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St. Regis Academy

Abbreviated Curriculum Overview



MISSION

St. Regis Academy in partnership with parents, as the primary educators of their children, seeks to provide a Catholic Classical Liberal Arts Education centered on Christ. We seek to cultivate an environment that fosters a student's natural desire for Truth, Beauty, and Goodness.

St. Regis Academy prepares students to think critically, reason logically, articulate clearly, and engage others persuasively. Our enrollment includes racial, ethnic, and economic diversity within the Body of Christ, providing a wealth of opportunity for students to grow in virtue by pursuing spiritual, emotional, and academic excellence.

VISION

By the Grace of God, St. Regis Academy seeks to be a locally recognized leader in graduating young men and women who are spiritually and academically prepared for a lifetime of discipleship.

RELIGION CURRICULUM AND CHARACTER EDUCATION PROGRAM

Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children; and walk in love, just as Christ also loved you and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma.

Ephesians 5:1-2

The teachings and beauty of our Catholic faith is not only a subject of academic study in each grade but is woven through all of what we do at St. Regis Academy, providing unity and cohesiveness to the curriculum. Students receive a rich education in the Catholic faith through use of the *Alive in Christ* catechetical series, Holy Scripture, and instruction in the exposition of virtue. Integration of our Holy Faith is expected in every aspect of our curriculum and daily experience.

Alive in Christ is a comprehensive catechetical program from *Our Sunday Visitor* that “intentionally mirrors the Divine Pedagogy, builds Catholic identity, and involves families.” Students also learn of the gift of the Scriptures which introduces them to the person of Christ and a living Christian culture. Memorization of select psalms and verses will familiarize children with the rich, beautiful language of the Bible. Additionally, they will explore the treasures of Christian culture, art, architecture, music, and literature.

Fostering dispositions in which students’ desire communion with God, this series cultivates a true personal relationship with our Lord. As students are immersed into the mystery of Christ, they are transformed by Divine Truth, living out the Gospel message and giving glory to God in all that they do. The virtues are thoroughly examined and applied in an effort to gain mastery of self and imitation. Universally valued virtues such as honesty, integrity, perseverance, respect for self, self-control, and patience while specifically highlighting the Cardinal virtues of prudence, justice, fortitude and temperance are intentionally integrated into this formation through the Catholic culture of the school, and through our study of character development and heroism in literature and history as well.

Current textbook series - Alive in Christ (OSV) <http://aliveinchrist.osv.com/>

HISTORY

For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created through Him and for Him. He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. He is also head of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that He Himself will come to have first place in everything.

The history program is intentionally integrated with our literature and religion instruction. This creates an atmosphere that helps students to immerse themselves in a time period, exploring the culture and applying their experience with virtuous living to the decisions made by those

being studied. The Story of the World: History for the Classical Child is an award-winning series of books that can be read aloud to or read by young children (Grades 1-4) to bring history alive. This series, which includes an expansive teacher activity book to guide map work and the creation of timelines, serves as the “spine” of the history and geography curricula in the early years, and is supplemented by great literature, biography and poetry of the time and place. In addition to the study of important national holidays and key American figures (e.g., Christopher Columbus, George Washington, Rosa Parks, Martin Luther King, etc), each academic year will traverse a particular epoch in history, with an emphasis on Western Civilization, but also with attention to the many cultures that form our country’s cultural landscape today. Older students in the dialectical stage will begin to contemplate alternate outcomes based on more careful thought (and hindsight) and will enable children to see how actions and consequences are related and the importance of directing them toward the good.

LANGUAGE ARTS

But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering, without hypocrisy. And the seed whose fruit is righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

James 3:17

We want our students to read insightfully, write beautifully, speak articulately, and think critically. This means they must be taught how language works, which includes a deep grasp of phonics in reading and spelling, word usage and syntax through the persevering study of English grammar (and Latin beginning in the 3rd Grade), composition and expression. Students should learn how to question a story and be questioned by it. By being introduced to beautiful and enduring literature, poetry and biography, even young students can be encouraged to consider the worthiness of characters’ choices, the consequences of their actions, and the importance of right action and truth. The study and recitation of poetry is used to cultivate memory, especially in the early years when children’s memory is strong and capable. Copywork and narration in the early years help students to imitate proper technique and find their voice. Dictation in later years allows students to emulate beautiful writing. The development of creative, expository, and analytical writing enables young thinkers to build confidence in the expression of their imagination, memory and intellect. Language and literature lessons complement concurrent, thematic lessons in history, culture, and religion, and thus provide a coherent, integrated curriculum.

The contemporary practice is to omit instruction in cursive handwriting from the curriculum. This is a shame, as the penmanship of this generation approaches illegible in many cases. As students begin to study source documents, or even teacher notes and assignments on the board, they soon realize that those written in cursive are inaccessible to them. All St. Regis Academy students will be instructed in this lost art for the next two years, and the lower grade students will continue instruction through 3rd grade in subsequent years. Older students will be required to present all written work in legible cursive handwriting.

MATHEMATICS

*So teach us to number our days, That we may present to You a heart of wisdom.
Psalm 90:12*

The mathematics curriculum in a classical education will seek to promote the understanding of order and harmony in the universe, as well as grounding them in the concept that there is absolute truth and it can be found all around us. Mathematics, as a language, reveals this order, harmony, and truth, yet it should also be lifted from this concrete foundation and applied to all areas of life. Students should then be able to relate these concepts to the abstract ideals proposed for their consideration. Creation is one such concept that can emphatically show a correlation with the good, true, orderly, and beautiful. We will lay a solid foundation for basic math facts and the memorization of those facts in an effort to build a strong foundation on those basic skills in the acquisition of concept mastery. An emphasis will be put on number sense and the exploration of math concepts.

Current textbook series - Eureka Math <https://greatminds.org/math>

SCIENCE

*Great are the works of the LORD; They are studied by all who delight in them.
Psalm 111:2*

Through both simple and more complex experimentation, the study of science should teach children to observe their surroundings carefully and help them to discover the world around them, leading to understanding and wonder. With reading and discussion, writing to document hypotheses and observations, and hands-on activities and experimentation, children will begin to hone their natural ability to investigate and learn. Creating a strong sense of wonder in our children engenders a great love and respect for the Creator of all things.

LATIN

St Regis Academy students are introduced to a Latin program beginning in Kindergarten. From this year on, students memorize Latin prayers and phrases such as the *Agnus Dei* and are exposed to a range of Latin texts. In the third grade, students begin to receive more formal instruction in the language with Latin grammar and vocabulary. The upper level grades, from fourth grade through eighth grade, learn to conjugate verbs in their various tenses, decline Latin nouns, recite prayers in Latin, and more. Instruction in the Latin language provides the gateway to a more comprehensive understanding of the English language and grammar, a foundation for expanding vocabulary through etymology, and greater accessibility to other languages and cultures.

Grade K-2: *Song School Latin Bk 1* (Classical Academic Press)

Grade 3: *Prima Latina* (Memoria Press)

Grade 4: *Latina Christiana* (Memoria Press)

Grade 5: *First Form Latin* (Memoria Press)
Grade 6: *Second Form Latin* (Memoria Press)
Grade 7: *Third Form Latin* (Memoria Press)
Grade 8: *Fourth Form Latin* (Memoria Press)

*Year 1 - 3rd grade: *Prima Latina*
4th Grade and up: *Latina Christiana*
*Year 2 – 3rd Grade: *Prima Latina*
4th Grade: *Latina Christiana*
5th Grade and up: *First Form Latin*
*Year 3 – 3rd Grade: *Prima Latina*
4th Grade: *Latina Christiana*
5th Grade: *First Form Latin*
6th Grade and up: *Second Form Latin*

ORATION/RECITATION

All students at St, Regis Academy are introduced to the art of public speaking. In kindergarten through sixth grade, oratory takes place within the context of other subjects such as literature, grammar, history, religion, etc. In the seventh and eighth grades, students receive formal instruction within the context of an Oratory/Logic class.

Recitation (K-8):

This age loves to memorize using songs, chants, rhythm, or rhyme. We use this to teach students all sorts of factual material including: prayers and songs in English and Latin, oceans and continents, major historical figures, taxonomy classification (biology), historical timeline dates, multiplication tables, countries of the world, selected Shakespeare, the parts of speech, prime numbers to 100, and numerous Bible passages, to name a few.

ART

The study of art encourages both hands-on participation as well as an introduction to the great masters and works of art. This study of art naturally complements the study of history in our integrated curriculum. The progression of artistic efforts provides an interesting study of each historical culture and the reflection of its ideals. The order and beauty presented in the works of the great masters will form the imagination of our students and inspire them to strive for such in all their creative endeavors. Artistic observation is a power tool for teaching a student focus his attention to detail; this skill should, obviously, spill over into other areas of study.

MUSIC

Our music curriculum begins with our students being introduced to Gregorian chant and sacred music. Ecclesiastical music expresses the mystery of God and supports an attitude of adoration.

Students will appreciate the “music of the masters,” be able to differentiate between and play instruments, become familiar with musical notation and delight in music’s ability to “tell stories.” As art lends itself to fine tuning a student’s visual attention to detail, so music develops the power of listening closely. True music appreciation comes not only from the knowledge of the composition, but from the emotions the musical piece produces in the careful listener..

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

A physical education program should strive to train the mind, heart, and body of each student. Overall physical health is a way of honoring God through proper caretaking of our bodies. *The Educational Plan of St. Jerome Classical School* states that, “Exercise of the body develops concentration, self-discipline, and mental stamina through repetition, practice, and competitive play.” Participation in a curriculum includes a variety of sports, exercise and diet plans for healthy living and even games will benefit students even beyond their grade school years. Practice in sportsmanship and fair play teaches students to win or lose with grace. The end goal is for a child to make it his practice to do his personal best in any situation and under any circumstance at all times for the glory and honor of God.