

Applied Scholastics *Online* Academy Integrated¹ Curriculum Briefing Sheet

By Carlynn McCormick

What is *Integrated Curriculum*?

Subjects such as English, math, science and history are usually studied in high school as separate subjects. A different approach, championed by many educators as more meaningful, is to integrate these subjects as a whole. In other words chose texts that encompass sections from various subjects. Applied Scholastics *Online* Academy offers an integrated curriculum program (along with traditional programs) to high school students who wish to access knowledge from a number of subjects without separating them out.

Advantages of Applied Scholastics *Online* Academy – *Integrated Curriculum*

- Integrated curriculum allows the student to choose high school level non-fiction books that cover areas of great interest to the student personally. This puts students at the helm of their education and allows them to align it with their own academic goals.
- Since life itself is mostly integrated, rather than divided into individualized pockets, most subjects overlap.
- Therefore integrated curriculum coincides with life—where problems arise and answers must be found. This is the reverse of traditional school methods where one is given answers and asked to regurgitate them back on test papers.
- Students do best when they can see how various subjects connect—one to the other. This connection allows students to tap into higher thinking skills.
- The puzzle pieces of life fit together naturally when life is studied and viewed as an integrated whole. This in turn increases a student’s ability to evaluate and handle life problems.
- In addition, when students study materials that align to authentic situations they usually think more clearly. The clearer one’s thinking the easier it is to figure out the most logical solution to a life situation or the most logical answer to a practical question. Therefore, students studying an integrated curriculum usually score higher on standardized tests.
- Integrated curriculum saves time and presents a broader overview of life in general. This happens when integrated materials introduce or touch upon ideas or subjects not covered in traditional education due to time limitations.

¹ Integrated: formed into a whole or introduced into another entity

Contact Applied Scholastics *Online* Academy to find out:

- ▶ **how credits are earned**
- ▶ **how texts gain approval**
- ▶ **how grades are given!**

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