

## **Columbia Heights Academy ~ The Keely Family Homeschool Curriculum Notes: Grade 3/4 (age 7±)**

C.J. was an early reader, so we began formal daily studies (grade 1) at about age 3.75 which placed her on an accelerated track. By the time she would have entered kindergarten had she been attending public school (Sept 2007), she was actually starting grade 3. So this year we opted to slow her academics down by spreading grades 3-4 over 2½-3 years (so this year finish grade 3, start grade 4). This grade 3/4 year was also filled with travel and "natural learning" experiences.

Plan: [Well-Trained Mind](#) classical education, taught secularly with strong math/science component. In selected weeks we replaced our standard homeschool schedule with [Natural Learning activities](#).

Curriculum Lists: Besides following the WTM suggestions, we referred to [Rebecca Rupp's Home Learning Year by Year](#), [Worldbook Curriculum ~ grade 3 / grade 4](#), and [What Your Third Grader Needs to Know: Fundamentals of a Good Third-Grade Education \(The Core Knowledge Series\) / What Your Fourth Grader Needs to Know](#).

Testing: This was the first year that we conducted a national standardized test: [California Achievement Test grade 3](#) was administered at the end of grade 3 (age 7.5). We are not legally required to file a letter of intent nor test yet but we did so merely to practice testing. Needless to say, C.J. did great!

- Weekly learning posters:
  - Fact sheets / Definitions: Math, Science, Grammar, Latin
  - To Memorize: Poem, Famous Quote, History list or document
  
- Daily schedule: (4+ hours per day 6 days per week)
  - MATH ~ 5 x 45 mins / wk
    - [Right Start Math D](#) with manipulatives
    - [Saxon Math 3](#) -> [Saxon Math 5/4](#)
    - [Singapore Math's Challenging Word Problems 3](#)
    - [Right Start Math card games](#) plus other strategy/thinking games
  
  - LOGIC & CRITICAL THINKING ~ 30 mins / wk
    - [Primary Grade Challenge Math \(level 2-3 activities\)](#),
    - [Mindbenders A3-A4](#), [Aunty Math's Challenge Problems](#)
  
  - SCIENCE ~ CHEMISTRY & PHYSICS in alternating weeks ~ 3 x 45 mins / wk
    - CHEMISTRY:
      - [Living Learning Books - Chemistry](#)
      - \* Two lessons per week; complete lab sheet for each experiment

- \* Study vocabulary/biographies to accompany labs
- One additional chemistry experiment per week from:
- \* [Cool Science: Go Chem Kit](#)
  - \* [Adventures With Atoms and Molecules: Chemistry Experiments for Young People](#)
  - \* [Janice VanCleave's Chemistry for Every Kid](#)

#### PHYSICS:

Lessons and hands-on experiments and activities from:

- \* [Physics Experiments for Children](#)
- \* [Janice VanCleave's Physics for Every Kid](#)
- \* [MathScienceNucleus.org \(Physics and Technology Units K-6\)](#)
- \* [Physics4Kids.com](#)
- \* [Thames & Kosmos Physics Workshop](#) <-- really cool kit!
- \* [The Way Things Work Game](#)

#### GENERAL SCIENCE:

Supplemental activities: [Building Foundations of Scientific Understanding](#)

Plus: study the periodic table of elements, science webs, science encyclopedias, library science books/videos, science craft projects, field studies, nature journal

- HISTORY ~ THE RENAISSANCE & MODERN AGE ~ 2 x 45 mins / wk  
Finish up [Story of the World 3](#) w/ [SOTW 3 - Activity Book](#)  
(narration, map, colouring page, and one activity/craft project per chapter)  
Plus: history encyclopedias, history webs, library books/videos
  - CIVICS ~ 15 mins / wk  
\* Study the Sly Sobel books:  
[How the U.S. Government Works](#), [The Declaration of Independence](#),  
[The U.S. Constitution and You](#), [The Bill of Rights](#)  
\* Follow the current U.S. election process; attend Democratic caucuses, rallies, conventions.  
Read [America Votes: How Our President Is Elected](#).
  - GEOGRAPHY ~ 4 x 5 mins / wk + 45 mins / wk for activities (mapping, research, art)  
Finish up [Trail Guide to World Geography](#) with [Student Notebook](#)  
Includes activities involving map, atlas, or globe  
Supplements: [The Ultimate Geography and Timeline Guide](#); [Geography Through Art](#)  
Next move to a 2-month geog. unit with *Around the World in 80 Days*
  - LANGUAGE ARTS ~ 4 x 10 mins / wk  
Finish up [Spelling Workout D](#) (1½ chapters / wk)  
Plus: activities involving a dictionary, encyclopedia, thesaurus, or library
- GRAMMAR ~ 4 x 15 mins / wk  
Finish up [First Language Lessons 3](#) then switch to [Growing with Grammar 4](#)
- SPELLING ~ 6 x 5 mins / wk  
[Sequential Spelling 3](#) with a written test on 10 words after every 4 lessons

VOCABULARY ~ 4 x 10 mins / wk

[Wordly Wise 3000 book 4](#) (1 chapter / wk)

Plus: research using dictionary, encyclopedia, or internet

PENMANSHIP ~ 6 x 5 mins / wk

Finish [Handwriting Without Tears - Cursive Success](#) (4 days / wk)

Copywork (2 days / wk)

WRITING ~ 6 x 10 mins / wk

[Writing Strands 3](#) (2 days / wk, ½ chapter / wk)

Dictation (3 days / wk)

Write a letter, short story, or book report (one / wk)

- MEMORY WORK ~ 6 x 5 mins / wk

Memorize poems, quotations, grammar definitions, math facts. Weekly recitation.

Review of grades 1-3 memory work including:

Egyptian Pharaohs, Roman Emperors, Chinese Dynasties, English Rulers, major world wars, Shakespeare's Sonnets, Macbeth's Speech, U.S. Presidents, Preamble to the U.S. Constitution, Declaration of Independence, and lots of poems!

- FOREIGN LANGUAGE ~ 6 x 10 mins / wk

Latin [Secundus \(with CD\)](#) (4 days/wk)

Sign Language (6 new signs/wk in [Signing](#) plus watch [Signing Time](#) on PBS)

- MUSIC ~ 5 x 10 mins / wk

Instrument - piano [Hal Leonard's Piano Lessons 2](#) and [Instant Piano Fun 2](#) (4 x 10 mins / wk)

Music appreciation - focus on orchestral instruments & composers:

[Story of the Orchestra](#), listen to classical CDs, attend [Oregon Symphony's Youth Concerts](#)

- THEATER ARTS ~ at least 30 mins / wk

Read-throughs, improvs, play adverbs, perform one-act plays, puppet shows, backstage skills, attend plays/musicals

- ART ~ at least 90 mins / wk

[Draw Write Now 7-8](#) (2 x 10 mins / wk)

Craft from history's SOTW (2 x 15 mins / wk)

Project from [Geography Through Art](#) (one per week)

Art skill - [Art Fun](#) (one 30-min project per week)

Art appreciation - [The Usborne Children's Book of Art](#), study [famous art works](#), visit museums

- COMPUTER ~ about 6 x 15 mins / wk

\* Skills: basic windows skills, file management, learn to use programs, using Encarta to find information, internet safety, internet searches

- \* Independent time on the computer:  
educational games/activities, virtual field trips, emailing friends or family.
- \* Mummy emails a daily link/project for CJ to explore.

- INDEPENDENT READING ~ 6 x 60 mins / wk

"Assigned reading" great books of literature, library books (biographies, history, STEM topics, etc.)

Books read this year included: Mouse Wife, The Scarlet Stockings, ...

"Fun reading" @ 4-7 grade level

Series read this year included: [Chronicles of Narnia](#), [the Mandie Mysteries](#), [The Boxcar Children Mysteries](#), [Trixie Belden](#), [Allie Finkle](#), [Whales on Stilts](#), the [An Interactive History Adventure](#) series, ...

- LITERATURE / READ ALOUD BY PARENT ~ 6 x 30 mins / wk

Classics, great books, myths/fables/legends from around the world, etc.

Suggestions from [TWTM](#) / [HLYBY](#) / [AO4](#) / [CM](#) / [GB 4b](#) book lists

Some of our favourites this year were: Manxmouse, The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane, Arabian Nights, ...

- Other activities:

- PE + HEALTH: workout 60 minutes each day (biking, walking, etc.)  
Learn about the human body, good health, personal safety, etc.

- HOME MANAGEMENT SKILLS: cooking, cleaning, sewing, money management, etc.

- [4H Clover Crafters](#) & [Girl Guides](#)  
(arts & crafts, socialization, team work, character building, community service, outdoor activities)

- COMMUNITY SERVICE (monthly; volunteerism, environmentalism, political involvement, etc.)

- FIELD TRIPS (social science / occupational ed) + TRAVEL (monthly; visit family, camping, etc.)