

LATIN ORDERS LANGUAGE: *Dan Sheffler*

Why should we learn a single dead language in our classical schools rather than six different modern languages that would help you show off by ordering food at more restaurants? In this talk, we will learn why Latin is a necessary core of any classical education. First, Latin teaches us how to read and think in English. By training the mind to memorize cases and declensions, grammatical structures, and the inner workings of subordinate clauses, Latin transforms the student's basic thought patterns. This transformation persists long after he forgets the finer points of Latin and gives him a facility with difficult texts that students of modern languages will lack. Second, Latin plays a special role in the whole history of Western civilization. It was the language of the Romans, it was the language of the Western Church, and it was the universal language of learning and scholarship for hundreds of years. Learning Latin, therefore, gives students a unique key that unlocks a whole treasury of learning, culture, and wisdom.

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN: A PICTURE OF ELOQUENCE: *Shane Saxon*

This session will cast a vision for parents by telling the story of the life of Benjamin Franklin to illustrate the fully formed communicator. The talk will focus on his education in the *progymnasmata*, his copious reading, and his excellence in writing, which led him to be one of the most persuasive and effective communicators of the spoken and written word in American history. His life story will illustrate classical educational principles that will inspire parents by giving them a concrete, personal example of eloquence.

FROM COMPREHENSION TO CONTEMPLATION: GETTING THE MOST OUT OF GOOD BOOKS: *Leigh Lowe*

Memoria Press' thoughtful approach to literature breeds students who understand and love quality books. Leigh will explain the differences between completing, comprehending, and contemplating literature and discuss how the academic and leisure reading goals of students hinge on these distinctions.

WHY JOHNNY CAN'T ADD: *Martin Cothran*

Martin tells the story of his father, who learned traditional arithmetic in a one-room schoolhouse in the hills of South Carolina and who went on to become one of the great aerospace engineers. What was it about traditional arithmetic that produced engineering's greatest generation, and what is it about the New Math that causes many primary students to explode on the educational launchpad?

VIRTUE THROUGHOUT HISTORY: ATHENS AND ROME: *Jon Christianson*

Classical education points to the ancient civilizations of the Mediterranean as history's prime exemplars of human excellence, whose vision of the good is accessible to every man and yet approaches superhuman sublimity. For all the rising and falling of these great civilizations, and even as their pagan creeds were supplanted by the Christian faith, this image of virtue was never uprooted but, rather, fulfilled and expanded by each new turn of the classical world. In this two-part talk, we will discuss the classical history of virtue, as it was defined and sought after, in the West.

In part one of our two sessions, we will look at how the Greeks and Romans sought to elevate themselves as close as they could to divinity with the cultivation of individual virtue. From Socrates' inquiry into the nature of human qualities to Cicero's musings on the virtuous state and its occupants, we will endeavor to compose a model for the virtuous man of the classical age.

We will refer to a host of texts, fiction and nonfiction, that serve as evidence of the classical quest for virtue. Part one references will include Homer's *Iliad* and *Odyssey*, the Greek tragedies of Aeschylus, Sophocles, and Euripides, the *Dialogues* of Plato, Virgil's *Aeneid*, and Cicero's *Republic and the Laws*.

READING HARD BOOKS: *Jessica Phillips*

We all aspire to read hard books, whether they are part of our child's curriculum or on a list we hope to get to "someday." What is it that makes a book difficult to read? In this session, we will discuss common obstacles to reading hard books as well as proven strategies to get started or keep going. A seat is waiting for each one of us at the Communal Feast of classical education. Let's read these books, and let's read them together!

BOOK CLUB: *Martin Cothran*

James Clavell's *The Children's Story*, set during the Cold War, is a little-known short story about how easily and quickly we can be brainwashed by simple suggestion. We will read this story together (no need to read it beforehand) and discuss how a teacher is able to subvert a whole classroom of children in a manner of minutes and what this says about how important it is who teaches our children and how they are taught.

VIRTUE THROUGHOUT HISTORY: JERUSALEM AND ST. AUGUSTINE: *Jon Christianson*

In this continuation of discourse on the image of virtue, we will investigate how the interaction of Greeks with Jews, and of Judea with Rome, led to a pivotal transformation of the classical virtuous man with the Christian event. From the Apostles to Augustine to Aquinas, we will consider the broad consequences of this paradigm shift that took centuries to unfold.

The summation of our two sessions will refer to excerpts from the Old and New Testament, the early Christian Fathers, Augustine's *Confessions* and *City of God*, and Thomas Aquinas' *Summa Theologica*.

MUSIC APPRECIATION: WHAT ARE WE LISTENING TO?: *Steve & Eva Rouse*

The benefits of listening to music and of learning to sing or play music have been extensively studied, and the results continue to be what we intuitively understand: Music enhances our lives, enlarges our world, and enlightens us. It simply makes us better. In this session, we will discuss how to launch a personal appreciation for music, recognize its ordered and mathematical qualities, acknowledge the eternal qualities of the great classical compositions, and prepare you to better share music appreciation with your children.

ART APPRECIATION: WHAT ARE WE LOOKING AT?: *Kyle Janke*

This session will focus on the fundamental distinction between traditional and modern art in Western culture, which is the exoneration of a created thing as opposed to the exoneration of the act of creation. An apology for an objective definition of beauty arises from this difference. This presentation will reference two passages from Dante's *Purgatorio* in order to develop a foundational vision of Beauty, grounded in the assertion that true love inspires better art than passion. Using this as our measure, we will analyze the beauty of traditional Western art and consider the shortcomings of the modern art movement in an attempt to understand what has gone wrong and how it may be corrected by an earnest and deliberate appreciation of the classics. The necessity of teaching students to love classical art comprises the goal of this session, for what the Greeks got right may still do its part in saving Western civilization.

UNPLANNED EDUCATION: TRANSITIONING FROM BRICK & MORTAR TO THE KITCHEN TABLE: *Tracey Carrin*

The transition from a brick-and-mortar school to homeschool can be daunting! Come for encouragement and practical tips from Tracey Carrin, a veteran homeschool mom and former private school teacher. We will cover the logistics of getting started, how to map out the day to day, and gaining confidence as you learn to teach your kids.

MANAGING THE MADHOUSE: *Meribeth Szwed & Courtney Day*

Parents might be outnumbered, but we're not outranked. Let's talk about sibling interactions, dividing our time, deciding how to simplify or combine, different methods of daily teaching, and many more tips for navigating busy days. We will frame all of these practical steps within our call as Christian parents to nurture, set boundaries, and prepare our children for the future.

ALL ABOUT DADS: *Brett Kennedy, Jeremiah Tutwiler, & Michael Milovancev*

Now more than ever, dads are taking active roles as families choose to homeschool their children. Whether it is stepping in as the primary teacher or taking greater supporting responsibilities to aid their wives, dads are sacrificing in different ways to provide their children with the best education available for their particular situations. Join three homeschooling dads as they share their experiences, perspectives, and tips on how to develop best practices to help your homeschooling family.

HOW TO HOMESCHOOL WHEN LIFE ISN'T PERFECT: *Christy Buss*

Homeschooling is a rewarding calling, but it is also a challenge, testing us in the marathon of life. Homeschooling comes with anxieties and challenges that are often amplified since homeschooling inevitably occurs in the midst of challenges, both minute and enormous. The goal of this session is for you to feel more inspired for your coming year and more confident that you are equipped to fulfill the role to which you were called.

SURVIVING BOX DAY: *Dianna Kennedy*

Now that you've placed your curriculum order, what's next? Join Dianna Kennedy, veteran MP mom, as she walks you step by step through preparing for the upcoming school year. We'll cover parent-teacher preparation, why you need to put everything in its place, and how to train students to keep their materials organized. Remember, it's a marathon, not a sprint!

HOW AND WHEN TO OUTSOURCE: *Elisabeth Cauley*

The pursuit of a classical Christian education in your homeschool is a worthy and noble goal, but one that can leave you overwhelmed, intimidated, and frazzled. If you are feeling the pressures of "doing it all," join us as we reject common homeschooling myths, refresh our souls on what is good, true, and beautiful, and restore peace and productivity to our homes by giving ourselves permission to get outside help. Glean practical tips from real-life examples so you can wisely plan how, when, what, and where to outsource.

COLLEGE IS COMING: ARE WE READY?: *Angel Pregont & Cindy Davis*

It happens in the blink of an eye; your little one is prepping for college. In this session we will provide practical information and tips from an experienced homeschool mom and the upper school director of HLS Indianapolis. Together, they will discuss how and when to start planning, assigning credits, standardized testing, setting goals for specific postsecondary experiences, and basic familiarity with transcripts to make them less unfamiliar.

HOW WE WORK AS A TEAM: *Dan & Rose Sheffler, Jeremiah & Jen Tutwiler, Chris & Elisabeth Cauley*

Homeschooling isn't for the faint of heart, but it doesn't have to be Mom versus the world! Join three veteran homeschool couples as we talk candidly about the trials and triumphs of seeking a beautiful – and realistic – education for our children. How do we handle disagreements about homeschooling? What are the roles in our unique families? We'll also share how we create and maintain a strong homeschool vision and how we keep our marriages as the cornerstone of our homeschools.

TEACHING LATIN: FORMS & BEYOND: *Sarah Kaye & Paul Schaeffer*

We are all about the benefits of studying Latin here at Memoria Press, but the truth remains that as homeschoolers, you have the tough job of making that study a reality in your own home. How this looks and how long it lasts can be a difficult decision, especially when your children already possess more knowledge of Latin than you do. How much more Latin do they really need? And how can you best help them reach those goals within your homeschool? Join Paul and Sarah to discuss both the big picture and the nitty-gritty details of helping older students continue their Latin studies through the Latin Forms Series and beyond.

TEACHING LATIN: PRIMA LATINA AND LATINA CHRISTIANA:

Christine Howieson & Michelle Tefertiller

Prima Latina and Latina Christiana are gentle introductions to grammar-based Latin study, one of the hallmarks of a classical education. We'll discuss teaching tips, how Latin trains study habits at a young age, and how anyone can teach (and learn!) Latin with the Memoria Press method and courses.

BUILDING BLOCKS OF READING AND SPELLING: *Rose Sheffler & Michelle Tefertiller*

Reading is foundational to all education and this alone can make it intimidating. How do you know if your child is ready? How do you know if he "gets it"? How do you determine normal challenges from a true problem? Memoria Press veteran teacher Michelle Tefertiller and homeschooler Rose Sheffler discuss the building blocks of reading and how to apply them at home with confidence.

TO WEEP OR NOT TO WEEP: MOVING ON TO COMPOSITION: *Sarah Kaye & Shane Saxon*

The *progymnasmata*, the traditional program of writing instruction handed down to us from the Greeks, has been skillfully explained in the Classical Composition program. Yet even pronouncing the word can strike fear into the hearts of parents whose children are at the cusp of starting this level of writing instruction. This session will reveal that there is nothing to fear when it comes to embarking on the Classical Composition journey, including an overview of the program and insights into how to teach it in your own home on a daily basis.

ROAD MAP TO GUIDE-BASED SUBJECTS: *Jen Tutwiler & Tanya Charlton*

Memoria's student guides are often approached with curiosity and maybe a little trepidation: Is this busywork? How much can we do orally? Will we have time for all this? Discover the beauty and simplicity of Memoria's guide-based subjects. Join a homeschooling mother of seven and MP's curriculum director as they share the whys and hows for making student guides work for your family.

REVIEW, RECITATION, & FLASHCARDS: *Nikky Weston & Tanya Charlton*

There are twenty-four hours in a day. Why didn't God give the homeschooler twenty-six? If you're a homeschooling parent, you feel like you can't get it all done. When this happens, we tend to move forward only with what we consider the "necessities." Let's take some time together to discuss why review, recitation, and flashcards *are* included in the necessities as important tools in learning and how to make them a healthy part of your school time.

ARITHMETIC BASICS: GRADES K-6: *Michelle Recher & Leslie Cornett*

Why Rod & Staff? Why a mastery approach? This session will cover the reasons behind why we teach what we do in the area of math and why we leave out certain topics. You'll learn practical, hands-on tips for teaching each grade level (K-6), the main goal for each grade, and how an actual lesson works.

PRE-ALGEBRA & BEYOND: *Cindy Davis*

As your child continues with math beyond arithmetic, what can you expect? What is the best sequence for learning algebra, geometry, and trigonometry? How far should we go with math? Should my child take calculus, statistics, both, or neither? What should I do if I'm intimidated by the thought of teaching higher levels of mathematics?

Cindy Davis, a former homeschooling mom who now teaches math and science at Highlands Latin School - Indianapolis, will share from her experiences teaching middle school and high school math. We will review MP's recommended math sequence, discover keys to successful mathematics mastery, and identify common pitfalls to avoid. We will discuss strategies for learning with your child and options for outsourcing math instruction when the time is right.

As a homeschooling parent, you wear many hats and teach many different subjects. Cindy will help you determine a path to successful math education for your older child.

SIMPLY CLASSICAL OR MEMORIA PRESS: HOW DO I DECIDE?:

Cheryl Swope & Christine Howieson

We explain the differences between the Simply Classical (SC) Curriculum and the Memoria Press (MP) Classical Core Curriculum, share how and when to use SC as a transition to MP, provide scenarios when Simply Classical works well for the long term, and help you know when to choose Simply Classical only for select resources.

LEARNING DISABILITIES (DYSLEXIA) AND ADHD: *Susan Hargett & Jen Tutwiler*

In this session, we'll explore the many impacts of learning disabilities and ADHD and share the practical benefits of Simply Classical for both children and their teachers. We'll also discuss how to adapt the Memoria Press Classical Core Curriculum for children who are beyond Simply Classical's offerings.

PENMANSHIP AND THE STRUGGLING STUDENT: *Iris Hatfield*

Bring your questions! Receive expert help from Iris Hatfield for these scenarios and more:

- My child says writing hurts his hand
- My child hates (or refuses) to write
- My child's letters are poorly sized, malformed, or illegible

PERSONALIZED PLANNING WITH CHERYL SWOPE: *Michelle Brazelton & Kelly Rottmann Accompanying*

You've scored the Readiness Assessments, but you need more help. Learn which areas weigh most heavily on the assessments and find answers to your specific planning questions. Whether your child is within or beyond the current Simply Classical levels, our team of special-needs homeschoolers will endeavor to help you create a good, workable plan for your child.

ADAPTING LITERATURE FOR STRUGGLING STUDENTS: *Cheryl Swope & Leigh Lowe*

Cheryl Swope teams up with Memoria Press literature expert Leigh Lowe to offer tips for teaching vocabulary, discussion, and reading fluency with struggling students. Join these two mothers who appreciate classic children's literature as they share their heartfelt desire to help all children love books for life.

AUTISM, DOWN SYNDROME, OR MEDICALLY FRAGILE CHILDREN: *Julie Paul & Jatina Coburn*

How do I order the day? How should I arrange the space for harmony and learning? How do I accommodate sensory needs? What about special conditions, including minimally verbal children? What should I do after age 18? Join this honest, poignant discussion with two homeschoolers "in the trenches." Both have found themselves facing daunting circumstances with pervading hope, love, and joy.

VIRTUE, BEHAVIOR, & SPECIAL NEEDS: *Cheryl Swope*

In this talk we explore the complexity of conduct, character, and wisdom:

- The Discrepancy
- The Twist
- The Divine

Consider a renewed and broader understanding with a buoyed hope for your struggling child.

CLOSING SESSION: *Cheryl Swope*

After gathering questions throughout the conference, we answer any remaining questions in this session. Join us to enjoy final discussions, share contact information for ongoing mutual support, and hear closing words.