



## SACRED HEART ACADEMY CLASSICAL CURRICULUM

### **Kindergarten**

A student's beginning at Sacred Heart Academy is meant to awaken wonder and the joy of learning. Through stories, poems, chants and songs, the child finds an attractive learning style which also introduces him or her to classic children's literature, geographical facts, great stories of history, catechism and the Bible. Letter and word recognition, counting, patterns and number recognition are taught and practiced. Through our Kindergarten program, children receive a solid and excellent introduction to reading and writing, incorporating phonics and interactive learning for a successful beginning. Children are prepared to be able to write and receive an introduction to cursive writing. Science focuses on the wonder of the natural world around them. Basic vocabulary words and phrases are taught. Prayer and formation in basic manners, kindness and age-appropriate virtue is also emphasized.

Our Kindergarten program is 4 full days a week.

### **Elementary (Grades 1 to 8)**

#### **LANGUAGE ARTS**

By teaching the building blocks of English, students are given the tools to truly make sense of the language, and to gain mastery of it. Our spelling program encourages reading fluency by combining phonics, the parts of speech and spelling. Beginning with oral retelling, sentence dictation, and storytelling, children learn to write proper sentences, and eventually to write a simple essay. Students also regularly practice memory work and recitation. Elementary students are taught and use cursive handwriting.

#### **MATHEMATICS**

Sacred Heart Academy uses the Saxon Math program, which thoroughly teaches the grammar of math. This program encourages mental math and memorization of math facts, improving logic and memory. Games and manipulatives are used to enrich learning. In the younger years, use of calculators is avoided.

#### **HISTORY**

Through a spiral approach to the great eras (Ancient, Medieval, Renaissance and Modern) students discover the timeline of the past. By revisiting these eras, primarily through stories they build an increasingly complex understanding of the events, figures and literature upon which our current world rests.

#### **SCIENCE**

Through our Charlotte Mason science program, students learn via hands-on discovery of living specimens, nature journaling and experimentation, which expose the students to the natural wonders of our region and the science of biology. Older students are introduced to

the basic concepts of physics and chemistry, the historical evolution of each, as well as the Scientific Method.

## **GEOGRAPHY**

Through stories, puzzles, chants and maps, students learn the seven continents, the oceans, the countries and the major landforms of the world, eventually learning to map the world by heart. Geography and culture are often studied in association with the history and literature of an era being studied, so as to bring unity to a student's learning.

## **RELIGION**

Religion is the most important subject in Sacred Heart Academy's curriculum, using the [Seton religion program](#). Unlike many other religious education programs and schools, we assign Religion on a daily basis rather than a weekly basis. Students learn about the love of God especially as expressed in salvation history and the sacraments. The Baltimore Catechism series is used as a basis for the content, with Seton's *Religion for Young Catholics* Series providing a fuller and age-appropriate explanation of Church teaching. Memorization of key catechism questions is encouraged, but most assessments are focused on comprehension. There is a heavy emphasis on Sacred Scripture and Bible History. Sacred Heart Academy strives to provide the most robust and orthodox Catholic education possible.

## **MUSIC**

The study of sacred music holds a very prominent and special place at Sacred Heart Academy. We have a school-wide sacred music choir.

## **ART**

Sacred Heart Academy's art classes look to the great masters of the past. By studying their lives and the times they lived in, students gain a better appreciation of their works; moreover, students study and mimic their techniques and style. Drawing and sketching skills are also practiced in their other subjects.