

Confirmation Overview

Educational Philosophy

Learning occurs in three distinct stages. The grammar stage where the learner memorizes and acquires knowledge by rote, the logic stage where the learner begins to think more deeply on their new knowledge and learns to question and question well, and the rhetoric stage where the learner applies what he or she has learned in the first two stages and is able to think critically and speak eloquently about the topic. These are natural stages of learning which occur at all ages for new learners digesting new material. Learners can also move between these stages as they are learning. We believe that teachers should be able to reach learners at any stage of their learning processes. We provide differentiated lessons and questions to reach children regardless of their stage of learning and development. Our goal is to teach Christ crucified to our youth, and to reach them wherever they may be in their acquisition process.

Confirmation Scope and Sequence:

Confirmation is a critical time of learning for our church's youth. We have designed our program based on the stages of learning set out by a Classical education model following the stages of learning - grammar, logic, rhetoric. In this way, as teachers, we are able to reach and teach all of our students no matter what grade they are starting confirmation or where their learning of the Catechism is. Link to our [scope and sequence doc](#) to see where we are headed.

What will this Confirmation curriculum look like?

Confirmation is set up as a 3-year rotation, with the 2nd year being optional. The classical approach will be integrated throughout the 3-year rotation as well as within each year. Year 1 will focus on the grammar stage of learning - memorization and learning the facts. In this way, Year 1 will stay ultimately in the Catechism. Year 2 moves onto the Logic stage and will look at Bible stories in the Old and New Testaments through the lens of the Catechism. Year 3 will get into real-life application, or the rhetoric stage of learning. During this year we will look at apologetics, or how we defend our faith - again, through the lens of the Catechism. Within each year, questions will be broken into these three stages so you are able to reach the beginners in the class as well as those who already have a bit of background knowledge. As the teacher, pay attention to where each student is and what stages of questions they are able to answer and comprehend. This careful analysis of students will ensure their ability to move forward in their learning of the

Catechism. Each confirmation year will be released in units according to each of the 6 chief parts of the Catechism.

Learner Tracks:

Confirmation will consist of three different tracks. Teacher track will include a unit overview at the beginning of each chief part of the catechism. This overview will have a video summarizing the chief part, guidance for reflection on this video, tips for study groups and breaks. Teacher track will also include teacher preparation (including a short video speaking about the target question(s) and a teacher guide for each lesson as well as tests and supplemental material. The student track will include guided notes for each lesson and a video to watch and question(s) to discuss in order to prepare for the upcoming lesson. Parent track encourages parent participation in their child's learning of the catechism as well. This track will include the unit overview, discussion questions and videos to watch together at home.

Assessment:

Classical education focuses on teaching the child how to think about and question a topic, and in the end, teaching the child how to speak well on a topic. In Confirmation, we are concerned with what the student knows and is able to articulate. For this reason, tests are to be given orally, not in writing. Some questions to consider when assessing your students in a classical manner:

- What is the assessment for? What does it mean?
- If giving a grade, what does this grade mean to the student, the teacher and the child? (i.e. a B- may mean something different to each)
- By what standards are we assessing and from where do those standards come?
- How will you use this assessment to continue to improve each student's learning?

Color coding:

Questions are color coded throughout all three tracks so you know what learner level each question is intended for. During the first year of confirmation, expect to see mostly grammar and logic level questions during class and rhetoric level questions for teacher preparation and parent/student discussion questions.

Grammar Level: Teal/Kale

Logic Level: Orange

Rhetoric Level: Purple

Target Grades:

4th-8th grade

Amount of time needed:

Each lesson should be able to be completed in 1 hour or less. Supplemental materials are provided if you have a longer class period.

Materials Needed:

For each lesson, make sure you have access to:

- Luther's Small Catechism
- Hymnals
- Bibles
- Guided Notes worksheet