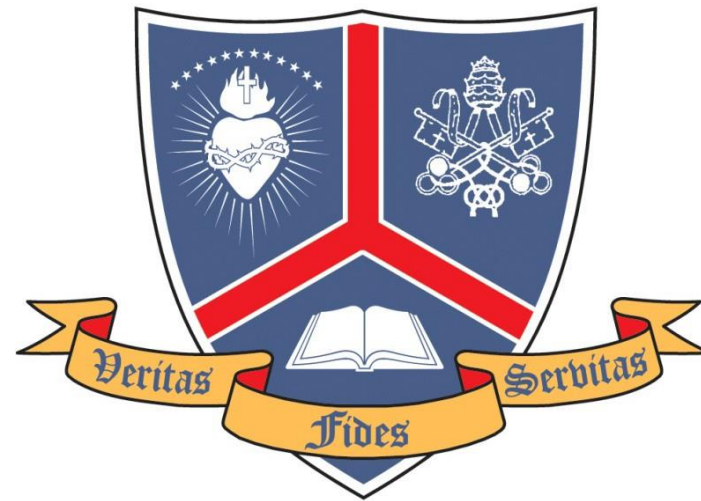


Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Academy



K-8 Curriculum Scope and Sequence

3445 Elmwood Road, Rockford, IL - 815.399.3021 - www.olsha.org

Revised 8/6/2020

AD HONOREM ET GLORIAM DEI
FOR THE HONOR AND GLORY OF GOD

PHILOSOPHY

Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Academy is committed to the philosophy of educating the whole person through the formation of the will, the intellect, and the character in the light of the Catholic faith. Each student is seen as a precious gift from God whose eternal goal is Heaven. We direct all of our actions to the greater glory of God, and to training our students to recognize and follow his will in a challenging academic environment rooted in the classical liberal arts tradition. This education cultivates wisdom and virtue, and exposes students to the good, the true, and the beautiful. It is designed to form individuals free from the political agendas and opinions of others, free to make correct judgments and decisions based on objective truth and a properly formed conscience.

MISSION

We strive to form saints and leaders rooted in the immutable truths of the Catholic faith, appreciative of their Western heritage and religious traditions, and inspired to bear witness to others of the hope that is within them. We challenge each student to pursue perfection in holiness and excellence in academics as we strive to rebuild the culture through truth, faith, and service.

GOAL

We strive to produce the “true Christian... the supernatural man who thinks and acts constantly and consistently in accordance with right reason illumined by the supernatural light of the example and teaching of Christ” (Pope Pius XI, *Christian Education of Youth*). The goal of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Academy is to lead students to a knowledge and love of God. We direct all our actions toward the honor and glory of God through the teachings of the Roman Catholic Church.

OBJECTIVES

We shall consider the objectives of the Academy first as a school with a Catholic philosophy; second as a school teaching students in the primary and secondary levels of education; and third as a school forming citizens of America.

As a school with a Catholic philosophy, the Academy has the following objectives:

1. To develop in our students a profound understanding of the Catholic faith, and a deep knowledge and love of God;
2. To encourage them to grow in personal holiness by developing and practicing a life of prayer, by receiving the sacraments frequently and devoutly, and by modeling their lives on those of Christ, his blessed Mother and the saints;
3. To foster an unwavering loyalty and devotion to the Holy See and the teaching of the Magisterium of the Church;
4. To help them to grow in understanding and appreciation of the liturgical and cultural traditions of the Catholic Church;
5. To promote the dignity of human life from conception to natural death through a decidedly pro-life culture and activities;
6. To provide the intellectual and moral weapons our students need in order to go out into our secular, materialistic society and transform the culture of relativism and death into a culture of truth and life;
7. To foster refinement in manners, speech, and dress in accordance with Catholic ideals, and to lead students, in accordance with their Catholic heritage, to select and promote only what is good and wholesome in art, music, drama, and other forms of entertainment;

8. To encourage them to develop as leaders, especially as moral and religious leaders, through the personalization of and commitment to truth, and the application of Christian principles to personal conduct and public life.

As a school teaching students in the primary and secondary levels of education, the Academy has the following objectives:

1. To teach students to think intelligently, critically, and wisely;
2. To teach students to express themselves confidently, with clarity and competence;
3. To develop habits of orderly thinking through the medium of an analytic study of language, particularly the Latin language;
4. To promote character by insisting upon responsible application to study and submission to intellectual and moral discipline;
5. To promote an intelligent appreciation of beauty;
6. To promote physical health as part of a well-rounded education;
7. To promote proper social attitudes and habits that reflect a truly Catholic way of life.

As a school forming citizens of the United States of America, the school has the following objectives:

1. In general, to develop a knowledge and appreciation of our American heritage as a republican form of government, and to foster loyalty to American ideals;
2. In particular, it seeks to develop pupils:
 - Who appreciate the fact that America was founded on the sound principle that man has received from God inalienable rights which the state has not given and cannot take away;
 - Who insist that the American government exists for the benefit of the individual citizens, and not the citizens for the benefit of the state;
 - Who will participate actively and conscientiously in the government of our country whether as voters or as officials;
 - Who will contribute to the formation of wise public policies and to the solution of public problems;
 - Who understand their responsibility to promote the general welfare, realizing the effect of their actions upon the lives of others;
 - Who dedicate their lives to advancing the social reign of Christ the King in the United States of America.

	KINDERGARTEN	FIRST GRADE	SECOND GRADE
RELIGION	Joyful introduction to God’s love in the Catholic faith; Bible stories; memorize 18 catechism questions; Mass, Blessed Mother and saints; English and Latin prayers; memorize Bible verses; virtues; corporal and spiritual works of mercy. Seton	Basic truths of the Faith; seven sacraments; ten commandments; Old and New Testaments; Mass; Mary, Our Mother and saints; memorize Baltimore Catechism; English and Latin prayers; memorize Bible verses; virtues and works of mercy. Faith & Life series, St. Joseph Baltimore Catechism, Lego Catechism	Prepare for the sacraments of Penance and First Holy Communion; public life of Jesus; Bible; Mass; Blessed Mother and saints; memorize Baltimore Catechism; English and Latin prayers; memorize Bible verses; virtues and works of mercy. Faith and Life series, St. Joseph Baltimore Catechism, Lego Catechism
MEMORY WORK	Learning through age-appropriate engaging songs, games, and hands-on tracing and activities; children delight in these activities as they master important information and facts. Days of the week, months of the year, days in the months; continents and oceans; and much more.		
LANGUAGE ARTS PHONICS / READING SPEAKING / LISTENING SPELLING / HANDWRITING	Explicit phonics with direct and Socratic instruction (Orton method); master all 70 phonograms; recognize and recite all letters of the alphabet; blend sounds into words; begin reading; comprehension skills and reading strategies; readers; classic literature; speaking and listening skills. Spell six new words a day. Weekly presentations. <i>Text: Spell to Write and Read or Saxon</i>	Continue explicit Orton method phonics; review mastery of all 70 phonograms; master decoding any word in the dictionary; syllabication; analytical and inferential thinking; continue to learn new spelling words using 28 spelling rules; reading strategies and comprehension skills; correct enunciation, increase fluency, correct story sequence; Faith and Freedom readers; classical literature, saints’ lives; speaking and listening skills. Weekly presentations. <i>Text: Spell to Write and Read or Saxon</i>	Continue Orton-based method; reading strategies and comprehension skills; continue Orton-based spelling program using 28 rules; increase oral and silent reading fluency; analytical and inferential thinking; Faith and Freedom readers; classic literature, saints’ lives; speaking and listening skills. Weekly presentations. <i>Text: Spell to Write and Read or Saxon</i>
	Introduction to manuscript method. Students form the 26 letters of the alphabet as they study the first 26 phoneme/grapheme relationships (phonograms) through dictated oral instructions using 8 checkpoints: 2, 10, 8 and 4 on a clock face.	Continue practice printing letters, numbers, and words correctly and neatly.	Improve printing words and sentences neatly. Begin cursive writing.
GRAMMAR WRITING VOCABULARY	Introduce sentence structure; begin the study of grammar and syntax by analyzing original simple sentences using direct instruction; show and tell.	Construct simple paragraphs with topic sentences; capitalization, punctuation; alphabetize words; divide words into syllables; find root words, add suffixes and prefixes; select synonyms and antonyms; contractions; simple book reports.	Simple one- to three-paragraph compositions; write friendly letters and thank-you letters; continue capitalization, punctuation; determine accented syllables; singular and plural words; singular possessives; antonyms, synonyms, and homonyms; vocabulary study; oral reports & book reports.
READ ALOUD	To foster a capacity to remember and sustain attention and cultivate a love for what is noble and high, each day teachers read great works of literature (e.g., children’s versions of Homer) to students over the course of a number of days. These texts are read slowly, with the teacher pausing to explain or discuss difficult phrases and ideas, so that children improve their own vocabulary and begin to discover the wonders of language and the power of big ideas. They are encouraged to place themselves imaginatively within the historical period to understand how that culture thought about the True, the Good, and the Beautiful, and the nature of God and man.		
SOCRATIC SEMINAR	What Would Plato Do? Socratic discussions teach students to begin questioning and discussing stories, pictures, fables, or proverbs according to four rules: 1. Read the text carefully. 2. Listen to what others say and don’t interrupt. 3. Speak clearly. 4. Give others your respect.		
POETRY	Students memorize, recite, and narrate poems daily; public speaking practice each day, and once a month in front of the entire school assembly.		

	KINDERGARTEN	FIRST GRADE	SECOND GRADE
MATH	Count, read, and write numbers from 1-100; counting by ones, twos, fives and tens; addition, subtraction; two-step problem solving; concepts and terms of orientation; sequence; shapes, colors, calendar, money; measurement; temperature; telling time to the quarter hour, half hour and hour.	Identify numbers 1-1000; compare /order numbers; memorize addition/subtraction facts 1-13; Roman numerals 1-10; intro to multiplication, add three two-digit numbers without regrouping; tell time to the five-minute interval, money.	Count, read and write whole numbers beyond 10,000, and compare them using symbols and words, applying counting, grouping and place value. Mastery of addition and subtraction facts 1-18; master multiplication and division facts 2-5; add three three-digit numbers with carrying; compare volume; tell time to one-minute intervals.
HISTORY/GEOGRAPHY	Living books and fun activities introduce students to figures and events in ancient, medieval, modern, and American history. Relationships between people in a community, a country, and the world; geography; rules and laws; family and Bible history, and Catholic saints and other heroes, are integrated throughout the various time periods and cultures.	Living books and activities continue to introduce students to figures and events in ancient, medieval, modern, and American history. Family history. Bible history, saints and other heroes; community relationships; memorization of important dates, events, and figures; American symbols; economics; civics; rules and laws; government; geography and map skills.	Continuing to learn history through living books and hands-on projects, students are introduced to figures and events in ancient, medieval, modern, and American history. Bible history, and saints and other heroes, continue to be integrated. American symbols; memorization of important dates, events, and figures; economics; citizenship; geography and map skills.
TIMELINE	Children are introduced to a timeline. This includes the important names and events of history which they will encounter in further depth in future years.		
SCIENCE / HEALTH	Four seasons; five senses; health; plants; animals; seashore; magnetism; hygiene and proper nutrition; simple hands-on experiments; intro to scientific method.	Plants; animals; food chain; weather; rocks and minerals; hands-on experiments employing the scientific method; healthy eating habits; safety; first aid; good posture; social skills.	Life, physical, and earth science; human body; proper rest and exercise; good eating habits; hands-on experiments employing the scientific method; social skills.
LATIN	Introduction to Latin prayers and hymns.	Lively and gentle introduction to Latin. Latin prayers and hymns. <i>Song School Latin.</i>	Continue the lively and gentle introduction to Latin. Latin prayers and hymns. <i>Song School Latin</i>
PHYSICAL EDUCATION	Fitness testing at the beginning and end of year; daily exercise and stretching; running; ball-handling skills; games; master motor skills such as skipping, running, and hopping; participate in individual and team sports. <i>Exemplary Physical Education Curriculum.</i>		
MUSIC	Introduction to vocal skill development through the singing of sacred hymns, and patriotic and folk songs. Four-year cycle includes appreciation, history, theory, and practice. Emphasis is on classical and sacred music. A sacred hymn is sung daily, and nine hymns are mastered each year. Daily exposure to classical music. Classical Kids Series, Music Masters series.		
ART	Various crafts involving cutting, pasting, painting, coloring, and drawing; exposure to great works of art and artists.		
COMPUTERS/LIBRARY	Visits to the library; basic introduction to title, author, and illustrator.	Regular visits to the library. Introduce students to the computer and card catalogue.	Visits to the library; basic introduction to keyboarding skills; educational software.
FIELD TRIPS (Three-year cycle)	Tour of Catholic Church, apple orchard.	Local businesses, museum.	Tea and cake at a local eatery to celebrate First Holy Communion; nature preserve.

	THIRD GRADE: AMERICAN & MODERN YEAR	FOURTH GRADE: ANCIENT & MEDIEVAL YEAR
RELIGION	<p>Study of the Apostles' Creed and the first three commandments; memorization of the first half of the Baltimore Catechism; Bible history of the Old and New Testament; Blessed Mother and saints; English and Latin prayers; memorize one Bible verse each week; virtues; corporal and spiritual works of mercy.</p> <p>Series: Faith and Life, Baltimore Catechism; Bible and other sources</p>	<p>Study of the liturgy and the liturgical year based on the extraordinary form of the Mass; memorization of the second half of the Baltimore Catechism; Bible history is incorporated in history class; Blessed Mother and saints; English and Latin prayers; memorize one Bible verse each week; virtues; corporal and spiritual works of mercy.</p> <p>Series: Faith and Life, Baltimore Catechism; Bible and other sources</p>
MEMORY WORK	Learning through age-appropriate activities, students master important information and facts correlated to the history cycle.	
LANGUAGE ARTS READING	<p>Apply comprehension skills and reading strategies; improve fluency; review of mastered decoding skills; attentive listening skills and basic individual courteous speaking skills; Faith and Freedom readers; White, Joyce Kilmer, Frost, Wilder; emphasis on classic American literature; saint biographies; six to eight book reports.</p>	<p>Continue to apply comprehension skills and reading strategies; improve fluency; individual listening and speaking skills; Faith and Freedom readers; classic American and world literature selections; Brothers Grimm, Hans Christian Anderson, C.S. Lewis, Sandburg, Knight, MacDonald; saint biographies; six to eight reports on full-length unabridged books.</p>
READ ALOUD	<p>To foster a capacity to remember and sustain attention and cultivate a love for what is noble and high, each day teachers read great works of literature (e.g., children's versions of Homer) to students over the course of a number of days. These texts are read slowly, with the teacher pausing to explain or discuss difficult phrases and ideas, so that children improve their own vocabulary and begin to discover the wonders of language and the power of big ideas. They are encouraged to place themselves imaginatively within the historical period to understand how that culture thought about the True, the Good, and the Beautiful, and the nature of God and man.</p>	
GRAMMAR	<p>All eight parts of speech, double negatives, and compound subjects and predicates are a sampling of topics covered this year; continue diagramming and editing. Study and organizational skills.</p> <p>Texts: A Beka; <i>The Elementary Book of Diagramming</i>, Daly; <i>Fix-It Grammar</i> (Institute for Excellence in Writing)</p>	<p>Continue daily focus on grammar, mechanics, and usage; identify run-on sentences; ensure pronoun/antecedent agreement; continue diagramming and editing. Study and organizational skills.</p> <p>Texts: A Beka; <i>The Elementary Book of Diagramming</i>, Daly; <i>Fix-It Grammar</i> (Institute for Excellence in Writing)</p>
WRITING & SPEAKING	<p>Our comprehensive writing program prepares elementary-age students with writing skills far above their peers and provides a solid foundation for exceptional performance in high school. Daily practice, structural guidelines, and specific requirements and techniques develop competency, independence, and creativity. Note-taking, editing of rough drafts, and completing final papers; write original poems, journal entries, and essays; research report; learn to use writing as a means of expression. Public speaking practice daily.</p> <p>Texts: <i>Teaching Writing: Structure and Style</i> and <i>Fables, Myths & Fairy Tales</i> (Institute for Excellence in Writing)</p>	<p>Our comprehensive writing program prepares elementary-age students with writing skills far above their peers and provides a solid foundation for exceptional performance in high school. Daily practice, structural guidelines, and specific requirements and techniques develop competency, independence, and creativity. Note-taking, outlines, editing of rough drafts, and completing final papers; practice identifying the purpose and audience of each writing, and document sources in a bibliography; research reports; essays. Public speaking.</p> <p>Texts: <i>Teaching Writing: Structure and Style</i> and <i>Ancient History-Based Lessons</i> (Institute for Excellence in Writing)</p>
SPELLING & VOCABULARY	<p>Continues structured Orton approach to spelling, using multi-sensory techniques to address all learning styles. Proven direct-instruction vocabulary program introduces key words, improves reading comprehension, supports writing and speaking skills, and increases standardized-test scores.</p> <p>Texts: <i>Spell to Write and Read; Vocabulary Workshop</i> (Sadlier-Oxford) used.</p>	
SOCRATIC SEMINAR	<p>Every week students and teachers engage in Socratic discussions. Readings used for these discussions will occasionally integrate nicely with the time period being studied, though the primary purpose is to develop the habits of Socratic inquiry. Teachers and students will engage in close study of philosophical and literary texts and will learn, over time, to speak clearly and listen attentively. The skills acquired in this course will be carried over into all aspects of school and home life.</p>	

	THIRD GRADE: AMERICAN & MODERN YEAR	FOURTH GRADE: ANCIENT/MEDIEVAL YEAR
POETRY & DICTATION	Daily memorization and narration of poems; public recitation of poetry in front of the class and school; studied and unstudied dictation three times a week. Texts: <i>The Harp and Laurel Wreath</i> , Berquist; <i>Linguistic Development through Poetry Memorization</i> , Pudewa	Daily memorization and narration of poems; public recitation of poetry in front of the class and school; studied and unstudied dictation three times a week. Texts: <i>The Harp and Laurel Wreath</i> , Berquist; <i>Linguistic Development through Poetry Memorization</i> , Pudewa
HANDWRITING	Zaner-Bloser method. Continue to develop cursive skills with correct positioning. Daily practice. Catholic words and phrases.	Zaner-Bloser method. Continue to develop cursive writing skills. Catholic text. Cursive required in all writing assignments.
MATH	Review mastery of all addition and subtraction facts; achieve timed (2 seconds) mastery of multiplication and division facts from 0-12; determine volume; identify fractions and decimals; recognize and solve simple algebraic equations; tell time to the minute; Roman numerals to 1000; count money, draw congruent shapes, designs and line segments; and more.	Saxon 5/4: multiply decimals, fractions, and mixed numbers; divide fractions and mixed numbers; reciprocals; ratios and proportions; prime and composite numbers; simplify mixed measures; planes; complex figures; algebraic concepts and procedures; square roots; measurement and unit conversion; statistics; probability; data display and analysis; and more.
HISTORICAL FOCUS (Includes the study of the narrative story of history, and geography, economics, government, and civics.)	Norse explorations of North America through the Revolutionary War; appreciation for our country, with an emphasis on Catholic explorers, discoverers, and leaders; memorize important dates, events, and figures. A unit on Illinois and Rockford history, culture, geography, economics, and government is also covered. Students memorize the states and capitals, and learn about U.S. geography; civics; economics; government; and map skills. Texts: <i>How Our Nation Began</i> (Lepanto); <i>Our United States of America: Catholic Social Studies</i> , Oliver Corrigan; <i>Daily Geography Practice</i> (Evan-Moor); <i>Connecting with History</i> (RC History)	Our story begins with the dawn of civilization and continues through medieval times. Students gain an appreciation for our Western heritage and the contributions of the Catholic Church and her saints and other heroes. The Incarnation is the focal point. Students memorize important dates, events, and figures, and participate in hands-on projects and activities. Geography is studied in context. Timeline. Texts: <i>Founders of Freedom</i> (Neumann Press); <i>Famous Men of Greece</i> , <i>Famous Men of Rome</i> (Greenleaf); <i>Daily Geography Practice</i> (Evan-Moor); <i>Connecting with History</i> (RC History)
TIMELINE	A timeline and other related projects continue to familiarize students with the important names and events in history.	
SCIENCE / HEALTH	Human nervous system; plants; vertebrates; invertebrates; habitats, weather; preventing disease and injuries; hands-on experiments employing the scientific method. Good posture, hygiene, exercise, nutrition, courtesy, first aid, and safety.	Insects; plants; birds; matter; energy; geology; oceanography; astronomy; hands-on experiments employing the scientific method. Study of the skeletal, muscular, and respiratory systems and teeth and skin; personal hygiene; physical fitness.
LATIN	<i>Prima Latina</i> . Seven parts of speech, two tenses, 125 Latin vocabulary words. Introduces conjugations, declensions, and derivatives.	<i>Our Roman Roots</i> . Christian Latin course covers grammar, language arts, prayers and hymns from the Mass, history of Western civilization, and character-building maxims.
PHYSICAL EDUCATION	Fitness exam at the beginning and end of the year. Master basic motor skills; physical activities and games; exercise and stretching; develop muscle strength, endurance, and flexibility through participation in individual and team sports. <i>Exemplary Physical Education Curriculum</i>	
MUSIC / ART	Continue music appreciation, history, theory, and practice. Sight-reading and recorder. Understand legato and staccato; sing unaccompanied, accompanied, and in unison; exposure to sacred hymns, patriotic and folk songs, and great composers and their lives; daily exposure to classical music. Various crafts and drawings; art appreciation: sacred and secular art.	
COMPUTER/LIBRARY	Continue monthly use of the library; educational programs	Library visits; three-week unit on keyboarding; educational programs
FIELD TRIPS	Midway Village Pioneer School, local farm	Fire department, arboretum

	FIFTH GRADE: AMERICAN & MODERN YEAR	SIXTH GRADE: WESTERN HERITAGE & WORLD CULTURES
RELIGION	<p>The Creed and the first three commandments; memorization of the first half of the Baltimore Catechism No. 2; Bible history: chronological study focusing on the Old Testament; Blessed Mother and saints; English and Latin prayers; memorize one Bible verse each week; virtues; corporal and spiritual works of mercy.</p> <p>Series: Faith and Life, Baltimore Catechism No. 2; other sources</p>	<p>Study of the ten commandments of God, the six commandments of the Church, the seven sacraments and prayer, and the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass; memorization of the second half of the Baltimore Catechism No. 2; Bible history: study of the salient features of our Savior's redeeming mission in the New Testament. Blessed Mother and saints; English and Latin prayers; memorize one Bible verse each week; virtues.</p> <p>Series: Faith and Life, Baltimore Catechism No. 2; other sources</p>
MEMORY WORK	Learning through age-appropriate activities, students master important information and facts correlated to the history cycle.	
LANGUAGE ARTS READING	<p>Faith and Freedom readers; classical literature; lives of the saints; comprehension and reading skills; develop analytical thinking through use of analogies; six to eight book reports on full-length unabridged classics and saints' lives. Challenging classics continue to be read aloud.</p>	<p>Faith and Freedom readers; Greek myths; classical literature; lives of the saints; comprehension and reading skills; develop analytical thinking through use of analogies; dramatize events; six to eight book reports on full-length, unabridged classics and saints' lives. Challenging classics continue to be read aloud.</p>
GRAMMAR	<p>Continue study of grammar, mechanics, and usage; continue diagramming and editing.</p> <p>Texts: <i>Language B, A Beka; Drawing Sentences: A Guide to Diagramming</i>, Moutoux; <i>Fix-It Grammar</i> (Institute for Excellence in Writing).</p>	<p>Mastery of grammar, mechanics, and usage; continue diagramming and editing.</p> <p>Texts: <i>Language C, A Beka; Drawing Sentences: A Guide to Diagramming</i>, Moutoux; <i>Fix-It Grammar</i> (Institute for Excellence in Writing).</p>
WRITING & SPEAKING	<p>Our comprehensive writing program continues to prepare students with writing skills far above their peers' and provides a solid foundation for exceptional performance in high school. Daily practice, structural guidelines, and specific requirements and techniques develop competency, independence, and creativity. Note-taking, outlines, editing of rough drafts, and completing final papers; creative, narrative, expository, persuasive, and descriptive essays. Daily public speaking practice.</p> <p>Texts: <i>Teaching Writing: Structure and Style</i> and <i>American History-Based Writing Lessons Vol. 1</i> (Institute for Excellence in Writing)</p>	<p>Our comprehensive writing program continues to prepare students with writing skills far above their peers' and provides a solid foundation for exceptional performance in high school. Daily practice, structural guidelines, and specific requirements and techniques develop competency, independence, and creativity. Note-taking, outlines, editing of rough drafts, and completing final papers; creative, narrative, expository, persuasive, and descriptive essays. Daily public speaking practice.</p> <p>Texts: <i>Teaching Writing: Structure and Style</i> and <i>Ancient History-Based Writing Lessons</i> (Institute for Excellence in Writing)</p>
SPELLING & VOCABULARY	<p>Structured Orton approach to spelling uses multi-sensory techniques to address all learning styles; mastery of spelling at the high-school level by the end of sixth grade. Proven direct-instruction vocabulary program introduces more key words each year, improves reading comprehension, supports writing and speaking skills, and increases standardized-test scores.</p> <p>Texts: <i>Spell to Write and Read; Vocabulary Workshop</i> (Sadlier-Oxford) used.</p>	
SOCRATIC SEMINAR	<p>Every week students and teachers engage in Socratic discussions. Readings used for these discussions will occasionally integrate nicely with the time period being studied, though the primary purpose is to develop the habits of Socratic inquiry. Teachers and students will engage in close study of philosophical and literary texts and will learn, over time, to speak clearly and listen attentively. The skills acquired in this course will be carried over into all aspects of school and home life.</p>	

	FIFTH GRADE: AMERICAN & MODERN YEAR	SIXTH GRADE: WESTERN HERITAGE & WORLD CULTURES
POETRY & DICTATION	Daily memorization of poems; public recitation of poetry in front of the class and school; studied and unstudied dictation three times a week. <i>Texts: The Harp and Laurel Wreath, Berquist; Linguistic Development through Poetry Memorization, Pudewa</i>	Daily memorization of poems; public recitation of poetry in front of the class and school; studied and unstudied dictation three times a week. <i>Texts: The Harp and Laurel Wreath, Berquist; Linguistic Development through Poetry Memorization, Pudewa</i>
HANDWRITING	Continue to practice cursive writing to improve neatness and legibility. Cursive writing required in all writing assignments.	Continue to practice cursive writing to improve neatness and legibility. Cursive writing required in all writing assignments.
MATH	Saxon 65: simplify expressions containing parentheses; graph functions; understand ratios and proportions; read and interpret frequency tables; identify complementary and supplementary angles; and more.	Saxon 76: skills in rate; powers and roots; geometric proofs; irrational numbers; algebraic terms; factoring algebraic expressions; graphing linear equations; and more.
HISTORICAL FOCUS (Includes the study of the narrative story of history, and geography, economics, government, and civics)	American and modern history is our focus, along with a unit on Illinois and the local Rockford area. Our story begins with North America and the Indian nations, European colonization, and the founding and history of the United States up to the twentieth century. Students gain an appreciation for the sacrifices of our ancestors and the Founding Fathers, along with the role of the Catholic Church and her saints in the development of America. Catholic unit study emphasizing the social principles of human rights and duties, justice, charity, and stewardship, including chapters on Columbus, Cortez, Our Lady of Guadalupe, and the challenges of modern times; memorize important dates, events, and figures; map skills; and timeline. American flag instruction and test. <i>Texts: Sea to Shining Sea (Ignatius Press); Illinois Adventure (Gibbs-Smith); Daily Geography Practice (Evan-Moor); Connecting with History (RC History); other sources</i>	Our treasured Western heritage and world cultures and geography are studied this year. From prehistory through the Greeks, the rise of Christianity, up through the Middle Ages, as well as developments in China, Japan, Russia, Europe, Africa, and the Americas up to the mid-1800s. An appreciation for the accomplishments and contributions of those who gave us our civilization, our country, and our Catholic faith; memorize important dates, events, and figures; map skills; and timeline. <i>Text: All Ye Lands (Ignatius Press); Daily Geography Practice (Evan-Moor); Evangelization of the New World, Dr. James Leek; Connecting with History (RC History); other sources</i>
TIMELINE	Students create a timeline and participate in other related projects while mastering the dates and names of important figures and events in history.	
SCIENCE / HEALTH	Earth and physical science; hands-on experiments employing the scientific method. In-depth study of the circulatory system; health habits; fitness; diet.	Review of invertebrates, plants, and the universe takes place along with a study of the forces of the earth and space travel; hands-on experiments; scientific method.
LATIN	<i>Latina Christiana I</i> : master 250 vocabulary words; declensions and conjugations, common conversational expressions; prayers and hymns.	<i>Latina Christiana II</i> : master 400 vocabulary words, all five declensions, nominative and accusative cases; and more; expressions, prayers, and hymns.
PHYSICAL EDUCATION	Fitness testing at the beginning and end of the year; continue to develop muscle strength, flexibility, and endurance through individual and team sports; emphasis on following rules and on good sportsmanship. <i>Exemplary Physical Education Curriculum</i>	
MUSIC / ART	Includes music history, appreciation, practice and theory. Emphasis on classical music, sacred hymns, and folk and patriotic songs. Sing unaccompanied, accompanied, and in unison; daily singing of a sacred hymn; daily exposure to classical music. Art history and appreciation based on the history cycle; techniques in drawing.	
COMPUTER / LIBRARY	Continue monthly use of the library; three-week unit on keyboarding; word-processing skills and educational programs.	
FIELD TRIPS	Related to ancient-medieval history and world cultures.	Related to American, Illinois, or Rockford history; government and economics; science; arts.

	SEVENTH GRADE: CHRISTENDOM YEAR	EIGHTH GRADE: NEW WORLD YEAR
RELIGION	<p>Study of the Faith through the articles of the Apostles' Creed; review memorization of Baltimore Catechism No. 2. Church history is explored in world history course. English and Latin prayers; virtues; corporal and spiritual works of mercy.</p> <p>Texts: Faith and Life Series; <i>My Catholic Faith</i>, Morrow; <i>The Creed in Slow Motion</i>, Knox.</p>	<p>Study of the commandments of God and Church laws and customs; and the seven sacraments. Review Baltimore Catechism #2. Apologetics paper required for graduation. English and Latin prayers; virtues; corporal and spiritual works of mercy.</p> <p>Texts: Faith and Life Series; <i>My Catholic Faith</i>, Morrow; <i>The Mass in Slow Motion</i>, Knox.</p>
LANGUAGE ARTS GRAMMAR & LITERATURE	<p>Review mastery of grammar, usage, and mechanics; continue diagramming and editing. Develop analytic thought and clear and effective writing. Analyze classic and Catholic literature selections from the world in a variety of genres, including full-length fiction and non-fiction, drama, short stories, and poetry. Literary terms. Continue comprehension skills and reading strategies.</p> <p><i>Grammar and Composition III</i>, A Beka; <i>Fix-It Grammar</i> (Institute for Excellence in Writing).</p>	<p>Review mastery of grammar, usage, and mechanics; continue diagramming and editing. Develop analytic thought and clear and effective writing. Analyze classic and Catholic literary selections from America in a variety of genres, including full-length fiction and non-fiction, drama, short stories, and poetry. Literary terms. Continue comprehension skills and reading strategies.</p> <p>Texts: <i>Grammar and Composition IV</i>, A Beka; <i>Fix-It Grammar</i> (Institute for Excellence in Writing).</p>
WRITING & SPEAKING	<p>Our comprehensive writing program provides a solid foundation for exceptional performance in high school and university. Daily practice, structural guidelines and specific requirements and techniques develop competency, independence, and creativity. Note-taking, outlines, editing of rough drafts and completing final papers; practice identifying the purpose and audience of each writing, and documenting sources in a bibliography; précis, research reports; creative, narrative, expository, persuasive, and descriptive essays. Daily public speaking practice.</p> <p>Texts: <i>Teaching Writing: Structure and Style</i> and <i>Medieval History-Based Writing Lessons</i>, (IEW).</p>	<p>Our comprehensive writing program provides a solid foundation for exceptional performance in high school and university. Daily practice, structural guidelines and specific requirements and techniques develop competency, independence, and creativity. Note-taking, outlines, editing of rough drafts and completing final papers; practice identifying the purpose and audience of each writing, and documenting sources in a bibliography; précis, research reports; creative, narrative, expository, persuasive, and descriptive essays. Daily public speaking practice.</p> <p>Texts: <i>Teaching Writing: Structure and Style</i> and <i>American History-Based Writing Lessons Vol. 2</i>, (IEW).</p>
VOCABULARY	<p>Proven direct-instruction vocabulary program introduces more key words each year, improves reading comprehension, supports writing and speaking skills, and increases standardized-test scores.</p> <p>Texts: <i>Vocabulary Workshop</i> (Sadlier-Oxford) used.</p>	
HANDWRITING	<p>Maintain required cursive standard in all assignments.</p>	
SOCRATIC SEMINAR	<p>Every week students and teachers engage in Socratic discussions. Readings used for these discussions will occasionally integrate nicely with the time-period being studied, though the primary purpose is to develop the habits of Socratic inquiry. Teachers and students will engage in close study of philosophical and literary texts and will learn, over time, to speak clearly and listen attentively. The skills acquired in this course will be carried over into all aspects of school and home life.</p>	
LOGIC	<p>An in-depth study of the classical syllogism. Along with a basic understanding of the Christian theory of knowledge, students learn the four kinds of logical statements, the ways propositions can be opposed, the ways which they can be equivalent, and more.</p> <p><i>Traditional Logic I</i>, Memoria Press</p>	
POETRY	<p>Daily memorization of poems or speeches; public recitation of poetry or speeches in front of the class and school.</p>	

	SEVENTH GRADE: CHRISTENDOM YEAR	EIGHTH GRADE: NEW WORLD YEAR
MATHEMATICS	Saxon Math 87 with Pre-algebra Skills in rate; powers and roots; geometric proofs; scientific notation; algebraic terms; irrational numbers; factoring algebraic expressions, etc.	Saxon Algebra 1/2 Pre-algebra. Mastery of a variety of math skills from fractions and their arithmetic operations to the Pythagorean theorem and the simplification of algebraic expressions.
MATHEMATICS	Saxon Algebra 1/2 Pre-algebra. Mastery of a variety of math skills, from fractions and their arithmetic operations to the Pythagorean theorem and the simplification of algebraic expressions.	Saxon Algebra I Evaluation of expressions involving signed numbers, exponents and roots; solution and uses of equations; quadratic formula; graphs of functions, statistics, etc.
HISTORICAL FOCUS (Includes the study of the narrative story of history, and geography, economics, government, and civics.)	World history with a focus on Christendom. Survey from pre-history to modern times with the Incarnation as the focal point. Proper attention to and appreciation for the role of the Catholic Church. Geography mastered facts reviewed and in context. Review mastered facts related to history dates and figures and events. Timeline review. Texts: <i>Christ the King, Lord of History</i> (TAN); <i>Ultimate Geography & Timeline Guide</i> , Wiggers. <i>Connecting with History</i> (RC History)	American and modern history includes a survey from pre-Columbian times to the end of the 20th century. Includes Illinois history. Proper attention to and appreciation for the role of the Catholic Church is provided. Government, economics, and civics. United States and Illinois constitution tests. American flag instruction and test. Geography mastered facts reviewed and in context. Review mastered facts related to history dates and figures. Texts: <i>Christ and the Americas</i> (TAN); <i>The Making of Illinois</i> , Mather; <i>Ultimate Geography & Timeline Guide</i> , Wiggers; <i>Connecting with History</i> (RC History)
SCIENCE/HEALTH	Life Science The study of life processes, principles, and concepts. Cells, protists, fungi, plants, animals, nutrition, disease, systems of the body, ecology, and more. Experiments; labs. Pro-life text.	Physical Science (pre- or co-req: Math 76 or 87) Fundamental study of physics and chemistry. Includes atmosphere, weather, astrophysics, and environment (myths of environmentalism, too), etc. Hands-on experiments and labs using the scientific method.
LATIN	Latin Ia or Latin I High-school level course introducing students to the perennial tongue of Western civilization and of Holy Mother Church. Focus on the basic structure of the language: five kinds of Latin nouns, two kinds of adjectives, four regular conjugations of verbs; and the skills needed for translation; ecclesiastical pronunciation. Students in Latin Ia will earn one-half credit for high school. Latin I students earn one credit. Texts: <i>Latin Grammar</i> and <i>First Year Latin</i> , Henle.	Latin Ib or Latin II High-school level course continuing the focus on mastering grammar with an emphasis on subordinate clauses and subjunctive verbs, and the skills needed for translation. Students in Latin Ia and Ib will earn one high-school credit for Latin upon completion of this course. Students in Latin I and Latin II will earn two credits upon completion of this course. Texts: <i>Latin Grammar</i> and <i>First Year Latin</i> , Henle.
ART	Art history, appreciation, theory, and practice are covered in these year-long courses that lead children to God by Benedict XVI's "way of beauty." Students continue to develop a Catholic appreciation for art, recognize famous works and identify their artists, and gain an understanding of the historical periods of Western art and art theory. They create projects and drawings as they journey through the development of art beginning with ancient times and continuing through the modern period. The purpose is not merely to teach fine arts skills or develop a familiarity with famous artists, but far more to cultivate a sensitivity to beauty and to the way God speaks through art.	
CHOIR	Fundamentals of choral singing. Emphasis on the sacred music of the Church: plainchant, homophony, and polyphony. Vocal production, sight-singing, and the enjoyment of singing. Music theory, history, and appreciation.	
DRAMA	Students participate in a drama class and one theatrical performance each year.	
COMPUTER/LIBRARY	Reinforce research skills and keyboarding skills.	
PHYSICAL EDUCATION	Development of skills, rules, and strategies for individual and group sports. Tools to assess, achieve, and maintain personal physical fitness. National Fitness Test of the U.S. <i>Exemplary Physical Education Curriculum</i> .	
FIELD TRIPS	Varies. Shakespearean play; local manufacturing business or nature preserve.	Varies. Fermilab; visit to the mayor of Rockford, state capitol in Springfield or another site.

Each year, minor changes are made in the curriculum to improve our program and to better serve our students. The academy reserves the right to change, alter, or amend the curriculum whenever such changes are necessary.