



HOLY FAMILY ACADEMY

5th 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 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 5th 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–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 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 2026-2027 school year, we will be learning all about Ancient 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 goal in the upper elementary Catechesis program is to guide students through the biblical story of Salvation History. Fifth grade Catechesis completes our three-part journey, turning our focus to the New Testament and the fulfillment of God's promises in Jesus Christ. After studying the story of God's people in the Old Testament during third and fourth grade, students now encounter the life and ministry of Jesus, His teachings and miracles, His Passion and Resurrection, and the beginning of the Church. 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.

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 Stottlemeir'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!

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.