



Our Lady of Good Success Academy

Educating Youth for the Glory of God

J†M†J



Our Lady of Good Success Third and Fourth Grade Curriculum

The classical method of education is the highest and best form of education for a Catholic child, whose ancestors of long ago most assuredly were highly educated by it. Beginning in the third grade, a child enters a stage of natural development corresponding to the Grammatical Stage of education. Also called the “poll-parrot” stage, learning things by heart is easy and pleasurable, and students enjoy the “accumulation of things” mental, according to Miss Dorothy Sayers, and expert on classical education. Since third graders have now acquired the tools of reading, writing, and arithmetic, they can begin using those tools to observe and memorize. The subjects on which the tools will be exercised the most are religion and history. A third grader now reads to learn, instead of learning to read. With this age group the teacher should endeavor to instill cheerful obedience with no complaining or back-talk, consistent and on-task behavior, and good sportsmanship on the playground. Time should be given each day for reading silently and aloud.

Religion

Baltimore Catechism No. 1

Child's Bible History by F.J. Knect, D.D.

Confirmation Catechism in alternate years

The Ten Commandments

Learn to use an adult Missal

Prayers: Pater Noster, Ave Maria, Gloria Patri, Morning Offering, Nicene Creed, Come Holy Ghost

In alternate years, preparation for Confirmation will be taught. Plenty of saints should be discussed to assist the children in selecting their patrons. The second section of the catechism is going to be studied this year and the answers to the catechism questions should be memorized at a slow pace. A Ten Commandments project can be completed by the students. Children of this age now understand enough about the passage of time to learn about Bible history in the form of outline. The creation, fall, and redemption can be taught with ease now, and the stories remembered by creating a Bible storybook. The stories can be read and a summary written in their own words. Retelling is one of the best ways to teach a child to write effectively because the content is supplied to him and he can learn to word the story in his own way. This is also an opportunity to practice art or crafts by creating the illustrations for the booklets.

Language Arts

Spell to Write and Read by Wanda Sanseri

SSPX Language Arts 3rd Grade, SSPX Language Arts 4th Grade, or English 3, English 4 by Seton Press

The phonics program *Spell to Write and Read* should be begun at the level recommended by the previous teacher. If the teacher has gone through a conference or seminar to learn how to use the *SSPX Language Arts 3rd Grade* program, this is preferred. However, if the teacher has not, then *Seton English 3* is to be used. Beautiful and fun poetry should be integrated into this subject. Time should be divided between spelling, handwriting, and dictation activities, and grammar and composition activities. It may be best to separate them between morning and afternoon. Compositions should consist of material the children are learning in other subjects.



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Math

A Beka Arithmetic 3

Saxon Math 54

Using the tools they have learned previously, the student will now put them to work for him working out story problems and learning to decide what operations to use. The facts should be completely memorized and quickly answered.

Literature

The class should be read to each day after lunch recess when they are ready for quiet and their energy has been expended. Laying a head on the desk can minimize distractions and encourage quiet listening. Choose a book to read aloud from a fifth grade reading list that includes a little higher language than a third grader would speak. This provides an excellent model of cohesive thought. Any higher vocabulary that the teacher has to explain can be used throughout the day or week to give example to the students.

History/Geography

Our Pioneers and Patriots

Childhood of Famous Americans series

Father Marquette and the Great River by August Derleth

Maps, Charts, and Graphs Level D

A beginning study of the ancient history of Egypt, Greece, and Rome by reading the Myths

The students can now learn in detail about the discovery and settlement of the New World, the early saints and explorers of America, and American history up through the Revolutionary War. This subject offers many opportunities to use the tools the students have acquired thus far with reading, writing summaries, and art and craft projects. The geography workbook should be utilized once or twice a week to learn the reading of maps.

Science

Exploring Creation with the Swimming Creatures of the Fifth Day

Exploring Creation with the Flying Creatures of the Fifth Day

These two texts will be alternated from year to year. These texts provide great information and can be used classically by having the children think and write on their own about what they are learning. If possible, add to the classroom something the children can observe, such as an aquarium, or a bird in a cage. Perhaps a birdfeeder can be placed outside which can be observed from inside.

Art

Art 4 by Seton Press

Drawing Textbook by Bruce MacIntyre

Students will enjoy reviewing and expanding on their drawing skills from previous years. The teacher should alternate these two guides from year to year. Attention should be drawn to any beautiful artwork in their books or workbooks, noticing a balance of color, light, perspective, and content.



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Music

Listening to high-quality classical music is very important to the development of proper Catholic taste. When the students are engaged in quiet seat work, play classical music in the background. It is a scientifically-proven fact that classical music helps the concentration and learning process. Occasionally spend five quiet minutes just listening to a piece of music, and discuss the composer and where he lived. If music class is offered, encourage them to enjoy it!

Sample Schedule for Third and Fourth Grade

	<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>
8:00	Prayers	Prayers	Prayers	Prayers	Prayers
8:15	Religion	Religion	Religion	Religion	Religion
9:00	Math	Math	Math	Math	Math
9:45	Recess	Recess	Recess	Recess	Recess
10:05	Phonics	Phonics	Phonics	Phonics	Phonics
10:55	History	History	Literature	History	History
11:30	Lunch/Recess	Lunch/Recess	Dismissal	Lunch/Recess	Lunch/Recess
12:30	Literature	Literature		Literature	Literature
1:00	Gram/Comp	Gram/Comp		Gram/Comp	Gram/Comp
2:00	Recess/Review	Music		P.E.	Recess/Review
2:30	Science	Science		Science	Art
3:00	Clean-up	Clean-up		Clean-up	Clean-up
3:15	Dismissal	Dismissal		Dismissal	Dismissal

The afternoon Recess/Review time can be used for a short recess and then time to review something being learned, or for a short study hall, or anything the teacher may think beneficial.