



# HOLY FAMILY ACADEMY

## 5th/6th Grade Class Descriptions

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

*Grammar:* Students focus on improving writing and communication skills using exercises with sentences and language from real literature and important writings. There are opportunities to compose sentences, analyze all the parts of sentences, parse words, and practice punctuation and capitalization rules. 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 workbooks that correlate with material from [The Mother Tongue](#).

*Spelling:* Teachers use [All About Spelling](#) Levels 5 & 6 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:* Students are now expected to use their writing skills to answer questions across subject levels in essay format.

### Handwriting

To continue working on our cursive skills, students will be assigned pages from The Good and the Beautiful curriculum for home practice. Our 5th/6th 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 Christian 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 [Latin by the Natural Method](#) for our 5th/6th grade students.

### Math

Our 5th/6th grade math class is taught on a 6th grade level. Since this is a multi-level class, students may opt to complete a curriculum of their choice in a study-hall style class. Our class will be using [Math Mammoth](#) this year.

### Science

3rd–6th 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 2025–2026 school year, we will be studying Biology.

## 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 Modern/US 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

Our 5th/6th grade class will transition to [ROOTED: Theology of the Body for Middle School](#) this year for Catechesis. Students are invited to come to a deeper understanding of how Christ fully reveals man to himself, and makes his calling clear. The material is presented in creative and interactive ways, to assist the class in receiving the beautiful message of their identity as sons and daughters of God. Weekly quiet time in the Sanctuary is a goal when possible.

## Introduction to Logic

This class uses lessons from Aristotle to assist students in developing reasoning and critical thinking skills. Students begin to learn to analyze information, identify logical fallacies or biases, and construct arguments. Students begin to grasp the connections between events and understand how actions have consequences. Students are encouraged to ask questions, challenge assumptions, and engage in constructive debate.

## 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.