



CURRICULUM

Mathematics

The Avalon School has adopted the Saxon Mathematics series for our math program with the exception of Calculus (Anton). The classes consist of short lectures followed by students working on sample problems. The books are rigorous and there is little "fluff". The learning is incremental with continual review. There is **frequent cumulative** testing. There is also an emphasis on correcting mistakes, a key area where much learning can take place. The classes will be supplemented with math puzzles, mental math, and topics from the history of math. Saxon books are especially suited for students to advance above grade level and we will do our best to accommodate such cases.

<u>1st Grade</u>	Saxon 2
<u>2nd Grade</u>	Saxon 3
<u>3rd Grade</u>	Saxon 54
<u>4th Grade</u>	Saxon 65
<u>5th Grade</u>	Saxon 76
<u>6th Grade</u>	Saxon 87

	<u>Regular Track</u>	<u>Honors Track</u>
<u>7th Grade</u>	Algebra ½	
<u>8th Grade</u>	Algebra I	
<u>9th Grade</u>	Algebra I Algebra II*	
<u>10th Grade</u>	Algebra II	Advanced Mathematics*
<u>11th Grade</u>	Advanced Mathematics	Pre-Calc*
<u>12th Grade</u>	Advanced Mathematics	Calculus AB or Calculus BC, Statistics

*Note: Students must earn a grade of B- or better at year's end to remain on the honor track

The Advanced Mathematics for the 11th grade is written as **Geometry** on the college transcript and Advanced Mathematics for the 12th grade is written as **Pre-Calculus** on the college transcript. The Advanced Mathematics for the 10th grade is written as **Honors Geometry** on the college transcript and Advanced Mathematics/Pre-Calc in the 11th grade is written as **Honors Pre-Calculus** on the college transcript.

For transcript purposes, honors courses in the Upper School are rated .5 points higher on the 4.0 point scale and Advanced Placement (AP) courses are 1.0 point higher.



Science

At the Avalon School, science is a hands-on subject. Boys will be encouraged to catch insects, frogs, turtles, snakes and other small animals (little brothers and sisters excluded). We expect them to be able to identify over 50 birds, over 30 trees, and other wild life. Rocks, fossils and artifacts will be observed and collected. Peterson, Stokes, and the *Golden Field Guides* will be the students' guides and Anna Botsford Comstock's great opus, *Handbook of Nature Study*, is the teacher's guide.* By high school, students will be well positioned to succeed in a demanding curriculum of Biology, Chemistry, and Physics.

<u>1st Grade</u>	Introduction to Natural History
<u>2nd Grade</u>	Natural History I A
<u>3rd Grade</u>	Natural History I B
<u>4th Grade</u>	Natural History II
<u>5th Grade</u>	Natural History III
<u>6th Grade</u>	Earth Science
<u>7th Grade</u>	Life Science
<u>8th Grade</u>	Physical Science
<u>9th Grade</u>	Biology
<u>10th Grade</u>	Chemistry I
<u>11th Grade</u>	Biology (AP), Conceptual Physics, or Anatomy and Physiology
<u>12th Grade</u>	Conceptual Physics, Chemistry (AP), or Anatomy and Physiology

Note: For transcript purposes, Advanced Placement (AP) courses are rated 1.0 point higher on the 4.0 point scale.

* Middle School grades are sometimes combined when the classes are very small, so the order of the courses may vary.



History

Two-time Pulitzer prize winner David McCullough said that the Oxford University Press series written by Joy Hakim is "the best American history written for young people that I have ever seen". For students in the upper grades, the reading of biographies of historical figures and stories about the great events in history with an emphasis on Western culture will help foster a humble respect for the human heritage and its achievements.

1st Grade Introduction to American & European History;
Heroes & Legends

2nd Grade *Freedom of Experience*

3rd Grade *Why America is Free*, Mount Vernon Ladies Association

4th Grade *A History of US*, Oxford University Press, Books 2 and 3.
The Colonial Period up to the Revolution

5th Grade *A History of US*, Oxford University Press, Books 4 and 5.
Revolutionary War through the Mexican War

6th Grade *A History of US*, Oxford University Press, Books 6 and 7.
Civil War and Reconstruction

7th Grade Geography, American and World

8th Grade Ancient History (emphasis on Greece and Rome)

9th Grade Medieval – Early Modern History

10th Grade US History

11th Grade US History (AP) or History of the 20th Century

12th Grade European History (AP) or History of the 20th Century

Note:
Maryland History will be emphasized in grades 3 through 7.

Other electives offered dependent upon faculty.

For transcript purposes, Advanced Placement (AP) courses are rated 1.0 higher on the 4.0 point scale.



Literature

To quote John Senior, former professor of Comparative Literature from the University of Kansas, "the seminal ideas of Plato, Aristotle, St. Augustine, St. Thomas only properly grow in an imaginative ground saturated with fables, fairy tales, stories, rhymes, adventures, which have developed into the thousand books of Grimm, Anderson, Stevenson, Dickens, Scott, Dumas and the rest. Western tradition, taking all that was best of the Greco-Roman world into itself has given us the thousand good books as a preparation for the great ones and for all studies in the arts and sciences, without which such studies are inhumane."

1st Grade Read aloud at or above grade level; poetry memorization & recitation

2nd Grade - 3rd Grade *The Door in the Wall*, Marguerite d'Angeli
The Wind in the Willows, Kenneth Grahame
Rikki - Tikki - Tavi, Rudyard Kipling
Stuart Little, E. B. White
Charlotte's Web, E. B. White

4th Grade *Call It Courage*, Armstrong Sperry
Farmer Boy, Laura Ingalls
The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe, C. S. Lewis
The Horse and His Boy, C. S. Lewis
Aesop's Fables

5th Grade *Men of Iron*, Howard Pyle
The Hobbit, J. R. R. Tolkien
Johnny Tremain, Esther Forbes
Souder, William H. Armstrong

6th Grade *Gods, Heroes, and Men of Ancient Greece*, W. H. D. Rouse
The Princess Bride, William Goldman
A Christmas Carol, Charles Dickens
Treasure Island, Robert Louis Stevenson
Tales from Shakespeare, Charles and Mary Lamb

7th Grade *The Iliad*, Homer
The Adventures of Tom Sawyer, Mark Twain
A Separate Peace, John Knowles
Call of the Wild, Jack London
MacBeth, William Shakespeare

8th Grade *The Odyssey*, Homer
To Kill a Mockingbird, Harper Lee
Killer Angels, Michael Shaara
Julius Caesar, William Shakespeare
Merchant of Venice, William Shakespeare
Animal Farm, George Orwell



9th Grade

The Aeneid, Virgil
Beowulf
Out of the Silent Planet, C.S. Lewis
Frankenstein, Mary Shelley
Henry V, William Shakespeare
A Man for All Seasons, Robert Bolt
The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde, Robert Louis Stevenson

10th Grade

The Iliad, Homer
The Great Gatsby, F. Scott Fitzgerald
Death of a Salesman, Arthur Miller
Othello, William Shakespeare

11th Grade

The Odyssey, Homer
The Divine Comedy, Dante
A Tale of Two Cities, Charles Dickens
Romeo and Juliet, William Shakespeare

12th Grade

The Aeneid, Virgil
Crime and Punishment, Fyodor Dostoevsky
The Ballad of the White Horse, G. K. Chesterton
Hamlet, William Shakespeare
Midsummer Night's Dream, William Shakespeare

Poetry

The reading, memorization and recitation of great poetry is an essential part of the Avalon curriculum and experience and comprises a part of the English literature course offerings. Each grade memorizes and recites a number of poems throughout the year. In addition, the competitive recitation of poetry by House representatives is a staple of festival day celebrations and – we hope – a regular event at alumni get-togethers. Poet Laureate Contests are held for the Lower and Middle schools each spring.

Journalism and Composition

This journalism class prepares students to write and publish *The Chronicles*, The Avalon School student newspaper. The course begins with a basic review of journalistic writing – news stories, feature pieces, sports write-ups, reviews, investigative and research techniques and interviewing – and transitions into the actual production of a newspaper. All students learn Office Publisher through the design and creation of the paper.

The composition class gives students additional practice in the mechanics of good grammar and clear writing. Upperclassmen not taking a foreign language class will take composition.



Art

Art is taught one class period per week in grades 3 – 8. Students learn elements of drawing, from basic three-dimensional shapes to more challenging assignments such as the use of perspective, drawing the human person, etc. Projects include learning about and coloring heraldic shields, understanding the color wheel, and color relationships. Students also will see and study various great works of art.

Language Arts

The essential skills of spelling, grammar, and penmanship form the foundation of Language Arts taught in grades 1 – 6.

Latin is a language of structure. Mastering the intricacies of its structure develops mental habits of precision, discipline, memory, and efficiency that manifest themselves in other fields from algebra to writing. Latin also links us to the past. The ultimate goal is to read the great works of Rome in their original language leading a student out of being a child of his age.

<u>7th Grade</u>	Latin A
<u>8th Grade</u>	Latin B
<u>9th Grade</u>	Latin I or Latin II*
<u>10th Grade</u>	Latin II or Latin III*
<u>11th Grade</u>	Latin III or Latin IV*
<u>12th Grade</u>	Latin V (AP - Horace) or Latin IV (AP - Virgil)

*Honors

Italian**

11th & 12th Grade Basic Italian or Italian I

* For transcript purposes, honor courses are rated .5 points higher on the 4.0 point scale and Advanced Placement (AP) courses are 1.0 higher.

**when offered



Spanish

The goal of this curriculum is to learn how to read and speak Spanish. In addition, the study of a foreign language gives the student the ability to look at his own language with new eyes and a better understanding of grammar.

<u>9th Grade</u>	Spanish I or Spanish II*
<u>10th Grade</u>	Spanish II or Spanish III*
<u>11th Grade</u>	Spanish III
<u>12th Grade</u>	Spanish III or Spanish IV Language (AP)

*Honors

* For transcript purposes, honor courses are rated .5 points higher on the 4.0 point scale and Advanced Placement (AP) courses are 1.0 higher.



Religion

Cardinal Hickey said, “Our schools are our most effective way of providing sustained religious instruction.” We have adopted the Ignatius Press series for our religion program in grades three through eight. Its authentic teaching and beautiful artwork present wonderfully the richness of the Catholic faith. In all things, but especially through our religion program, we hope to form boys into men who will make a more human, more vital society.

The goal is to give the boys an intellectual vision of the world as made by God and kept in existence by Him, and the central importance of the redemption by Jesus Christ on the cross and its renewal in an unbloody manner in the sacrifice of the Mass. Students are taught the basic prayers, the various articles of the Apostle’s Creed, major stories from the Old and New Testaments, and lives of selected saints.

Grade 1 *Our Heavenly Father*, Ignatius Press

Grade 2 *Jesus Our Life*, Ignatius Press

Grade 3 *Our Life with Jesus*, Ignatius Press

Grade 4 *Jesus Our Guide*, Ignatius Press

Grade 5 *Credo: I Believe*, Ignatius Press

Grade 6 *Following Christ*, Ignatius Press
St. John Bosco, F. A. Forbes
Augustine Came to Kent, Barbara Willard

Grade 7 *The Life of Christ*, Ignatius Press
Cure of Ars, Francis Trochu
Fr. Marquette and the Great Rivers, August Derleth

Grade 8 *Our Life in the Church*, Ignatius Press

Grade 9 **SACRED SCRIPTURE**
Ignatius Bible, Revised Standard Version
Understanding the Scriptures, Didache Series, Midwest Theological Forum

Grade 10 **CHURCH HISTORY**
The History of the Church, Didache Series, Midwest Theological Forum

Grade 11 **SACRAMENTS AND MORAL THEOLOGY**
A Moral Life in Christ, Didache Series, Midwest Theological Forum
The Sacraments, Didache Series, Midwest Theological Forum

Grade 12 **APOLOGETICS, THE BLESSED TRINITY**
The Blessed Trinity, Didache Series, Midwest Theological Forum