

The Golden Curriculum

In following a classical curriculum, Regina Mater follows the model of revisiting four time periods in each of the 3 stages of student development, which are defined as the “grammar stage” (roughly grades 1-4), the “logic stage” (roughly grades 5-8), and the “rhetoric stage” (grades 9-12). Although the time periods are revisited, the material covered in each stage increases in complexity.

Regina Mater has followed this classical model since its founding, but we are now aligning all three stages (school-wide) to the same time period.

This document defines the new alignment, and provides specific curriculum details for the time period to be covered in the 2015-2016 school year.

Four Year Study Cycle

2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
Ancient Studies 3000B.C. - 400A.D.	Medieval and Renaissance Studies 400-1492A.D.	Age of Exploration 1492-1850 AD	Modern Studies 1850-Present
Sumer Egypt Greece Rome Salvation History Early Church	Dark Ages Monasticism Crusades Renaissance	Reformation/ Counter-Reformation Colonialism Early America Constitution and Government	American Civil War Industrialization Great Wars Ideological Conflicts
Astronomy and Earth Sciences	Biology and Life Sciences	Chemical Sciences	Physics and Physical Sciences

2015-2016 School Year

Ancient Studies 3000B.C. - 400A.D.

History		
Stage 1- Grammar	Stage 2 - Logic	Stage 3- Rhetoric
<i>Story of the World, Volume 1: Ancient Times</i> , Bauer Picture book supplements	<i>All Ye Lands Book of the Ancient World</i> Baldwin Project	<i>The History of the World, Volume 1</i> , Bauer Primary sources

Science – Astronomy and Earth Sciences

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<p><u>Primary Text:</u> TBA</p> <p><u>Supplemental:</u> <i>The Usborne First Encyclopedia of Space</i> <i>The Usborne First Encyclopedia of Our World</i> Magic School Bus series</p>	<p><u>Primary Text:</u> TBA</p> <p><u>Supplemental</u> <i>The Usborne Science Encyclopedia</i></p>	<p><u>Primary Text:</u> <i>Exploring Creation with Physical Science</i>, Wile OR another course with approval</p>
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<p>Literature (example selections)</p>		
<p>Adaptations and classic children’s literature Aesop’s Fables <i>D’Aulaire’s Greek Myths</i> <i>Just So Stories</i></p>	<p>Adaptations and classic novels <i>The Golden Goblet</i>, E.J. McGraw <i>Outcast</i>, Sutcliff <i>The Bronze Bow</i>, Speare <i>The Eagle of the Ninth</i>, Sutcliff <i>The Silver Branch</i>, Sutcliff <i>Gilgamesh the Hero</i> <i>The Wanderings of Odysseus</i>, Sutcliff <i>Black Ships Before Troy</i>, Sutcliff <i>Archimedes and the Door of Science</i> <i>Hittite Warrior</i></p>	<p>Classic Novels, Plays, and Poetry <i>Illiad</i> <i>Odessey</i> <i>Aeneid</i> <i>Julius Caesar</i>, William Shakespeare <i>Oedipus the King</i> , Sophocles <i>Oedipus at Colonus</i>, Sophocles <i>Antigone</i>, Sophocles <i>Pygmalion</i>, Shaw <i>Antony and Cleopatra</i>, Shakespeare</p>

Connections: Regina Mater to Home

What makes Regina Mater work is the collaboration between teachers and parents in providing instruction, assessment, and student support. What follows is a brief overview of the instruction that takes place in the classroom and at home.

Little Kingdom – Child care

The little kingdom was designed to provide a home-like environment for our littlest family members while their moms are busy with older children on campus.

Mariengarten – Primary Montessori

The Montessori class will follow the traditional Primary Montessori method as it has done since the founding of Regina Mater. Classroom size will be increased by approximately 150% allowing us to combine the two classrooms with three guides, providing better supervision and an environment closer to the ideal Montessori classroom described by Maria Montessori.

School –home connections and curriculum assistance will be provided in the August sessions.

Bethlehem - Grammar Stage

This stage focuses on the student’s natural desire to absorb knowledge of the world around him. Most instruction is narrative in nature and allows the student to observe the world and acquire the vocabulary and skills needed for later learning.

Students in the grammar stage need repetition and guidance. Home assignments will often include memory work: spelling rules, grammar rules, vocabulary, prayers, poems and events. Parents will need to be very hands on with these students. Fortunately, children in the grammar stage are “knowledge sponges” who enjoy this work and learn quickly and eagerly.

Subject	Classroom Study	Home Study
Theology	Catechesis of the Good Shepherd	Religious Ed/Sacramental Prep (defer to parish DRE) Domestic Church life
Mathematics	Singapore Primary Mathematics: U.S. Edition Manipulatives, games, mini-lessons	Singapore Math – daily instruction
Latin	Instruction using Song School Latin and Latin for Children	Review vocabulary, songs, and prayers Attend Latin Mass (choir)
History	Story of the World Related maps and activities	Family research and discussion of topics
Science	Class instruction and lab activities Astronomy and Earth Science	Family research and discussion of topics Field trips
Reading Fluency and Comprehension	Small and Large group instruction appropriate to students’ abilities and efforts.	Read from a wide variety of sources Family discussion of books read (suggestions to be provided later)
Phonics and Spelling	Small group instruction in “Logic of English” or “Explode the Code”	Continued review at home

Handwriting	Small group instruction in class <i>Handwriting without Tears</i>	daily practice time <i>Rhythm of Cursive</i>
Grammar	First Language Lessons, Logic of English or Daily Grams	assist with any home assignments and correct errors with student
Composition	Small group instruction Early IEW Lessons	Parents proofread student work Small writing assignments: e.g. Journals, grocery lists, letters
Vocabulary	through reading selections	discuss unfamiliar words
Poetry	Memorization and recitation	Assist with memorization and practice

Nazareth - Logic Stage

This stage is one of asking questions, sorting, comparing, contrasting and practicing. Students in the logic stage make connections between cause and effect and become adept at identifying similarities and differences.

These students will need some assistance with assignments and will need to acquire the skills of note-taking, time management and looking for answers to their questions.

Subject	Classroom Study	Home Study
Theology	Bible, Church Fathers, Aquinas, Magisterial Texts, Catechism	Religious ed (see parish DRE) Complete assignments from class
Mathematics	Singapore Primary Mathematics: U.S. Edition or further study in approved curriculum	Supervise students in completing work Supplemental instruction as necessary
Latin	First, Second, Third and Fourth Form Latin	Review vocabulary, songs, and prayers Assist with home assignments
History	Catholic Textbook Project texts and supplemental reading Related maps and activities	Family discussion of topics Read material with child as necessary Assist with student assignments
Science	Astronomy and Earth Science	assistance with homework
Reading and Literature	Small and Large group instruction appropriate to students' abilities and efforts.	Family discussion of books read Assistance with assignments from class
Spelling	group instruction in spelling rules "Logic of English"	Continued review of rules at home Supplemental instruction
Handwriting	Expectation that student can write legibly	as needed
Grammar	Small group instruction as needed through IEW	Assist with any home assignments
Composition	Institute for Excellence in Writing program	Assist with assignments
Vocabulary	through reading selections	Review vocabulary sent home Additional vocabulary instruction as desired
Poetry	Study, memorization and recitation Writing poetry from examples in class	Assist with memorization and practice

Tabor - Rhetoric Stage

This stage largely involves the communication of truth. Application of previous knowledge is critically important in the rhetoric stage. Students will write and discuss. They will look for themes and ideals. They will solve problems. They will present original ideas. And they will debate endlessly.

Students in the rhetoric stage are largely expected to complete home study work as independently as possible. Most work is assigned in the university modeled classroom. Parents may need to assist students in further developing good study and work habits and with more challenging assignments.

Subject	Classroom Study	Home Study
Theology	Bible, Church Fathers, Aquinas, Magisterial Texts, Catechism	Religious ed and sacramental prep (see parish DRE) Complete assignments from class
Mathematics	Tutorial instruction in approved curriculum	Supervise students in completing, grading, and correcting work Supplemental instruction as necessary
Latin	Instruction using Henle Latin	Review vocabulary and prayers Assist with home assignments
History	Using primary texts as often as possible and supplemental reading Related maps, activities, and writing assignments	Assist with student lesson book/portfolio, assignments and projects
Science	Class instruction and lab activities	Assistance with reading and assignments as needed
Literature and Composition	Varying levels of difficulty and length Various writing assignments in all classes	Assistance with assignments from class
Independent Study	Regular meeting with supervisor for accountability and assessment	Assist with course work