



# HOLY FAMILY ACADEMY

## 4th/5th Grade Class Descriptions

### Language Arts (Grammar, Spelling, Writing)

*Grammar:* Memoria Press's simple but concise Grammar Recitation workbooks incorporate grammar rules, capitalization, and punctuation rules. A brief lesson will be given on Mondays and workbook assignments will be completed at home.

*Spelling:* All About Spelling Levels 4 & 5 will review phonics concepts learned in previous years while teaching our students to be confident spellers. Parents have the option to purchase AAS materials (word cards, tiles, activity book) for further home practice, but these materials are not required. Word lists will be sent home for practice prior to assessments.

*Writing:* [Writing and Rhetoric](#) follows the classical model for teaching writing (and rhetoric) skills. It utilizes imitation/modeling as the foundation for learning writing while providing an easy-to-use framework following the persuasive writing system developed by the ancient Romans. Students are taught the practice of close reading and comprehension, summarizing a story (oral and written), and elaboration of a story through description and dialogue. Book 4 focuses on the six-paragraph essay on the basis of a saying. Our 4th/5th grade class will receive support with sentence and paragraph composition using the [Killgallon](#) method to supplement their W&R lessons.

### Handwriting

To continue working on our cursive skills, students will be assigned pages from The Good and the Beautiful curriculum for home practice. Our 4th/5th grade class is encouraged to use cursive for certain assignments in class.

### Literature

We continue the development of reading skills through universally recognized classical literature, through Memoria Press's literature program. These books are slightly above level to help develop strong reading and vocabulary skills. Students learn to appreciate and relate to the experiences and challenges faced by the characters in these stories. Through exposure to beautiful writing, they learn to express themselves well. Teacher guides are used to help guide classroom discussion but are optional to purchase for home. On Mondays, literature class focuses on reading skills, whereas Thursday's focus is more discussion-based to assess reading comprehension (we call this "Lit Club"). Writing prompts may be given to dive deeper into our stories and help parents better assess reading comprehension.

### Latin

The First Form program from [Memoria Press](#) takes a grammar-first approach— focusing on grammar forms and vocabulary. It teaches Latin grammar thoroughly to move each student into translation and reading. It is a great beginner Latin curriculum for any student 5th grade+, as well as the perfect follow up to Latina Christiana for any grade level. See [this article](#) by Memoria Press if you have questions about: Why Latin?

### Math

We use the Primary 2022 edition of [Singapore Math](#) for our math curriculum. Singapore focuses on mastery of concepts and incorporates concrete, pictorial, and abstract models of teaching. Your book purchase comes with access to an online suite with various resources, such as a Reteach book that

offers additional support when a concept is difficult. Mastery and Beyond books are available for purchase when a student could use an additional challenge. Drill work/math fact practice is incorporated using materials from Rod and Staff to ensure previous skills are reviewed throughout the year. Since this is a multi-level class, students may opt to complete a curriculum of their choice in a study-hall style class.

## Science

3rd-5th grade students learn science together. We use [Elemental Science](#) as our spine, but we incorporate age-appropriate activities and experiments from a variety of sources. Our lessons involve the use of critical thinking skills through inquiry and discussion, and acknowledgement of the beauty and order of God's creations. This level has two days of science, allowing them to dive deeper into our topics with more time for discussion and experiments. For the 2024-2025 school year, we will be studying Earth Science and Astronomy, which correlates well with our Medieval History Cycle.

## History and Classical Studies

HFA uses the [Story of Civilization](#) books to guide our study of world history from a Catholic perspective. Chapters are assigned weekly to be read or listened to via audiobook. We incorporate Memoria Press's [Famous Men Series](#) into our discussions, allowing these biographies to add a personal element—an opportunity for the student to imagine themselves in that moment of time, in the place of each historical figure. Our teachers incorporate map and timeline studies, writing opportunities, hands-on activities, and discussion of God's presence throughout all of human history. The goal is to introduce students to important figures, including saints, in world history, as well as geography through “living history”. At the start of each new unit, we encourage families to choose a correlated read-aloud book to read together at home, to help our unit come to life (suggestions provided).

## Memory Work

HFA memory work exposes students to sophisticated language/vocabulary, classical poetry,

inspiring hymns, and most importantly, sacred scripture. We chose a new hymn and literary piece (poetry, scripture, historical excerpt) to work on throughout each of our history units (4-6 weeks long). Our hymns are tied to the liturgical season and learned during music class on Mondays. On Thursdays, we offer an opportunity at lunch for students to stand and recite what they know from their literary piece. While these pieces are fun and often challenging, our hope for the scripture and hymns, especially, is that they will be written on each child's heart for years to come. We always look forward to our end-of-the-year Recitation, where students recite all of our memory work from the year for our families.

## Catechesis & Christian Studies

Memoria Press's [Christian Studies III](#) covers much of the New Testament as students study the main topics of Jesus' early years, the crucifixion, and the early church. We use [Into the Deep Level 2](#) to dive deeper into these Biblical stories and help make life applicable connections to our Catholic faith and our salvation. Weekly Adoration is an important part of Upper Grades catechesis.

## Music

Music is truly a gift from God! It is a delight to experience and a beautiful means to praise and honor Him. At HFA, students work on vocal training and basic music theory. Students are exposed to a “Composer of the Month” and their famous works. We spend time learning our memory hymn and practicing parts of the Mass.

## Art

Our weekly art class exposes students to the elements and principles of art. Projects are fun, engaging, and develop real artistic skills. Students are introduced to works of famous artists throughout history. When possible, liturgical projects are also tied in.