

**Course Descriptions for  
Petros Academy  
and  
the Educational Resource Center  
(2019-2020)**

**Petros Academy Courses**

***Reading Incentive Program***

*Grade Levels: All Grades*

*Tuition: Free*

*Description:* With an updated library, including works of literature, history, science, etc. inspired by the classical pursuit of learning through original documents, students will have ample opportunity to fulfill their literature requirements. As added incentive, points will be awarded upon completion of tests and essays meant to assess comprehension. These points may be used at a special “store” twice a year to purchase books, toys, and other things.

***Phonics/Spelling***

*Grade Level: Grammar I (1-2)*

*Tuition: \$180/year*

*Description:* Using Memoria Press’s phonics and spelling series, this class offers instruction for your student at any level of proficiency. Whether your child is a non-reader, beginning reader, or proficient reader, exercises will be chosen to reflect their abilities, as well as push them towards improvement.

***Handwriting***

*Grade Level: Grammar I (1-2)*

*Tuition: \$180/year*

*Description:* Good handwriting builds fine motor ability and leaves a good impression on those who see it. Students will have regular instruction and practice in handwriting using printables, journals, etc.

***Recitations***

*Grade Levels: Grammar I (1-2), Grammar II (3-4), and Grammar III (5-6)*

*Tuition: \$120/year*

*Description:* With an emphasis on learning a chronological timeline of history (set to music) and on memorizing select passages of Scripture, students will take advantage of the early phase in their lives when memorization comes naturally to them and they are able to absorb large amounts of information.

## **History**

*Grade Levels: Grammar I (1-2), Grammar II (3-4), and Grammar III (5-6)*

*Tuition: \$180/year*

*Description:*

Grammar I: The study of American history through literature read in class, activities, a timeline, recitation, and discussion. Selections will include *The Courage of Sarah Noble*, *The Little House* books, and others.

Grammar II and Grammar III: Using Memoria Press's *Famous Men of the Middle Ages*, the story of the Middle Ages is told through the lives of Attila the Hun, Charlemagne, William the Conqueror, Edward the Black Prince, and Joan of Arc, among others. *Famous Men of the Middle Ages* guides students through the turbulent "dark age" of history and illustrates the transition from the end of ancient times to the birth of the modern era. The class will also emphasize mapwork and a timeline of major events from this time period.

## **Shurley English Grammar**

*Grade Levels: Grammar II (3-4), and Grammar III (5-6)*

*Tuition: \$180/year*

*Description:* This class seeks to nurture a love of the English language with an understanding of how it is correctly used. Using the Shurley English curriculum, this class will introduce and review grammar concepts and practice "jingles" as memory aids. Games and other exercises will be used to reinforce learning. Students will be able to use the Shurley English level workbook most appropriate to their level.

## **Latin**

*Grade Levels: Grammar II (4<sup>th</sup> grade only\*), Grammar III (5-6), Dialectic (7-9), and Rhetoric (10-12)*

*Tuition: \$180/year*

*Description:* Starting with First Form Latin, students will take a grammar first approach to the ancient language which is suitable for those just beginning, as well as those in the Grammar Stage. Second and Third Form reviews all material in the previous Forms, completes the verb paradigms for all four conjugations in the indicative active and passive, and much more! Fourth Form Latin completes the journey of Latin grammar by reviewing all material in First, Second, and Third Form, completing all verb forms for all four conjugations by studying participles, infinitives, gerunds, etc. *\*Note: Students in 4<sup>th</sup> grade will begin with "Latina Christiana", a precursor to "First Form Latin".*

## **Literature - Poetry for the Grammar Stage**

*Grade Level: Grammar II (3-4)*

*Tuition: \$180/year*

*Description:* Let your students learn the beauty of poetry through the masters who have perfected their craft. Your child will see the many ways poems are structured and develop the confidence to attempt their own. Poetry study includes questions to help students analyze meanings of the poems, including vocabulary work. Poems increase in difficulty as students move through the book over a two-year period.

### ***Classical Composition***

*Grade Levels: Grammar III (5-6), Dialectic (7-9), and Rhetoric (10-12)*

*Tuition: \$180/year*

*Description:* Ancient writers invented a way of teaching writing known as the progymnasmata, which provided a method of teaching composition that not only taught budding writers a disciplined way to approach communication, but also helped them appeal to the heads of their audience. The progymnasmata gave them the stylistic tools to appeal to their hearts as well.

The greatest communicators of ancient times, Quintilian and Cicero among them, employed the progymnasmata to teach their students the art of communication. The 14 exercises, organized from the simplest and most basic to the most complex and sophisticated, were the core education of a classical speaker, designed to produce what Quintilian once called ‘the good man, speaking well.’”

Grammar III: Classical Compositions Levels I,II, and III (Fable, Narrative, Maxim & Chreia)

Dialectic: Classical Compositions Levels IV, V, and VI (Confirmation & Refutation, Common Topic, and Encomium, Invective, & Comparison)

Rhetoric\*: Classical Compositions Levels VII, VIII, IX (Characterization, Description, and Thesis & Law)

\*Note: Levels IV-VI must have been completed before starting Rhetoric stage classical compositions

### ***Logic I (Wednesdays Only)***

*Grade Levels: Dialectic (7-9) and Rhetoric (10-12)\**

*Tuition: \$90/year*

*Description:* Traditional Logic is an in-depth study of the classical syllogism. Along with a basic understanding of the Christian theory of knowledge, this class presents the four kinds of logical statements, the four ways propositions can be opposed, the three ways which they can be equivalent, and the seven rules for the validity of syllogisms.

*\*course is offered for the higher level if students are unfamiliar with the subject*

### ***Analytical Grammar (Mondays Only)***

*Grade Levels: Dialectic (7-9) and Rhetoric (10-12)\**

*Tuition: \$90/year, plus a \$65 materials fee for required materials*

*Description:* Designed to be taught in three grammar "seasons" over three years, *Analytical Grammar* is not your average grammar program! Used successfully with students of varying abilities, the innovative and logical method is not only effective, but actually enjoyable. The step-by-step approach will prepare students for the rigor of college work, while the comprehensive scope ensures mastery. Approaching grammar with the idea that students learn it and then move on, rather than continually re-learning the same concepts over and over, the "spiral" method will help students master grammar once and for all.

*\*course is offered for the higher level if students are behind in grammar and/or are taking Logic I*

***Omnibus (History, Theology, Literature)***

*Grade Levels: Dialectic (7-9) and Rhetoric (10-12)*

*Tuition: \$300/year*

*Description:* With lively group discussions focusing on ideas rather than just information, this course will tackle a goldmine of great books of Modern Era historical literature from a Christian worldview using the Omnibus VI curriculum from Veritas Press. Readings from some of the greatest authors impacting the time period from the 1600s through modern times will give us the opportunity to look at a wide range of the philosophies and ideas which have had a tremendous influence on the world we live in and analyze them according to the principles of scripture. This class seeks to help students grow in the ability to contribute to good discussion, learn to prepare good questions for discussion, and to encourage others' participation.

Students in the Dialectic (Grades 7-9) and Rhetoric (Grades 10-12) stages will have some variation in length or number of assignments as appropriate. Dialectic students will be building independence in completing readings, building comprehension skills, and applying what they read in ever improving discussion skills. Rhetoric students will be doing these things as well as leading the way in recognizing ideas and philosophies and analyzing them from a Christian worldview. Since our goal is to *enjoy* challenging ourselves with these great works, the workload may be modified for students at different levels in a way that will still allow for fruitful group discussion, and parent input is welcomed and encouraged.

Students will study from the very best of an already amazing selection of books which covers works such as Milton's *Paradise Lost*, Defoe's *Robinson Crusoe*, Hobbes' *Leviathan*, Pascal's *Pensees*, Austen's *Emma*, Foundational American Documents, *Deuteronomy*, Melville's *Moby Dick*, McPherson's *Battle Cry of Freedom*, Nietzsche's *Beyond Good and Evil*, Remarque's *All's Quiet on the Western Front*, Hemingway's *The Sun Also Rises*, *Ecclesiastes*, King's *Letter from Birmingham Jail*, *1 & 2 Timothy*, *Titus*, Augustine's *On Christian Doctrine*, Shakespeare's *Hamlet*, Lewis' *Out of the Silent Planet*, Payne's *Common Sense*, Irving's *Legend of Sleepy Hollow*, Twain's *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, Crane's *Red Badge of Courage*, Whitman's *Leaves of Grass*, *Lamentations* and *Ezekiel*, Sinclair's *The Jungle*, *Poetry of T.S. Eliot*, *Matthew*, and more.

***Aristotle's Rhetoric (Wednesdays Only)\****

*Grade Level: Rhetoric (10-12)*

*Tuition: \$90/year*

*Description:* To the ancients, rhetoric was the crowning intellectual discipline. It took the knowledge the student had gained over the course of his years of schooling, and the understanding of logical principles gained from the study of traditional logic, and molded them into powerful tools of persuasion. To Aristotle, the art of rhetoric was the chief weapon in the service of truth.

Classical Rhetoric also familiarizes students with three model speeches as examples of the three branches of classical oratory: The *Appeal of the Envoys to Achilles*, from Homer's *Iliad*; the *Apology of Socrates*, from the dialogue of Plato; and Abraham Lincoln's *Gettysburg Address*. Students will also be asked to analyze Marc Antony's *Funeral Oration* from William Shakespeare's *Julius Caesar* as an example of a great speech that defies categorization.

\*Note: Traditional Logic I and II must be completed prior to taking this class

***Debate (Mondays Only)***

*Grade Level: Rhetoric (10-12)*

*Tuition: \$90/year*

*Description: Utilizing Aristotelian logic and the Socratic method, along with skills developed in Classical Composition IV, students approach debate with a high emphasis on oration. Topics will be drawn from Omnibus VI.*

**Educational Resource Center Courses**

***\*\*NEW FOR SPRING SEMESTER\*\* Art: Beginning Art Gr. Pre-k-3***

*Offered: Spring Semester, Mondays*

*Tuition: \$60/semester, plus \$40 mat. fee payable on first day*

*Description: Learn the building blocks of art! This beginning art class teaches the seven elements of art and the principals of design. Students will explore basic art media and techniques through engaging hands on projects! Designed to provide students with the opportunity to develop a foundation of varied art skills, techniques and concepts!*

***Art: Early Christian Art – A Classical Approach Gr. 6-12***

*Offered: Fall and Spring Semesters, Mondays*

*Tuition: \$150/year (Required materials must be purchased separately.)*

*Description: Utilizing Barry Stebbing's exciting new classical art curriculum, *An Introduction to Art History: A Classical Approach to Art*, this class will offer instruction in basic skills, while also teaching art history. This year, we will be focusing on early Christian art:*

*Study the early church, Dark & Middle Ages, Book of Kells, and the Gothic & Byzantine Periods with easy to follow art lessons, relevant to artists or periods being discussed... This one-year program focuses on both a Christian and classical approach to art history... Art lessons teach the basic fundamentals of drawing and the academics of color theory.*

*Required Materials: An Introduction to Art History, Early Christian Art Bundle (available at [www.howgreatthouart.com](http://www.howgreatthouart.com) for \$46.95)*

***Daring Drama Gr. 4-12:***

*Offered: Fall and Spring Semesters, Mondays*

*Tuition: \$80/semester, plus \$15 mat. Fee, payable on first day*

*Description: Students will be investing time in learning the basic skills of acting by doing exercises and improvisations. They will build confidence in public speaking and leadership by having the opportunity to present scenarios and acting exercises in front of and alongside their peers. They will learn about basic stage directions and about the skills needed to be a good actor. Some time will be spent on developing a monologue and audition techniques. Loose clothing and sneakers are recommended. Students should bring a folder with paper and a writing tool.*

***United States and Europe Geography Gr. 3-12***

*Offered: Spring Semester, Wednesdays*

*Tuition: \$65 (Required materials must be purchased separately)*

*Description: Students will learn the states/countries and capitals as well as major geographic features using mnemonic images and phrases. The primary resource will be *Trick Geography**

USA which is a fun, creative and interactive way to establish and review geography knowledge. There will be continual review, games and short presentations, as well.

*Required materials:* Trick Geography USA Student Book (\$14.95 from [www.trickgeography.com](http://www.trickgeography.com)), Trick Geography Europe Student book (\$14.95 from [www.trickgeography.com](http://www.trickgeography.com)), dry erase markers, and colored pencils.

**Gym Gr. K-3, 4-6, 7-12**

*Offered:* Fall and Spring Semesters, Wednesdays

*Tuition:* \$65/semester

*Description:* Features a variety of sports/games with an emphasis on teamwork and sportsmanship in addition to individual progress in skills, fitness and flexibility.

**Karate 8 years old-Adult**

*Offered:* Year Round

*Tuition:* \$250/Fall Semester, plus testing fees and cost for uniform paid directly to instructor

*Description:* Taught by Master Wood, classes will consist of awareness, self-discipline, physical fitness, basics in self-defense, dealing with bullies, Martial Arts history, and having fun while training.

**Mathematics-Firming up the FUNdamentals Gr. 6-12**

*Offered:* Fall and Spring Semesters, Wednesdays

*Tuition:* \$150/year

*Description:* Very often, when students begin taking algebra, they realize the necessity of having a firm grasp on many of the foundational topics that they were taught at the elementary level. Arithmetic concepts, such as fractions, decimals, percentages, integer operations, and basic math facts are the fundamental tools and building blocks on which algebra and other abstract mathematics topics are built.

But, don't worry; it's never too late! This class will revisit many of these essential themes through instruction, individual and group work, drills, and games. By firming up these fundamentals, you will be ready to tackle algebra and higher-level math courses with confidence!

*Required Materials:* 1-inch binder, college-ruled paper, pencil, eraser

**Photography Club Gr. 7-12**

*Offered:* Fall and Spring Semesters, Wednesdays

*Tuition:* \$135/year

*Description:* This course will help the students become well rounded in the fundamentals of digital photography. Four areas of instruction will be emphasized: exposure, composition, lighting, and some understanding of photo editing software. Students will receive basic instruction, demonstration, and see samples of the desired outcomes. An assignment will be given each week and then the students can share their photos with the class. This will be a very hands-on and creative class focusing on portraiture, landscapes & nature, macro, still and action photography. Any digital camera will be acceptable, DSLR's will provide the most creativity but even a point & shoot will be enough to participate.

***Rotating Units I “Safety First” and “Great Migrations” Gr. 1-3***

*Offered: Fall Semester, Wednesdays*

*Tuition: \$64*

*Description:* “Safety First”—How can my family and I stay safe as walkers, or bike riders, while in the water, during a storm, or in the home? We will review/learn safety tips in all of these areas through instruction and projects.

“Great Migrations”—In the air, in the water, and on land, animals are on the move! Find out where and when the Canada Goose, Gray Whale, Monarch Butterfly, Locust, American Eel, and others migrate. Information will be provided for making a step book.

***Rotating Units I “Ride the Magic School bus” Gr. 1-3***

*Offered: Spring Semester, Wednesdays*

*Tuition: \$64*

*Description:* Follow the adventures of Ms. Frizzle and her students as they explore the oceans and its sea creatures, insects, the Arctic, planet Earth, and more! There will be projects related to the various topics, and even some tasty treats.

***Rotating Units II “Made in Western New York” and “Bridge It!” Gr. 4-7***

*Offered: Fall Semester, Wednesdays*

*Tuition: \$64*

*Description:* “Made in Western New York”—What do spaghetti sauce, cheese, gum, hair products, and baseball caps have in common? They (and more products) are or have been made in Western New York. There will be some tasty treats!

“Bridge It!”—The Lewiston Queenston, the Peace Bridge, the Big Bridge in Lockport, and more! We will learn about the many types of bridges, construct a few, and identify major bridges that span the waterways of Western New York.

***Rotating Units II “Early New York, Continued” Gr. 4-7***

*Offered: Spring Semester, Wednesdays*

*Tuition: \$64*

*Description:* Explorers came, settlements were established, the English took over New Netherlands, and the colony was involved in the French and Indian War. The colony of New York is growing, but there is trouble on the horizon with Great Britain. Find out the role New York played in the American Revolution and about life afterwards. Instruction will include informational readings, timeline, and reading maps.

***Science Exploration Club Gr. 1-6***

*Offered: Fall and Spring Semesters, Wednesdays*

*Tuition: \$75/semester, plus \$40 mat. Fee, payable on first day of each semester*

*Description:* Students work together to experiment with simple machines, molecular cohesion, hydraulics, weather, and more! Students will add to their vocabulary, posture hypotheses, make a plan, and execute it. The year ends with the construction of a Rube Goldberg machine. Notebook and pencil for journaling will be required.

**Core Strength and Stretch, Adult**

*Offered: Fall and Spring Semesters, Mondays*

*Tuition: \$75/semester*

*Description:* This class is suitable for anyone from young teen to older adult. The focus of this class will be on strengthening the core to improve posture, balance, flexibility, and agility. The class will begin with a warm-up, proceed to a working segment, and end with a stretch and relaxation segment. Supportive shoes, loose clothing, mat/towel, and a water bottle are recommended. Floor work is optional; chair work can be substituted if preferred.

**Vocal Adventures, Gr. 4-12**

*Offered: Fall and Spring Semesters, Mondays*

*Tuition: \$80/semester, plus \$15 mat. Fee, payable on first day*

*Description:* Students will learn the fundamentals of singing and apply them as they sing various pieces, first sung in unison, and then sung in parts. They will be introduced to the skills of sight-singing, rote singing, building simple harmony, counting beats, and vocal blending. We will practice both sacred and secular choral music.

**CLUB/FREE OPTIONS****Chess Club**

*Offered: Fall and Spring Semesters, Wednesdays*

*Description:* Come join the fun and challenge of playing chess. Beginners and players of all ability levels are welcome! Students who are beginners or who have had less experience will be clustered and will play to strengthen skills or experience a challenge. Basic, intermediate, and advanced level players will play with students of all levels at the instructor's discretion.

Requirements: Students must 1) have an attention span of 45 minutes, 2) be able to follow directions, 3) listen quietly, and 4) stay focused on the fundamentals of chess.

**Film Theory 2.0 (Back and Better than Ever) Gr. 7-12:**

*Offered: Fall and Spring Semesters, Wednesdays*

*Tuition: Free*

*Description:* A discussion of movies and their effect on society. How they have changed and why. Tasty snacks will be provided on occasion.

**Shakespeare Club, All Ages**

*Offered: Fall and Spring Semesters, Wednesdays*

*Description:* Join us as we take parts and read together. The group will choose plays as we go along. So that we can keep things appropriate and allow for flexible age range, we will keep the focus away from some sensitive subject matter, but students should be mature enough for the content of tragedies.

**Student Council, Gr. 6-12**

*Offered: Fall and Spring Semesters, twice a month*

*Description:* Teamwork. Service. Leadership. Civics.



Nothing allows our children to develop these valuable life skills as thoroughly and enjoyably as participation in Student Government. This club will offer students a cooperative and collaborative environment to actively shape their student life experience at St. Peter's Educational Resource Center. This enriching experience will provide students with the opportunity to:

1. Respectfully present and discuss ideas and opinions to enhance their school experience.
2. Help plan/execute activities, fundraisers, and service opportunities to engage the ERC family, St. Peter Lutheran Church, and the local community.
3. Develop a sense of civic privilege and duty as they take an active role in a positive group environment focused on Christian service that aims to advance the individual and collective goals of the ERC family.

The main purpose of this group is to give students both a "voice" and a tangible impact in the ERC community, utilizing their various God-given talents to contribute to the school life experience at St. Peter. Our student council invites middle and high school students to attend meetings scheduled twice a month for planning, organizing necessary fundraising, and executing activities in a fun, yet efficient and effective group atmosphere. There will be student leadership through elections, a hands-on Parent Advisor to assist in the advancement of goals and management of funds, and the oversight of the ERC administrators.

\*Sign-up sheet may be found on the sign-in desk at the start of the school year

***The Truth Project Gr. 10 – Adult:***

*Offered: Fall Semester (13-week study), Mondays*

*Tuition: Free*

*Description:* Utilizing *The Truth Project*, a 13-lesson Biblical worldview study from Focus on the Family, each weekly class will consist of viewing an hour-long video, followed by 30 minutes of discussion.

"Join Dr. Del Tackett, as he takes you through 13 engaging video lessons on the relevance and importance of living the Biblical worldview in daily life, featuring insights from biblical experts like Ravi Zacharias, R.C. Sproul, Os Guinness and Gordon Pennington."

"Whether you are a new believer, or a mature Christian longing for a deeper understanding of foundational biblical truths, the Truth Project is a life-changing experience that will strengthen your Christian faith."