

Holy Family Academy

Middle School

2026-2027



Vision & Purpose

Our mission at Holy Family Academy in the elementary school years has been to blend many of the best parts of both homeschooling and traditional school together. As students enter the middle school years, the need for developing positive peer groups, accountability, responsibility, and independence increases!

The need for a strong family and faith influence, as always, remains.

To help families fulfill both sides of our middle schoolers' needs, we propose to continue that close partnership between parents and teachers in the middle school years but with a few growths and adjustments beyond HFA K-6th.

Our main objectives are:

Provide a deeply and thoughtfully Catholic education in the classical tradition

Provide friendship, community, and support during the middle school years for homeschooling parents and students

Provide academic rigor and accountability

Provide students with opportunities to take responsibility and leadership in the school and for their own development

How will we...

Provide a **deeply** and **thoughtfully Catholic** education in the **classical** tradition?

- Careful selection of sources and curriculum
 - History from a Catholic worldview
 - Religion class that incorporates both catechesis and room for discussion on contemporary issues
 - Logic to introduce students to the treasury of Greek philosophy, the art of reasoning and eventually Thomistic thought
 - Science texts that do not conflict or disparage faith, but instead engage with it on big questions
- Teacher selection
 - Our core subject teachers share our Christian faith
 - Faithful, well-formed Catholic instructors for worldview-forming subjects like literature, history, philosophy, and religion
- Catholic Liturgical Life
 - Students will be able to participate in some of the monthly liturgical activities that our elementary school students enjoy
 - Middle School students will have extra opportunities for special liturgical activities and traditions to begin developing their own Catholic liturgical life in community, such as visiting the historic Catholic Elmwood Cemetery in November to pray for the dead, going “wassailing” to friends and family’s homes in the Christmas season, and making the *Visita Iglesia* on Holy Thursday.

How will we...

Provide **friendship, community** and **support** during the middle school years for homeschooling parents and their students?

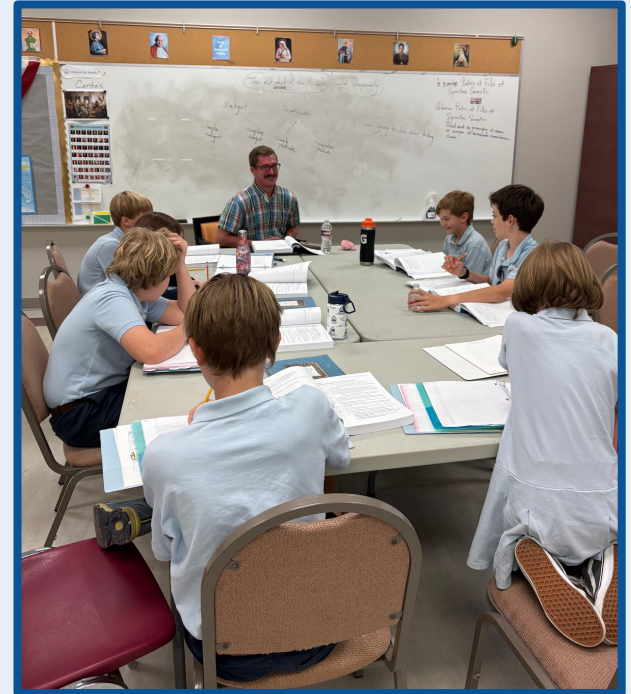


- HFA students will see each other 3x per week
- A generous lunch break of 40-60 minutes gives students social time (*screen-free*)
- Extracurricular service opportunities give students the chance to work together for a good cause
- Scheduled student socials
- Scheduled moms and dads nights out
- Teacher and parent collaboration on students' academic work
 - Parent/Teacher conferences each semester
 - Teacher updates through GroupMe on content covered in class

How will we...

Provide academic **rigor** and **accountability**?

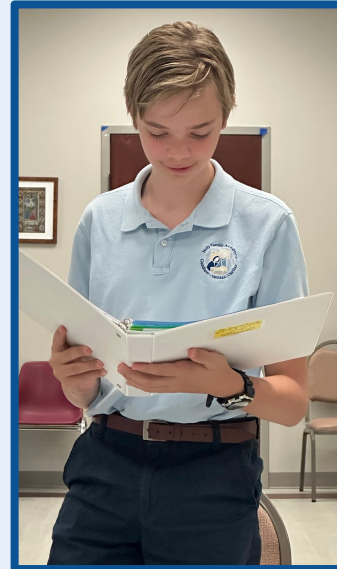
- HFA teachers will take the lead on subjects such as math, science, writing, and Latin.
- HFA will administer quizzes, tests and/or finals to give students accountability for material.
- An appropriate number of papers and essays will be assigned and graded by an HFA teacher.
- Teachers will keep recorded grades and progress reports each semester, culminating in final grades for each course.



How will we...

Provide students with opportunities to take **responsibility** and **leadership** in the school and for their own development?

- HFA Middle School students will be responsible for their own planners
 - Parents will still be given a digital copy of all assigned work in the form of our weekly syllabi
- Freedom to choose their own long-form memory work per semester to be presented in a talent show
- Spiritual and personal goals as well as academic duties and goals will be a part of the HFA planner
- Opportunities to help plan and run our school-wide history enrichment days and Ember Days service projects
- Opportunities to participate in service projects and/or retreats outside of class time
- Distinctive uniform, set apart from elementary students, on Mondays and Thursdays



Tentative uniform:



- White or blue button-down with HFA logo
- Khaki or navy pants
- Sneakers or dress shoes acceptable
- May wear HFA polos and shorts on Wednesdays



- Choice of navy dress or jumper with HFA logo
- White or blue blouse, polo, or turtleneck w/ jumper
- Flats or sneakers acceptable
- May wear uniform skirt and polo on Wednesdays

Schedule

*Subject to change slightly, pending confirmation of instructors

2.5 days/week

Proposed Subjects:

Math

Science

Language Arts/Writing

Religion

History

Literature

Latin

Logic

Art

Academic Life Skills

Time	Monday	Time	Wednesday	Time	Thursday
8:50-9:40	Latin	8:50-10:00	Literature	8:50-9:40	Latin
9:50-10:50	Language Arts	10:05-11:15	History	9:45-10:00	Academic Life Skills/Memory Work
10:50-11:15	Academic Life Skills/Memory Work	11:20-12:15	Art	10:05-11:00	Math
11:20-12:15	Science	12:15-1:05	Lunch/Break	11:05-11:55	Religion
12:15-1:05	Lunch/Break		<i>Optional add-ons</i>	12:00-1:00	Mass and Lunch
1:10-2:05	Math		<i>Optional clubs</i>	1:05-2:00	Science
2:10-2:55	Logic			2:05-2:55	Language Arts

Tuition

The HFA elementary school has operated thanks to the generous gifts of time, talent and treasure of our many teachers, parents, volunteers and donors.

We seek to keep tuition as low as possible while still covering all expenses, including rent for the additional half day of classes.

Middle school tuition is **\$4,000 per year**, for 2.5 days per week, or \$400 per month per student.



We offer the following multi-child discounts:

- 2nd child enrolled: \$200 discount
- 3rd child enrolled: \$400 discount
- 4th child enrolled: \$600 discount
- 5th child enrolled attends tuition free

Tuition assistance is also available!

Curriculum

The goal is to provide a rigorous yet uplifting education in the Classical paradigm.

- **Math:** Math Mammoth 7 for 7th grade and MM 8 OR Algebra 1 for 8th grade. If a student shows readiness to skip MM 8 (pre-algebra), then Algebra 1 would be offered per the parent and teacher's approval and recommendation.
- **Science:** Novare Life Science and Earth Science/Astronomy on 2-year cycle
- **History:** American Studies and Modern History on 2-year cycle; Light to the Nations Vol. 2, The American Venture and various sources
- **Literature:** In-depth study of myths and fairy tales plus various sources as chosen by the teacher
- **Writing:** Assignments coordinated with other subjects plus continued work on the fundamentals of writing using teacher-recommended sources; incorporated into the Language Arts class
- **Grammar:** The Mother Tongue; incorporated into the Language Arts class
- **Spelling/Vocabulary:** spelling and vocabulary words sourced by students from their weekly readings, incorporated into the Language Arts class
- **Latin:** Latin by the Natural Method
- **Religion:** Ruah Woods Press TOB Levels 2 and 3
- **Logic:** Teacher recommendations
- **Art:** Ever Ancient, Ever New, Levels 1 and 2, on a 2-year cycle.

Our Teachers

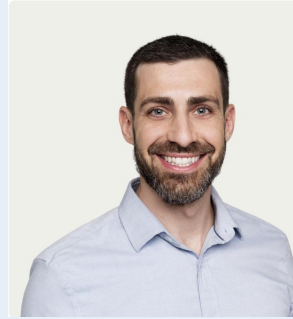
Math
Alex Gray



Alex holds a mathematics degree from Oglethorpe University and has taught math for nearly 30 years. She currently tutors and teaches middle and high school students in the Memphis homeschool community.

Mrs. Gray and her family have lived in Memphis since 2002, when her husband joined the Religious Studies Department at Rhodes College. A former high school math teacher, she began homeschooling in 2006 after entering the Catholic Church at St. Louis. She tutors privately, is active in her parish, and looks forward to supporting Holy Family's math program!

Religion
John Stukenborg



A lifelong Catholic, John has been actively involved in his faith since a young age, serving as a diocesan youth representative, college retreat leader and adult SEARCH retreat volunteer, and currently as Men's Club president and a member of his parish's family ministry team. Throughout his married life to his wife, Ann-Katherine, he has consistently led men's Bible studies and prayer groups, fostering community and spiritual growth. He currently works as a community manager for a Catholic business serving entrepreneurs and leaders. As a devoted husband and father of four, John brings both conviction and lived experience to his teaching. He is passionate about the principles of Theology of the Body and looks forward to walking with middle school students as they deepen their understanding of the dignity of the human person and God's plan for love and life.

Our Teachers

Language Arts
Sarah Glennon



Sarah Glennon is a lifelong Memphian, except for two years in Kings Bay, GA, where her husband Patrick served as a Navy submariner. They have been married nine years and have two boys, ages 5 and 7 (HFA 2nd grader!). Raised in a faithful Catholic family, Sarah believes the home is the “domestic Church,” where children first learn to love the faith. She holds a B.A. in Religion and Philosophy from CBU and an M.A. in Theology from St. Meinrad Seminary. Sarah has taught theology, worked as a writing tutor, and currently writes for FAITH Catholic. She looks forward to sharing her love of Scripture, reading, and writing with the 4th-7th graders this year.

Science
Jim Van Hoeck



Jim Van Hoeck is a native of Iowa and graduated from the University of Iowa. He has a bachelor’s degree in Biomedical Engineering and a Master’s degree in Mechanical Engineering. Jim’s professional career has been in Memphis working in the medical device industry, specializing in product development and engineering operations. Jim and his wife have two sons and three grandchildren. He is a member of St. Francis of Assisi Parish. He is a Eucharistic Minister, a member of the Knights of Columbus and sings in the choir. From Jim: “I fondly remember coaching youth sports with my boys and some of my most rewarding professional experiences involved teaching and mentoring young engineers. I am excited to work with the Holy Family Academy students.”

Our Teachers

Latin and
Logic/Philosophy
Michael Foster



Mr. Foster is deeply devoted to both the art and practice of classical teaching. With engaging learning methods, he seeks to inspire students to rise to their full academic potential. He has a Bachelor of Arts from Valdosta State University, a Masters of Music in Classical Guitar Performance from Georgia State University, and eight years of experience teaching middle and high school English and Latin. Mr. Foster is married to Caty and father to 4 (2 HFA students!). His family attends St. Therese the Little Flower, where he and Caty are both section leaders in the schola choir. His interests include classical guitar, cooking, ancient languages, and the liberal arts.

Literature
Silvia Brasher



Silvia is a lifelong serious reader and lover of literature with a particular passion for Victorian novels, close reading and literary theory. When she's not reading she's busy homeschooling her kids, ranging from age 5 - 12. She is excited to share the world of myth and fairy tale to our HFA Middle School students.

Academic Life Skills
Emily Taylor



Having spent 10 years as a “professional student” and several years as both a professor and an academic advisor at the university level, Emily is well acquainted with the unspoken competencies students need to succeed throughout their academic journeys. She will gently introduce these skills over the course of the year (e.g., typing, note-taking, study skills, time management, digital communication, conversation, and interviewing). Emily is excited to help HFA middle school students reach their full potential and prepare for the road ahead!

Our Teachers

Art/Art History
MaryElaine Angel



Mrs. Angel is married to Randy and is a homeschooling mom to three boys, Matthias (13), Nicholas (11), and Nathaniel (5). She has a BA in Photography and an Art History minor. Mrs. Angel taught at Resurrection Catholic School for 5 1/2 years as a librarian and an art teacher and was a substitute at Holy Rosary for several years. She also has experience as an instructor at the Pink Palace Museum, teaching science classes covering geology, chemistry, physics, and biology, as well as history.

History
Natalie Richardson



Natalie has been a homeschooling mother for 7 years. Ever since she began writing the history lesson plans for the HFA lower school, her passion for the subject has grown. She believes strongly in learning history from multiple sources with a strong emphasis on history as narrative. Hands-on activities frequently make their way into class time as well! She is excited to take on the teaching of the middle school history class herself this year.

A watercolor illustration of a school campus. On the left, there is a tall brick bell tower with a square top and arched openings. To the right is a large, two-story brick building with a series of arched windows on the ground floor and a balcony with arched windows on the upper floor. The foreground is filled with green bushes and trees. The sky is blue with white clouds.

Questions *or* Comments?

Please reach out any time by emailing
middleschool@holymemphis.com