



LAFAYETTE ACADEMY

— A CLASSICAL SCHOOL —

EIGHTH GRADE CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

In **Grammar & Composition** Lafayette students will:

- be introduced to classical rhetoric and oration
- write essays using the classical oration structure: thesis, proof, refutation, etc.
- use outlining skills to organize their compositions
- review English grammar by sentence diagramming and other exercises

In **Literature** Lafayette students will read and discuss:

- novels such as *To Kill a Mockingbird* and *Robinson Crusoe*
- poems such as “Ozymandias” and “Do Not Go Gentle into that Good Night”
- Shakespeare’s *Much Ado About Nothing* and speeches by E.B. White and Rachel Carson
- short stories from Chekov, Hawthorne, Tolstoy, and Dostoevsky

In **History & Geography** Lafayette students will:

- read and hear about the major defining events of American history from 1877-2020
- study the physical and political geography of Europe and the Middle East
- evaluate the rights and principles contained in the Declaration of Independence
- understand the difference between violent and non-violent forms of activism
- understand the causes and ramifications of the major wars of the twentieth century

In **Algebra I** Lafayette students will:

- study and apply the laws of algebra and conditional equations
- understand fundamental operations with polynomials
- solve word problems involving systems of equations
- solve quadratic equations using the quadratic formula

In **Beginning Latin** Lafayette students will:

- cover Wheelock’s chapters 13-22
- learn all noun charts, as well as irregular pronoun declensions
- read adaptations of classical Latin
- study Roman history, civilizations, and culture

In **Introductory Physics** Lafayette students will:

- understand the laws of motion and the concepts of force, work, energy, and power
- know the basic terms and concepts of electricity
- conduct experiments involving connections between electricity and magnetism
- study the electromagnetic spectrum, refraction, and reflection

In **Art** Lafayette students will:

- understand and apply the six main composition rules of photography
- study the great works of art and architecture of the twentieth century
- create their own painting in watercolor and acrylic paints using two-point perspective

In **Music** Lafayette students will:

- become familiar with instruments and works of music from non-Western cultures
- further study American musical theater through Cohan, Rodgers & Hammerstein, and Leonard Bernstein
- discuss nationalism in music through great classical composers such as Bartok, Sibelius, and Dvorak

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LITERATURE HIGHLIGHTS

Novels & Plays

Lord of the Flies by William Golding
To Kill a Mocking Bird by Harper Lee
Robinson Crusoe by Daniel Defoe
Much Ado About Nothing by Shakespeare

Poems

“The Gift Outright” by Robert Frost
“I Dwell in Possibility” by Emily Dickinson
“My Heart Leaps Up” by Wordsworth
“Ozymandias” by Percy Bysshe Shelley
Sonnet 18 by William Shakespeare
“Spring and Fall” by G. Manley Hopkins
Sonnet 43 by Elizabeth Barrett Browning

Short Stories

“The Bet” by Anton Chekov
“Dr. Heidegger’s Experiment”
“God Sees the Truth but Waits” by Tolstoy
“An Honest Thief” by Fyodor Dostoevsky
“The Open Boat” by Stephen Crane

IMMERSIVE EXPERIENCES

Field Trips

Curriculum Supporting Day Trips