

## Byzantine Education (Movement)

"The education system in Byzantium [c.330-1453A.D.] was in all major respects the ancient educational format inherited from its Hellenistic and Roman past" (p. 785), as Markopoulos (2008) tells us. Byzantine Education had three stages (Markopoulos, 2008; Rautman, 2006; Mango, 1980). Primary school began at age 6-8 with small groups of students taught by a hired tutor called a *grammatistes*, or *daskalos* (Markopoulos, 2008; Rautman, 2006). Education focused on arithmetic and basic literacy skills: letters and sounds, vowel and consonant combinations, vocabulary words, and eventually texts, along with basic counting (Markopoulos, 2008). The main texts were the Psalter, Gospel miracles, and classical mythology (Markopoulos, 2008; Rautman, 2006). Secondary schooling consisted of the *trivium* of grammar, rhetoric, and dialectic/logic, and the *quadrivium* of arithmetic, geometry, astronomy, and music (Markopoulos, 2008; Rautman, 2006; Geanakoplos, 1984; White, 1981). This was taught by a teacher called a *grammatikos*. Homer, classical tragedies and comedies, works of rhetoric and philosophy, the Psalms, and some Christian authors, made up the *trivium* curriculum. The *quadrivium* was taught using Euclid and Ptolemy, but supplemented by Byzantine authors (Markopoulos, 2008). Higher education was only available in certain large cities. These schools specialized in subjects such as philosophy in Athens, law in Gaza and Berytus, Greek (and Latin for a time), philosophy and theology in Constantinople, etc. (Markopoulos, 2008; Cameron, 2006; Rautman, 2006; Mango, 1980). Producing state functionaries was always a goal of Byzantine education, and not only mental or spiritual formation (Markopoulos, 2008; Cameron, 2006; Treadgold, 2001; Mango, 1980, Anastasiou, 1966).

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## References

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