



HOLY FAMILY ACADEMY

Second Grade Class Descriptions

Language Arts (Spelling, Handwriting, & Grammar)

Spelling: All About Spelling Levels 2 & 3 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 are not required. Word lists will be sent home weekly for practice.

Handwriting: Using The Good and the Beautiful handwriting curriculum, students will review manuscript letter formation for a few weeks before transitioning to cursive.

Grammar: Weekly Grammar concepts are reinforced at home using our Memoria Press grammar workbooks as well as a weekly writing prompt.

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

Prima Latina is an introductory Latin text, designed for students (and parents) with no Latin background. It teaches important grammar concepts, as well as vocabulary, sayings, prayers, hymns, and constellations. HFA includes Latin in early grades to help form familiarity and a framework to apply future knowledge, assisting our goal of excellence in Latin. See [this article](#) by Memoria Press if you have questions about: Why Latin?

Math

[Singapore Math](#) 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 if encountering a challenging concept. Mastery and Beyond books are available for purchase when a student could benefit from an additional challenge. Our classroom days are filled with fun, interactive activities and games to help our students better understand and enjoy the material! Drill work/math fact practice is incorporated using materials from Rod and Staff to ensure previous skills are reviewed throughout the year.

Science

K-2 students take science together, with classes focused primarily on hands-on learning and the development and use of critical thinking skills. We

use [Elemental Science](#) as our spine, but we incorporate age-appropriate activities, read-alouds, and experiments from a variety of sources. For the 2024-2025 school year, we will be studying Earth Science and Astronomy, which correlates well with our Medieval History Cycle.

History

HFA uses the [Story of Civilization](#) books to guide our study of world history from a Catholic perspective. 2nd graders enjoy listening to the dramatized audiobook or the chapters read aloud by a parent. Picture books and hands-on activities are the emphasis for 2nd grade 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). For the 2024-2025 school year, we will be learning all about Medieval History.

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

We use the new [Renewed & Received](#) program through Ascension Press for First Reconciliation and First Communion sacrament preparation.

This program helps communicate the spiritual dimension of the faith to children in a way they can easily understand, and beautifully assists them in their preparation for these important milestones in our Catholic faith. Because 2nd grade is a special year in our students’ faith journey, we ask that the student workbook be purchased so they can fully participate in class. There are several other great resources available on the Ascension Press website that correlate with the program. This program, along with continued discussions on home days, are usually acceptable to fulfill parish sacrament preparation requirements. Every family must communicate with their parish DRE in the fall to confirm that no other steps are necessary.

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.