A.4. School Calendar and Weekly Schedule

Leman Academy of Excellence School Calendar for 2015-2016

Leman Academy of Excellence seeks to provide a rigorous, Classical education based on the traditions of Western culture where all disciplines are interrelated allowing scholars the ability to think independently and critically, building a community of responsible citizens along the way. We plan to garner parental support by educating them on our unique model and providing opportunities for partnership. We will provide a safe place for learning as we pursue excellence together, embracing our scholars in an atmosphere that is both encouraging and challenging, making the most of the potential in every child. Leman Academy of Excellence administration, faculty and staff will fulfill its mission statement by providing the most efficient and effective standard school calendar and daily class schedules possible for our scholars and families. The 2015-2016 calendar is provided on the following page.

Leman Academy of Excellence
2015 - 2016

School Days 180
First Semester 90
Second Semester 90

July 2015

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

JULY

13 - 16 Teacher Orientation/In-Service
20 - 23 Teacher Orientation/In-Service
30 - 31 Faculty/Staff In-Service

August 2015

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

AUGUST (20 School Days)

3 Faculty/Staff In-Service
4 Start of 1st Quarter

September 2015

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

SEPTEMBER (21 School Days)

7 Labor Day - No School

October 2015

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

OCTOBER (18 School Days)

7 End of 1st Quarter (46 Days)
8 Grading Day - No School
9 - 13 Fall Break - No School
14 Start of 2nd Quarter

November 2015

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

NOVEMBER (18 School Days)

11 Veteran's Day- No School
26 - 27 Thanksgiving Break - No School

December 2015

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

DECEMBER (13 School Days)

17 End of 2nd Quarter (44 days)
18 Grading Day - No School
18 - 31 Winter Break - No School

JANUARY (19 School Days)

1 Winter Break - No School
4 Start of 3rd Quarter
18 MLK Jr. Day - No School

January 2016

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

FEBRUARY (19 School Days)

25 - 26 Rodeo Break - No School

February 2016

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29					

MARCH (16 School Days)

10 End of 3rd Quarter (46 days)
11 Grading Day - No School
14 - 18 Spring Break - No School
21 Start of 4th Quarter
25 Good Friday - No School
27 Easter

March 2016

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

APRIL (21 School Days)

April 2016

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

MAY (15 School Days)

20 Kindergarten Promotion
20 End of 4th Quarter (44 days)

May 2016

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

No School
Early Release 1:30

A. Compliance with Required Number of School Days per Year

The 2015-2016 school year will begin on August 4, 2015 and end May 20, 2016. The school day begins by 8:05 am and ends at 2:30 pm for grades K-6. Grades 7 and 8 will begin at 7:40am and dismiss at 2:30pm. Scholars at Leman Academy of Excellence will be in school for the required 180 days per A.R.S. § 15-341.01. Parent/Teacher Conferences will be held the weeks of October 19-23, 2015 and March 28 until April 1, 2016. Standardized State administered test dates will be added once those are released for the 2015-2016 school year.

Although dates have not yet been determined, the Leman Academy of Excellence will have two evenings (or more) per semester with our school's founder, Dr. Kevin Leman, speaking with our families. He will meet with both our potential families and enrolled families to discuss parenting and marriage, as well as share insight, counsel, and offer advice on the importance of parents being involved in the educational life of their children, for the earlier in a child's educational process parent involvement begins, the more powerful the effects. Dr. Leman wants to be an encouragement in this area for our families, as well as offer some guiding principles that will help parents become more involved with their child's education and to realize and seize opportunities to teach, as they look to have a positive influence educating their children.

B. Compliance with Required Hours/Minutes of Instruction

Leman Academy of Excellence will exceed the minimum amount of minutes/hours of instruction time required in A.R.S. § 15-341.01 for each grade level. Our instructional program is highly structured and is organized so that the most demanding core subjects are primarily placed in the morning of the daily class schedule. A rigorous, Classical academic program that is highly structured should provide the scholars an environment for strong academic achievement.

Although Leman Academy of Excellence exceeds the minimum amount of instruction hours required by A.R.S. § 15-341.01 for each grade level, we recognize the real goal is accomplished by our teachers maximizing the amount of academic learning time in their class schedules, which brings even greater results toward the academic learning and achievement of each scholar in the classroom.

The first bell rings for school at 8:00am for grades K-6, 7:40am for grades 7-8. Scholars report to their classrooms and line up. The daily schedules for all grade levels (including half-day and/or early dismissal days) and information regarding LAE time of instruction are provided in the charts below.

Kindergarten Program

Parents of children who meet the enrollment requirements (age five by September 1) for voluntary Kindergarten Program at Leman Academy of Excellence will have the opportunity to place their child in a half-day kindergarten instructional program.

Leman Academy of Excellence wants to partner with our parents by offering a full-day kindergarten program of instruction to give parents a choice that will best meet their family and child's needs, as well as give the parents an opportunity to explore the two options and what might be best for their child as he/she first enters kindergarten and all of its expectations. The parents know their child best, and providing them a choice should help the parents in a variety of ways as they look at their own family situation, the child and his/her abilities and needs, and what might have the most positive effect for their child just starting their schooling years.

Therefore, Leman Academy of Excellence will also offer a full-day kindergarten program of instruction to our families if there should be a demand by the parents and would be supported by our community.

Kindergarten Daily Schedule (Full day Option M, T, TH, F)	Activity	Time of Instruction
8:05-8:30am	Attendance, Pledge, Calendar & Recitation	
8:30-9:50am	Language Arts Block	80 minutes
9:50-10:10am	Recess/P.E. & Health integrated	
10:10-10:25am	Read Aloud w/Snack	15 minutes
10:25-11:10am	Math	45 minutes
11:10-11:40am	History/Science/Classical Block (Art & Music integrated)	30 minutes
11:40am-12:00pm	Spanish	20 minutes
12:00-12:30pm	Lunch	
12:30-1:00pm	Specials Rotation (Physical Education, Art, or Music) Self-contained.	30 minutes
1:00-1:30pm	Art/Music Appreciation	30 minutes
1:30-1:45pm	Recess/Snack	
1:45-2:30pm	History/Science Extension	45 minutes
2:30pm	Dismissal	
		Total: 4 hours 55 min.

Kindergarten Daily Schedule (Half-day)	Activity	Time of Instruction
8:05-8:30am	Attendance, Pledge, Calendar & Recitation	
8:30-9:50am	Language Arts Block	80 minutes
9:50-10:10am	Recess/P.E. & Health integrated	
10:10-10:25am	Read Aloud w/Snack	15 minutes
10:25-11:10am	Math	45 minutes
11:10-11:40am	History/Science/Classical Block (Art & Music integrated)	30 minutes
11:40am-12:00pm	Spanish	20 minutes
12:00pm	Dismissal	
		Total: 3 hours 10 min.

Grades 1 Daily Schedule (M, T, TH, F)	Activity	Time of Instruction
8:05-8:15am	Attendance, Pledge & Recitation	
8:15-9:35am	Language Arts Block	80 minutes
9:35-9:55am	Spanish	20 minutes
9:55-10:15am	Recess and snack	
10:15-11:15am	Math	60 minutes
11:15-11:30am	Read Aloud	15 minutes
11:30am-12:00pm	Lunch	
12:00-12:30pm	Specials Rotation* (P.E./Health, Art or Music)	30 minutes
12:30-1:20pm	History (Art/Music Appreciation, Nature Study, Copybooks)	50 minutes
1:20-1:40pm	Recess	
1:40-2:15pm	Science/Copybooks	35 minutes
2:15-2:30pm	Independent Reading	15 minutes
2:30pm	Dismissal	
		Total: 5 hours 5 min.

*Students will be on a rotating schedule. P.E. will take place 2-3 times per week, Art and Music at least once per week - could be more depending on their rotation.

Grades 2 Daily Schedule (M, T, TH, F)	Activity	Time of Instruction
8:05-8:15am	Attendance, Pledge & Recitation	
8:15-9:35am	Language Arts Block	80 minutes
9:35-9:55am	Spanish	20 minutes
9:55-10:15am	Recess and snack	
10:15-11:15am	Math	60 minutes
11:15-11:45am	Specials Rotation* (P.E./Health, Art or Music)	30 minutes
11:45am-12:15pm	Lunch	
12:15-12:30pm	Read Aloud	15 minutes
12:30-1:20pm	History (Art/Music Appreciation, Nature Study, Copybooks)	50 minutes
1:20-1:40pm	Recess	
1:40-2:15pm	Science/Copybooks	35 minutes
2:15-2:30pm	Independent Reading	15 minutes
2:30pm	Dismissal	
		Total: 5 hours 5 min.

*Students will be on a rotating schedule. P.E. will take place 2-3 times per week, Art and Music at least once per week - could be more depending on their rotation.

Grades 3 Daily Schedule (M, T, TH, F)	Activity	Time of Instruction
8:05-8:15am	Attendance, Pledge & Recitation	
8:15-9:35am	Language Arts Block	80 minutes
9:35-10:35am	Math	60 minutes
10:35-10:55am	Recess and Snack	
10:55-11:30am	Science/Copybooks	35 minutes
11:30am-12:00pm	Latin	30 minutes
12:00-12:30pm	Lunch	
12:30-1:00pm	Specials Rotation* (Physical Education& Health, Art or Music)	30 minutes
1:00-1:50pm	History (Art/Music Appreciation, Nature Study, Copybooks)	50 minutes
1:50-2:10pm	Independent Reading	20 minutes
2:10-2:30pm	Read Aloud	20 minutes
2:30pm	Dismissal	
		Total: 5 hours 25 min.

*Students will be on a rotating schedule. P.E. will take place 2-3 times per week, Art and Music at least once per week - could be more depending on their rotation.

Grades 4 Daily Schedule (M, T, TH, F)	Activity	Time of Instruction
8:05-8:15am	Attendance, Pledge & Recitation	
8:15-9:35am	Language Arts Block	80 minutes
9:35-10:35am	Math	60 minutes
10:35-10:55am	Recess and Snack	
10:55-11:25am	Latin	30 minutes
11:25am-12:00pm	Science/Copybooks	35 minutes
12:00-12:30pm	Lunch	
12:30-1:20pm	History (Art/Music Appreciation, Nature Study, Copybooks)	50 minutes
1:20-1:50pm	Specials Rotation* (Physical Education& Health, Art or Music)	30 minutes
1:50-2:10pm	Independent Reading	20 minutes
2:10-2:30pm	Read Aloud	20 minutes
2:30pm	Dismissal	
		Total: 5 hours 25 min.

*Students will be on a rotating schedule. P.E. will take place 2-3 times per week, Art and Music at least once per week - could be more depending on their rotation.

Grades 5 Daily Schedule (M, T, TH, F)	Activity	Time of Instruction
8:05-8:15am	Attendance, Pledge & Recitation	
8:15-9:35am	Language Arts Block	80 minutes
9:35-10:05am	Latin	30 minutes
10:05-10:25am	Recess and Snack	
10:25-11:25am	Math	60 minutes
11:25am-12:00pm	Science/Copybooks	35 minutes
12:00-12:30pm	Lunch	
12:30-1:20pm	History (Art/Music Appreciation, Nature Study, Copybooks)	50 minutes
1:20-1:40pm	Independent Reading	20 minutes
1:40-2:00pm	Read Aloud	20 minutes
2:00-2:30pm	Specials Rotation* (Physical Education& Health, Art or Music)	30 minutes
2:30pm	Dismissal	
		Total: 5 hours 25 min.

*Students will be on a rotating schedule. P.E. will take place 2-3 times per week, Art and Music at least once per week - could be more depending on their rotation.

Grade 6 Daily Schedule (M, T, TH, F)	Activity	Time of Instruction
8:05-8:15am	Attendance, Pledge & Recitation	
8:15-9:35am	Language Arts Block	80 minutes
9:35-10:10am	Science/Copybooks	35 minutes
10:10-10:40am	Latin	30 minutes
10:40-11:00am	Recess & Snack	
11:00am-12:00pm	Math	60 minutes
12:00-12:30pm	Lunch	
12:30-1:20pm	History (Art/Music Appreciation, Nature Study, Copybooks)	50 minutes
1:20-1:40pm	Intro. to Logic	20 minutes
1:40-2:00pm	Read Aloud	20 minutes
2:00-2:30pm	Specials Rotation* (Physical Education& Health, Art or Music)	30 minutes
2:30pm	Dismissal	
		Total: 5 hours 25 min.

*Students will be on a rotating schedule. P.E. will take place 2-3 times per week, Art and Music at least once per week - could be more depending on their rotation.

Grade 7 Daily Schedule (M, T, TH, F)	Activity	Time of Instruction
7:40-7:45am	Attendance & Pledge	
7:45-8:45am	English	60 minutes
8:48-9:38am	History	50 minutes
9:41-10:41am	Math	60 minutes
10:44-11:34am	Science	50 minutes
11:35am-12:05pm	Lunch	
12:08-12:53pm	Logic	45 minutes
12:56-1:41pm	Latin	45 minutes
1:45-2:30	Specials Rotation* (P.E./Health, Art or Music)	45 minutes
2:30pm	Dismissal	
		Total: 5 hours 55 min.

*3 minutes between classes for scholars to rotate to next class.

Grade 8 Daily Schedule (M, T, TH, F)	Activity	Time of Instruction
7:40-7:45am	Attendance & Pledge	
7:45-8:45am	Math	60 minutes
8:48-9:38am	Science	50 minutes
9:41-10:41am	English	60 minutes
10:44-11:34am	History	50 minutes
11:35am-12:05pm	Lunch	
12:08-12:53pm	Latin	45 minutes
12:56-1:41pm	Logic	45 minutes
1:45-2:30pm	Specials Rotation* (P.E./Health, Art or Music)	45 minutes
2:30pm	Dismissal	
		Total: 5 hours 55 min.

*Students in 7th & 8th grades will be on a rotating schedule with P.E./Health, Art & Music. P.E., Art and Music will take place at least once per week, no more than twice with rotation.
*3 minutes between classes for scholars to rotate to next class

Kindergarten Full Day Wednesday Early Release Schedule	Activity	Time of Instruction
8:05-8:30am	Attendance, Pledge, Calendar & Recitation	
8:30-9:50am	Language Arts Block	80 minutes
9:50-10:10am	Recess/P.E. & Health integrated	
10:10-10:25am	Read Aloud w/Snack	15 minutes
10:25-11:25am	Math	60 minutes
11:25-11:55am	History/Science/Classical Block (Art & Music integrated)	30 minutes
12:00-12:30pm	Lunch	
12:30-1:00pm	Art/Music Appreciation	30 minutes
1:00-1:30pm	History/Science Extension	30 minutes
1:30pm	Dismissal	
		Total: 3 hours 5 min.

Grades 1 Wednesday Early Release Schedule	Activity	Time of Instruction
8:05-8:15am	Attendance, Pledge & Recitation	
8:15-9:35am	Language Arts Block	80 minutes
9:35-9:55am	Spanish	20 minutes
9:55-10:15am	Recess/Snack	
10:15-11:15am	Math	60 minutes
11:15-11:30am	Read Aloud	15 minutes
11:30am-12:00pm	Lunch	
12:00-12:45pm	Specials Rotation* (Physical Education & Health, Art or Music)	45 minutes
12:45-1:30pm	History & Science Integrated	45 minutes
1:30pm	Dismissal	
		Total: 4 hours 25 min.

Grades 2 Wednesday Early Release Schedule	Activity	Time of Instruction
8:05-8:15am	Attendance, Pledge & Recitation	
8:15-9:35am	Language Arts Block	80 minutes
9:35-9:55am	Spanish	20 minutes
9:55-10:15am	Recess/Snack	
10:15-11:15am	Math	60 minutes
11:15-12:00	Specials Rotation* (Physical Education & Health, Art or Music)	45 minutes
12:00-12:30pm	Lunch	
12:30-12:45pm	Read Aloud	15 minutes
12:45-1:30pm	History & Science Integrated	45 minutes
1:30pm	Dismissal	
		Total: 4 hours 25 min.

Grades 3 Wednesday Early Release Schedule	Activity	Time of Instruction
8:05-8:15am	Attendance, Pledge & Recitation	
8:15-9:35am	Language Arts Block	80 minutes
9:35-10:05am	Latin	30 minutes
10:05-10:25am	Recess and Snack	
10:25-11:25am	Math	60 minutes
11:25-11:55am	Science	30 minutes
12:00-12:30pm	Lunch	
12:30-12:45pm	Read Aloud	15 minutes
12:45-1:30pm	History & Science Integrated	45 minutes
1:30pm	Dismissal	
		Total: 4 hours 20 min.

Grades 4 Wednesday Early Release Schedule	Activity	Time of Instruction
8:05-8:15am	Attendance, Pledge & Recitation	
8:15-9:35am	Language Arts Block	80 minutes
9:35-10:35am	Math	60 minutes
10:35-10:55am	Recess and Snack	
10:55-11:25am	Latin	30 minutes
11:25-11:55am	Science	30 minutes
12:00-12:30pm	Lunch	
12:30-12:45pm	Read Aloud	15 minutes
12:45-1:30pm	History & Science Integrated	45 minutes
1:30pm	Dismissal	
		Total: 4 hours 20 min.

Grades 5 Wednesday Early Release Schedule	Activity	Time of Instruction
8:05-8:15am	Attendance, Pledge & Recitation	
8:15-9:35am	Language Arts Block	80 minutes
9:35-10:35am	Math	60 minutes
10:35-10:55am	Recess and Snack	
10:55-11:25am	Science/Copybooks	30 minutes
11:25-11:55am	Latin	30 minutes
12:00-12:30pm	Lunch	
12:30-12:45pm	Read Aloud	15 minutes
12:45-1:30pm	History & Science Integrated	45 minutes
1:30pm	Dismissal	
		Total: 4 hours 20 min.

Grade 6 Wednesday Early Release Schedule	Activity	Time of Instruction
8:05-8:15am	Attendance, Pledge & Recitation	
8:15-9:35am	Language Arts	80 minutes
9:35-9:55am	Recess and Snack	
9:55-10:55am	Math	60 minutes
10:55-11:30am	Science/Copybooks	35 minutes
11:30am-12:00pm	Lunch	
12:00-12:30pm	Latin	30 minutes
12:30-12:45pm	Intro. to Logic	15 minutes
12:45-1:30pm	History & Science Integrated	45 minutes
1:30pm	Dismissal	
		Total: 4 hours 25 min.

Grade 7 Wednesday Early Release Schedule	Activity	Time of Instruction
8:05-8:10am	Attendance & Pledges	
8:10-8:55 am	English	45 minutes
9:00-9:45am	History	45 minutes
9:50-10:35am	Math	45 minutes
10:40-11:25am	Science	45 minutes
11:30-12:00pm	Lunch	
12:05-12:45pm	Logic	40 minutes
12:50-1:30pm	Latin	40 minutes
1:30pm	Dismissal	
		Total: 4 hours 20 min.

*5 minutes between classes for scholars to rotate to next class.

Grade 8 Wednesday Early Release Schedule	Activity	Time of Instruction
8:05-8:10 am	Attendance & Pledges	
8:10-8:55am	Math	45 minutes
9:00-9:45am	Science	45 minutes
9:50-10:35am	English	45 minutes
10:30-11:15am	History	45 minutes
11:30-12:00pm	Lunch	
12:05-12:45pm	Latin	40 minutes
12:50-1:30pm	Logic	40 minutes
1:30pm	Dismissal	
		Total: 4 hours 20 min.

*5 minutes between classes for scholars to rotate to next class.

	Weekly Instructional Minutes per Grade at Leman Academy of Excellence				
Content Area	**Kinder**	**Grades 1-2**	**Grades 3-4**	**Grade 5**	**Grade 6**
Language Arts	400	400	400	400	400
Math	240	300	300	300	300
History (w/ Art/Music Appreciation)	X	200	200	200	200
Science	X	140	170	170	175
Hist./Science Integrated	360	45	45	45	45
Foreign Language	80	100	150	150	150
Art/Music Apprec	150	X	X	X	X
Specials Rotation: P.E./Art/Music	120	165	120	120	120
Ind. Reading	N/A	60	80	80	N/A
Read Aloud	75	75	95	95	80
Logic	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	95
Total Minutes:	**1425**	**1485**	**1560**	**1560**	**1565**

Weekly Instructional Minutes per Grade at Leman Academy of Excellence	
Content Area	**Grades 7 & 8**
English	285
History	245
Latin	220
Logic	220
Math	285
Science	245
*P.E./Health	Min. 45 – Max. 90
*Art	Min. 45 – Max. 90
*Music	Min. 45 – Max. 90
Total Minutes:	**1680**

*Students in 7th & 8th grades will rotate schedules with P.E./Health, Art & Music once or twice per week.

Leman Academy of Excellence Yearly Instructional Hours Compared to Arizona Department of Education Recommendations							
	K	**Grade 1**	**Grade 2**	**Grade 3**	**Grade 4**	**Grade 5**	**Grade 6**
LAE Yearly Instructional Hours	½ = 570 full = 853	887	887	934	934	934	937
ADE Required Yearly Instructional Hours	356	712	712	712	890	890	890

Leman Academy of Excellence Yearly Instructional Hours Compared to Arizona Department of Education Recommendations		
	Grade 7	**Grade 8**
LAE Yearly Instructional Hours	1005	1005
ADE Required Yearly Instructional Hours	1000	1000

C. Rationale for Weekly Schedule to Improve Pupil Achievement

Leman Academy of Excellence has planned a daily and weekly class schedule for grades K-8 that adheres to our philosophy, placing the most demanding core subjects primarily in the morning. The daily class schedules for each grade level at Leman Academy of Excellence are specifically designed to meet the needs of the scholars in our target population by providing ample time to teach core academic content as well as provide differentiation instruction for scholars based on identified academic needs.

As previously stated, Leman Academy of Excellence created a rigorous academic schedule which not only exceeds the minimum amount of minutes/hours of instruction time required in A.R.S. § 15-341.01 for each grade level, but has been put in place to meet the needs of our target population. This is especially note worthy for grades K-3, which is commonly understood as the foundational, critical academic years for all scholars. Providing a rigorous academic daily and weekly schedule that greatly exceeds the necessary number of instructional hours as determined by the state average in grades K-3, while also holding extremely high expectations of learning for each of our scholars, provides an even greater opportunity for tremendous scholar achievement in the core academic areas of study for our target population.

The most pressing need of our target population is for improving scholar achievement in writing, followed by math and reading. The greatest number of instructional minutes planned in the weekly schedule for our target population is in language arts and math. The strong emphasis of instructional hours in these two critical areas of learning, along with our instructional program that includes Shurley English in the language arts program, Latin beginning in 3rd grade, and Saxon Math being taught at an accelerated level should provide

our target population increased scholar achievement in the areas of writing, math and reading.

One of the essential features of Shurley English is the ongoing use of feedback through formative assessments. Providing scholars with information about how well they are doing on a regular basis was found to be incredibly powerful, so much so that researcher John Hattie analyzed nearly 8,000 studies and concluded, "The most powerful single modification that enhances achievement is feedback. The simplest prescription for improving education must be 'dollops of feedback.'" Research found that the effects of feedback could increase achievement from 7 to 37 percent.[1] The continuous use of feedback with Shurley English should provide significant scholar improvement in the writing skills of our target population.

A course of study that includes Latin can also contribute to significant scholar improvement. Sixth-grade scholars in Indianapolis who studied Latin for 30 minutes each day for five months advanced nine months in their math problem solving abilities. In addition, the scholars exhibited the following advances in other areas[2]:

- Eight months in world knowledge
- One year in reading
- Thirteen months in language
- Four months in spelling
- Five months in science
- Seven months in social studies

Our Classical educational program weekly schedule has 30 minutes planned each day for the study of Latin starting in the 3rd grade, with an increase to 40-45 minutes of study in the 7th and 8th grade. We are excited to offer the study of Latin to our target population beginning at such a young age, and look forward to watching our scholars advance in their math solving abilities and their vocabulary and reading skills, improve their study skills as well as attain higher test scores as they progress through the years studying Latin.[3]

Saxon Math is the math program chosen by Leman Academy of Excellence and has been implemented for all grade levels in the weekly schedule on a daily basis starting in Kindergarten. Independent research, longitudinal studies, and field-testing provide clear evidence that the Saxon Math program shows immediate, dramatic, and sustained improvement for all scholars.[4] The Saxon Math program is based on an incremental pedagogical approach that emphasizes practice, review and frequent cumulative assessment. It is the Saxon philosophy that mathematics learning should build on prior learning. Saxon Math's approach to math instruction aims to ensure that scholars both gain and retain essential math skills.

Major findings from a study of the effectiveness of the Saxon Math program on elementary scholars concluded that the scholars who participated in grades K-3 made substantial gains in overall math achievement.[5] I have also witnessed as an administrator, teacher and parent high scholar achievement and mastery of concepts for scholars in the Saxon Math program. Leman Academy of Excellence plans to teach Saxon Math at an accelerated level, beginning with Saxon Math 1 in Kindergarten, which should dramatically improve scholar achievement in math for our target population.

D. Professional Development

Not only is it critical to hire excellent, quality instructors for the classroom, but it is just as vital that administration purpose a comprehensive and well planned professional development program that will offer meaningful, productive professional development opportunities. The school calendar shows early release days for every Wednesday of the school year to allow for teacher training and Professional Development to ensure that we are meeting the needs of the students, collaborating as a staff, and improving student achievement. This time will also allow for after school tutors to work with students who need remedial work. To that end, the program will:

1) Support the goals of teaching to and implementing the Arizona State Standards and Common Core Standards for the teachers in the classroom
2) Provide professional growth and learning for the faculty of Leman Academy
3) Look at Classical education, teacher effectiveness, best teaching practices
4) Student performance related to assessment, analysis, and subsequent actions
5) Professional Improvement Plan
6) Ensure that our school fulfills its mission with our families and community
7) Allow for professional collaboration
8) Provide community building for faculty and staff

The Professional Development Program will include:

1) Teachers and administrators participating in an eight day Orientation and In-service training program in July regarding our philosophy, mission, core values, beliefs, and educational approach including implementation of Arizona State Standards and the Common Core Standards
2) Faculty and Staff In-service training prior to the start of the school year will be July 30 & 31 as well as August 3, 2015
3) Workshops and teacher training is scheduled on the school calendar for every Wednesday and accounted for with an early release time for all of our scholars
4) Formal Evaluations for every teacher
5) Weekly Informal Observations to provide regular feedback regarding observed instruction, best teaching practices, effective methods of instruction related to standards

The administration of Leman Academy of Excellence is committed to supporting the teachers and the work they are doing in the classroom to bring out the best in every scholar both socially and academically. Administration will treat each faculty and staff member with great care and respect, establishing a workplace environment that is encouraging, collaborative, and professional. Teachers will be respected when it comes to their time, pay, and being more involved in the decision-making process. The work of the teacher in the classroom will be acknowledged and celebrated by administration.

A.4 Sources

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