



CHRISTIAN HERITAGE  
CLASSICAL SCHOOL  
CHARACTER • DILIGENCE • SCHOLARSHIP

## 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> New Parent Information

Welcome to CHCS! This is without a doubt a very exciting year for you and your family as you get to experience all the “firsts” of starting school. It is our mindset to partner with you during this transition to make it as smooth as possible for you and your student.

### Curriculum Overview

3<sup>rd</sup> grade- Students begin to develop independence and mastery of reading, writing, and math. They continue to develop a love for literature with classic children’s books. Science skills of inference and predictions with content is studied in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade. Students study states of matter, basic chemistry concepts, classification of living things, the food chain, and plants and botany. In History, the course focuses on the early study of the United States. This includes hands-on activities, use of biographies and events in the era.

4<sup>th</sup> grade- Students explore the world through great children’s books in literature and develop stronger skills in math. Fourth grade is a year of increasing independence and confidence. Writing skills are honed and mastered as students write about their studies. In History 4<sup>th</sup> grade primarily focuses on Civil War, WWI, WWII, and modern American history. In Science, they get a basic understanding of Anatomy and Physiology while unpacking the different systems of the body.

5<sup>th</sup> grade- As Ancient History from Creation to the end of Rome is 5<sup>th</sup> grade focus, many of their classic books integrate within their timeline. These books are the backbone of a redemptive approach of literature. Students explore different types of poetry while also imitating works of the progymnasmata in their writing projects. Students study astronomy and space and get to enjoy a field trip to NASA in the fall to enhance their learning experiences.

### Academic Approaches

#### Writing Road to Reading

At CHCS, we have chosen what is referred to as the Spalding Method for our Language Arts methodology. This is consistent throughout all our grammar school classrooms. This method, found in the text, *Writing Road to Reading (WRTR)*, has stood the test of time in developing strong readers, spellers, and writers. Attached you will find an overview of the program. There are also tips to get your child familiar with this approach. This introduction will help build common language between students, teachers, and parents. As the year progresses, you may have questions regarding WRTR. We encourage you to reach out to your teacher as questions arise.

#### Shurley English

In 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade, students are taught the fundamentals of grammar through Shurley English. Our students identify parts of speech while reciting what is referred to as the Question-and-Answer Flow.

This method helps students articulate what they are seeing, reading, and analyzing. It is highly effective in making great writers! Attached you will find a guide of how the question-and-answer flow is demonstrated in class. If you would like to practice this over the summer with your student, it may help give him or her a leg up in the class!

### Mathematics

Like creation itself, mathematics is beautiful. It is full of logic, order, truth, and elegance. However, math is a mysterious scary subject for so many people, which evokes feelings of fear and frustration. However, at Christian Heritage, we believe that this ought not be the case! God designs all people to have a capacity for language, and mathematics is yet another beautiful language of which all students can learn and enjoy. Students will learn math for mastery using concrete, pictorial, and abstract stages of instruction, making learning math enjoyable. To prepare for the fall, it will be helpful to work with your child to master basic math facts and introductory word problems. Attached you will find a sheet to help you this summer. This isn't mandatory but is another way we can partner with you, so students and parents feel prepared for the new school year.

### Latin

Latin instruction begins in third grade and continues through eighth grade. Students learn Latin grammar: parts of speech, conjugations, declensions, and principles for interpretation. In later grades, Latin literature is studied. Although learning a foreign language can be scary in young grades, doing so actually aligns with child development and our students love it! We have given you a jump start guide to help you adjust to the new world of foreign language.

### Cursive Writing

All students in 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grades are expected to write in cursive for the majority of their assignments. We have attached a practice guide to help with this fun way of writing!

### Life at CHCS for 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> Grades

- o Special Classes: Every week your child will attend special classes to broaden their love for learning. These classes include PE, Library, Art, and Music. In 5<sup>th</sup> grade, students will have a choice between strings and choir for their music class.
- o Carpool: Students will be dropped off and picked up through our carpool process. Your child will be escorted to and from the parking lot every morning and afternoon. Please remain in your car to keep lanes safe and clear. As students begin to work towards independence, it is strongly recommended that all CHCS students are picked up and dropped off for carpool.
- o GroupMe: Each class will have a GroupMe group set up created by the classroom parent. This is an important place to gather information about events and things going on in class. Each class is assigned a room parent who will use this as the primary mode of communication. Please make sure you download the app!
- o Handbook: In August, each parent will be given access to the current school year's family handbook. Although this is a lengthy document, it is important to take time to read it as it gives specifics on how CHCS operates. This is also a part of your family agreement which will need to be signed and returned at the beginning of the year.

## Items Needed

- o Backpack. This backpack should be big enough to contain a folder, lunch box; a water bottle side pocket is very helpful!
- o Lunchbox. Please purchase a lunch box that is easy to open for student. We also appreciate lunches that can be independently handled by your child. Be sure to label the lunchbox with your student's name either inside or outside of the lunchbox.
- o Labeled water bottle and snack. Students will have a morning snack time. Please label both.
- o School-approved uniform. Please see the School Dress Code on our website.
- o Outerwear. Every year our lost and found bin overflows with unlabeled clothes. Please label all coats, sweaters, jackets, etc. with your child's name.

We appreciate your partnership and can't wait to serve you this coming school year!