

## HOW TO USE THE NEALE SCHOOL RESOURCES IN HOMESCHOOLING FAMILIES



The Neale School is striving to develop a Christian program which thoroughly integrates education with Christian culture. Using the Holy Scriptures and many of the treasures of the Church as foundational materials, our goal is to help families (and students in parish schools) to grow in knowledge, in wisdom, and most importantly, in Christ.

A Typical Day with Neale School at home:

### WHAT YOU NEED:

1. Prayer Supplies (see <http://www.nealeschool.com/PrayerDevotion.html>)
  - red 3-ring binder etc (see suggestions on website)
  - Daily Prayer Booklet (pdf file on website)
  - Collect of the Week sheet (pdf file on website)
  - hymnal and/or access to YouTube (see suggestions on website)
  - devotional materials (suggested pdf file on website)
  - Neale School handwriting materials corresponding to collects (pdf file on website)
2. Holy Scripture Supplies
  - Bible (our materials are keyed to the ESV, but will work with most translations)
  - supplementary Neale School worksheets corresponding to scripture study; includes items such as comprehension and vocabulary worksheets (<http://www.nealeschool.com/HolyScripture.html>)
3. Catechism enrollment
  - free enrollment in online class, just email [nealeschool@gmail.com](mailto:nealeschool@gmail.com) for userID and password (see <http://www.nealeschool.com/HolyScripture.html>)
4. Grammar
  - 4th-12th: start Grammar progression, beginning with online English grammar class (see <http://nealeschool.com/LanguageArts.html>)
5. A Mathematics & Philosophy plan
  - Neale School does not have many resources for this available yet (see our suggestions: <http://www.nealeschool.com/MathandPhilosophy.html>)
6. History and Science plans-Neale School does not have many resources for this available yet (<http://www.nealeschool.com/ChronologyandScience.html>)
7. a service plan
  - determine regular work to be done in and around the home and the community



## FIRST SESSION: PRAYER & SCRIPTURE

### *Spiritual and Educational Benefits:*

- 1) *time spent in thoughtful prayer*
- 2) *growth in wisdom from Scripture studies*
- 3) *reading comprehension and vocabulary from Scripture studies*
- 4) *music appreciation and spiritual formation from singing hymns*
- 5) *handwriting practice*

These most important studies should be done together as a family. We have found it easiest (and most orderly) to do them at the dining room table. This portion takes approximately 1-1.5hrs each day, but can greatly fluctuate according to time spent in discussion and “add-on” studies. In our opinion, this is the most important part of the school day. Do it first, don’t begrudge any extra time discussions may add, and if necessary, cut out other studies in order to make sure this one is accomplished.

1. Gathered around the table, we start our day off together praying a simplified Morning Prayer, and the Collect. (Morning Prayer sample on p.2)
2. Using our Collect sheets, we spend time answering some of the questions, reading the scripture passages, and discussing the topic. We usually spread this out over one week. (Collect sheet sample on p.3)
3. We then read together one chapter of Holy Scripture. Before doing this, mom usually goes over several vocabulary words taken from the chapter using a small whiteboard. Going around the circle, everyone takes turns reading the verses, usually alternating after each verse. Mom or Dad leads a short discussion on some pertinent points from the chapter, asks the students if they have any comments or questions, etc. The same chapter will be read the next day, so that each chapter will be read twice before moving to the next. This double reading is very important. It helps the Word to be digested and applied.
4. Relax and sing a hymn or two together, paying attention to the wonderful words. (Hymn suggestions can be found on the Daily Prayer page). On days when scripture discussion has been shorter, take time to explain how to read music, etc.
5. After this, each student is to pick out a meaningful verse and write it neatly in his/her morning journal. (We use 1 page per day, writing on only the front of the page, with the date on the top line on the right side.) In our house I sometimes assign the verse myself. If the children choose individually, I usually have them tell me which verse they’ve picked and I will say either “yes” or “no”.
6. Next, the parent assigns “add-on” work in the following areas. Each day may be a little different:
  - a. *handwriting practice*: the student may copy the Collect using a copsheet (no sample at this time) or free-handing it in the journal under the scripture verse.
  - b. *vocabulary review*: may use the vocabulary practice/review sheets if available, or make your own. (sample on p. \_\_\_\_\_)
  - c. *reading comprehension* practice/review of material read in the Scriptures: use the study sheet which corresponds with the chapter(s) read. (sample on p. \_\_\_\_\_)
7. If wanted, the parent can test the students over the material every Friday. (I often have them try to do a study sheet or vocabulary page from memory on Friday.)

## SECOND SESSION: INDIVIDUAL STUDIES (Catechism, English/Latin, IXL)

### *Spiritual and Educational Benefits:*

- 1) time spent learning the “ins” and “outs” of Christianity
- 2) learning and growing proficient in the skill of Reading and Spelling
- 3) having the mind formed in orderly habit through the study of Grammar
- 4) practice the Civil Standards for education (IXL)



1. Flowing naturally from prayer and Scripture reading, we suggest that the student next works on his/her catechism studies. The Neale School catechism, however, is an online class, and this may present a challenge to families who have more children than computers! First, we suggest that each lesson’s study sheet be printed out and put into a 3-ring binder designated for catechism studies. If a student does not have access to the computer, he/she may study from the print-out. Otherwise, move on to Language Arts and return to catechism later.  
*Catechism should be studied for approx 30 minutes per day.*
2. The studies in Language Arts will vary according to the age of the child, and will include writing and spelling components:
  - a. Younger children (k-2nd) will be learning to read and practicing their reading skills. This will take quite a bit of parental interaction. We have suggestions for this online, but do not offer a “Neale” curriculum
  - b. Around 3rd or 4th grade the student will start the Neale School “progression” beginning with English Grammar. We require that all students start with this course, regardless of age or former studies. It is possible for older students to move through this course very rapidly and then, with that format “under their belt” they may start their Latin studies. Use the “Writing Component” links to direct you to age appropriate writing studies.  
*English grammar, writing, and spelling should take approx 75 minutes per day.*
3. For extra study, the Neale School recommends purchasing an IXL.com account and using their excellent language arts practice materials.
4. The Neale School’s Latin course is designed to be done without too much parental involvement. However, it is a very rigorous class, using the Wheelock’s text. Homework assignments must be completed, turned in, and graded, before the student can move to the next lesson, in order to ensure mastery of each concept.  
*Latin should be studied for at least 1.5 hours each day (half during individual session #1 and half during session #2). If the English writing components were not completed before, continue with them through completion.*
4. After finishing chapter 20 in Wheelock’s Latin, the student is encouraged to begin his/her Greek studies. The Neale School Greek course is set up very similarly to the Latin course.

## THIRD SESSION: LUNCH & CHORES

### *\*goals: a healthful and organized life*

1. prepare and eat lunch (30 min)
2. make sure house is perfectly clean and organized (30 min)

#### FOURTH SESSION: INDIVIDUAL STUDIES (Mathematics, Chronology, Science)



##### *Spiritual and Educational Benefits:*

- 1) *contemplation of the order found in creation*
- 2) *becoming proficient in the manipulation of numbers*
- 3) *learning to reason in an orderly fashion*
- 4) *consideration of the perfections of God, which we are to strive for (i.e. justice)*
- 5) *seeing the hand of God move throughout time*
- 6) *determining the place of mankind in creation*
- 7) *and more!*

1. Eventually Neale School plans to develop a free math program (and if you are interested in helping us to do so, let us know!). For now, the parent or school must determine the curriculum choice. Neale School suggests the Saxon series for grades 4+. We suggest that the student spend about 40 min per day on mathematics.
2. Mathematics helps order the mind using numbers; philosophical thinking helps order the mind using words. The Neale School progression gently introduces the student to the “thinking” realm starting with The Case for Christ. Then the student enters more formal logic and philosophical studies, concentrating on the ancients. We suggest that the student spend about 40 min per day on philosophical studies. Online courses in this subject area will eventually be available and more information can be found here: <http://www.nealeschool.com/MathandPhilosophy.html>
3. The parent will need to determine curriculum choices for chronology (history) and science. It is our plan to open online courses for our suggested progression in the next few years, which can be seen here: <http://www.nealeschool.com/ChronologyandScience.html>

#### SERVICCE COMPONENT: WEEKLY

##### *Spiritual and Educational Benefits:*

- 1) *we learn to love others, contemplate their needs, and recognize our own blessings when we serve*
- 2) *we learn new skills to use for the glory of God*

This component can be achieved in a number of ways. We recommend setting aside a portion of a weekday (such as Wednesday afternoons) to be designated for service time. If there are regularly set services, it is more likely they will be completed. For example, the first Wednesday afternoon of the month could be letter-writing service; the second Wednesday could be service to shut-ins; the third Wednesday could be service to the church, etc.