



# Our Lady of Good Success Academy

Educating Youth for the Glory of God

J†M†J



## Our Lady of Good Success Fifth and Sixth Grade Curriculum

The fifth and sixth grade students have already mastered most of the basic skills in reading, writing, and arithmetic. They are now ready to make use of critical thinking skills to question, test, and self-correct their work. They should be able to make connections between the persons, places, and themes studied across the curriculum. Independence in work habits emerge, and this allows for greater focus on class discussions and individual instructions. The teacher will recognize that the sixth graders are in a pivotal year, in which they stop being children and begin being a young man or young lady.

### Religion

*Baltimore Catechism No. 2*

Old Testament stories, New Testament books of Mark and Luke (alternate)

Lives of the Saints

Confirmation Catechism

Prayers: Confiteor, The Divine Praises, Veni Spiritus Sanctus, Commandments of the Church

The students should begin early to memorize the questions in the catechism at a slow pace. The Old Testament stories should be taught on a deeper level to discover how God came to promise a Redeemer, how He founded the nation of the Chosen People and led them into the Promised Land, how they lived under their kings, how they were led into captivity and their kingdom was destroyed, and the types of Our Lord Jesus Christ in the Old Testament. The students should also study the attributes of God, such as His omnipotence, mercy, love for man, etc. The New Testament can be studied chapter by chapter, and the students write a clear and concise synopsis of each chapter. These can be kept and bound. Some of the Gospels can be read aloud, aiming for smoothness and appropriateness of expression.

### Math

*Saxon Math 65*

*Saxon Math 76*

The schedule should allow a study hall for one grade while the other grade is being taught. Follow the internal order of the textbook.

### Language Arts

*SSPX Language Arts 5<sup>th</sup> Grade, SSPX Language Arts 6<sup>th</sup> Grade, or English 5, English 6* by Seton Press.

If the teacher has gone through a conference or seminar to learn how to use the *SSPX Language Arts* program, this is preferred. However, if the teacher has not, then Seton's *English 5* and *English 6* are to be used. When deciding on compositions, it would be most beneficial to the students and harmonious to classical education to create them from material being learned or read in other subjects, in order to integrate their learning. Beautiful and fun poetry should be integrated into this subject. Time should be divided between spelling and dictation activities, and grammar and composition activities.



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## Literature

The class should be read to each day after lunch recess. Choose a book to read aloud from a higher-grade reading list that includes a little higher language than fifth and sixth graders 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. The students of this age group often lose interest in reading. The teacher will be careful to select good quality literature with appropriate heroes and role models and present it to the students enthusiastically. Fifth and sixth graders can begin literary responses, including “character sketches,” analysis of the plot, and the basic elements of the story (plot, characters, setting, etc.). A variety of literary genre should be read.

## History/Geography

*Our Pioneers and Patriots* by Fr. Philip Furlong

*The Old World and America* by Fr. Philip Furlong

*Famous Men of Greece*

*Famous Men of Rome*

*Maps, Charts and Graphs Level E and Level F*

For fifth and sixth grade an alternating history program should be used. The students should study American History from the Revolutionary War up through the Civil War using *Our Pioneers and Patriots* and other literature to support the learning of this time period. The next year a study of the history of Greece and Rome can begin using *The Old World and America* and *Famous Men of Greece* and *Famous Men of Rome*, along with time-period literature. The geography workbooks should be used once or twice a week to learn the next level of map reading.

## Science

*Exploring Creation with the Land Animals of the Sixth Day*

*Exploring Creation with Astronomy*

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 a hamster.

## Art

*Drawing Textbook* by Bruce MacIntyre

*Art 6* by Seton Press

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.

## 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



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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 Fifth and Sixth 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 5/SH6	Math 5/SH6	Math 5/SH6	Math 5/SH6	Math 5/SH6
9:30	Math 6/SH5	Math 6/SH5	Math 6/SH5	Math 6/SH5	Math 6/SH5
10:00	Break	Break	Literature	Break	Break
10:15	Language Arts	Language Arts	Language Arts	Language Arts	Language Arts
11:30	Lunch/Recess	Lunch/Recess	Dismissal	Lunch/Recess	Lunch/Recess
12:30	Literature	Literature		Literature	Literature
1:00	History	History		History	History
1:45	Science	Science		Science	Science
2:30	Recess/Review	Music		P.E.	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, for a short study hall, or anything the teacher may think beneficial.