



HOLY FAMILY ACADEMY

Kindergarten Class Descriptions

Language Arts (Phonics, Handwriting, & Spelling)

This class takes a balanced, age-appropriate approach to phonics and reading, and focuses on correct pencil grip and letter formation. Handwriting is incorporated into the book lessons, but additional practice will take place in the classroom. The curriculum takes the traditional (vowel-consonant) approach to teaching phonics combined with word families. Spelling words to practice are chosen from these word family lists, and a dictation assessment is given on Thursdays. Sight words are reviewed to help children learn common words that do not follow the typical phonics rules. Reading practice is encouraged at home, and early reader stories are available to borrow from the school as needed. Engaging and purposeful hands-on activities are included in our school days to help make reading and writing a fun experience!

Latin

Kindergarteners and 1st graders learn Latin together. The Song School Latin book will be used both years, but for the Kindergarten year, we focus primarily on oral learning— listening to the corresponding songs and participating in engaging classroom activities. During 1st grade, our students will review what they learned the previous year, and work through the written portion of the workbook. We take a gentle approach with introducing Latin at this age. Homework for Kindergarten often involves a review of the songs (CD included with the book) for the week. 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 such as “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 is incorporated using materials from Rod and Staff.

Science

K-2nd 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. The books are written for an older audience, so we do not expect our K students to

follow along in the book unless they are part of a family with students in our 2nd grade+ classes. This class involves a brief, simplified lesson on our weekly history topic, presented in a gentle but engaging way. Picture books and hands-on activities are the emphasis for K history. The goal is to introduce them 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). There are times in which we incorporate a different, but relevant, lesson when the weekly topic is too mature for these students. 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 [Into the Deep Level 1](#) for Catechesis, and half of the book is discussed over the course of the year (other half during the 1st Grade year). This catechesis program was created for homeschool families! It uses beautiful, original watercolor illustrations, nature study, poetry, art, music, copywork, and story to introduce children to the Story of Salvation History and encourages

them to take their place in that story as saints in God's Kingdom. Our K and 1st grade students have Catechesis together. Enrichment suggestions are sent home in the weekly syllabus to help parents go deeper into our classroom discussions when at home.

Mandarin

Students in Mandarin 1 will begin to develop an ear and mouth for listening and speaking Mandarin Chinese. Through songs, games and repetition, we will build a basic vocabulary of numbers, colors, body parts and more, plus some basic Mandarin sentences. A YouTube playlist will be linked in each week's syllabus and can be used at home to review everything we learn in class.

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.