

## GETTING STARTED

### Part Three

#### DIVING into the CURRICULUM

The curriculum is based on ten levels of Scripture Study, Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, History and its cohorts, namely: Geography, Government, Economics, Anthropology, and Cultural Studies – Art, Music, Theater, Religions, etc. Passage from one level to another in a subject is based upon passing the ‘catechism’ and forensics for that particular level of the subject.

The ‘catechism’ is the objectives or the bank of knowledge that is expected to be learned in a level. We test whether or not a student has acquired this necessary knowledge by the means of what we call ‘Knowledge Keys’. ‘Knowledge Keys’ are questions the answers to which prove that a student has mastered a level of a subject. Forensics are somewhat different.

Forensics are oral and/or written and require the student to make connections and develop logical arguments and conclusions. For example, in the First Level, we ask: “How do you know that you obeyed Heavenly Father before you came to earth?” The answer is: “I know I obeyed Heavenly Father before I came to earth because only those who were valiant were allowed to come to earth and gain a body. I am here, so I must have been valiant and obeyed Heavenly Father.”

When a student passes off a level of a subject, he feels quite accomplished and rightly so. Passing the ‘catechism’ or ‘Knowledge Keys’ as we call them and the Forensics for a subject is the way it was done anciently and up to the early 1900’s. We are simply returning pedagogically to what works and works well.

When a student is enrolled in the Academy, we test for placement of the student in a level of a subject by means of the Knowledge Keys and the Forensics. We start in Level 1 of each of the main subjects: Scripture Study, Language Arts, Mathematics, Science and History. The Knowledge Keys he answers correctly and the Forensics he answers in an acceptable manner, he passes. However, if there are Keys he cannot answer or Forensics that are not acceptable, we expect that he will study that part of the level until he has mastered it. All Keys are matched to the corresponding lesson or unit in the curriculum, so it is no problem finding what needs to be mastered. This is the integrity of the curriculum. We strongly suggest that those enrolled in CURRICULUM ONLY also adhere to this procedure.

When a student passes a level of a subject, he/she knows, the parent(s) know, and we know that he/she has mastered that level of the subject. That is integrity. The student knows what he/she is suppose to know for that level. No more passing from one level to another based on seat-time. Knowledge learned is the key.

So, when you are starting out, cover “Preliminaries” and “Health Concerns” which I discussed above. Next, look at the Knowledge Keys and Forensics for the first level of the main subjects: Scripture Study, Language Arts, Mathematics, Science and History+, and pass your student off on as many as possible. Third, start your student in the curriculum on what he doesn’t know in the First Level. Then, when he masters the FIRST Level of a Subject, begin with the Knowledge Keys and Forensics for the second level of that subject and continue on as before.

When something in the curriculum is unclear or questions arise, please **DON’T HESITATE** to get in touch. We’re here to serve you and your student. [director.ascentacademy@gmail.com](mailto:director.ascentacademy@gmail.com) or 435-773-3766