

Welcome to the PACES PAideia classical education service. Our goal is to help the home educating parent in the mission of educating his/her child. Each of the campuses meets one day per week in a 'school' setting and one day per week in homes in a study group setting. Currently, the campuses are: North (Spring), West (Katy), and Northeast (Kingwood). Maps to all current locations are available online at www.pacesinfo.org under *PAideia* → *Locations*.

“A systematic study of God’s world using liberal arts as a vehicle” defines the PAideia approach to classical education. We believe children learn best in an integrated educational environment. For this reason, PACES PAideia has selected a chronologically unified approach to studying history, humanities, and literature through a four-year study. Years one and three utilize reading of classic works at every age level. Year’s two and four demand more student research and writing. As primary subjects of study, Latin; logic; and rhetoric are interwoven into all lessons, as well as, studied alone. Each year, as students study specific time periods, history, humanities, and literature are intricately connected in the Culturative History class. Also, electives in art, science, theater art, and music are integrated with the culturative history lesson to enhance the classical education experience.

Student development coincides with three levels of instruction: grammar level (traditionally seen as the elementary level ages 4-10 years) dialectic (approximately middle school students, ages 11-15) and rhetoric (young adults, typically ages 16-21). These levels serve as the teaching framework for the presentation of academic classes. The grammar level focuses on labeling, defining and describing items in each discipline of study. Memorization is emphasized in the grammar level. Logical thinking, writing and problem solving are the goals of the middle school or dialectic level learner. The cause and effect of specific events and political causes are stressed in this stage of learning. Rhetoric level students defend a biblical worldview toward humanities, as well as, political decisions and conquests. Young adults defend much debated, thoughtfully discussed, well-stated positions in all arenas of historical study.

Facilitating your home school experience into an educational journey that both you and your child will enjoy is the goal of PAideia. We, the teachers and teacher aids, maintain the position of facilitators to all parents. We will continue to recognize you, the parent, as the primary teacher of your child. We maintain that as parents train their children “in the way they should go, and when they are old they will not depart from it.” We believe that “the way they should go” includes a logical understanding of and appreciation for the world as God created it and continues to work in it.

Our ***core day*** is once a week and consists of Culturative History (two hours), English, Logic or Latin (a tuition included elective), and other electives. You may choose one or more electives for additional costs. This information is detailed on the PACES website under *PAideia* → *Electives*.

Grammar (A321,Pre-K) Overview

It is the goal of PAideia to foster a love of learning in young children with a solid developmental foundation for future academic learning. To develop the whole child from a biblical prospective as referred to in Luke 2:52, "And Jesus increased in wisdom (mental) and stature (physical) and in favor with God (spiritual) and men (social and emotional)."

Children are totally immersed in the study of history, which will be evident each week as our art projects coincide with the civilizations we are studying. The roots of Christianity are studied through historic fiction, original source documents and the Bible.

Science covers general subjects such as volcanoes, plant and animal life, the human body, and many more exciting topics.

Physical Education is a time where the children learn different sports, as well as, how to do various exercises such as sit-ups, push-ups, and jogging.

The homework is posted on the internet with a day-by-day schedule for each subject so that each student can continue their classical education at home.

Dialectic (CB)& Rhetoric (ED) Overview

Biblical worldview produces God-honoring literature, art, inventions, and political structures. Students will compare and contrast worldviews and the products which result from differing worldviews. Simulations, role play, debates and student made videos are some of the mediums used to engage students in learning. Comparison/contrast, persuasive arguments, narrative, poetry and research papers will be written, edited, and revised by all levels to provide students documents which will forever commemorate this year.

The English course utilizes the Institute for Excellence in Writing (IEW) curriculum at all grade levels to build a basic writing structure for beginning writing. An introductory course in IEW is REQUIRED for all new dialectic and rhetoric students and recommended for new parents. This course is given in the summer, prior to the first day of school, as well as, during the Christmas holidays and interim term in February. A Grammar curriculum is used through the rhetoric level. In addition, to IEW, Grammar, and a spelling program, a book report will be required approximately once a quarter. Students at all levels will select an appropriate work of fiction from a list of recommended books.

Activities

In addition to an excellent academic pursuit, activities add a social dimension to a child's education.

Orientation/Day One

During orientation headmaster will communicate requirements for the year. During the day there will be a time for parents and students to ask questions, pay fees, and obtain materials for upcoming events. The stylistic technique required from writing, incorporation of a timeline, production of a coursebook, and complete explanation of the curriculum will be given. A parent or responsible party must attend the day while students go to class on this first day.

Parent Meetings

Parent Meetings will be held in the months of October, January, March, and May and are announced through the campus e-mail. These meetings are a time to come together and celebrate student accomplishments and to encourage one another. After each meeting, student grade sheets will be handed out to a parent or a responsible party. These are **MANDATORY MEETINGS**.

Convocation

The time immediately following chapel in years 1, 3 & 4, is an introduction to the civilization or time period being studied this day. A family group or group of 3-4 students will present an overview of the lesson through such things as: multimedia, costumes, maps, food, and art replicas. Creative presentations will allow students to express their research through gifts and abilities unique to them. In year two, these presentations will be presented in the individual Culturative History classes, in the form of special projects and presentations. We highly encourage family members to visit during project presentations to see the demonstrations which students have spent time, effort, and energy producing. Every week a family group of students will give these auditory presentations with visual aids during either Convocation or in Culturative History. These creations of their own making reflect the students' individual interests, tastes, and personalities as they introduce the subject matter for the day's lessons.

Study Groups

There are several purposes for study groups. Study (or library) groups may meet in libraries or homes to build camaraderie among students, watch required movies, do group research, read books for book reports, or complete questionnaires. Each group will develop a unique personality depending on the ages of the students, the frequency of the meetings, and the purpose of the

group as decided by the parents of those students. Some groups will meet once a month only to watch movies or to discuss completed assignments. (Many libraries have A/V rooms, which offer video services.) Although students are not required to attend a group, it is very beneficial for them to do so. The Headmaster's Assistants will coordinate student study groups by geographical locations. This information may also be useful in determining car pools for class days, field trips, or other activities.

Parties

Parents are encouraged to sponsor parties for Christmas, Valentine's Day, Easter and end of year festivities. Occasionally, parents will be called on to send snacks or paper goods for special occasions. If parents desire to send a cake or cupcakes for a student's birthday, the bakery goods along with serving and paper products should be sent to the lunchroom area. Please ask a staff member to be responsible for the division of this food. Below are some of the pictures from a recent Sock Hop. This is a fund raiser that PACES holds annually to support the scholarship fund for families in need. It is a lot of fun for all of our students and families.



Seven Forms of Instruction

1. **Timeline Integration** - Students construct a timeline book by adding art masterpieces, musicians, scientists, and architects of the time period being studied. Students will include the dates of INVENTIONS, POLITICAL CONQUESTS, and PHILOSOPHERS to further see how these philosophies affected the events of time. During Orientation/Day One a timeline will be displayed and demonstrated for new families. This timeline is a valuable learning tool for all four years of study.

2. **Projects** - Students will have the opportunity to individually build models, produce video re-enactments, dress in authentic costumes, recite memorized monologues, or create salt dough maps as part of an in-depth study project. This all-inclusive incorporation of knowledge into a creative self-expression should solidify learning for the students, as well as, make for an enjoyable educational experience for the audience of students. No class time is allotted to developing project endeavors. Each project reflects approximately 4 hours of work. Students will be assigned the topic to be presented. Parents, encouraging with ideas and personal resources, will enjoy helping students develop their personal best for the project assignments.
3. **Tests and Quizzes** (“Opportunities”) - Objective tests, including maps, diagrams, and essay questions, will be given at the end of every unit. Tests insure that students understand each lesson. At the beginning of each grading period, a complete syllabus (homework chart) with projected dates for tests, projects, book reports, and major writing assignments will be posted on the Members Only page of this web site. During testing, ‘A’ students may dictate an answer to the teacher or to the grader. This is to aid in case younger students have trouble with spelling or writing in a limited time frame.
4. **Coursebooks** - Each student will produce a “coursebook” which can also be used as a portfolio for competitive college admittance. This coursebook will contain selected literary analysis; maps; pictures of completed projects; class activities, and tests. Instruction on the organization of the book can be found in the Assignment Expectations portion of the web site; it will also be discussed thoroughly in Culturative History the first two weeks of class. For those students entering PAideia after orientation day, a special orientation session must be arranged with the Headmaster Assistant.
5. **Field Trips** - During every school year, one week in October is set aside specifically as field trip week. Field trips coincide with the lessons. It is HIGHLY recommended that the parent make every effort to attend as many field trips as possible. There will be at least five field trips scheduled for this week, but only two are required. Students will be asked to write a paper on two of the field trips they attend. Field trip information and notices are sent to parents via e-mail. Students are required to wear their PAideia polo shirts on all field trips. Possible field trips include: The Houston Museum of Natural Science, The Museum of Fine Arts Houston, The Health Museum, various theatre arts, and the International Festival of Houston. Some families may prefer to visit field trip locations as families rather than with the school group.

There will be required movies to watch. Parents may rent/borrow the video and have their children watch it at home or with a study group. All students will have some mandatory videos to watch.

Group participation in field trips and study groups are recommended. Remember, however, that the CONTENT field trip will be required for mastery in class.

6. **Book Reports** - Reading is an important part of Classical Education. Each year the students will be assigned a number of books they will read independently and present in the form of a book report. These may be a formal written book report, an oral presentation or some creative book report as assigned by the teacher. Generally these will occur once per quarter. A book list will either be provided by the teacher or if directed the students will choose a book from the Classic Book List under the "*Members Only*" section of the website. All book reports will be graded according to a book report grading matrix found on the website. Additional reading is always encouraged for the advanced student who desires to see topics from many perspectives.
7. **Class Work** - As the day's lesson is introduced in convocation and presented throughout the class day, students at all levels will make note and vocabulary cards, begin maps and questionnaires, create art projects, and participate in reading, discussions, and re-enactments. All of these activities are required in order for the student to have the necessary basis to complete the assignments at home and master the material.