the curriculum manual. If that happens I leave that up to the teacher to decide which will work better for co-op.

If you find you are buying a lot of the recommended items you may consider buying their package deal. It is discounted heavily and it may be a better deal if you are buying enough things.

Grammar and Upper School Planners

Once your student is old enough to write out their assignments and plan their week themselves, **I highly recommend getting a student planner like this one: [Elan Publishing Company Deluxe Full-Year Student Planner for High School 40 Weeks \(HS-90\)](#)**

And for students who are too young, this is still very beneficial for the moms who plan the younger kids' days.

While the lesson plans I mentioned above are SO incredibly helpful, if you follow them to a T it may not work very well for your life. Last year, I tried using this student planner with my upper school kids and they at first didn't see the point. They said, "We already have the lesson plans, why do we need this?" And I explained to them that it is in their benefit to assign the assignments from the lesson plan in a more balanced way. Perhaps you have sports or music lessons on a certain day and you need that day to be lighter—the lesson plans don't account for that. And while we do an entire day of school on Mondays, sometimes we are doing assignments from other days of the week, so if you are following the lesson plan exactly as given your Tuesday might be a really huge day. I've had upper school kids complain that their Tuesday is a huge day because they have to do all that we didn't do on Monday and also all of Tuesday. Using this planner allows you to balance out the week in a way that will work for you and also puts them in charge of their week (with your guidance). Also, the teachers will assign assignments that are not in the student planner. Being able to write this in, and other items like

Excelsior Classical Homeschool Books/Materials to Purchase for Each Grade Level

the Science Fair, etc is very helpful and good training for life. After using it for a week or two the kids told me they felt like it was so crucial.

Bible-Christian Studies

The Amazing Collection student book will be very useful to assist students when they have their homework reading. To accomplish the goal of reading the entire Bible in 6 years (with summers off) students will be asked to read a small amount each week at home (about 30 min a week) without a teacher guiding them. The student book has maps and also Bible verses "baked" in so that will be really wonderful. We will quiz over Bible verses in class, they can earn house points. For many students it will be very helpful as it will assist students with their Bible reading homework so they have an understanding of what they are reading at home. See Appendix for the detailed 6 year plan.

For 2025-2026 All 7th-12th (Upper School) Bible classes will be going through the same 5 books of the Bible this year: Joshua-2 Kings: "The Kingdom Books". But what I love is that no matter what book they are in—the curriculum makes great effort to tie what they are learning back to the greater salvation message. So even though we won't be doing the Gospels for a while, we are always thinking about Jesus and what this text means in the grand plan of our walk with Jesus. We made great effort to ensure that the Bible homework reading will be predictable (around 30 min a week).

The Student Book to purchase \$12.56: [The Kingdom Books: Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1 Samuel, 2 Samuel, 1 Kings, and 2 Kings](#)

There is also a teacher guide \$25 if you want the answers or mom wants deeper insight (optional): [The Amazing Collection the Kingdom Books Teaching Curriculum: Joshua Through 2 Kings](#)

Bible Awards/Trophies/Points:

- **If you read the entire Bible you get the Bible trophy and pin**
 - note—you must have something on paper to demonstrate this for accountability sake. You have 1 of 3 choices:
 - Complete all of the Amazing collection books (this will naturally be done year by year at Excelsior, however if your student doesn't have 6 years left you can certainly buy any you will miss and complete on your own)
 - Complete the [MP Christian Studies IV student book](#) - it would be a much lighter option - less in-depth than *The Amazing Collection*-- it has fill in the blanks and is very well done with maps and key points they would fill in to demonstrate what they have read (*this is really only for students who are 8th grade+ and have missed some years of the Amazing Collection*)

Excelsior Classical Homeschool Books/Materials to Purchase for Each Grade Level

- Write a 5-6 sentence paragraph summary of each book they read. Could include key points and your thoughts/reflections. *(this is really only for students who are 8th grade+ and have missed some years of the Amazing Collection)*
 - Keep all together and show me upon completion to qualify for the award.
- **Bible Verse Memory:**
 - Students earn 1 point for their house for each correct word of the Bible verse they recite to their teacher on Mondays + a bonus 25 points for it being a Bible verse (there is a cap of 250 words for time's sake).
 - Ability to earn the Bible Verse Memory Pin
 - Recite 30 different verses in a year
 - verses must be longer than 15 words to be counted as a verse (so you can't do "Jesus wept.")
 - You must give Mrs. Abello a list of accomplished verses by the last Monday of co-op.

Latin: Henle Latin Second Year – Trust me you need the whole set. **Including the blue Latin grammar book.**

Set:

- ☐ **Henle Latin Second Year Set - Memoria Press: Classical Education**
 - ☐ This set contains ***Henle Latin Second Year Text***,
 - ☐ the ***Answer Key***,
 - ☐ the ***Henle Second Year Digital Flashcards***
 - ☐ Optional: They do sell the **physical flashcards for Henle II**
 - ☐ the ***Student Guide***,
 - ☐ and the ***Quizzes & Tests*** *(there are a few weeks we'll take exams in class but usually those will be taken at home)*

And if you didn't get the Latin grammar books from 4th form here there are –we will use them–the blue one especially is assigned–but the second one is easier to use for recitations so students can visually see what we are reciting:

- ☐ **BLUE Henle Latin Grammar - Memoria Press: Classical Education** - this is assigned weekly and used for teaching the concepts
- ☐ **Latin Grammar for the Grammar Stage** *This Latin grammar is a compendium of grammar forms and syntax in a systematic, concise, and easily accessible reference book. An essential resource for mastery and review.*

NOTE: If they haven't done any latin, First Form Latin is the class they will start on. Like math, latin builds.

They will come to class having watched the video. We expect our moms to also watch as well. You are not required to do the workbooks like the students nor memorize the words, but we ask that all homeschool parents begin the process of *understanding* Latin as we are not a 5 day a week school and you are required to teach your child some in latin. You don't have to

Excelsior Classical Homeschool Books/Materials to Purchase for Each Grade Level

know Latin to teach it –but you do need to know where to point them if they need to relearn something. I don't expect you to memorize a declension but I expect you to know what it is and where to point your student to it if they need to review. Same with conjugations. Same with vocab. Same with latin sayings. Watch the video with the child while you are prepping dinner and that will do the trick. Have them come to class with that week's lesson watched so the teacher can review and get right into the assignment with them.

Biology with labs (afternoon class 1-2pm)—

- **Apologia Biology Science Textbook NEWEST edition (purchase or check on Apologia.com)**
- **Apologia Biology Science Notebook NEWEST edition (spiral bound notebook)**
- **Quizzes and Tests booklet NEWEST edition**
- **Answer Key Teacher Booklet NEWEST edition**
- **Optional: I highly recommend the DVD thumbdrive or vimeo lessons or ESPECIALLY the self paced option (see below for info on that)– the teacher on the video will teach the lessons that we don't get to in class**
- **If you don't get some sort of video option—that means that YOU are the teacher for all new content covered during the week. Remember, this is a 5 day a week class and we can't cover all teaching on Mondays so the other days of the week you will want someone teaching the material. This is where the video option is very helpful.**
- **Optional: audiobook if you have an audible learner (you still need the paper textbook though)—note: the audio is included in the Self Paced option.**

The afternoon class is an hour, but it is worth noting, it is a five day a week class.

Our focus on Mondays together will be to do the labs together and cover whatever material we can. There is no way we can cover 5 days of material *and* labs all in one hour on Monday. It will be needed at home reading.

Self paced: \$249 I heavily recommend the self paced option that Apologia offers. The biggest benefit is that it will grade the course for you online (the students completes all coursework and tests online). You do get all the above bullet points (digital and audio book, video lessons etc) included so it can be a *really* good deal--but please note—**you still need a physical copy of the textbook and notebook.** If your student attends a college that will require physical verification proof of labs for homeschoolers and the notebook will be something you want to save.

Composition - Varying IEW options: purchase student book, teacher's manual and DVD/streaming component if required.

Excelsior Classical Homeschool Books/Materials to Purchase for Each Grade Level

Timeline—Each student will have a personal Excelsior timeline book—a book to last a lifetime, it is a hard back, high quality. \$40 (note this is NOT the timeline book that MP offers) Excelsior provides this book to each new student.

We will add dates from Christian Studies, history (they'll be reading at home), from Literature and any other dates. You buy this from us and we bill it on tuition.

Classical Studies –

- ☐ **The Book of the Ancient Romans**
- ☐ **and The Book of the Ancient Romans student book**
- ☐ **Aeneid textbook (make sure to buy the edition MP publishes as there are other translations)** It also does help if we all have the same edition as the text because the teacher may say “flip to such and such page”. The teacher manual will have the answers and tell the teacher what page the answer is on. He or she may refer students to look at a certain page.
- ☐ **and the Aeneid student book** It also does help if we all have the same edition as the text because the teacher may say “flip to such and such page”. The teacher manual will have the answers and tell the teacher what page the answer is on. He or she may refer students to look at a certain page.

Optional:

- Teacher Guide (if you will be needing answers at home)
- DVD/streaming. The DVD is exceptionally well done. It goes deeper and makes more sense of the text. We will cover this in class but it could be helpful if more understanding is needed.

Prerequisite/suggestion: Students should read *The Aeneid for Boys and Girls* prior to the start of class. A basic knowledge of the ancient world in general and the Greeks in particular is also helpful. If you have no background in Ancient Greece “The Book of the Ancient Greeks” is what they read in 8th grade OR for a smaller read you could get “Famous Men of Greece” (what they read in 7th grade).

Literature/Poetry

We will cover some great British classics. The students will come to class having read the assigned chapter, gone over the vocab in the student guide and the comprehension questions and come ready to discuss in a Socratic discussion.

- ☐ **The British Tradition I textbook + student guide** (optional teacher guide*)
- ☐ **Beowulf (get MP's edition) textbook + student guide** (optional teacher guide*)
- ☐ **Sir Gawain and the Green Knight textbook + student guide** (optional teacher guide*)
- ☐ **A Midsummer Night's Dream textbook + student guide** (optional teacher guide*)
- ☐ **The Hound of Baskervilles textbook + student guide** (optional teacher guide*)
- ☐ **Book of the Middle Ages textbook and student guide** (optional teacher guide*)

Excelsior Classical Homeschool

Books/Materials to Purchase for Each Grade Level

- ☐ - the lesson plans will have students read 8 of the 22 chapters of this Middle Ages book to give them a bigger understanding of what is going on in the medieval literature that they will be reading. They won't be assigned to read the whole thing

Notes:

- 1) It does help if we all have the same edition as the text because the teacher may say "flip to such and such page". The teacher manual will have the answers and tell the teacher what page the answer is on. He or she may refer students to look at a certain page.
- 2) *you may want the Teacher guide if students get stuck on comprehension questions or if you have them take tests/quizzes. I usually start making my children take tests in 7th grade to prepare for high school (test taking is a skill) and we take grades in 8th to prepare for when it counts—in 9th.
- 3) We will use the student guides for discussion (they also have valuable vocabulary and reading prep items for at home)

Logic I and II – This is true Aristotelian Logic (not just fallacies—fallacies are a byproduct of true logic—we will learn the logic behind why fallacies are a fallacy).

- You for sure need the student book and textbook.
- My recommendation is to get the complete set with DVD or streaming – we'll cover content in class but Martin Cothran teaches this course on DVD and he is so good.
- The kids will think it is very easy the first semester but in the second semester it gets *harder*—even though we had this class on Mondays my kids needed to put the DVD in and hear it from Martin Cothran and break it all down slower. If they need any review it is great to pop him in and see him teach the lesson. So DVD/Streaming is optional but I recommend it.
- You'll want the Teacher Manual for answers and quizzes/test answers if you do those.

If your child is taking Windows to the World...

Windows to the World: An Introduction to Literary Analysis (published by IEW)

Why do certain literary works have the power to move us? With step-by-step instructions, *Windows to the World* teaches high school level students how to analyze elements of literature: setting, plot, characterization, imagery, allusions, parallelism, and much more. This course also gives numerous examples and suggestions for helping students develop Christian discernment skills.

Materials Needed

Text: [WTTW Textbook](#)

Novels: [To Kill a Mockingbird](#), [Jane Eyre](#), [Hamlet](#)

**Excelsior Classical Homeschool
Books/Materials to Purchase for Each Grade Level**

Things we won't cover in class but I heavily recommend for at home:

MATH (See the Appendix for MATH CURRICULUM RECOMMENDATIONS)

Modern History-

This text counts towards their “World History” Credit on transcripts. Renaissance and Reformation by Dorothy Mills (MP publishes this text and edits it)

Optional: student guide and teacher guide

Notes: Through Memoria Press they will get Medieval Europe in 10th grade, and Modern Europe in 11th grade - of which all 3 of these texts can be listed together as completing World History in 11th grade. In doing so they will have covered the history of the world from Medieval times through Modern (which is as much as an World History course anywhere offers. None cover the entire history of the world).

An alternate 1 year World History course I like that is video lecture based and self-paced online is by Larry Schweikert from the Wild World of History:

<https://www.wildworldofhistory.com/world-history>

Christian History— covering from Christ through the churches in Asia—an entire survey of Christianity

- MP offers the text for this course The Story of Christianity by David Hart
David Hart is an Anglican and his perspective is fairly in line with that. He doesn't seem to believe that the Word of God is literally true every word. This text requires Mom or Dad to be familiar with Christian history and the Bible or be willing to do the research to guide this text and impart a conservative Christian perspective.

AN ALTERNATIVE That felt easier/safer:

- I opted to do instead Introduction to the History of Christianity edited by Tim Dowley
- It was a good effortless read, it did a good job.
- I also supplemented with some actual writings from early Christians in Exploring Christian Heritage: A Reader in History and Theology by C. Douglas Weaver and Rady Roldan-Figueroa (editors)
- If you opt for this text option message me as I have a schedule I created to cover the text in 33 weeks

AN SECOND ALTERNATIVE:

New for 2025 Apologia is offering a [History of Christianity Live online course](#)

What about Spelling and Grammar? Memoria Press concludes Spelling in 6th grade. We appreciate that as it makes way for more time for higher levels of studies. I just always tell my kids “never let yourself spell a word incorrectly” and so we continue perfecting our spelling that way. I also never will allow them to spell a word incorrectly, whether it is a short note they've written, a letter to a friend, anything.

Excelsior Classical Homeschool Books/Materials to Purchase for Each Grade Level

Formal English Grammar, as a class subject, concludes in 8th grade for Memoria Press. But students will continue to learn grammar in Latin and Greek (which really is the best way to learn grammar. Grammar never made sense to me until I took Greek in college).

Excelsior Classical Homeschool
Books/Materials to Purchase for Each Grade Level

Tenth Grade Classes and Book List *(pages 62-68)*

Please purchase each **yellow highlighted** item below for your child's level.

CHOOSE ONE FORMAT FOR YOUR LESSON PLANS:

- ☐ **Tenth Grade Curriculum Manual**—this teaches you how to use the curriculum, has an appendix full of helps, and daily lesson plans. It is well worth \$30. Any of the appendix stuff that is meant to be copied is given to you as a pdf when you purchase from MP (that's a really nice perk). You never need to scan with Memoria Press. **OR**
- ☐ **NOTE: If you are not using all MP products they now offer a customizable curriculum manual.** You select which classes and it populates your customized manual. **PLEASE NOTE: If you choose the customized manual, lessons are set into specific weeks so if a specific class doesn't follow the normal schedule your manual may need to be adjusted by hand. Once it's printed it cannot be edited.** **OR**
- ☐ **You can print the specific pdf lesson plans yourself from our Excelsior MP account. This is the free option.** Please know that on rare occasions sometimes the pdf lesson plans will differ from the curriculum manual. If that happens I leave that up to the teacher to decide which will work better for co-op.

If you find you are buying a lot of the recommended items you may consider buying their package deal. It is discounted heavily and it may be a better deal if you are buying enough things.

Grammar and Upper School Planners

Once your student is old enough to write out their assignments and plan their week themselves, **I highly recommend getting a student planner like this one: [Elan Publishing Company Deluxe Full-Year Student Planner for High School 40 Weeks \(HS-90\)](#)**

And for students who are too young, this is still very beneficial for the moms who plan the younger kids' days.

While the lesson plans I mentioned above are SO incredibly helpful, if you follow them to a T it may not work very well for your life. Last year, I tried using this student planner with my upper school kids and they at first didn't see the point. They said, "We already have the lesson plans, why do we need this?" And I explained to them that it is in their benefit to assign the assignments from the lesson plan in a more balanced way. Perhaps you have sports or music lessons on a certain day and you need that day to be lighter—the lesson plans don't account for that. And while we do an entire day of school on Mondays, sometimes we are doing assignments from other days of the week, so if you are following the lesson plan exactly as given, your Tuesday might be a really huge day. I've had upper school kids complain that their Tuesday is a huge day because they have to do all that we didn't do on Monday and also all of Tuesday. Using this planner allows you to balance out the week in a way that will work for you and also puts them in charge of their week (with your guidance). Also, the teachers will assign assignments that are not in the student planner. Being able to write this in, and other items like

Excelsior Classical Homeschool Books/Materials to Purchase for Each Grade Level

the Science Fair, etc is very helpful and good training for life. After using it for a week or two the kids told me they felt like it was so crucial.

Bible-Christian Studies

The Amazing Collection student book will be very useful to assist students when they have their homework reading. To accomplish the goal of reading the entire Bible in 6 years (with summers off) students will be asked to read a small amount each week at home (about 30 min a week) without a teacher guiding them. The student book has maps and also Bible verses "baked" in so that will be really wonderful. We will quiz over Bible verses in class, they can earn house points. For many students it will be very helpful as it will assist students with their Bible reading homework so they have an understanding of what they are reading at home. See Appendix for the detailed 6 year plan.

For 2025-2026 All 7th-12th (Upper School) Bible classes will be going through the same 5 books of the Bible this year: Joshua-2 Kings: "The Kingdom Books". But what I love is that no matter what book they are in—the curriculum makes great effort to tie what they are learning back to the greater salvation message. So even though we won't be doing the Gospels for a while, we are always thinking about Jesus and what this text means in the grand plan of our walk with Jesus. We made great effort to ensure that the Bible homework reading will be predictable (around 30 min a week).

The Student Book to purchase \$12.56: [The Kingdom Books: Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1 Samuel, 2 Samuel, 1 Kings, and 2 Kings](#)

There is also a teacher guide \$25 if you want the answers or mom wants deeper insight (optional): [The Amazing Collection the Kingdom Books Teaching Curriculum: Joshua Through 2 Kings](#)

Bible Awards/Trophies/Points:

- **If you read the entire Bible you get the Bible trophy and pin**
 - note—you must have something on paper to demonstrate this for accountability sake. You have 1 of 3 choices:
 - Complete all of the Amazing collection books (this will naturally be done year by year at Excelsior, however if your student doesn't have 6 years left you can certainly buy any you will miss and complete on your own)
 - Complete the [MP Christian Studies IV student book](#) - it would be a much lighter option - less in-depth than *The Amazing Collection*-- it has fill in the blanks and is very well done with maps and key points they would fill in to demonstrate what they have read (*this is really only for students who are 8th grade+ and have missed some years of the Amazing Collection*)

Excelsior Classical Homeschool Books/Materials to Purchase for Each Grade Level

- Write a 5-6 sentence paragraph summary of each book they read. Could include key points and your thoughts/reflections. (*this is really only for students who are 8th grade+ and have missed some years of the Amazing Collection*)
 - Keep all together and show me upon completion to qualify for the award.
- **Bible Verse Memory:**
 - Students earn 1 point for their house for each correct word of the Bible verse they recite to their teacher on Mondays + a bonus 25 points for it being a Bible verse (there is a cap of 250 words for time's sake).
 - Ability to earn the Bible Verse Memory Pin
 - Recite 30 different verses in a year
 - verses must be longer than 15 words to be counted as a verse (so you can't do "Jesus wept.")
 - You must give Mrs. Abello a list of accomplished verses by the last Monday of co-op.

Latin—whichever Latin they should be in is the correct Latin (I always recommend buying everything they offer)—for 10th grade if they have progressed according to the MP homeschool schedule they'd be in Caesar and they'd need:

- ☐ · [Mueller's Caesar selections from De Bello Gallico](#)
- ☐ · [Mueller's Caesar Teacher Guide](#)
- ☐ · [Mueller's Caesar Lesson Plans](#)
- ☐ [Caesar & Vergil Flashcards](#)
- ☐ [Latin Grammar for the Grammar Stage](#) *This Latin grammar is a compendium of grammar forms and syntax in a systematic, concise, and easily accessible reference book. An essential resource for mastery and review.*

Composition - Varying IEW options -purchase student book, teacher's manual and DVD/streaming component if required.

If your child is taking Windows to the World...

Windows to the World: An Introduction to Literary Analysis (published by IEW)

Why do certain literary works have the power to move us? With step-by-step instructions, *Windows to the World* teaches high school level students how to analyze elements of literature: setting, plot, characterization, imagery, allusions, parallelism, and much more. This course also gives numerous examples and suggestions for helping students develop Christian discernment skills.

Materials Needed

Text: [WTTW Textbook](#)

Novels: [To Kill a Mockingbird](#), [Jane Eyre](#), [Hamlet](#)

Classical Studies

Excelsior Classical Homeschool Books/Materials to Purchase for Each Grade Level

- ☐ [Medea and Other Plays by Euripides](#)
- ☐ [Medea and Other Plays Student Guide](#)
- ☐ OPTIONAL [Medea and Other Plays Teacher Guide*](#)
- ☐ OPTIONAL [Medea and Other Plays Instructional Videos \(Streaming\)](#)
- ☐ [Three Theban Plays by Sophocles](#)
- ☐ [Three Theban Plays Student Guide](#)
- ☐ OPTIONAL [Three Theban Plays Teacher Guide*](#)
- ☐ OPTIONAL [Three Theban Plays Instructional Videos \(Streaming\)](#)
- ☐ [The Oresteian Trilogy by Aeschylus](#)
- ☐ [The Oresteian Trilogy Student Guide](#)
- ☐ OPTIONAL [The Oresteian Trilogy Teacher Guide*](#)
- ☐ OPTIONAL [The Oresteian Trilogy Instructional Videos \(Streaming\)](#)

Notes:

1. It does help if we all have the same edition as the text because the teacher may say “flip to such and such page”. The teacher manual will have the answers and tell the teacher what page the answer is on. He or she may refer students to look at a certain page.
2. You may want the Teacher guide if students get stuck on comprehension questions or if you have them take tests/quizzes. I usually start making my children take tests in 7th grade to prepare for high school (test taking is a skill) and we take grades in 8th to prepare for when it counts—in 9th.
3. We will use the student guides for discussion (they also have valuable vocabulary and reading prep items for at home)

Material Logic (*Prerequisite of Logic I and II—see 9th grade if you haven’t yet taken these courses*)

Note: This is a fall semester (one semester course). Upon completion of this course, in January, we will pick up with Medieval Europe. Students will be required to be completing Medieval Europe at home, following the lesson plan, and be ready to begin class with the book half completed.

- ☐ [Material Logic Student Text, Third Edition](#)
- ☐ [Material Logic Student Workbook, Third Edition](#)
- ☐ [Material Logic Teacher Key, Third Edition](#)
- ☐ [Material Logic Quizzes & Test, Third Edition](#)
- ☐ [Material Logic Instructional Videos \(Streaming\), 2nd Edition](#)

Excelsior Classical Homeschool

Books/Materials to Purchase for Each Grade Level

History

Note: Students will begin this course at home for the first semester while we are doing Material Logic. Material Logic is a fall, one semester course. Upon completion of Material Logic, in January, we will pick up with Medieval Europe. Students will be required to be completing Medieval Europe at home, following the lesson plan, and be ready to begin class with the book half completed.

- ☐ [A History of Medieval Europe: From Constantine to Saint Louis, Third Edition](#)
- ☐ [A History of Medieval Europe Student Guide](#)
- ☐ [A History of Medieval Europe Teacher Guide](#)
- ☐ OPTIONAL FOR AT HOME: [A History of Medieval Europe Quizzes & Tests](#)

Literature & Poetry

- ☐ [Pride and Prejudice](#)
- ☐ [Pride & Prejudice Student Guide](#)
- ☐ OPTIONAL [Pride & Prejudice Teacher Guide*](#)
- ☐ [Macbeth Textbook](#)
- ☐ [Macbeth Student Guide](#)
- ☐ OPTIONAL [Macbeth Teacher Guide*](#)
- ☐ [The Scarlet Letter](#)
- ☐ [The Scarlet Letter Student Guide](#)
- ☐ OPTIONAL [The Scarlet Letter Teacher Guide*](#)
- ☐ [Romeo & Juliet](#)
- ☐ [Romeo & Juliet Student Guide](#)
- ☐ [Romeo & Juliet Teacher Manual](#)
- ☐ [Poetry & Prose II: The Elizabethan to the Neoclassical Ages, Third Edition](#)
- ☐ [Poetry & Prose II: The Elizabethan to the Neoclassical Age Student Guide, Third Edition](#)
- ☐ OPTIONAL [Poetry & Prose II: The Elizabethan to the Neoclassical Age Teacher Guide, Third Edition*](#)

Notes:

4. It does help if we all have the same edition as the text because the teacher may say “flip to such and such page”. The teacher manual will have the answers and tell the teacher what page the answer is on. He or she may refer students to look at a certain page.
5. You may want the Teacher guide if students get stuck on comprehension questions or if you have them take tests/quizzes. I usually start making my children take tests in 7th grade to prepare for high school (test taking is a skill) and we take grades in 8th to prepare for when it counts—in 9th.
6. We will use the student guides for discussion (they also have valuable vocabulary and reading prep items for at home)

Excelsior Classical Homeschool Books/Materials to Purchase for Each Grade Level

Science—

- ☐ Apologia Chemistry Student Notebook (spiral bound) and Textbook
- ☐ Chemistry Self Paced Course Online [You should heavily consider getting the self paced course.](#) Remember that you are the teacher the other 4 days of the week. Self paced will grade and play teaching videos etc. In class we will prioritize labs and if there is time, then we go over whatever they were to have read. But it will be lab heavy. The self pace course teacher videos will provide instruction to the textbook. Also, it will grade the tests for you online (the students can complete the tests online). You do get all the above bullet points (digital and audio book, video lessons etc) included so it can be a *really* good deal--but please note—**you still need a physical copy of the textbook and notebook.** If your student attends a college that will require physical verification proof of labs for homeschoolers and the notebook will be something you want to save.

Things we won't cover in class but I recommend for at home:

MATH (See the Appendix for MATH CURRICULUM RECOMMENDATIONS)

Christian History

Students are invited to continue on from a historical study of the Hebrew people to an investigation of the history of the Church. This was so evidently necessary to Christians of the fourth century that one of their own, Eusebius, the bishop of Caesarea, wrote the first book to recount the struggles and victories of the first followers of Christ. Students can now dedicate an entire year to learning the material those Christians began investigating almost 1,700 years ago.

In this course, Henry Chadwick's The Early Church is used as the main text. Students are directed to Eusebius' History of the Church when ancient testimony is appropriate.

- ☐ · [The Early Church](#) by Chadwick
- ☐ · [The History of the Church](#) by Eusebius
- ☐ · [The History of the Early Church Student Guide](#)
- ☐ · [The History of the Early Church Teacher Guide](#)

Excelsior Classical Homeschool Books/Materials to Purchase for Each Grade Level

What about Spelling and Grammar? Memoria Press Concludes Spelling in 7th grade. We appreciate that as it makes way for more time for higher levels of studies. I just always tell my kids “never let yourself spell a word incorrectly” and so we continue perfecting our spelling that way. I also never will allow them to spell a word incorrectly, whether it is a short note they’ve written, a letter to a friend, anything.

Formal English Grammar, as a class subject, concludes in 8th grade for Memoria Press. But students will continue to learn grammar in Latin and Greek (which really is the best way to learn grammar. Grammar never made sense to me until I took Greek in college).

**Excelsior Classical Homeschool
Books/Materials to Purchase for Each Grade Level**

Eleventh Grade Classes and Book List *(pages 69-73)*

Please purchase each **yellow highlighted** item below for your child's level.

Stricken classes are currently waitlisted until we get 3 students to enroll (don't purchase these books if you see they are stricken, reach out to Pauline first)

Lesson Plans

You can print the specific pdf lesson plans yourself from our Excelsior MP account. This is a free option.

If your teacher is Alexander Young, he will often provide his own lesson plans. In that case, follow those.

Grammar and Upper School Planners

I highly recommend getting a student planner like this one: [Elan Publishing Company Deluxe Full-Year Student Planner for High School 40 Weeks \(HS-90\)](#)

Bible-Christian Studies

The Amazing Collection student book will be very useful to assist students when they have their homework reading. To accomplish the goal of reading the entire Bible in 6 years (with summers off) students will be asked to read a small amount each week at home (about 30 min a week) without a teacher guiding them. The student book has maps and also Bible verses "baked" in so that will be really wonderful. We will quiz over Bible verses in class, they can earn house points. For many students it will be very helpful as it will assist students with their Bible reading homework so they have an understanding of what they are reading at home. See Appendix for the detailed 6 year plan.

For 2025-2026 All 7th-12th (Upper School) Bible classes will be going through the same 5 books of the Bible this year: Joshua-2 Kings: "The Kingdom Books". But what I love is that no matter what book they are in—the curriculum makes great effort to tie what they are learning back to the greater salvation message. So even though we won't be doing the Gospels for a while, we are always thinking about Jesus and what this text means in the grand plan of our walk with Jesus. We made great effort to ensure that the Bible homework reading will be predictable (around 30 min a week).

The Student Book to purchase \$12.56: [The Kingdom Books: Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1 Samuel, 2 Samuel, 1 Kings, and 2 Kings](#)

There is also a teacher guide \$25 if you want the answers or mom wants deeper insight (optional): [The Amazing Collection the Kingdom Books Teaching Curriculum: Joshua Through 2 Kings](#)

Excelsior Classical Homeschool Books/Materials to Purchase for Each Grade Level

Bible Awards/Trophies/Points:

- **If you read the entire Bible you get the Bible trophy and pin**
 - note—you must have something on paper to demonstrate this for accountability sake. You have 1 of 3 choices:
 - Complete all of the Amazing collection books (this will naturally be done year by year at Excelsior, however if your student doesn't have 6 years left you can certainly buy any you will miss and complete on your own)
 - Complete the [MP Christian Studies IV student book](#) - it would be a much lighter option - less in-depth than *The Amazing Collection*-- it has fill in the blanks and is very well done with maps and key points they would fill in to demonstrate what they have read (*this is really only for students who are 8th grade+ and have missed some years of the Amazing Collection*)
 - Write a 5-6 sentence paragraph summary of each book they read. Could include key points and your thoughts/reflections. (*this is really only for students who are 8th grade+ and have missed some years of the Amazing Collection*)
 - Keep all together and show me upon completion to qualify for the award.
- **Bible Verse Memory:**
 - Students earn 1 point for their house for each correct word of the Bible verse they recite to their teacher on Mondays + a bonus 25 points for it being a Bible verse (there is a cap of 250 words for time's sake).
 - Ability to earn the Bible Verse Memory Pin
 - Recite 30 different verses in a year
 - verses must be longer than 15 words to be counted as a verse (so you can't do "Jesus wept.")
 - You must give Mrs. Abello a list of accomplished verses by the last Monday of co-op.

Latin—

- ~~[Henle Latin Third Year Complete Set](#)~~
- ~~[Latin Grammar for the Grammar Stage](#) This Latin grammar is a compendium of grammar forms and syntax in a systematic, concise, and easily accessible reference book. An essential resource for mastery and review.~~

If your student is new to latin they should not begin at Henle III. Check out my [article on latin placement](#) and scroll to the end to find the chart on latin placement for older children.

Whichever year is the appropriate level and trust me you need the whole set. If they didn't do Latina Christiana that's fine—it is not a prerequisite to First Form Latin—but if they

Excelsior Classical Homeschool Books/Materials to Purchase for Each Grade Level

haven't done First Form Latin that is the class they will start on. Like math, latin builds.

They will come to class having watched the video. We expect our moms to also watch as well. You are not required to do the workbooks like the students nor memorize the words, but we ask that all homeschool parents begin the process of *understanding* Latin as we are not a 5 day a week school and you are required to teach your child some in Latin. You don't have to know Latin to teach it –but you do need to know where to point them if they need to relearn something. I don't expect you to memorize a declension but I expect you to know what it is and where to point your student to it if they need to review. Same with conjugations. Same with vocab. Same with latin sayings. Watch the video with the child while you are prepping dinner and that will do the trick. Have them come to class with that week's lesson watched so the teacher can review and get right into the assignment with them.

COMPOSITION

Varying IEW options -purchase student book, teacher's manual and DVD/streaming component if required.

If your child is taking Windows to the World...

Windows to the World: An Introduction to Literary Analysis (published by IEW)

Why do certain literary works have the power to move us? With step-by-step instructions, *Windows to the World* teaches high school level students how to analyze elements of literature: setting, plot, characterization, imagery, allusions, parallelism, and much more. This course also gives numerous examples and suggestions for helping students develop Christian discernment skills.

Materials Needed

Text: [WTTW Textbook](#)

Novels: [To Kill a Mockingbird](#), [Jane Eyre](#), [Hamlet](#)

Timeline—Each student will have a personal Excelsior timeline book—a book to last a lifetime, it is a hard back, high quality. \$40 (note this is NOT the timeline book that MP offers)

We will add dates from Christian Studies, history (they'll be reading at home), from Literature and any other dates. You buy this from us and we bill it on tuition.

SIGN UP TO BE ON WAITLIST FOR THE FOLLOWING STRICKEN COURSES - I can form a class if I get 3 or more students (3 or more from different families—that way if one family is absent we still have a class of atleast 2).

Classical Studies

Excelsior Classical Homeschool Books/Materials to Purchase for Each Grade Level

~~Complete sets (teacher guide, student guide, textbook) of:~~

☐ ~~—The Republic and Laws~~

☐ ~~—On Obligations~~

☐ ~~—The City of God~~

Note: It does help if we all have the same edition as the text because the teacher may say “flip to such and such page”. The teacher manual will have the answers and tell the teacher what page the answer is on. He or she may refer students to look at a certain page.

Excelsior Classical Homeschool Books/Materials to Purchase for Each Grade Level

History—

A History of Europe In the Modern World (get the current edition MP is selling)
in MP Catalog Buy:

- ☐ ~—Student Workbook
- ☐ ~—Textbook
- ☐ ~—Teacher Manual for answer keys
- ☐ ~—Quizzes/Tests booklet

The textbook is very expensive—it must be the newest edition. The newest 12th edition came “unbound.” You can take it to Staples or OfficeMax for a minimal amount and they can bind it for you. I recommend binding into 2 books. Have them put a clear cover on front and a black plastic cover on the back. That worked very well for backpacks.

OPTIONAL for at home: I really like the Wild World of History Streaming Video Course – it’s a great supplement and different perspective.

Literature Class

- ☐ **Divine Comedy**
- ☐ **Buy complete set teacher guide, student guide, textbook**

Note: It does help if we all have the same edition as the text because the teacher may say “flip to such and such page”. The teacher manual will have the answers and tell the teacher what page the answer is on. He or she may refer students to look at a certain page.

Things we won’t cover in class but I heavily recommend for at home:

MATH (See the Appendix for MATH CURRICULUM RECOMMENDATIONS)

Excelsior Classical Homeschool
Books/Materials to Purchase for Each Grade Level

Twelfth Grade Classes and Book List *(pages 71-77)*

(yellow highlights are items you need to buy)

Lesson Plans

You can print the specific pdf lesson plans yourself from our Excelsior MP account. This is a free option.

If your teacher is Alexander Young, he will often provide his own lesson plans. In that case, follow those.

Upper School Planners

I highly recommend getting a student planner like this one: [Elan Publishing Company Deluxe Full-Year Student Planner for High School 40 Weeks \(HS-90\)](#)

Bible-Christian Studies

The Amazing Collection student book will be very useful to assist students when they have their homework reading. To accomplish the goal of reading the entire Bible in 6 years (with summers off) students will be asked to read a small amount each week at home (about 30 min a week) without a teacher guiding them. The student book has maps and also Bible verses "baked" in so that will be really wonderful. We will quiz over Bible verses in class, they can earn house points. For many students it will be very helpful as it will assist students with their Bible reading homework so they have an understanding of what they are reading at home. See Appendix for the detailed 6 year plan.

For 2025-2026 All 7th-12th (Upper School) Bible classes will be going through the same 5 books of the Bible this year: Joshua-2 Kings: "The Kingdom Books". But what I love is that no matter what book they are in—the curriculum makes great effort to tie what they are learning back to the greater salvation message. So even though we won't be doing the Gospels for a while, we are always thinking about Jesus and what this text means in the grand plan of our walk with Jesus. We made great effort to ensure that the Bible homework reading will be predictable (around 30 min a week).

The Student Book to purchase \$12.56: [The Kingdom Books: Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1 Samuel, 2 Samuel, 1 Kings, and 2 Kings](#)

There is also a teacher guide \$25 if you want the answers or mom wants deeper insight (optional): [The Amazing Collection the Kingdom Books Teaching Curriculum: Joshua Through 2 Kings](#)

Bible Awards/Trophies/Points:

- If you read the entire Bible you get the Bible trophy and pin

Excelsior Classical Homeschool Books/Materials to Purchase for Each Grade Level

- note—you must have something on paper to demonstrate this for accountability sake. You have 1 of 3 choices:
 - Complete all of the Amazing collection books (this will naturally be done year by year at Excelsior, however if your student doesn't have 6 years left you can certainly buy any you will miss and complete on your own)
 - Complete the [MP Christian Studies IV student book](#) - it would be a much lighter option - less in-depth than *The Amazing Collection*-- it has fill in the blanks and is very well done with maps and key points they would fill in to demonstrate what they have read (*this is really only for students who are 8th grade+ and have missed some years of the Amazing Collection*)
 - Write a 5-6 sentence paragraph summary of each book they read. Could include key points and your thoughts/reflections. (*this is really only for students who are 8th grade+ and have missed some years of the Amazing Collection*)
- Keep all together and show me upon completion to qualify for the award.
- **Bible Verse Memory:**
 - Students earn 1 point for their house for each correct word of the Bible verse they recite to their teacher on Mondays + a bonus 25 points for it being a Bible verse (there is a cap of 250 words for time's sake).
 - Ability to earn the Bible Verse Memory Pin
 - Recite 30 different verses in a year
 - verses must be longer than 15 words to be counted as a verse (so you can't do "Jesus wept.")

You must give Mrs. Abello a list of accomplished verses by the last Monday of co-op.

Literature

Purchase the student guide and textbook (OPTIONAL teacher guide*):

- ☐ [A Tale of Two Cities by Charles Dickens](#)
- ☐ [Hamlet by William Shakespeare](#)
- ☐ [Macbeth by William Shakespeare](#)
- ☐ [Anna Karenina by Leo Tolstoy](#)
- ☐ [British Tradition III: Poetry: The Romantic to the Victorian Age](#)

Notes:

- 1) It does help if we all have the same edition as the text because the teacher may say "flip to such and such page". The teacher manual will have the answers and tell the teacher what page the answer is on. He or she may refer students to look at a certain page.
- 2) *you may want the Teacher guide if students get stuck on comprehension questions or if you have them take test/quizzes. I usually start making my children take tests in 7th grade to prepare for high school (test taking is a skill) and we take grades in 8th to prepare for when it counts—in 9th.
- 3) We will use the student guides for discussion (they also have valuable vocabulary and reading prep items for at home)

Excelsior Classical Homeschool Books/Materials to Purchase for Each Grade Level

Latin

If your student is new to latin they should not begin at Vergil. Check out my [article on latin placement](#) and scroll to the end to find the chart on latin placement for older children.

- ☐ [Vergil's Aeneid](#) – *Designed to prepare students for the AP Test*
- ☐ [Teacher's Manual](#)
- ☐ [Vocabulary Cards](#) ([you may have already purchased these if you took Caesar 2 years ago with us](#))

Christian Apologetics

- ☐ [Orthodoxy by G.K. Chesterton](#)
- ☐ [Mere Christianity by C.S. Lewis](#)

Introduction to Philosophy

- ☐ [The Last Days of Socrates: The Last Days of Socrates - Memoria Press: Classical Education](#)
- ☐ [The Nature of the Gods by Cicero: The Nature of the Gods | Memoria Press: Classical Education](#)
- ☐ [The Consolation of Philosophy: The Consolation of Philosophy By Boethius](#)
- ☐ [A Shorter Summa](#) (Thomas Aquinas) by Kreeft

Composition - any of the IEW courses (always get the student, teacher, and streaming if required)

If your child is taking Windows to the World...

Windows to the World: An Introduction to Literary Analysis (published by IEW)

Why do certain literary works have the power to move us? With step-by-step instructions, *Windows to the World* teaches high school level students how to analyze elements of literature: setting, plot, characterization, imagery, allusions, parallelism, and much more. This course also gives numerous examples and suggestions for helping students develop Christian discernment skills.

Materials Needed

Text: [WTTW Textbook](#)

Novels: [To Kill a Mockingbird](#), [Jane Eyre](#), [Hamlet](#)

Excelsior Classical Homeschool Books/Materials to Purchase for Each Grade Level

American History:

- ☐ Generations: America in God's Providence Textbook only (I have 5 copies of this textbook so please don't buy one—check with me first)([America In God's Providence Textbooks](#)) - we will use this as a supplement to the below streaming course - we won't read it all—they do a good job of covering Christian history in America. The below course does too—this is just another good perspective.
- ☐ [Wild World of History: American History Streaming Course](#) (this will be used for the at home instruction)- we will base our in class on these videos, the supplemental reading from the above textbook, and the discussion guides he provides in this course. Students will use his tests as well for at home (if parents choose). This course is geared towards taking the AP American history exam or the CLEP American history exams 1 and 2 (both for college credit).

Excelsior Classical Homeschool
Books/Materials to Purchase for Each Grade Level

Appendix:

Backpack Shopping List:

I have segmented this list to 3 different categories-- Primary (K-2nd), Grammar (3rd-6th) and Upper School (7th-12th). Feel Free to scroll down to the header that applies to you.

Primary students (Kinder-2nd) Backpack Shopping List

- Water bottle
- Snack they can grab and go.
 - Try and choose something that if they are having a "messy" day it won't get everywhere
 - example: popcorn is such a mess on the ground,
 - or really juicy fruit like a ripe peach ends up all over their shirt and sticky
 - Choose something that is easy to grab - keep in the front pocket of their backpack so they don't have to dig through their lunch box while teacher is waiting for them to go outside
 - examples might be:
 - fruit leathers
 - those apple sauces you can squeeze
 - beef jerky stick
 - Lara bar
- Lunch
 - lunchbox
 - coolpacks if needed
- Backpack that will fit a standard sized binder (*some little kid backpacks can be really tiny*)
 - a 16" backpack is a good size
 - if they have some exterior pockets that is very helpful
 - interior organization pockets is great too
- BACKPACK MATERIALS (*some will be used more than others but always have on hand*):
 - scissors
 - glue sticks
 - washable crayons like Crayola or colored pencils
- 4 sharpened pencils (**used every week**)
 - We don't have a pencil sharpener in class and we don't want the teachers to have to deal with all the shavings from the little handheld one
 - keep them sharpened each week - if they have 4 sharpened pencils they won't need a pencil sharpener
- no pens please
- Consumables (books the kids write in):

Excelsior Classical Homeschool Books/Materials to Purchase for Each Grade Level

- Each week look at your Curriculum Guide/Lesson Plans for Monday and include the consumable books that are needed for that day,
- make sure you are keeping up with when they start a new reader as it will be on Mondays.
- Any reader needed (kinder and first) or chapter books (second grade)
- No need to include flash cards, or teacher guides.

Grammar School students (3rd-6th) Backpack Shopping List

- Backpack that will fit a standard size binder (Look for an 18"-20" backpack at this age)
 - Exterior Pockets are helpful to grab a pencil quickly
 - interior organization pockets are helpful to keep books sorted
 - Solutions for the heaviness of books
 - A rolling backpack is a great option as books get heavier
 - [example of a good 18" one we bought in the past on Amazon](#) and really liked
 - [and here is a 20" one](#) we own and like
 - A rolling utility cart is fine too, as long as you know it may need to be left outside the classroom like a "portable locker" if the teacher requests it
 - [Amazon example](#)
 - they are fine to use if that is helpful to your family, they seemed to be very popular amongst the older kids
 - Christ Church Anglican has much smaller classrooms, thus at times I have asked my students to leave the rolling carts outside at times (almost like a portable locker, they can leave outside and grab just what they need to bring in to the class period)
- · BACKPACK MATERIALS:
 - Scissors
 - colored pencils for geography (*not markers please*)
 - 4 sharpened pencils (**used every week**)
 - We don't have a pencil sharpener in class and we don't want the teachers to have to deal with all the shavings from the little handheld one
 - keep them sharpened each week - if they have 4 sharpened pencils they won't need a pencil sharpener
- Consumables and textbooks
 - the books that will be used in class that day.
 - Take a look at the Curriculum Manual or Lesson Plans and students should take notes on what the teachers request - sometimes the teachers will have them read the chapter a week ahead of the schedule so that they come ready to discuss on Monday (they may need a student planner for that purpose)
 - Consumables (the books that will be used and written in class that day.)
 - see the shopping list for specific list of books
 - Science notebooking journal and textbook.

Excelsior Classical Homeschool Books/Materials to Purchase for Each Grade Level

- Excelsior Timeline Book (*used every week in Bible and History Classes*)
- Water bottle
- Snack (optional): non-messy snack

Upper School students (7th-12th) Backpack Shopping List

- Backpack that will fit a standard size binder (Look for an 18"-20" backpack at this age)
 - Exterior Pockets are helpful to grab a pencil quickly
 - interior organization pockets are helpful to keep books sorted
 - In highschool the books start to get really heavy, especially as the books get fatter.
 - Science books and notebooks are twice the size, etc.
 - I feel like 9th-10th are the heaviest book years. 11th and 12th are lighter book-wise. Unless you are taking science, then those are really heavy books no matter what.
 - L.L. Bean makes some of the best backpacks--especially the larger ones.
 - They used to have a ["portable locker" backpack that was 19"](#) and my boys have been using theirs for 3 years STILL. Derek II is taking his to college this year. Been on camping trips. and he is ROUGH on his stuff. He broke the top carry handle from overloading it but other than that it is in perfect condition. Totally worth the cost.
 - Since they discontinued the portable locker pack they do have other large backpacks that are similar (18") and expand large. I think the ["Explorer Backpack"](#) is probably the most comparable.
 - My sons never wanted the rolling backpacks so these are good options if they are going to muscle it
 - Solutions for the heaviness of books
 - A rolling backpack is a great option as books get heavier
 - [example of a good 18" one we bought in the past on Amazon](#) and really liked
 - [and here is a 20" one](#) we own and like
 - A rolling utility cart is fine too, as long as you know it may need to be left outside the classroom like a "portable locker" if the teacher requests it
 - [Amazon example](#)
 - they are fine to use if that is helpful to your family, they seemed to be very popular amongst the older kids
 - Christ Church Anglican has much smaller classrooms, thus at times I have asked my students to leave the rolling carts outside at times (almost like a portable locker, they can leave outside and grab just what they need to bring in to the class period)
- · BACKPACK MATERIALS:
 - highlighter

Excelsior Classical Homeschool Books/Materials to Purchase for Each Grade Level

- 4 sharpened pencils (**used every week**)
 - We don't have a pencil sharpener in class and we don't want the teachers to have to deal with all the shavings from the little handheld one
 - keep them sharpened each week - if they have 4 sharpened pencils they won't need a pencil sharpener
- Consumables and textbooks
 - the books that will be used in class that day.
 - Take a look at the Curriculum Manual or Lesson Plans and students should take notes on what the teachers request - sometimes the teachers will have them read the chapter a week ahead of the schedule so that they come ready to discuss on Monday (they may need a student planner for that purpose)
 - Consumables (the books that will be used and written in class that day.)
 - see the shopping list for specific list of books
 - Science notebooking journal and textbook.
 - Excelsior Timeline Book (*used every week in Bible and History Classes*)
 - Bible + Amazing Collection student book
- water bottle
- Snack (optional): non-messy snack
 - no gum allowed
- No need to include flash cards, or teacher guides.
- Lunch
 - lunchbox
 - coolpacks if needed

**Excelsior Classical Homeschool
Books/Materials to Purchase for Each Grade Level**

Excelsior Upper School Students: Reading the Entire Bible in Six Years Summary

1. Subject: Bible with teaching guided by *The Amazing Collection*
2. Grade/Level: 7th-12th Grade
3. Objective: Complete a thorough study of the sixty-six books of the Bible while reading the text of Scripture along the way.
4. Time Allotment: Monday classes from 9:20-10AM for teaching + discussion; at-home Bible Reading Plan based on approximately 30 minutes of reading per week for the in-session Excelsior meeting months (a very minimal amount of reading with summers off to accomplish reading the entire Bible in 6 years during co-op).
5. Materials: *The Amazing Collection Teaching Guide + Student Workbook*, Reading Plan curated by Kristen Rutter

Six Year Plan

Beginning in 7th grade, students will “on board” at any level depending on what we are offering that year. They do not have to start at “the beginning.” Should students join after 7th grade and want to try and still read the entire Bible and thus earn the Bible award, they can use this schedule to see what the future projections are and what they would need to read to complete the entire Bible.

Year 1: Pentateuch (2024-2025)

- Set 1: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy

Year 2: Kingdom Books (2025-2026)

- Set 2: Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1 + 2 Samuel, 1 + 2 Kings

Year 3: Post-Exilic Books + Poetical Books (2026-2027)

- Set 3: 1 + 2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther
- Set 4: Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon

Year 4 : Major Prophets (2027-2028)

- Set 5: Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, Daniel

Year 5: Early Minor Prophets + Later Minor Prophets + New Testament Historical Books (2028-2029)

- Set 6: Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah

**Excelsior Classical Homeschool
Books/Materials to Purchase for Each Grade Level**

- Set 7: Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephania, Haggi, Zachariah, Malachi
- Set 8: Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Acts

Year 6: Paul's Letters to Churches + Paul's Letters to Pastors + Other Letters & Revelation (2029-2030)

- Set 9: Romans, 1 + 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 1 + 2 Thessalonians
- Set 10: 1 + 2 Timothy, Titus, Philemon Set 11: Hebrews, James, 1 + 2 Peter, 1 + 2 + 3 John, Jude, Revelation

Links to Materials:

To preview: <https://www.bigdreamministries.org/preview-materials/the-amazing-collection/>

To purchase:

https://www.amazon.com/stores/Big-Dream-Ministries/author/B0749RQVZC?ref=ap_rdr&isDramIn tegrated=true&shoppingPortalEnabled=true

Excelsior Classical Homeschool Books/Materials to Purchase for Each Grade Level

Math Recommendations

Here are my recommendations— I will add to these as I get reviews from other mothers on what worked and what they like:

Easier Math Curriculum:

Math U See - Daily Workload (15-20 problems depending on level)

(Pauline's review - I have used this curriculum at every level through Algebra 2)

Positives: Christian owner and creator. Uses math manipulatives designed by Steve Demme that help you see what you are learning. If you are looking for a lighter, less intense curriculum, this is a very, very good one. And it goes all the way to calculus so you have continuity. Very low parent involvement. The kids can watch the 5-10 min video and do the lesson. However, once they get to Algebra, you really should do the teacher key practice problems with them. A 10 min video is not sufficient to teach the method. Also, as they get older, they must be taught that they need to pause the video and work the problems as he is teaching them. The problems are far too complex to sit and just watch, they really need to treat his videos like a class.

Downsides: You'll need to work out how you use the answer key— I often let my own children check and sometimes they would be tempted to cheat and then I'd have to take the answer key away and manually grade myself. Then I'd get behind on grading so they weren't getting the immediate feedback they needed.

With so few problems you can't cover as much ground as some of the rigorous ones. It is probably not the curriculum to choose if students are looking to be highly competitive on math (such as the SAT) or if you need a lot of accountability (at this time there is no digital support system). I have done Math U See classes with Veritas Press but was disappointed as the teachers didn't really teach the method (they just taught how they knew) and it was very expensive, and, like a normal school, we had to follow their calendar which was tough with vacations.

Ultimately I switched to Nicole the Math Lady as 1) my first two children did not do well on the math portion of the SAT and I felt like they were under prepared—partially because the curriculum was on the easier side, less drill, less repetition baked in, but also because 2) for years I needed MORE accountability. Math would fall off the wagon a lot. When digital components that provide grading/accountability/immediate feedback started surfacing for math I knew this is what I needed and Math U See didn't have anything like that in the works.

Medium Level Math

Rod and Staff

(I have never used but have seen the first and second grade books since it is what MP recommends and I taught it some 2 years at Excelsior -if someone wanted to add to this review it would be helpful)

Rod and Staff is what is recommended by MP. It is a good classic math curriculum. At kindergarten level it's not too much—2 pages big font. By 2nd grade it can be 3 pages of math problems - twice as much as Math U See. They place a lot of emphasis on drill work. Drill, drill, drill. A child given to

Excelsior Classical Homeschool Books/Materials to Purchase for Each Grade Level

daydreaming can take 30-60 min to complete with plenty of nagging. It can be a chore. It feels like a repeat to what is in their Math Challenge books. And then Rod and Staff has their own drill books. I have moms who really have liked R&S. By 6th grade MP has you switch to a new curriculum. There are games in the teacher manual you are supposed to play, as well as teacher instruction. There is no digital support (it is created by Mennonites).

For K-6 I would recommend Singapore over this math at this time of my review.

Harder, more rigorous (also covers more ground):

Singapore Math (through 5th or 6th grade)

(Pauline's review)

Positives: Designed by a woman who grew up in Singapore (one of the wealthiest countries per capita—its a separate country from China— a large island below Malaysia, south of Thailand). Singapore math is based on Western Math, but they have perfected it, and they have some of the best testing math students in the world. (As of 2026 I have used 1st, 2nd, and 3rd grade and been highly impressed). It really focuses on training your student to do mental math. I highly recommend using with Nicole the Math Lady (she teaches the lesson (recorded), she'll stop and have them enter an answer as she teaches, then continue on. After lesson, they will enter their answers into a computer or Ipad works too, so you get an email when they complete the daily assignment, what problems they missed, what chapters they came from, in doing so they get immediate feedback if wrong or right). You must use the version called "Dimensions". It is the original version, it only goes to 5th grade. They have a newer US version called "Primary Mathematics" and that one goes to 6th grade. Nicole the Math Lady uses "Dimensions".

It is a better curriculum than Math U See in terms of covering more ground and teaching students to see the problems. In Math U See, there was only one way to "see" the math (using his manipulatives) but in Singapore they "see" the math too, but they will show it in many different ways using all the manipulatives you buy and also on paper visually. You really want to get the classroom teacher manual (they sell these through their website or even at many homeschool stores). They often sell you the homeschool teacher guide but the classroom one has games and is in color so it matches the lesson pages making it easier to find your way around, you really just want that one. I find the games are like using flashcards, and though they take extra time to do, they are highly effective of hammering home the concept but through play.

Downsides: You shouldn't switch to this curriculum if you are starting after 3rd grade. 3rd grade is really the limit to pick up their methods. You also have to invest in a ton of little math manipulatives. Using the teacher guide, the games will call for all sorts of different little things. Which is fun, but an investment to shop and store all the things. It has easily 4-5x as many problems as Math U See. You have a color lesson book, that Nicole the Math Lady teaches from (or you teach from) and these are meant to be guided practice problems. Then you play a game (you really should play the games—they are awesome and in the classroom teacher manuals only), and then you head to the black and white student workbook where they actually do the homework. Math will take an hour+ even in 1st grade, whereas Math U See might be 20 min.

Excelsior Classical Homeschool Books/Materials to Purchase for Each Grade Level

Saxon

Upsides (and intro): This curriculum has been around since the 1980's, created by John Saxon. It is a no-nonsense highly rigorous curriculum. It has double the problems that were in the Math U See book and they are challenging. Most of the private schools use Saxon. For so long, I'd hear moms coming from Great Hearts (or other private schools) to homeschooling and try Saxon and struggle and ultimately give up. And I see why-- It is MUCH harder (twice as many problems but covers far more ground) than Math U See-- however, with the support of Nicole the Math Lady (she teaches the lesson (recorded), she'll stop and have them enter an answer as she teaches, then continue on. After lesson, they will enter their answers into a computer or Ipad works too, so you get an email when they complete the daily assignment, what problems they missed, what chapters they came from, in doing so they get immediate feedback if wrong or right) — all these things that have been lacking with Math U See for me, makes it doable. I also really like how all the homework has, next to each problem number, what chapter that content came from in case you need to review. It is a little thing but oh so helpful!

Time will tell if it actually does help on the SAT (so not yet sure if that is the magic bullet)—and then you have to decide if you care that much about the SAT too. But if you are looking for a rigorous math curriculum - this is it.

Downsides: It takes twice as long as Math U See. Maybe 3x as long some days. There are definitely way more problems. You aren't supposed to write in the book (but by the time we got to Algebra there really wasn't room to write in the book in Math U see either). I had a hard time keeping up with Math U See without any digital accountability, I'm not sure how anyone would keep up with Saxon without it, unless maybe that was an area that you were just naturally good at (a good habit of grading daily etc).

My current recommendation:

I personally recommend using Singapore through 5th grade and then switching to Saxon. Singapore Dimensions only goes to 5th grade anyway. It gives them that strong foundation of mental math and then when it is time to switch, Saxon does a good job of covering the upper levels of math.