

Columbia Heights Academy ~ The Keely Family Homeschool Curriculum Notes: Grade 6 (age 10±)

Our Plan: a neo-classical secular education based on the [Well-Trained Mind](#) but with a much stronger than suggested focus on STEM (science, technology, engineering, mathematics). Grades 5-8 are the logic years so we approach our lessons through logical analysis and critical thinking.

We spend about 6½ hours per day 6 days per week basically year round (plus physical education and extra-curricular activities) for a total of about 1700 hrs/yr with 1200 hrs being academic studies. Generally academics were covered 9am-2pm, an extended family sit down main meal, a couple of hours of outdoor activities, field trips, and playtime in the afternoon, reading and (mostly educational) games/videos in the evening. However we try to stay flexible working in some “down days”, visits with family, and plenty of travel.

Our daily schedule sheets (three-page chart at the end of this document) are typically over-loaded so it often takes three weeks to complete the two main sheets. The fourth week of the month is a STAFA week focusing only on Science, Theatre Arts, and Fine Arts.

Curriculum Guides: Besides following the WTM suggestions, we referred to [Rebecca Rupp's Home Learning Year by Year](#), [Worldbook Curriculum ~ grade 6](#), and [What Your Sixth Grader Needs to Know: Fundamentals of a Good Sixth-Grade Education \(The Core Knowledge Series\)](#).

- MATHEMATICS (Geometry & Basic Calculus) ~ 9 hrs / sheet
[Right Start Math's Geometry \(level G\)](#) with geometry tools and other manipulatives
[Singapore Math's Challenging Word Problems \(level 5\)](#)
[Calculus Without Tears \(vol 1\)](#)
[Right Start Math card games](#) in lieu of drill and practice worksheets
Lots of “free reading” math books, puzzles, and games
- MATHEMATICS (Logic & Critical Thinking) ~ 2 hrs / sheet
[Building Thinking Skills \(level 2\)](#)
[Perplexors \(level A\)](#)
[Dell Magazine's Math & Logic Puzzles](#)
Play logic games including [WFF-n-Proof](#) and [Mastermind](#)
- SCIENCE ~ 6 hrs / sheet + most of STAFA week

Spent most of the year on BIOLOGY / LIFE SCIENCE:
[Readers Digest's How Nature Works](#) for readings and activities
[Science 101: Biology](#) for readings
[Jan VanCleave's Biology for Every Kid](#) for experiments

Summer spent on experiments from [Creepy Crawlies and the Scientific Method](#)

Fall moved to EARTH SCIENCE: [CPO Science Earth Science Middle School](#)

Supplemental resources included:

[Marvels of Science: 50 Fascinating 5-Minute Reads](#)

Several encyclopedias about nature, animals, humans, biology, earth, geology, astronomy.

[Smithsonian's Natural History Encyclopedia](#) is highly recommended!

Supplemental books about earth and the environment by David Suzuki, Bill Bryson, etc.

Board games including [The Somebody Game](#) and [Totally Gross](#). Science games/apps on iPad.

Documentary series including [BBC/Attenborough's Planet Earth](#).

Regular use of microscope, pocket microscope, and telescope to observe our universe.

- HISTORY & GEOGRAPHY (U.S. & Canada) ~ 4½ hrs / sheet

[A History of US](#)

Concurrent with: (see [Paula's correlation chart](#))

[Story of the World book 4](#) plus [SOTW 4 - Activity book 4](#)

Plus:

Several history/geography encyclopedias, almanacs, atlases, and iPad mapping apps.

[Learning Through History Magazine](#) for supplemental activities

[The Ultimate Geography and Timeline Guide](#)

Next move to:

[Howard Zinn's Young Peoples History of the United States \(vols 1-2\)](#)

Concurrent with:

[Trail Guide to United States Geography](#) with [Student Notebook](#)

Conclude the year with a unit study on Lewis and Clark.

[Kaleidoscope Kids' The Lewis and Clark Expedition](#) for readings and activities.

Read aloud the actual [journal entries](#) for selected dates.

Watch [PBS/Ken Burns' Lewis and Clark: The Journey of the Corps of Discovery](#) documentary.

Supplemental historical fiction books including [The Captain's Dog](#).

For Canada studies read:

[The Big Book of Canada](#), [The Story of Canada](#), and [The Spirit of Canada](#)

PLUS ... Take a 6-week homeschooling trip across the U.S. and Canada camping our way through 29 states and 2 provinces focusing on the history and geography of N. America. Too cool!

- SOCIAL STUDIES ~ 1½ hrs / sheet
Current events via various kids magazines and [National Geographic Kids Blog](#).

- LANGUAGE ARTS:

GRAMMAR ~ 3½ hrs / sheet

[Growing with Grammar \(level 6\)](#)

VOCABULARY ~ 2½ hrs / sheet

[Wordly Wise 3000 \(book 6\)](#)

WRITING ~ 7½ hrs / month structured plus reports and lots of free writing time

[Outlining Note Taking, and Report Writing Skills: A Step-by-Step Guide to Mastery](#)

[Jr. Great Books](#) (level 5A/5B of the old versions with 12 stories each, shared inquiry based)

Journal writing: graded journal of homeschooling, ungraded writing book, personal diary

SPELLING ~ 1½ hrs / sheet

[Sequential Spelling \(level 5\)](#) with a written test on 15 words after every 4 lessons

MEMORY WORK ~ 1 hr / sheet

Memorize lists, quotations, math facts, science facts, Latin vocab, grammar definitions, etc.

Memorize poems, monologues, famous speeches, and quotations. Weekly recitation.

- READING / LITURATURE ~ at least an hour a day

"Assigned reading" are generally biographies, historical fiction, non-fiction, STEM topics, etc.

Books/series read this year included: _____

"Fun reading" child's choice this year included Sherlock Holmes and other classic mysteries.

"Read aloud" as a family books are mostly the classics. Selections from: [TWTM](#) / [HLYBY](#) / [AOG](#)

Books/authors read this year included: _____

- FOREIGN LANGUAGE (Latin) ~ 2½ hrs / sheet
[Lively Latin's Big Book 1](#) with online vocabulary games
Play [Rummy Roots game](#)

- TECHNOLOGY / COMPUTER ~ 3 hrs / sheet
Learn to type using [Type To Learn 4](#).
Programming in [SCRATCH](#).
Engage with office, graphic, audio, and video software through weekly [K5 Computer Lab](#) lessons.

- MUSIC ~ 2½ hrs / sheet
Instrument: Learn to Play the Recorder with Daddy [Recorder Fun](#)
Theory: [Usborne's Music Theory for Beginners](#)
Appreciation: listen to a variety of music and attend live concerts

- OCCUPATIONAL EDUCATION ~ 1¼ hrs / sheet
Unit studies: Vegan Cooking with Mum; Home Repair with Dad; Veterinary Science with Mum

HOME MANAGEMENT SKILLS: chores, cooking, cleaning, sewing, gardening, working with tools, building/remodeling, home/interior design, home/personal safety, money management, etc.

- PE & HEALTH: workout 1 hr / day (soccer team, swim, bike, hike, play ball, wii, etc.)
- THEATRE ARTS & FINE ARTS ~ several hours during STAFSA week each month

THEATER ARTS:

* [On Stage: Theater Games and Activities for Kids](#) for various activities including puppetry, acting games, improv, back-stage skills, play writing.

* Shakespeare: The Children's Shakespeare, Stories of Shakespeare, Bellerophon Shakespeare Colouring Book, Shakespeare cut-out dolls, reading/attending actual Shakespeare plays

* Performances: Blackout sketches with Grandpa; Christmas plays; Summer theatre camp

FINE ARTS:

[Meet The Masters \(track B ver 2 age 10+\)](#)

Sketching/painting/sculpting with Dad/Grandma including using the [Handbook of Nature Study](#).

Craft or art activity from variety of sources including [Geography Through Art](#) .

Art appreciation: study [famous art works](#), play [FreeRice's Famous Paintings](#), visit museums

- Extra-Curricular Activities:
 - [Girl Guides](#) & [4H](#): community service projects, team work, leadership, etc.
 - FIELD TRIPS, organized classes, and park days with other home-educated students. Many organized through [HS Events and More](#) and [School at Home Adventures](#).
 - TRAVEL! Visits with family in B.C.!

Home-Education Schedule ~ Age 10 ~ Grade 6 ~ March 2012

Sheet #1		Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Weekend
45x6	Math R.Start	G.071	G.072	activity	G.073	G.074	Saxon76 test#23
30x6	WP/Calc	SCMWP.5 pg 70	CWT.v1 5.L01B	SCMWP.5 pg 71	CWT.v1 5.L02A	SCMWP.5 pg 72	CWT.v1 5.L02B
30x4	Logic		BTS2.8 282-285	perplex		BTS2.9 288-291	puzzle
15x6	Drill/ Game	SM7.119	card	SM7.120	logic	SM7.T23	strat
30x6	Science	Bio 101 ch 9	JVC bio #70-72	lab w/ report	Bryson ch 5A	free	MicroscopTel escope
45x3	History		HUS3 7 8 9		SOTW3 22A		sa col mos lth
45x3	Geog	2Qs sht map CO		2Qs sht map UT		proj gm rep vid	
30x3	Social Studies		U.S. civics		Canada history		Econ. (gds/srv)
30x5	Grammar	GWG6 1.13	GWG6 1.rev	GWG6 2.1	GWG6 2.2	GWG6 2.3	
30x5	Vocab	WW6 3A	WW6 3B	WW6 3C	WW6 3D	WW6 3E	
15x5	Writing	O-NT-RW pg 37	O-NT-RW pg 38	journal or free	O-NT-RW pg 39	O-NT-RW pg 40	
15x6	Spell	SS5.097 SS5.098	SS5.099 SS5.100	TEST	SS5.101 SS5.102	SS5.103 SS5.104	TEST
10x6	Memory	MemList	L.vocab	MemList	L.chant	MemList	recite
30x5	Latin	LL-BB1.15 312-313	LL-BB1.15 314-317	LL-BB1.15 318-319	LL-BB1.15 320-321	game	
30x6	Computer	TYPING TTL4.23A	SCRATCH 6 + 7	TYPING TTL4.23B	SCRATCH 8A	TYPING TTL4.23C	COMPLAB 3.excel
30x4 15tt	Music recorder	theory sfs.2	lesson vem.1	Practice mmf.s1	Practice mmf.s2	M.App (_____)	A.App (_____)
30x2 +15	Occ-Ed Hlth,Hm	Vet Sci (dg food)			Health (earcare)		HMS: (ht sys)
38	6-hr/d	6:25	6:40	6:25	6:40	6:25	5:25
3hrs 7hrs	R E A D	Assn: <u>The Silver Hoard (myths and legends of the world)</u> Bk Club: <u>Tango The Island Dog</u> Free: <u>Two soccer books: Kickoff and Breakaway</u> Aloud: <u>Chasing Vermeer</u> Aud: _____					
6hrs	PE	BIKE	Wii-FIT	SWIM	Wii-FIT	BIKE	BALL
3hrs	GS/4H			->GS		->4H	
57 hrs	Srv.c.P. F.Trip						

Home-Education Schedule ~ Age 10 ~ Grade 6 ~ March 2012

Sheet #2		Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Weekend
45x6	Math R.Start	G.075	G.076	G.077	G.078	G.079	activity
30x6	WP/Calc	SCMWP.5 ch9.exs	CWT.v1 5.L03A	SCMWP.5 pg 76	CWT.v1 5.L03B	SCMWP.5 pg 77	CWT.v1 5.L04A
30x4	Logic		BTS2.9 292-295	perplex		BTS2.9 296-299	puzzle
15x6	Drill/ Game	worksht	card	online	logic	ipad	strat
30x6	Science	Bio 101 ch 10	JVC bio #73-75	lab w/ report	Bryson ch 5B	free	MicroscopTel escope
45x3	History		HUS3 10-13		SOTW3		sa col mos lth
45x3	Geog	2Qs sht map NV		2Qs sht map WA		proj gm rep vid	
30x3	Social Studies		U.S. civics		Canada history		Editor. Cartoon
30x5	Grammar						
30x5	Vocab						
75x5	Writing	JGB.5B08 TO Rd1	JGB.5B08 Rd2 DN5	JGB.5B08 IW + *	JGB.5B08 SID	JGB.5B08 CW/EW/PE	*journl or free
15x6	Spell	SS5.105 SS5.106	SS5.107 SS5.108	TEST	SS5.109 SS5.110	SS5.111 SS5.112	TEST
10x6	Memory	MemList	L.vocab	MemList	L.chant	MemList	recite
30x5	Latin	LL-BB1.15 322-323	LL-BB1.15 324-326	LL-BB1.15 327-328	LL-BB1.15 329-331	game	
30x6	Computer	TYPING TTL4.23D	SCRATCH 8B	TYPING TTL4.23E	SCRATCH 9	TYPING TTL4.23T	COMPLAB 3.excel
30x4 15tt	Music recorder	theory sfs.3	lesson vem.2	Practice mmf.s3	Practice mmf.s3	M.App (_____)	A.App (_____)
30x2 +15	Occ-Ed Hlth,Hm	Vet Sci (nails)			Health (nails)		HMS: (wtr sys)
38	6-hr/d	6:25	6:40	6:25	6:40	6:25	5:25
3hrs 7hrs	R E A D	Assn: <u>The Bronze Hoard (myths); Catherine Called Birdy</u> Bk Club: <u>Agent Q. or the Smell of Danger; Magyk</u> Free: <u>Agatha Christie "Crooked House"; What Katy Did</u> Aloud: <u>Chasing Vermeer</u> Aud: _____					
6hrs	PE	BIKE	Wii-FIT	SWIM	Wii-FIT	BIKE	BALL
3hrs	GS/4H			->GS		->4H	
57 hrs	Srv.c.P. F.Trip						

STAFA: Science, Theatre Arts, & Fine Arts Week ~ March 2012

Mon	<p>How Nature Works – SKIP pg 99-152 How Nature Works - pg 153-163 (mammals, skeletons, joints+)</p> <p>Experiment: “pulling in pairs” HNW pg 161 (build w/ Dad) Experiment: “tooth under attack” HNW pg 163</p> <p>References: DK Human Anatomy Encyclo; Human Anatomy Colouring Bk</p> <p>Activity: Put HUGO skeleton together</p>
Tues	<p>How Nature Works - pg 164-173 (lungs, eyes, etc.)</p> <p>Experiments: lung test nebulizer; peripheral vision test; Experiments: your choice of one of the touch/taste/smell tests</p> <p>References: DK Human Anatomy Encyclo; Human Anatomy Colouring Bk</p> <p>Virtual FT: Museum of Civilization’s Sex Ed exhibit in Ontario</p>
Wed	<p>How Nature Works - pg 174-183 (mammals)</p> <p>References: Smithsonian Natural History Encyclo</p> <p>Read: Animal Tracks</p> <p>Play: Anatomy game</p> <p>FT: American Natural History Museum in NYC</p>
Thur	<p>Theatre Arts – Stage book ch 8</p> <p>Read: Shakespeare “The Tempest” in Shakes is Fun</p> <p>Activity: Shakespeare cut-out dolls</p>
Fri	<p>Meet the Masters – Track B Ver 2 Age 10+ Les 3 – O’Keefe</p> <p>FT: Smithsonian National Art Gallery in DC</p>
Sat	<p>Fun Art/Science Kit: electricity kit + fairy garden planter</p>