

*Riches Cottage School*

# PROGRAM OVERVIEW



*"History must afford its pageants, science its wonders, literature its intimacies, philosophy its speculations,... and his education must have prepared him for wanderings in these realms of gold."  
Charlotte Mason, An Essay Towards a Philosophy of Education*

**Our program offers a one-day a week academic enrichment program for students of all ages. We seek to come alongside families pursuing a living education by serving a generous feast that fosters a love of learning, wisdom and wonder.**

**Meeting Days: Wednesdays**

**Times: 9:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.**

**Location: Craig Regional Park, Buena Park**

**Program Cost: \$200 per month per student**

Anchored in the philosophy of the liberal arts tradition, teachers joyfully guide students through the practices of Charlotte Mason encouraging them to foster relationships with living ideas, humanity across the ages and the world we live in.

Nestled at the foot of Coyote Hills in Buena Park our school park location allows us to be "rightly outdoors" and provides a wonder-filled and fresh environment for learning.

Cultivating community among students and mothers is at the heart of all that we do. Students engage in rich family-style learning, mothers learn and glean from one another and our families engage in celebrations throughout the year.

# Principles & Methods

**Our aim in Education is to give a Full Life.**—*We begin to see what we want. Children make large demands upon us. We owe it to them to initiate an immense number of interests. Thou hast set my feet in a large room; should be the glad cry of every intelligent soul. Life should be all living, and not merely a tedious passing of time; not all doing or all feeling or all thinking—the strain would be too great—but, all living; that is to say, we should be in touch wherever we go, whatever we hear, whatever we see, with some manner of vital interest. We cannot give the children these interests; we prefer that they should never say they have learned botany or conchology, geology or astronomy. The question is not,—how much does the youth know? when he has finished his education—but how much does he care? and about how many orders of things does he care? In fact, how large is the room in which he finds his feet set? and, therefore, how full is the life he has before him?”*

Charlotte Mason

## ENCOUNTERING LIVING IDEAS

**Living Books**, the heart of Mason’s educational method, offer the wellspring of vitalizing ideas to feed the minds of persons.

**Arts, Poetry and Music** awaken the imagination, delight the senses and form the soul toward beauty and goodness.

**Outdoor Education and Nature Outings** allow for up close and personal observations of animals, birds, trees, plants, flowers.

**Family-Style Learning by Educators** who serve as guides, philosophers and friends.

## MAKING CONNECTIONS THROUGH SCIENCE OF RELATIONS

**Narration:** A child fosters the habit of attention during short lessons by keen listening, assimilating and internalizing knowledge, then telling back what has been read. All powers of the mind are at work in this “act of knowing” whereby students across all forms make connections and cultivate relationships with many subjects.

**Great Conversation:** Group discussions and hands-on learning in community allow students to grow in wisdom and character as they consider ideas that have been passed down through the ages and about what it means to live, move and have our being in the world.

## LEARNING THROUGH THE ART OF KEEPING

**Forms of Vitality** are the ways a child's mind expresses, acts upon, and transforms living ideas into personal knowledge, moving beyond rote memorization to true intellectual and spiritual growth. Capturing places, times, events, historical figures and ideas across all subjects in the following ways, allows students to form their own portfolio of self education:

- Written and Drawn Narrations
- Copywork
- Commonplace Journaling
- Book of Centuries
- Mapwork
- Nature Journals
- Lab Notebooks

*Riches Cottage School*

# Wonder School | 4-6 years



## **MUSIC AND MOVEMENT**

Our day starts with dancing, singing and playing rhythm instruments to an array of folk music, seasonal songs and stories set to classical music. Alphabet songs and rhymes provide a gentle way to learn letters and sounds.

## **GEOGRAPHY**

With a combination of vibrant picture and living books, sand trays and the nature around us, students engage in hands-on learning about the features of the physical world as they discover “little folks” and places from many lands.

## **BIOGRAPHIES & LITERATURE**

Storytime under the tree opens a world of delight as students read through fairy tales, fables and inspiring men and women of the past. This time also includes playing with clay, dress up, handicrafts and gentle copywork.

## **NATURE LORE**

Exploring the seasons and the natural world through observation, inquiry, engaging stories and art, students will deepen their sense of wonder at all the living things around them!

## **CREATIVE PLAY**

Throughout the day, there is plenty of time for imaginative play to honor the “quiet growing time” of a child.



## **HISTORY**

An engaging introduction to Ancient Rome through short stories capture both mythical and historical figures of Rome and the Roman way of life. These stories also serve as foundational reading for Plutarch in later forms.

## **GEOGRAPHY**

Students will be captivated with wonder in the world they live in with this lively, vibrant, and enthusiastic first study of geography. Stories and visuals capture their imagination for the cultures, flora and fauna of places near and far.

## **BIOGRAPHIES & LITERATURE**

Students will cultivate relationships with foundational stories that have shaped Western and American culture, emphasizing virtues like courage, honesty, and wisdom, by reading a classic collection of short retellings of historical and legendary tales.

## **LATIN**

Taking a fun-loving, engaging approach to learning Latin is offered as an introduction that includes songs, vocabulary, state mottos and games.

## **NATURE LORE**

We'll learn about nature by encouraging keen observation of plants, animals, and insects through exploration and living books that foster scientific curiosity and a love for the natural world.

A stack of several books with colorful spines (red, green, yellow, blue) sits on a wooden table. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

## HISTORY

Gain an introduction to Ancient Rome, its early history, and geography. Witness highlights of key events and learn how the secret to Rome's greatness is discipline, instilled in citizens by military training and held up as an ideal in home and civic life. Art such as mosaics, paintings and architecture also bring this study to life.

## GEOGRAPHY

Students explore North American places, landscapes and regional culture through living stories, travelogues and maps. Physical geographical features will also be taught during nature time.

## PLUTARCH

Consider the most fundamental, enduring questions of citizenship and virtue as cross-form small groups read and discuss the Life of Romulus. In the process, students learn how to act, think, and ask good questions.

## LITERATURE

One or two classic texts will be read along with stories from the Age of Fable, a captivating exploration of myths and legends that have influenced Western culture.

## LATIN

A gentle, engaging introduction focusing on vocabulary, dialogues and chants to aid memorizing noun and verb endings in a fun way.

## NATURE STUDY & SCIENCE

Science affords its wonders as students explore multiple streams of science through living books and hands-on labs. The year focuses on Weather, Physics: Magnets and introduction to Chemistry. Once a month nature study and scouting engages all the senses.



## **HISTORY**

Short stories of the great heroes, mythical and historical, from Aeneas and the founding of Rome to the fall of the western empire will take students to a deeper understanding of ancient culture. Vivid descriptions bring to life the events narrated and the infusion of art, such as mosaics, paintings and architecture bring this study to life.

## **GEOGRAPHY**

Lively stories in the travelogues of the Occident open a world of wonder and exciting places across the Americas and Europe.

## **PLUTARCH**

Consider the most fundamental, enduring questions of citizenship and virtue as cross-form small groups read and discuss the Life of Romulus. In the process, students learn how to act, think, and ask good questions.

## **LITERATURE**

One or two classic texts will be read over the course of the year with an emphasis on engaging in more diverse narrations and deeper discussion, participating in the Great Conversation.

## **LATIN**

Building upon vocabulary, chants and dialogues, students also grow to read short stories and exercises to bring Latin to life in an engaging way. Alongside grammar study of Latin roots and stems, students will gain a robust and intermediate introduction to the language.

## **NATURE STUDY & SCIENCE**

Varied streams of science keeps the student's work wonder-filled and fresh, allowing for relationships with many branches of science at once—and to see their relationships with one another. The year focuses on Chemistry, Weather and Physics, along with monthly nature study observations.



## HISTORY

Aided by great classical historians such as Herodotus and Cicero and other direct source documents, gain a deeper understanding of Roman civilization as students explore the historical events, notes on Roman culture, political system, and religion. The infusion of art, such as mosaics, paintings and architecture also bring this study to life.

## GEOGRAPHY

Taking on the role of imaginative wanderer, students follow in the footsteps of legendary traveler Odysseus on his way home from the Trojan War, exploring the Mediterranean in the shadow of this mythical hero.

## PLUTARCH

Consider the most fundamental, enduring questions of citizenship and virtue as cross-form small groups read and discuss the Life of Romulus. In the process, students learn how to act, think, and ask good questions.

## LITERATURE

Great literature's power to cultivate character and virtue inform our classics texts to be read over the year. Older students dive into the art of reading well, creative narrations and participating in the Great Conversation on themes of the human experience. Students also grow in the art of composition through writing exercises and essays.

## LATIN

Experienced Latin students will engage in study through the readings of Ovid. This exploration provides students with ample opportunities for reading Latin prose, poetry while enforcing grammar concepts.

## SCIENCE

With a goal toward diverse science streams, our selection will be chosen in response to the needs of our form 4 families.

# Feast of Living Books | Program of Study

Wonder School PK-1st	Form 1 2 <sup>nd</sup> - 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Form 2 4 <sup>th</sup> - 6 <sup>th</sup>	Form 3 7 <sup>th</sup> - 9 <sup>th</sup>	Form 4 10 <sup>th</sup> - 12 <sup>th</sup>
<p><b>Poetry</b> A.A. Milne</p> <p><b>Biographies: Hero Tales</b> Select Picture Books and D'Aulaire Biographies</p> <p><b>Geography</b> Little Folks of Many Lands</p> <p><b>Literature</b> Fairy Tales, Aesop Fables, Winnie the Pooh, Beatrix Potter</p> <p><b>Nature Lore</b> Brambly Hedge Thornton Burgess Stories</p>	<p><b>Poetry</b> Children's Garden of Verses</p> <p><b>History: Ancient Rome</b> Stories of Rome by Beesly</p> <p><b>Geography</b> The World at Home A to Z Geography</p> <p><b>Biographies</b> Tales of Heroic Age Fifty Famous Stories Retold</p> <p><b>Literature</b> Tanglewood Tales by Nathaniel Hawthorne</p> <p><b>Latin</b> Song School Latin and State Mottos</p> <p><b>Nature Lore</b> Burgess Animal Book Eyes No Eyes by Arabella Buckley</p>	<p><b>Poetry</b> Tennyson, Dickinson, Wordsworth</p> <p><b>History: Ancient Rome</b> Peeps at Many Lands</p> <p><b>Geography: N. America</b> Minn of the Mississippi</p> <p><b>Plutarch</b> Life of Romulus</p> <p><b>Literature</b> Age of Fable Back of the North Wind</p> <p><b>Grammar</b> First Grammar Lessons by Charlotte Mason</p> <p><b>Latin</b> Lingua Latina Familia Romana</p> <p><b>Science</b> Sciences by Holden Sabbath Mood: Physics: Magnets, Weather, Chemistry</p>	<p><b>Poetry</b> Kipling, Longfellow, Whittier</p> <p><b>History: Ancient Rome</b> The Story of the Romans by H.A. Guerber</p> <p><b>Geography</b> Book of Marvels: Occident</p> <p><b>Plutarch</b> Life of Romulus</p> <p><b>Literature</b> The Aeneid for Boys and Girls, Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austen, The Giver</p> <p><b>Grammar</b> Michael Clay Thompson Caesar's English</p> <p><b>Latin</b> Lingua Latina Familia Romana</p> <p><b>Science</b> Sabbath Mood: Chemistry, Weather, Physics</p>	<p><b>Poetry</b> Coleridge, Browning, Emerson, Whitman</p> <p><b>History: Ancient Rome</b> The Book of Romans by Mills and Direct Sources</p> <p><b>Geography</b> Haliburton: Glorious Adventure</p> <p><b>Plutarch</b> Life of Romulus</p> <p><b>Literature</b> Count of Monte Cristo Great Expectations</p> <p><b>Composition</b> Lively Art of Writing</p> <p><b>Latin</b> Lingua Latina Familia Romana</p> <p><b>Science</b> Human Anatomy</p>

# Community Rhythms

## 2026-2027 CALENDAR

Classes are held every Wednesday from 9:30 - 1 p.m. for 30 Weeks

**Sept 16:** First Day of Classes

**Nov 4:** Fall Family Festival

**Nov 25:** Thanksgiving Break

**Dec 23:** Christmas Break (3 Weeks)

**Jan 13:** Classes Resume

**Mar 3:** Spring Family Festival

**Mar 31:** Easter Break

**May 12:** Last Day of Classes

## TERMS

Each term lasts for 10 weeks. At the end of which a group showcase takes place within each Form to celebrate a full season of learning!

**Term 1:** Sept 16 - Nov 18

**Term 2:** Dec 2 - Feb 24

**Term 3:** Mar 3 - May 12

## DAILY

**Closing Circle:** Time for reflection and poetry reading.

**Riches Afternoon Co-Op:** Optional afternoon of artist, composer, Shakespeare, singing.

## MONTHLY

**Philosophy Picnic:** Time of community to fellowship, glean and grow as mothers explore a course of topics on educational philosophy and motherhood.

## SEASONAL

**Festivals:** The community feasts and celebrates together with games, dancing, singing. Theme character dress up is also a fun addition!

# Services List & FAQ's

**Riches Cottage School.** Student meets x1 weekly, 3.5hrs. 4 sessions/month. Offering includes Literature, History, Science and Geography. - TK - 12th grade.

\$200  
\$125

PER MONTH FOR CHARTER STUDENTS  
PER MONTH FOR NON-CHARTER STUDENTS

**Writing Class.** Student meets for 1hr. Assisting with the writing process, written narrations, Journaling/Creative Writing, Projects, revision, and Editing. - 7th - 12th grade

\$15  
\$60

PER HOUR FOR 1 SESSION  
PER MONTH FOR 4 SESSIONS

**Writing Tutoring.** Student meets x1 week, 30 mins. 4 Sessions. Tutoring in Writing, Revising, Editing, Writing, Honing Voice, while learning structure. - 7th - 12th grade

\$100

PER MONTH FOR 4 SESSIONS

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### 1. When and where does the Cottage School meet?

We meet every Wednesday at 9:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. at Clark Regional Park in Buena Park. This includes instructional time, lunch, play time and nature walk.

### 2. Do parents have to stay or volunteer?

No, it is not required. Students may be dropped off as early as 9:15 a.m. and must be picked up at 1:00 p.m.

### 3. Is religious instruction provided?

No. Participants must acknowledge that Riches Cottage School provides a non-religious Charlotte Mason inspired education and the books and educational materials used are non-religious in nature. It is nonsectarian in its programs, admission policies, employment practices, and all other operations.