

## Comparing Charlotte Mason curricula

	<b>A Gentle Feast</b> ( <a href="https://agentlefeast.com/">https://agentlefeast.com/</a> )	<b>Wildwood</b> ( <a href="http://wildwoodcurriculum.org/">http://wildwoodcurriculum.org/</a> )	<b>Ambleside Schools</b> ( <a href="http://www.amblesideschools.com">http://www.amblesideschools.com</a> ); <i>not</i> affiliated with Ambleside Online)
What is it?	Morning time, parent and student packets; plus a blog and support	A free curriculum; it seems to include form I (through age 9) and family studies for all ages; I do not see materials for ages 10+ (yet)	A formal CM curriculum which can be used on schools or by homeschoolers; includes mandatory training and mentorship; “you receive a comprehensive, thoroughly researched and tested curriculum package, custom designed for your students”; mentor program is for grades K-8
What they say about themselves	“A Charlotte Mason Curriculum for the Entire Family”-- “family centered,” “Charlotte Mason inspired” and “a living approach”; Purpose is “to dig those deep roots of books, beauty, and Biblical truth in your home.”	“a modern day curriculum” based on the work of CM	“One of the distinguishing features of ASI is its training.”
Cost? (ie do they charge you anything; all require obtaining books)	Yes; \$100 for a packet seems to include all resources for a family's year; Materials are also available individually if you don't need all the forms	none	“\$2500 for kindergarten and \$4,000 per family for first through eighth grades”
How much work is done for you (the parent)?	It seems to be laid out to require minimal prep for the parent: “Just wake up, open the plans, and you are ready to enjoy”; “Weekly plans for every subject except for math and foreign language”	Does not provide schedules. Mostly it seems to be booklists but readings are not divided up for you. They refer you to outside resources for many subjects. Basically it seems to be a way to more easily put together your own curriculum, esp if you have a religious bent that is not the norm in CM	“A master teacher will act as your mentor to help you design a curricula using ASI’s curricula, plan a weekly teaching schedule, and set a weekly time in which to discuss your schooling.”; “no need for additional outside resources”

		circles	
Is it flexible?	It seems fairly laid out for you so it may not be. However it also does not sound like a rigid approach. ETA: User reports that it is very flexible and that the designer will personally help you find alternatives.	Yes. Book options are given and substituting books is encouraged.	“This format offers the unique combination of a structured curricular philosophy with the flexibility needs of the homeschool family.”
Is it inherently Christian?	Yes. Bible memorization and copywork are included and it bills itself as biblical.	No. They try to choose “non faith based” books and to only discuss religion as it relates to history and not to use books that try to convert. They are not anti-religion but try to present a religion-neutral stance.	Staff in their schools must adhere to the Nicene Creed and the organization itself is obviously Christian. Bible curriculum includes a story bible in K-1 and bible readings in 2-8. Also bible memory work and recitation.
What subjects are done together as a family?	Arts as done as a family and the family stays on the same period for history	Art, music, Shakespeare	Subjects that might be combined, depending on ages, include Bible, Citizenship, Nature Study, Picture Study, Poetry, Read Aloud, Science, US History, World History and possibly Handwork.
History	“A Gentle Feast has four cycle years of curriculum based on a four year History rotation modeled after the programmes of Charlotte Mason”; 2 history periods, ancient and modern, are covered at a time on a four year rotation	Begins with one's own country; I'm not sure how they do Form 2 and beyond as those are not available yet	History stories in grades 1-2. US and World history are done each year. Options for state history are available as well.
When do we begin Shakespeare and Plutarch?	Form II=grade 4	Form II (age 10) for Shakespeare; I don't see Plutarch mentioned	Mentions “abbreviated versions of Shakespeare's plays”
Math	Not included	Not included	“Grade level sequences for . . . math” provided
Early education, or when to begin	Begins with Form I, age 6, though younger children may listen in, they are not	Begins with Form 1 (ages 6-9) which is “light and joyful”	Begins with K; an informal curriculum for pre-K is available for

	formally learning		schools, but not homeschools as early learning is not encouraged
Exams/testing	Rumor has it an ebook resource is available for exams.	One week of exams at the end of each term (3 terms per year)	Yes. The mentors “[o]versee the examination process two times within the school year (writing exam questions, evaluating students’ responses, and provide standardized exams for math, grammar, and reading).”
Language Arts	Included in the student packets and coordinated with history studies; “a copy of the Bible memory verse, hymn lyrics, poems for recitation, and weekly selections for copywork and dictation. Creative writing and drawing prompts (forms I and II) are also given to add delight to the Language Arts block”	They refer you to handwriting curricula for form 1; I’m not sure how they will approach later forms	“Grade level sequences for . . . grammar, composition, and phonics”
High school science	Uses Sabbath Mood Homeschool (a living books approach) for high school science	Assumes an evolutionary basis to science; upper forms are not available yet	High school curricula is not available for homeschools
Geography	“map work and a scheduled reader”	Combo of books and hands-on	unknown
Art and Music	Done as a family; Morning time packets include “the beauty loop”: “The Beauty Loop consists of Poet Study, Picture Study, Composer Study, Hymn Study, Recitations, and Fables/Hero Tales”	Done as a family. Tries to include some often ignored artists (esp women)	Mentions “picture study reproductions”
Foreign Language	Not included	Recommends Cherrydale press	“Gouin series for Spanish instruction”
Books: old or new? Availability?	It seems modern in the sense that it has online help and its materials are	Uses the best books, no matter when they were written. Uses many	“Some are classics that stand the test of time; others feature beautiful

	<p>internet-linked; use reports that it uses both classics and more modern books.</p>	<p>modern books but often older ones as well.</p>	<p>language, universal themes, rich characters, or intricate plots.”; “Whenever possible, ASI selects books that are in print, readily available, to accommodate the broadest possible audience. Some resources <i>are</i> selectively available via used book stores and Web sites; these have been chosen because they will most effectively reach the mind of the student.”</p>
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