

Susan Wise Bauer's book, *The Well Educated Mind* (quoted below), focuses on the classical model.

What is the Classical Model?

"The Classical [Model] divides learning into three stages generally known as the Trivium."

- "The first stage of education is called the **grammar stage** (in this case, "grammar" means building blocks, the foundational knowledge of each academic subject). In elementary school, children are asked to absorb information-not evaluate it but simply learn it. Memorization and repetition are the primary methods of teaching; children are expected to become familiar with a certain body of knowledge, but they are not yet asked to analyze it."
- Students learn to think through arguments(Middle School) in the **logic stage**, asking, "Why?" In this stage, they begin to use their critical thinking skills. Also called the Dialect stage.
- "In the final stage (High School), the **rhetoric stage**, students learn to express their own opinion in speech and writing."

"The Classically educated students know this pattern (Learn facts, analyze them; express your opinion about them) applies to all later learning."

The Classical model believes other learning models leave out the first two steps jumping straight into the logic stage. This is why I am so passionate about teaching our elementary students that first **grammar stage**.

How to Implement the grammar stage?

At Anchor, each week, your child (grades 1-6) will be given basic grammar or foundational information for each subject. Seven subjects are covered, as seen on the card below. Tutors will launch these weekly memory works at Anchor on Tuesdays. Tutors will; Introduce the memory work; Have the students repeat the facts through chants, songs, and games; Locate geographical locations on a map; Review Latin root words; Sing skip counting songs to help with multiplication; Review, review, and review! Their Science and History classes will also align with that week's memory work.

Time Line

Seven Wonders
of the Ancient World
Patriarchs of Israel
Hittites and Canaanites
Kush
Assyrians
Babylonians
China's Shang Dynasty

History

Tell me about Mesopotamia.

The earliest civilizations
were found in Mesopotamia,
between the Tigris and
Euphrates rivers. The area
is called the Fertile Crescent.

Latin Roots

bene - good
(benefactor, benevolent)

cent - one hundred
(century, percent)

chrono - time
(chronology, chronic)

Science

What are the steps of the
scientific process?

Question	Analysis
Research	Conclusion
Hypothesis	Communication
Procedure	

Geography

What are the 5 oceans?

Atlantic
Pacific
Indian
Arctic
Southern

Math

$3 \times 1 = 3$	$3 \times 7 = 21$
$3 \times 2 = 6$	$3 \times 8 = 24$
$3 \times 3 = 9$	$3 \times 9 = 27$
$3 \times 4 = 12$	$3 \times 10 = 30$
$3 \times 5 = 15$	$3 \times 11 = 33$
$3 \times 6 = 18$	$3 \times 12 = 36$

English

Noun

A **NOUN** names a
person,
place, thing or
idea.

Week 2

At home, the classical model is applied in many different ways. At my house, we do about **2 hours** a week memorizing our weekly assignment. Other families allocate 30 minutes a day for the same purpose. We take out that week's memory work in the morning, and I give my kids time to **study it first alone**. Then we **read them aloud** together, **sing any allocated songs**, and finally **quiz** each other. Many times we leave these cards in the car and recite them while running errands. On Thursday mornings during memory review students are given the opportunity to recite their memorized work.

The classical model can be as **intensive** as you need it. You can transfer it into handwriting sheets, buy books to enhance your memory work, or print out an endless amount of resources on the internet. There is so much out there. Or this can be implemented with **minimum** effort, by just reviewing and singing the songs.