RPA’s ACADEMIC CURRICULUM AND SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT

Educational Priorities
The Board of Directors desires that all students receive a classical, liberal education. To this end the Board has determined the following educational priorities:

- Basic cognitive skills: reading / writing / mathematics
- Core subjects: English language and literature; history, geography, and government; physical and biological sciences; mathematics
- Other classical subjects: music, art, Latin
- Auxiliary subjects: foreign languages, P.E., performing arts, other social sciences
- Extracurricular activities of any type as defined by Headmaster.

5th-8th
The 5-8 curriculums will follow the Core Knowledge Sequence. Occasionally, the School will diverge from the Core Knowledge Sequence in order to raise the standards in teaching a particular skill or subject. The Board of Directors and Headmaster will determine these instances. The Headmaster will ensure all skill areas in the 5-8 Core Knowledge Sequences are taught at some point in grades 5-8.

9th-12th
The High School will feature an advanced arts and sciences curriculum. The objective of the high school curriculum is to explore issues and texts intensively rather than to offer a superficial “covering.” The humanities program will be centered on a coordinated Western Civilization sequence. In all humanities courses, priority will be given to original sources and great works as opposed to textbooks. Mathematics and the sciences will offer rigorous training in the fundamentals and theories of these disciplines. Students will receive extensive training in analytical thinking and the scientific method. In all subjects, textbooks will be used as a resource, not as the basis of the curriculum. The curriculum will exceed the State Content Standards. Teachers must develop a curriculum under the direction of the Headmaster who is accountable to the Board of Directors.

Specific, sequenced learning eliminates gaps and provides a strong foundation for future learning.

- Encourages students to think, not just regurgitate.
- Uses the Socratic method of discussion, which builds communication skills and logical thinking abilities.
- Teaches students how to write by using language, logic, and evidence effectively.
- Uses original sources in history instead of only the textbook.
- Explores complete works of great literature rather than selections of stories.
- Requires Latin to build English vocabulary and a better understanding of grammar.
- Teaches the concepts behind mathematical and scientific problems in addition to the procedures and formulas.
- Teaches good character through examples of virtue in history and literature.