



CLASSICAL ACADEMIC PRESS®

Classical Subjects Creatively Taught™

Welcome!

Classical Academic Press is thrilled to partner with The Ambrose School in Boise, Idaho, to offer you the Ambrose Curriculum Guide (ACG), a remarkable resource for schools, co-ops, and homeschools.

The faculty and leadership of The Ambrose School have worked for more than ten years to develop and refine this comprehensive guide for teaching a classical curriculum in grades K–12. We have seen many curriculum guides over the years, but the Ambrose Curriculum Guide stands out as the most comprehensive, meaningful, and practical.

The Ambrose Curriculum Guide contains 130 lead sheets for every course in a K–12 classical curriculum. Each lead sheet is a thoughtful blend of principle and practice and contains the following elements:

- Theme / Master Question
- Suggested Homework
- Brief Course Description
- Suggested Class Time per Week
- Key Teacher Resources
- Primary Teaching Goals
- Key Student Texts
- Primary Teaching Methods
- Primary Measures and Assessments
- Course Scope and Sequence, Containing:
 - Master Skills, Ideas, or Knowledge Taught
 - Complete Student Texts and Materials List
 - Suggested Quarterly Schedule
 - Suggested Sample Week / Unit at a Glance

The Ambrose Curriculum Guide also contains 132 guides or source sheets (sometimes referred to as “gold sheets” by The Ambrose School because these documents were printed on gold paper) for teaching 132 Great Books that are often part of a standard classical literature, history, theology, or philosophy curriculum. These 132 source sheets provide pithy guidance for any upper-school educator who would like to teach even just one or a few of these Great Books (teaching all 132 is not required!). Each source sheet is limited to one or two pages of concentrated guidance that includes the following:

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- Book Edition and Publication Information
- Approximate Time for Reading and Teaching the Book
- Focused Passages
- Course Questions
- Student Objectives
- Key Question(s) of the Book
- Great Questions to Discuss (Addressing Themes Including God, World, People, Religion, Science, and Government)
- Antitheses
- Prior Connections to Literature Students Have Read
- Key Connections to Art, Music, History, Literature, and Philosophy
- Scriptural Connections
- Historical Track

How to Use the Ambrose Curriculum Guide

We have included with every purchase a sixteen-page PDF of the overview created by The Ambrose School. This document further explains the nature of the ACG and how it can work in harmony with your school, co-op, or homeschool's mission, vision, curriculum map, course syllabi, and the like.

One remarkable feature of the ACG is that it is largely “open and go.” This means it is so well developed that most teachers will be able to quickly see, understand, and use the suggestions and guidance contained within.

Still, the ACG is a *guide*, not a script for how to teach every daily lesson during the course of an academic year. This means that a teacher will have to take the practical guidance contained in the ACG and convert that guidance into his or her daily lesson plans. This naturally will require thought and wisdom on the part of any teacher using the ACG. Any teacher, however, should find that the guidance included in the ACG will provide substantial practical wisdom and save a great deal of time and effort.

A Note on Copyright and Permissions

Please note that the Ambrose Curriculum Guide is copyrighted material. By purchasing this resource, you have acquired the right to use it in your school, co-op, or homeschooling community only. You have also agreed that you will not send these files to anyone outside your organization.

Here is the great news: You are free to modify and customize these files however you wish! You can drop in your own logo and change various text elements of the guide to make it aptly fit the needs of your own school, co-op, or homeschool. This means that rather than starting from scratch to create your own curriculum guide, you can take this “best in class” guide from The Ambrose School and make it your own. We think, however, that you will want to retain the great majority of what has already been developed and included in the ACG.

You must keep the copyright information at the bottom of each document in the ACG. This permission statement reads: *“Copyright © 2017 Classical Academic Press and The Ambrose School. This document may be used and modified by the purchasing organization only; any other use is strictly prohibited.”*

The complete ACG, or the portion(s) of the ACG you have purchased, comes to you as a collection of Microsoft Word files. You may maintain your own customized version of the ACG as a digital Word file or in another digital format. You may also print it for use in your school, co-op, or homeschool. You may not, however, sell the customized version that you create nor distribute it outside your own school, co-op, or homeschool community.

A Note for Homeschooling Communities and Homeschoolers

If you are part of a homeschooling community or co-op that meets weekly (or at the very least every two weeks) to teach students, then you qualify as a homeschooling organization that may purchase the ACG and make it available to all of the parents in your community or co-op. If you do not have a weekly or biweekly gathering, then you are considered the sole purchaser and you may not distribute this ACG to others outside your home.

Published Materials or Curricula

The Ambrose curriculum is distinct in that The Ambrose School depends on going back to the original sources, or “fountain”: the writings of men such as Socrates, Augustine, Herodotus, Boethius, Pascal, etc. (*Ad Fontes*, or “going back to the fountain”). This minimizes the use of textbooks or packaged curricula to teach students so that whenever possible, students learn from original source documents. However, in order to ensure that their K–12 objectives are met, The Ambrose School provides this curriculum guide to help teachers accomplish educational objectives through the use of these source materials. Educators aim to meet the objectives listed on the lead sheets for each course they teach, and the objectives listed on the source sheets for each individual work they teach as part of the Upper School Letters courses. For more detail on how the guide is set up and can be used, please read the Ambrose Curriculum Guide Overview (included as part of your purchase downloads).

Like most classical schools, The Ambrose School has selected various published materials to be used for each course, but it may change what published materials it employs from year to year. This is because while a classical curriculum remains constant, published materials will come and go. For example, a classical school will want to teach Latin, but it can choose from a wide variety of excellent published Latin texts for students to use. When using the ACG, you may wish to substitute your own preferred published texts in place of the ones The Ambrose School is currently using. More important than teaching a particular curriculum (say, Latin for Children) is that a school is teaching Latin!

Blank Lead Sheet Template

In addition to the many complete lead sheets already included in the ACG, we have also included a blank lead sheet template that you can use to create your own lead sheets. This template includes the framework for a lead sheet, course scope and sequence, weekly lesson plan overview, and course lesson plans.

ClassicalU

We recommend that new classical educators explore ClassicalU.com, our teacher-training platform, which contains several mini-courses on classical pedagogy. These courses can help provide teachers with additional skill and wisdom to apply the guidance contained in the ACG.

ClassicalUForum.com, associated with ClassicalU, also provides a forum for you to engage in conversation with others who are using and adapting the ACG.

Enjoy!

Thank you so much for purchasing the Ambrose Curriculum Guide. We are confident that this resource will save you a great deal of time and energy, and enable you to more easily teach a classical curriculum with excellence.

If you should have any questions about the ACG and how to use it, please don't hesitate to contact us at ClassicalU@ClassicalSubjects.com.

Gratefully,
Christopher A. Perrin, PhD
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