



HOLY FAMILY ACADEMY

6th/7th & 8th 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](#) Level 7 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 with the syllabus.

Writing: The fundamentals of writing will continue to be practiced and honed through teacher-selected resources. Sentence composition and variation, paragraph formation, and the outlining and development of well-reasoned and organized essays will all be a part of topics reviewed and taught in the Language Arts class. Students will also get to use their developing writing skills to answer questions across subject levels in short-answer, paragraph and essay format.

Literature

As our students enter middle school, we expect that they have mastered the rudimentary of reading, with plot comprehension and phonetic decoding skills honed. With these fundamentals mastered, our 7th grade literature class will explore new concepts of how to approach and interpret the art that is literature, with special emphasis on approaching form as framework and reading through images. To begin this exploration, we will study fairy tales in particular, discovering how they

provide a substantial part of the foundation that great literature is built upon as well as repeat the oldest, truest and best story ever told, that of the Gospel.

Using fairy tales as our basis, we will discover the literary tradition that the great names in authorship draw on. As we progress to literary works, we will examine structure, authorial intent and historical context to better orient ourselves in the great works. We will proceed with the understanding that whether we're reading Grimms, a Homeric epic or a Dickens novel, we will be examining entirely contradistinctive structures built with the same literary tools, and recognizing those literary tools will allow us to proceed with confidence and better mastery of even the more opaque works.

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 middle schoolers, building on the foundations laid through elementary school.

Math

Our 6th/7th grade math class is taught on a 7th grade level. Since this is a multi-level class, students may opt to complete a curriculum of their choice in a proctored, study-hall style class. Our class will be using [Math Mammoth](#) this year. Math Mammoth takes a mastery approach to teaching new concepts in small chunks. Textbooks include plenty of practice, while the website offers many free resources for students and parents.

Science

Our middle schoolers will switch from the [Elemental Science](#) series used in our elementary school to the [Novare Science](#) series – a program noted for its rigor, classical approach and Christian worldview. Novare begins with “Wonder” by extolling the glory of God’s creation, incorporates “Integration” across multiple disciplines, from math application and written expression in lab reports to connections made with art, history, technology and more and ends with “Mastery” of content. We will begin with the [Life Science](#) textbook. This level at HFA has two days of science, allowing students to dive deeper into our topics with more time for instruction, discussion and experiments.

History

HFA middle schoolers will use a two-year cycle schedule of history, taking a deep look at Modern/European history for one year then focusing on American history for the second. We will be using the [Light to the Nations, Part II](#) textbook as our spine for Modern/European. This volume presents the history of the modern era in story form, giving proper emphasis to dates, central characters, and key concepts in each era. The central consideration of this volume is how modern ideas, institutions, and culture have developed from the high centuries of Christian culture. Drawing on the guidance of Catholic thinkers and the popes (particularly Leo XIII, Pius XI, Pius XII, John Paul II, and Benedict XVI), this history presents the hope that Christian thought and work hold for the future.

Memory Work

HFA middle schoolers will have the opportunity to choose their own memory work, to be worked on independently and recited to the class periodically. Suggestions will be provided from [The Harp and the Laurel Wreath](#), as well as speeches, songs and other poetry that corresponds to other areas of study, such as history or literature.

Catechesis

Our 6th/7th grade class will use Level II of [ROOTED: Theology of the Body for Middle School](#) 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. This class provides frequent and excellent opportunities for discussion of our Catholic faith and its application in our students’ lives. 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.

Art

Middle schoolers will begin to combine the practice of art fundamentals and various media with art appreciation. We will use [Ever Ancient, Ever New Level 1](#). This program tells the “story of art” from the cave artists to the High Renaissance with the goal of cultivating a sensitivity to beauty and the way God speaks through art. Includes art history, appreciation, theory, and projects!