

# NEWNAN CLASSICAL SCHOOL

## THE LEARNING STAGES OF A CHILD

LEARNING STAGE	STUDENT CHARACTERISTICS	TEACHING METHODS
<p><b>BEGINNING GRAMMAR</b></p> <p>Pre-Poll Parrot Grades K-3 Approximate ages 4-8</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Obviously excited about learning.</li> <li>2. Enjoys games, stories, songs, projects</li> <li>3. Short attention span</li> <li>4. Wants to touch, taste, feel, smell</li> <li>5. Imaginative, creative</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Guide discovering</li> <li>2. Explore, find things</li> <li>3. Use lots of tactile items to illustrate</li> <li>4. Sing, play games, chant, recite, color, draw, paint, build</li> <li>5. Use body movements</li> <li>6. Short, creative projects</li> <li>7. Show &amp; Tell, drama, hear/read stories</li> <li>8. Field Trips</li> </ol>
<p><b>GRAMMAR</b></p> <p>Poll-Parrot Stage Grades 3-6 Approximate ages 9-11</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Excited about new, interesting facts</li> <li>2. Likes to explain, figure out, talk</li> <li>3. Wants to relate own experiences to topic, or just to tell a story.</li> <li>4. Likes collections, organizing items</li> <li>5. Likes chants, clever, repetitious word sounds (e.g. Dr. Seuss)</li> <li>6. Easily memorizes</li> <li>7. Can assimilate another language well</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Lots of hands-on work, projects</li> <li>2. Field trips, drama</li> <li>3. Make collections, displays, models</li> <li>4. Integrate subjects through above means</li> <li>5. Teach &amp; assign research projects</li> <li>6. Recitations, memorization</li> <li>7. Drills, games</li> <li>8. Oral and written presentations</li> </ol>
<p><b>LOGIC</b></p> <p>Pert Stage Grades 7-9 Approximate ages 12-14</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Still excitable, but needs challenges</li> <li>2. Judges, critiques, debates, critical</li> <li>3. Likes to organize items, others</li> <li>4. Shows off knowledge</li> <li>5. Wants to know "behind-the-scenes" facts</li> <li>6. Curious about Why? for most things</li> <li>7. Thinks, acts as though more knowledgeable than adults</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Time lines, charts, maps (visual materials)</li> <li>2. Debates, persuasive reports</li> <li>3. Drama, reenactment, role-playing</li> <li>4. Evaluate, critique (with guidelines)</li> <li>5. Formal logic</li> <li>6. Research projects</li> <li>7. Oral and written presentations.</li> <li>8. Guest speakers, trips</li> </ol>
<p><b>RHETORIC</b></p> <p>Poetic Stage Grades 10-12 Approximate ages 15-18</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Concerned with present events, especially in own life.</li> <li>2. Interested in justice, fairness</li> <li>3. Moving toward special interest, topics</li> <li>4. Can take on responsibility, independent work</li> <li>5. Can do (understand) synthesis</li> <li>6. Desires to express feelings, own ideas</li> <li>7. Generally idealistic</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Drama, oral presentations</li> <li>2. Guide research in major areas with goal of synthesis of ideas</li> <li>3. Many papers, speeches, debates</li> <li>4. Give responsibilities, e.g. teach younger students, organize activities</li> <li>5. In-depth field trips, even overnight</li> <li>6. World-view discussion - written papers</li> <li>7. Career research</li> </ol>

Adapted from, "Recovering The Lost Tools of Learning", Doug Wilson, Crossway Books, 1991