



4th Grade Class Descriptions

Language Arts (Grammar, Spelling, Writing)

Grammar: Students review the basics of English grammar, including parts of speech (nouns, verbs, adjectives, etc.), sentence structure, punctuation, and how to write clear, complete sentences. They focus on improving writing and communication skills through fun, interactive lessons. Teachers introduce a grammar topic weekly in class, and students practice their knowledge of the concept at home through writing assignments and completing pages in their [Language Fundamentals](#) grammar workbooks.

Spelling: Teachers use [All About Spelling](#) Levels 4 & 5 to introduce a weekly spelling rule and corresponding word list to practice on home days. Parents have the option to purchase AAS materials (word cards, tiles, activity book) for further home practice, but these materials are not required. Thursday spelling assessments cover words lists sent home the syllabus.

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 2 uses parables, myths, and other tales to continue teaching beginning writers the craft of writing well. Book 3 exposes students to new genres of story, including historical narrative and legend. Our 4th grade class will receive support with sentence and paragraph composition 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 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. Chapters are assigned pages to read on home days to prepare for a "Lit. Club" style class on Thursdays. Writing prompts may be given to dive deeper into our stories and help parents better assess reading comprehension.

Latin

The inclusion of Latin into our curriculum is essential to our classical lens, helping students better understand the history of Western society and our Catholic faith. It involves the mental discipline of higher order thinking, aiding our students in discovering and interpreting truths in all areas of learning. The mastery of Latin assists students with the mastery of English—expanding their vocabulary and amplifying their range of expression. Latin also provides an incredible foundation for the future study of other "Romance Languages," since it's where most find their origin. We use the program [Unus. Duo. Tres](#) for our 4th grade students.

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 or Extension books for a student who 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! Math fact drills are incorporated in class, but should also be ongoing at home. Teachers incorporate spiral review throughout each semester.

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. Home enrichment is provided, but optional for fourth grade. For the 2026-2027 school year, we will be studying Physics.

History

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. 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). For the 2025-2026 school year, we will be learning all about Ancient History.

Philosophy for Children

Philosopher Matthew Lipman proposed that children were not only capable of talking about matters of significance but also that they were naturally disposed to question and wonder. He believed children are capable of engaging with philosophical questions, and that doing so improves their cognitive and social skills, and makes their educational experience more meaningful. The study of philosophy uses dialogue as a method of questioning that enhances thinking and social skills and produces diverse perspectives. It promotes open-mindedness, precision in language and clarity in thinking. This class will read through [Harry Stottlemeier's Discovery](#), where a young boy finds himself giving the wrong answer in his middle school science class and wonders: where did I go wrong? This question leads him and his classmates to think about the nature of thinking, inquiry and knowledge. With the help of their teacher, Harry and his classmates discover rules of formal and informal logic, relational logic and hypothetical thinking as tools to help them understand themselves and their world. This is a favorite class for our students!

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

Our goal in the upper elementary Catechesis program is to guide students through the biblical story of Salvation History. Fourth grade Catechesis continues our three-part journey and serves as the second year of this biblical foundation. Building on the stories of Creation and the Exodus studied in third grade, students explore the second half of the Old Testament, focusing on the Rise and Fall of Israel and the period of the Prophets. Through these stories, students encounter God's ongoing covenant with His people and His call to faithfulness, repentance, and hope. Lessons include a reading from [The Catholic Children's Bible](#), followed by meaningful discussion that explores both the historical context of the story and its connections to our lives and Catholic faith today. Students are encouraged to wonder, ask questions, and recognize how God continues to work in their own lives. The teacher also incorporates [Into the Deep-Level 2](#), which provides formation in the rhythms of the Church through lessons on the liturgical year, feast days, and other important elements of Catholic life.

Whenever possible, the class spends weekly quiet time in the Sanctuary, fostering reverence, prayer, and an awareness of Christ's presence.

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.