

Dear Parents,

As you participate in Classical Conversations, there are some things each week that we would like you to do. In the assignment guide, you will see the subjects listed that we will be working on each week. As the parent, we would like you to divide the subjects up throughout the week so that the student doesn't wait until the day before seminar to do all the work. You decide the best way for your family to schedule the work.

Here are some recommendations:

**GRAMMAR**—Divide the lessons up so that the student has daily work. When students have things to memorize (vocabulary, declensions, conjugations), please drill them on these every day and REVIEW the memory work throughout the year. Also, when the students learn a new part of speech in Latin, be sure that they know the function of that part of speech in English. You may find an English grammar guide such as *Our Mother Tongue* to be helpful.

**LITERATURE**—Always have the student write a rough draft first so that you may go through it and make grammar and spelling corrections before the final draft. Make sure that the child reads the assignment and sticks to the instructions. It is easy to fall into the habit of writing book reports rather than answering the assignment. Also, be sure your student COMPLETELY reads the book assigned the first week it is due so they can discuss the book in class. They need the 2<sup>nd</sup> week to concentrate on writing skills.

**GEOGRAPHY**—For the geography terms, the student will be making a mini dictionary of all the terms he learns this year. Make sure that he finds them all either in a dictionary or encyclopedia. Drill these terms along with the countries and capitals every day as they are introduced throughout the year. The maps need to be worked on each day. First, find the countries and capitals and then trace the countries so that they may draw it from memory during the seminar. This takes time, so plan for it. The goal is to say "Draw Africa" and they can do it without a reference book. Each practice map doesn't have to be pretty, just accurate.

**NATURE JOURNAL**—Make sure that your student illustrates the topic we are working on that week in the nature journal. They must use at least 2 resources to write the information about the topic on the lines provided in the journal. The student is to record the resources at the bottom of the page in bibliography form, which will be taught in the seminar.

**RHETORIC**—The student must read the chapters listed each week. We have a form which you can make copies of that will help the student when he/she is reading *It Couldn't Just Happen*. Please feel free to make as many copies as you need. Use this every week and have the student bring it back to the seminar. The class time will be more fun if they've memorized the 3 catechism questions for the week.

SAXON MATH—Assign a math lesson a day so that your student will complete the 4 lessons before the next seminar. Please make a note of the problems that you are unable to teach to your child so they can quickly ask their tutor for help. Remember that we can not teach 4 lessons in one hour. We can only trouble shoot areas where a diligent student has already attempted to learn the material and show students how we tackle the upcoming lessons.

Here is a list of the things the student needs to bring each week:

Assignment guide

Bible, pencil,

Dictionary of geography terms, practice map work from home, colored pencils,

Atlas,

Nature Journal,

*Latin's Not So Tough*, Book 3 and Book 4

*It Couldn't Just Happen*,

*Don't Check Your Brains at the Door*,

*Saxon Math*,

*Biology -A Reproducible Study Guide* (2<sup>nd</sup> semester)

Tutors - You may want to purchase a few simple "Hotel" bells for students to ring when playing games like Jeopardy or Family Feud.