

Believershome School

The believer's home is a Christ-centered home;
a place where the written Word of God is taught, honored, read and known.

School Year 2008-2009

36 weeks (Beginning August 18, 2008)

K4, 1st, 2nd, 4th grade Teaching Plan

(Last update November 2008)

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Introduction

Believershome School was established in September, 2003 by Mark and Tami Swaim for the purpose of educating our children in a structured environment outside the public school system. The structure of education corresponds to the system of education used in the United States of America. Both Mark and Tami Swaim are lifelong educators. Mark received an MA in Education from Rutgers University in New Jersey and Tami received her BA in Education from Emmaus Bible College in Dubuque, Iowa. Both Mark and Tami believe that a quality education is important in today's world and that parents should be involved in the education of their children.

What is important to meeting the goal of a quality education in a structured environment outside the public school system? We would suggest the following:

1. An educational philosophy
2. A structured environment
3. An appropriate curriculum
4. A planned schedule
5. A system of support
6. A knowledge of local laws

Philosophy, Goals, Grade Expectation

Skills: Kindergarten

Reading

- Know all consonant and vowel sounds, long and short/letter blends/special sounds (Abeka and other phonic charts).
- Focus on phonics, memorizing sight words, special sounds and word formation using flashcards and charts by Dr Fry and Abeka
- Matching items that go together
- Identify days of the week and seasons of the year

Writing

- Write all letters (capitals and lower case) from A-Z.

Math

- Count to 100 and over, write numbers to 100, ordinal numbers, skip counting by 2s, 5s, 10s
- Practice using calendars, rulers, measuring cups and spoons, money, clock, manipulative and mental adding and subtracting.
- Identify, draw, cut basic shapes

List of Attainments for a child of six

"A Formidable List of Attainments for a Child of Six", a reprint of a curriculum outline from a Charlotte Mason school in the 1890's (taken from Summer 93 Parents Review by Karen Andreola

(Words in parenthesis are my own adaptations)

1. To recite, beautifully, 6 easy poems and hymns (Bible Verses)
2. to recite, perfectly and beautifully, a parable and a psalm (Bible stories and verses)
3. to add and subtract numbers up to 10, with dominoes or counters
4. to read--what and how much, will depend on what we are told of the child
5. to copy in print-hand from a book
6. to know the points of the compass with relation to their own home, where the sun rises and sets, and the way the wind blows
7. to describe the boundaries of their own home
8. to describe any lake, river, pond, island etc. within easy reach
9. to tell quite accurately (however shortly) 3 stories from Bible history, 3 from early (USA history), and 3 from early (Ancient Civilization)
10. to be able to describe 3 walks and 3 views
11. to mount in a scrap book a dozen common wildflowers, with leaves (one every week); to name these, describe them in their own words, and say where they found them. (Nature Notebook)
12. to do the same with leaves and flowers of 6 forest trees (Nature Notebook)
13. to know 6 birds by song, color and shape (Nature Notebook)
14. to send in certain Kindergarten or other handiwork, as directed (Seatwork/workbooks-Math and Phonics skills)

15. to tell three stories about their own "pets"--rabbit, dog or cat. (Fish, snails and bugs :)
16. to name 20 common objects in (Polish), and say a dozen little sentences
17. to sing one hymn, one (Polish) song, and one (American) song
18. to keep a caterpillar and tell the life-story of a butterfly from his own observations.

Skills: First Grade

- Mastery of all Kindergarten skills

Reading

- Read one syllable words, magic e, two vowel long vowel sound, and other phonics rules
- Introductory and mastery of most Sight words, special sounds, rule breakers
- Read easy reader on grade one level with ease and comfort
- Be able to narrate back full chapters (recall sequence of events in oral and written stories; locate main idea and details in stories)
- Recognize the singular and plural forms of nouns.

Writing

- Improve spelling and writing skills to a first grade level
- Write words by sounding out consonants and vowels. Proper spelling is not stressed
- Capitalize the first word in a sentence and use punctuation at the end of a sentence.

Math

- Mental Math of addition and subtraction facts.
- Tell time, basic fractions, an understanding of the theory behind multiplication and division.
- American and Polish currency recognition, learn the basics of money transactions.
- Simple word problems, Roman numerals, measuring (US and metric).

Skills: Second Grade

- 2nd grade offers a lot of review of 1st grade so students master 1st grade skills

Reading

- Apply more complex phonics skills in his reading.
- Automatically read the 200 most commonly used words.
- Recognize and use nouns and action verbs in sentences.

Writing

- Write sentences using correct punctuation and capitalization.
- Begin writing legibly in cursive.

Math

- Add and subtract any 2-digit number.
- Handle place value concepts for 3-digit whole numbers.
- Identify time to include half-hour and 5-minute intervals.
- Identify the value of pennies, nickels, dimes, quarters, half-dollars, and dollars.

- Value people from many cultures.

Science

- Develop a simple understanding of life, earth, and physical sciences.

Skills: Third Grade

- 3rd grade reviews and finishes teaching basic reading, writing, math skills.

Reading

- Identify the plot, setting, and main characters of a story.
- Use the dictionary.
- Recognize simple subjects and predicates.
- Pronunciation of unfamiliar words and use the context to define.
- Display comprehension skills in reading.

Writing

- Write sentences with subject/verb agreement.
- Write paragraphs expressing a main idea and supporting details.

Math

- Add and subtract any numbers 100 - 1,000.
- Multiply numbers to 9 x 9 and be able to determine each related division fact.
- Measure using standard and metric units.

Skills: Fourth Grade

- In 4th grade, students move from the primary to intermediary level, taking basic skills and applying them to other subjects
- Formulate strategies and skills for taking tests

Reading

- Develop love for reading various genres, textbooks, poetry, plays
- Develop library skills
- Follow directions
- Read/use graphic aids (charts, tables, graphs, schedules, time lines, diagrams, maps, calendars)
- Recognize and use regular plurals, irregular plurals, possessive forms, and contractions
- Identify difference between fact/opinion, literal/figurative/IMPLIED meaning (similes, metaphors, idioms, dialect)
- Identify author's purpose, point of view, effectiveness, use of language
- Make analogies, inferences, judgments, generalizations
- Reading structures (sequence, time/order, compare/contrast, cause/effect, problem/solutions, definition/example)
- Reading strategies (evaluate, question, predict, infer, visualize, making connections)
- Decode passage using context clues
- Recognize a main idea, topic and supporting details and be able to draw conclusions
- Organizational skills (take notes, outline, skim, scan, find information, highlight, delete, sequence, prioritize, discuss, format, categorize, classify, paraphrase)

Vocabulary

- Use resources to build vocabulary (e.g. dictionary, thesaurus, glossary, etc.)
- What is a synonym, antonym?
- Use a variety strategies (*I.e. rereading, context clues, knowledge of word families, and analyzing word structure*) to figure out word meaning

Writing

- Take notes, outline
- Choose own topics for writing (descriptive, narrative, informational, poetry, etc.)
- Write independently for no fewer than 30 minutes a day
- Write with personal voice and style, using multiple meaning words
- Write a well developed 6-8 sentence paragraph including topic sentence, supporting details, and conclusion
- Use revision tools (e.g. thesaurus, dictionary, reference packets, word lists, etc.) to improve writing
- Writing process: plan, draft, revise, edit and publish a minimum of 3 clear and effective writing pieces per quarter
- Write a constructed response to a question
- Write a story, research report, persuasive writing, expository writing
- Use a variety of transitional words and phrases to improve flow of writing
- Summarize for a variety of purposes
- Use punctuation marks (., ,, !)
- Use subject/verb agreement
- Write complete simple, compound, and complex sentences
- Identify and use adjectives
- Listen and respond to others' writing
- Look for techniques in reading to incorporate in writing

Grammar

- Parts of speech, punctuation, capitalization
- Complete sentences
- Subject, verb, nouns, plurals, possessives, verbs, past, present, future tenses
- Subject-verb agreement
- Irregular verbs
- Adjectives, comparisons
- Pronouns, adverbs
- Prepositions, prepositional phrases
- Correct grammar and usage

Math

- Math problem solving
- Fractions (add and subtract)
- Divide by one and two digits
- Use calculators and computers
- Identify place value to millions
- Use function/"input/output" tables to observe and explain how a change in one quantity can produce a change in another
- Use a transparent mirror to draw the reflection of a figure

- Identify line of symmetry, lines of reflection, reflected figures and figures with line of symmetry
- Tell time in hours and minutes including am and pm using both analog and digital clocks, and determine elapsed time in an event
- Compare objects according to measurable attributes of length, area, volume, capacity, weight, and temperature in US and metric units
- Use estimation strategies to determine reasonable answers in +, -, x, ÷
- Use, explain, draw a non-linguistic representation and demonstrate the understanding of the 4 basic operations in various situations
- Select and use an appropriate method to solve problems (mental math, estimation, paper/pencil, calculator, nonlinguistic representation)
- Determine reasonableness of answer to justify results
- Determine whether an estimate or exact answer is acceptable
- Explain mathematical reasoning in written and pictorial forms

Social Studies

Science

Computers

- Recognize organizational features of electronic information (e.g. pull-down menus, icons, key word searches, entry menu features, passwords, etc.)

Health

Students

- Joshua Tyler Swaim, Age 9 (September) Fourth Grade
- Zachary Taylor Swaim, Age 8 (December) Second Grade
- Elliot Thomas Swaim, Age 6 (September) First Grade
- Joel Matthew Swaim, Age 4.5 K4 (Kindergarten Preparation)
- Daniel Jaden Swaim, Age 9 months (September)

Swaim Home School Schedule: 2008-2009

36 Week School Year

Seatwork/Read Alouds/Reading lessons daily 4-4 ½ hours

Extra-Curricular and other lessons (see below) 2-3 hours

SEATWORK: 2 Hours Daily

Math: 40 minutes

Joshua	4 th Grade Abeka
Zachary	2 nd Grade Abeka
Elliot	1 st Grade Abeka
Joel	K4 Abeka 123/ABC

Language Arts (Spelling, Writing, Grammar, Vocabulary): 1 hour

Joshua	• Spelling and Poetry Abeka Fourth Grade (Joshua writes out his
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> spelling list on Monday and studies them each day for a test on Friday) Sonlight LA grades 3-5 with readers Modern Curriculum Press D Explode the Code workbooks 7,8 Grammar CD-Rom games and School House Rock grammar DVD “Simply Grammar” Karen Andreoli (one lesson per week) Writing Assignment: One scheduled writing assignment per week, focusing on a new grammar gem each week. Through this activity, he will learn more grammar and learn how to write well.
Zachary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sonlight LA 2nd grade with readers Copywork Spelling list each week (test Fridays) Explode the Code workbook 4 Handbook for Reading Abeka
Elliot	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sonlight LA 1st grade with readers Copywork Spelling list each week (test Friday) Handbook for Reading Abeka Explode the Code workbooks 2,3
Joel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Abeka K4 123/ABC Letter of the Week book 2 activities Sing Spell Read Write “Off we Go” letter activities Flashcards

Cursive/Manuscript: 20 minutes

Joshua	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Abeka Cursive Third grade book Some SL writing assignments and dictations in cursive (transition into cursive only)
Zachary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Abeka Cursive K5 tablet (share book with Elliot)
Elliot	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Abeka cursive K5 writing tablet (share book with Zach) Improve manuscript while working on SL LA assignments
Joel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduce manuscript (writing alphabet-caps and lower case) Fine motor skill Pre-K activities

READ ALOUDS: 60-90 minutes daily

Read Aloud titles cover: Science, History, Geography, Health & Manners, Bible, Character training (chores), Literature, Poetry (‘just for fun’ picture and chapter books)

Joshua	4 th Grade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trial and Triumph Church History Sonlight American History titles for Cores 3 and 4 from the Immigration explosion to modern America with a spot light on the two World Wars, individual states study and intro to US Government. State “spotlights” New Jersey, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania (States in which we will be spending some time in during our stay in the US.) This goal will be attained by the use of local libraries. Geography Minn of Mississippi by Holling Nature Parables Gatty Advanced English comprehension~ Old
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		<p>English and deep science facts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biographies: Albert Einstein, Gladys Aylward, The Word Became Power, (more to be added) • Abeka Health 5th grade • Abeka Science 5th grade Human Body focus • MCP science reader number 5 (human body) • Independent read through the Bible OT I Samuel on • Bible Memory the book of Philipians (chapter 1:1-19 already memorized) • Grammar “Simply Grammar” Karen Andreoli (one lesson per week) • Chores Dishwasher, personal area in bedroom, general clean up
Zachary and Elliot	2 nd Grade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (Narration is done as beginning writing foundation building as well as for comprehension evaluation) • Abeka 3rd grade Health • Science listen in on Grade 4 • History listen in on Grade 4 along with SL core K titles (introduction to world cultures) • Geography Wild Places and Missionary Stories with the Millers • Literature see past year grade 1 and 2 literature titles • Bible The Picture Bible (life of Jesus) • Chores kitchen table and counter and floor meal time clean up, general clean up, personal area in bedroom <p>More detail on History for 1st and 2nd Grade Together</p> <p>Ancient Civilizations: Summer, Egypt, Mesopotamia, Greece, Rome</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Story of the World Text and Activity Book (with Student Pages) Volume 1 (with accompanying CD) • Usbornes Encyclopedia of World History (pages are scheduled in SOTW vol1) • Selected Sonlight Core 1 titles (without following the IG schedule) • History Pockets “Ancient Civilizations” making history collage (on large cardboard fold out) • Abeka text book Grade 5 (Old World) • Ruth Bechwich “Teaching History from the Bible” <p>Geography</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Missionary Stories with the Millers” • “Minn of the Mississippi” Holling • Wild Places (Explainers) <p>Literature and Poetry: 1st and 2nd Grade Together</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Child's Garden Of Verses (Poetry) Ambleside year 1 • Pilgrims Progress • Treasury of Children’s Poems • 25 Thorton Burgess chapter books • Treasure Island

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moby Dick • Pooh Corner SLK • Aesop's Fables Ambleside year 1 • Literature book collections by Houghton Milton publishers (set of 5) • Mr. Popper's Penguins SL1 • Dolphin Adventure • The Story of Doctor Dolittle SLK • The Boxcar Children set of three books
Joel and Daniel	Pre-K	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pictures books

READING LESSONS (about 20 minutes per student)

Joshua	4 th Grade (2-3 hours daily reading)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sonlight LA readers grades 3-5 (see list at www.sonlight.com) • Independent reading chapter book of choice plus required reading to be scheduled
Zachary	2 nd Grade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sonlight LA reader grade 2 (see list at the sonlight website) begins with reading from the Beginners Bible
Elliot	1 st Grade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sonlight LA readers grade 1 (see list at the sonlight website) begins with books 1,2,3 "I can Read it" series

ELECTIVES: (2-3 Hours)

Art	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thematic art projects throughout the year (Abeka Art 3) • Drawing For Boys & Drawing for Children (a beginners course) involves both drawing and painting • Integrated into various read aloud topics. Students keep a drawing journal as they listen to stories, biographies, nature stories, etc.
Gym	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walk, bike ride, ball, run, swim, cliff climbing
Music	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keyboard, piano, guitar, violin introduction, vocal
Science	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hands on student interests • Backyard Scientist series • The Dangerous Book for Boys • The American Handbook for Boys
Foreign Language	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Polish • Spanish • Greek
Bible and History	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Audio CDs SOTW and Bible in Living Word • Sonlight Bible CDs • Day by Day devotional book • Bible memory Philipians chapter 1 and Sing the Word CDs (sonlight) • CEF character training Sunday School material (with verses)
Like Skills (Manners, Helps,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Godly character training books • Habits to develop: Attention, Obedience, Manners, Truthfulness,

Hygiene, Behavior)	<p>Thoroughness, Punctuality, Taking turns, Doing our best, Prayer, Gratitude</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Daily chore chart accountability, allowance • Godly attitudes chart series (Sundays) • Personal Hygiene • Woodworking • Electrical Engineering • Mushroom hunting, berry picking, animal tracking, clay mining, rock and feather collecting, gardening (carrots, radishes, flowers, peas, beans)
Finances, Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boys are responsible for cleaning the classroom after their art projects and their bedrooms (clothes off floor, toys away, desks organized) • A chore chart will keep track as to the boy's progress • Dad will put money in their banks