

### General Structure and Focus

Math and Spanish follow curricula. Other subjects are studied according to interest and “teachable moments.” Travel – both local and outside the area – plays an important part in learning, as does music. No testing. Assessment happens through conversation and problem-solving.

### Religion:

Lectionary/Liturgical year-based. Daily. (Mother/teacher: MA in Church History from Vanderbilt University)

### Math

Textbook: *Pre-Algebra* from The Art of Problem Solving. (<http://www.artofproblemsolving.com>) Book was finished in early May.

### Spanish

Textbook: *Avencemos I* from Holt, Rinehart and Wilson. Following Mrs. R’s practice (although we used a different text), our goal was to complete half of the book – we went a little past it. Mrs. R has given us a comprehensive list of all vocabulary and grammar the 7<sup>th</sup> grade Spanish students have done this year, and M will spend summer months reviewing that.

### English

Reading short stories, poetry and novels. List of works read and discussed is attached.

### History

M has a strong interest in history. During the first part of the year, the focus was on his preparation for the regional history bee. He qualified to go to nationals. Other than that, he reads history related to his particular areas of interest from books and history magazines. (*National Geographic History*, *BBC History* and *Archaeology*). This year, his interests have been mostly on ancient history (MesoAmerican history is a consistent interest of his) and World War I.

### Science

Science is interest-driven. M reads in his areas of interest – mostly animal science and environmental science/geography related to the tropics. We have done some experiments and demonstrations and a few dissections.

### Keyboarding

Working through a keyboarding program.

### Music

M studies piano at Samford Academy of the Arts. His repertoire for this year has focused on the following:

- Moszkowski *Etude* 6, Opus 72
- Rachmaninoff *Prelude* Op. 3 N. 2 in C# minor
- Beethoven piano sonata Op. 2 N. 1 movement 4
- Kabalevsky piano concerto N. 3 in D major, Op. 50, movement 3

This spring, he has begun additional studies:

- Jazz piano
- Pipe organ

### Activities

Regular activities include:

- Boxing at Juarez Boxing
- Class through St. Thomas Aquinas Homeschool co-op (Fall 2018 – Photography)
- Basketball through St. Rose
- Altar server at Casa Maria Retreat House (Sister Servants)
- Fraternus at St. Paul's Cathedral

### Excursions and Travel

#### 1. Local Outings

Regular excursions to:

- Birmingham Zoo
- Ruffner Mountain Preserve
- Moss Rock Preserve
- Oak Mountain
- Railroad Park
- Birmingham Botanical Gardens

- Birmingham Museum of Art

Singular Local Experiences:

- Birmingham Zoo Zookeeper for a Day (reptile area)
- Sloss Furnace Tour and Iron Pour
- Fossil Hunt (via Fresh Air Family)
- Homewood Library Homeschool Zoo frog dissection
- Birmingham Museum of Art Homeschool tour and hands-on lesson on perspective
- Aldridge Botanical Gardens (Hoover) nighttime spider program and hunt
- Toured St. George Melkite Church and St. Symeon Orthodox Church offered as part of their festivals

2. Outside Birmingham

- Old Cahawba (first state capital of Alabama)
- Historic Pensacola, including Fort Pickens

3. Further Afield

- Summer 2017: Belize and Guatemala.

1 week centered on Mayan sites: Tikal, Yaxha, Aguateca and Ceibal. M planned the itinerary, which was executed with a local guide.

- Summer 2017: New York City

Sites visited: Metropolitan Museum of Art, Guggenheim Museum, Morgan Library, Empire State Building

- Fall 2017: Kansas/Missouri

Reason for trip: older brother visiting Benedictine College in Atchison, Kansas. Other sights seen: Truman Library, City Museum in St. Louis, Cahokia Mounds

- Christmas 2017: New York City

Sites visited: Metropolitan Museum of Art, American Museum of Natural History, Metropolitan Opera

- March 2018: New Orleans

15<sup>th</sup> Annual Tulane Maya Symposium. An academic conference of Maya specialists and others. Theme of the conference was : The Blood Pooled, the Heads Piled Up: How the Maya Waged War. M (and I) attended a full-day workshop on Maya glyphs and attended three other sessions over the weekend.

- Spring 2018: Mexico City and Puebla, Mexico

Sites visited: Teotihuacan, National Museum of Anthropology, Cholula Pyramid, Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

- Summer 2018: Tokyo, Japan

### Musical and Theatrical Performances:

Alabama Symphony – 4 “Coffee Concerts” over the course of the year featuring:

- 10/6 Brahms Symphony 1
- 11/17 Beethoven Symphony 4
- 1/5 Mozart Symphony 41 & Rameau, Purcell, Vivaldi and Bach
- 2/23 Dvorak Symphony “From the New World”

2/15 Alabama Symphony “Celebrate Alabama” concert

10/4 Piano Recital, Brock Auditorium (Samford) - Vadym Kholodenko: Mozart, Beethoven, Tchaikovsky

2/ 8 - Annual Rushton Concert, Birmingham Museum of Art: Daniel Hsu

12/2017: *Hansel and Gretel* Metropolitan Opera, New York City

### Literature works read/discussed

#### Poetry:

Ozymandias (Shelley)

The Owl Critic

Jabberwocky (Carroll)

To Autumn (Keats)

The Sloth (Roethke)

Something Told the Wild Geese (Field)

We are going to see the Rabbit (Brownjohn)

In Drear-Night December (Keats)

Sonnet 73 (Shakespeare)

Do Not Go Gentle Into that Good Night (Dylan Thomas)

13 Ways of Looking at a Blackbird (William Carlos Williams)

The Lake Isle of Innisfree (Yeats)

The World is Too Much With Us (Wordsworth)

Miniver Cheevy (Robinson)

Fern Hill (Thomas)

My Last Duchess (Browning)

March Come In (Dickinson)

Lines Written in Early Spring (Wordsworth)

Spring (Edna St. Vincent Millay)

### Short Stories

To Build a Fire (London)

The Necklace (de Maupassant)

The Reticence of Lady Anne (Saki)

The Death of a Government Clerk (Chekov)

Just Lather, That's All (Tellez)

The Canterville Ghost (Wilde)

The Bride Comes to Yellow Sky (Crane)

Harrison Bergeron (Vonnegut)

*Several other Poe, Saki and O. Henry stories*

### Novels

*Animal Farm*

*Of Mice and Men*

*The Old Man and the Sea*

*Tom Sawyer*

*The Yearling*

*A Christmas Carol*

*Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*

*Lord of the Flies*

*Murder on the Orient Express*

*True Grit (Portis)*

These are "school" readings. Over the course of the year, Michael has read many other books of his own choosing. A few:

The *Tunnels* series (Gordon/Williams)

*Thrawn* (a *Star Wars* novel)

The *Maze Runner* series

*Dune*

*Children of Dune*

*The Shining*

*Eragon* and *Eldest* (Paolini)