

# WELCOME TO CHALLENGE A

Dear Challenge A Parent,

Welcome! Whether you are a new or returning Challenge A parent, what you hold in your hands has been designed to help you and your student succeed together this year. This guide is a treasure chest full of encouragement, equipping, exhortation, and teaching tips. Grab a cup of coffee or tea, curl up in your favorite chair, and read every page!

Challenge A begins a new educational era for most students. They can look forward to some independent work, lots of dialectic conversations, and new challenges. Students will analyze the language, laws, and logic of math while solving equations. When studying Latin, students will have the opportunity to observe familiarities to English grammar, patterns in language, and Latin roots in other strands. A highlight for students may be using the five canons of rhetoric to research, sketch, and present an aspect of God's creation that they have chosen to explore. Speaking of rhetoric, students will examine creation and evolution, culminating in an exciting game of Jeopardy!<sup>®</sup> with catechism questions! Through the themes of carefully chosen literature, students will handcraft persuasive essays while strengthening their decision making skills. At the end of the year in cartography, each student will draw the entire world independently, labeling as many countries, capitals, and features as they can remember.

In the front of your guide, you will find the story of the Challenge program as well as the detailed story of the Challenge A program. Each strand description also includes a story that will develop year after year. These have been written especially for you, the teaching parent. Articles in the front section of the guide explain why we have chosen particular assignments for Challenge A and the philosophy behind those decisions. In the middle of the guide, you will find clear instructions for community days and weekly assignments for at home. You might consider removing the assignment pages from the main guide and creating a mini-guide for your Challenge A student to keep. The guide ends with appendices containing helpful information about how to complete specific assignments.

Remember, you are the primary teacher and principal, and keeping up with your student's daily progress will benefit you and your student. The assignments given through Classical Conversations are optional for your home school. If your family is on vacation, if you are in the midst of a teachable moment or a family crisis, or if you have a better assignment in mind, you have the authority and privilege to modify, substitute, or remove assignments. In addition, you are the final giver of grades and developer of your home school. You see the bulk of your student's efforts and know what is best for him or her. Challenge A directors do not grade assignments but may give feedback through verbal assessment or written progress reports.

May God give you wisdom and diligence to tailor your student's education in Challenge A. As your student takes ownership of their education, may they develop the skills to think and live as an image bearer of God. May you and your student come to know God deeper and make Him known wider as you search out His Word and world.

Challenge A Academic Advisor  
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