

Maria Kaupas Academy

(Lower School - PreK through 8th grade) Class Descriptions 2018-2019

Algebra I: Mrs. Kristen Ciaccia

This class is a thorough and comprehensive Algebra I course. Concept and skills that are essential to studying geometry, Algebra 2 and Precalculus will be emphasized to ensure future success in mathematics. Approximately 3 hours of homework a week will be assigned. There will be notebook checks, short in-class quizzes, and take-home exams in this course in order to help assess student progress and retention.

Prerequisites: Students must have completed Pre-Algebra

Ages/Grades: 7th and 8th grades

Tuition: \$90/semester

Materials/Copy Fee: \$3/semester

Books/Supplies Needed: (please purchase prior to class) Binder, 4 dividers, a lot of binder paper, graph paper

Please Note: Through a donation, MKA has obtained enough texts in order to allow each student to borrow the textbook for the year. Thus, there will be no textbook costs associated with this course. (Prentice Hall, Algebra 1, 1993)

Maximum Capacity: 8 students

America in Pictures & Songs: Mrs. Deb Rojas

This class curriculum was made possible by a grant from the National Endowment of the Humanities. Students will study notable American art incorporated with American music. Students will take part in in-class presentations and add paintings and songs to their timeline in order to cultivate a deeper understanding of American History.

Prerequisites: Students should be able to write at a 2nd grade level

Ages/Grades: 2nd-5th grades

Tuition: \$60/semester

Books/Supplies Needed: (please purchase prior to class) composition notebook, a blank 8x10 sketchbook for a timeline if not already purchased for history

Maximum Capacity: 8 students

Art (Elementary and Intermediate): Mrs. Virginia P. Sosik, Teaching Artist

Mrs. Sosik offers a fine art development program for children ages 6 to 10 (elementary level), and ages 11 to 14 (intermediate level). Each class is 45 minutes in length. This program is structured to develop and nurture creativity, visual art concepts, and learning processes through a weekly disciplined curriculum as deemed by Section 1327 of the Pennsylvania Education code for Home Schooling, Act 16 of 1988.

The Curriculum

Students will develop their skills and build artistic comprehension through a study of aesthetics, art history, art critiques, and execution of artworks which will enable students to gain a keener understanding of themselves and the visual world around them.

Classes and curriculums are structured to emphasize age appropriate learning progressions through fine art methodology such as drawing, painting, pastels, pen and ink, and sculpture. Every two to eight weeks the focus of the curriculum will change.

Expectations

Students will be expected to complete assignments on time, present, execute assignments, and engage in critiques as related to the topic studied.

End of the semester evaluation will encompass artistic vocabulary and artists and paintings identification. Student will also be expected to present a portfolio for review of all assignments completed in the said semester.

Prerequisites: Student must be able to follow instruction and exhibit behavior applicable for a structured classroom environment.

Ages/Grades: ages 6-10 (elementary level), ages 11-14 (intermediate level)

Class Tuition: \$90/semester

Books/Supplies Needed: (please purchase prior to class)

Graphite Pencils: HB, 2B, Ebony Pencil

Kneaded Eraser

Pink Pearl Eraser

Bristol Board (2 Sheets per student)

Drawing Tablet (Size 8"x10". Not to exceed 9"x12")

Stumps (Large)

Yarn

Art supplies box (Pencil Box or pouch)

Colored Markers

Crayons

Colored Pencils

-Supplies' list continuing on the following page-

Additional Art Suggestions Work

Smock/Apron/Shirt

* Art supplies can be purchased at the following locations locally:

Michael's

Hobby Lobby

Kmart
WalMart
AC Moore

Please note that if purchasing at AC Moore or Michael's look for discount coupons to redeem online or in the newspaper.

*Additional minimal supplies will be needed as warranted by a particular project.
Notification will be given in advance of the assigned art lesson.

Choir: Mr. Paul Campbell

The St. Thomas More Choir School – offered in conjunction with Maria Kaupas Academy -- is a sacred choral music education program for children and youth grades 2 and up. There are three components of the program: (1) small-group instruction, learning to read musical notation and to develop healthy and beautiful singing voices, (2) full choir rehearsal, learning excellent sacred choral music, and (3) offering that music in the context of liturgies at St. Thomas More Parish. Beginning on Wednesday afternoons at 3:45 p.m., participation is open both to Maria Kaupas Academy students, and to other choristers arriving after their own schooling elsewhere.

Class Tuition: NO FEE for choristers committed to singing Sunday Masses at St. Thomas More Parish (10am)

Classic Stories for Children (WEDNESDAY): Mrs. Ciara Nelson

This time will be spent reading classic stories to children and encouraging beginning narration.

Prerequisites: Students should be able to sit and listen to a story being read

Ages/Grades: ages 3-6

Tuition: \$45/semester

Books/Supplies Needed: None

Maximum Capacity: 6 students

Classic Stories for Children (FRIDAY): Mrs. Annie Lefler

This time will be spent reading classic stories to children and encouraging beginning narration.

Prerequisites: Students should be able to sit and listen to a story being read

Ages/Grades: ages 3-6

Tuition: \$45/semester

Books/Supplies Needed: None

Maximum Capacity: 6 students

Drama: Mrs. Eileen Hanisch

Students will participate on a weekly basis in various drama games and exercises to learn and develop essential skills, including the following: concentration, posture, movement, body language, gesture, stillness, timing, facial expression, eye contact, gait, coordination, listening, expression of mood, pantomime, dramatic intent, spatial awareness, clarity of diction, vocal expression, character development, use of accents, use of imagination, memorization, blocking, rhythm, pitch and volume, improvisation, action, reaction, and interaction with others. There will be approximately 1-3 hours of homework for this class.

Prerequisites: Students must be able to read and memorize.

Ages/Grades: ages 6–14

Tuition: \$100/semester for first child, \$50 for any additional family members

Maximum Capacity: 25 students (Lower Level)

Future City (1st semester): Mrs. Annie Lefler

“Future City” is a project-based learning program where students in 6th, 7th, and 8th grades imagine, research, design, and build cities of the future. Students will write together a city narrative, a research essay, a presentation and build a city out of recycled materials.” Students will then compete at the end of January in Harrisburg with other teams. Students will be assigned approximately 1 ½ hours of homework in order to meet team deadlines.

Prerequisites: Student must possess the ability to research at home scientific concepts and ideas. Students must also be able to write complete sentences and paragraphs.

Ages/Grades: This competition is open to students in the 6th, 7th, and 8th grades

Tuition: \$60/semester

Books/Supplies Needed: (please purchase prior to class) Spiral notebook

Maximum Capacity: 10 students

Gardening: Mrs. Ellen Deak

This is a course in gardening for pre-school children. Students will be learning about plants and dirt with hands on experience gardening.

Ages/Grades: ages 3-6

Tuition: \$60/semester

Materials/Copy Fee: \$2/semester

Books/Supplies Needed: Gardening gloves, hand spade, hand rake

Maximum Capacity: 6-8 students

Geography (Elementary): Mrs. Rebecca Huffman

Students will be studying the physical and human geography of the seven continents. Students will learn about major landmarks and important saints from each continent. Labeling maps will be done in class. Approximately 30 minutes of homework will be assigned.

Prerequisites: Students must be able to read and write neatly and independently.

Ages/Grades: 2nd-5th grades

Tuition: \$60/semester

Materials/Copy Fee: \$5/semester

Books/Supplies Needed: (please purchase prior to class) *Geography III: Exploring and Mapping the World* (Workbook \$17.95 & Student text \$16.95 from Memoria Press), 3-ring binder with tabs, access to world map and atlas, colored pens for labeling

Maximum Capacity: 8 students

*students in 4th-8th grades will be able to participate in the National Geography Bee, a small fee may apply

Geography (Intermediate): Mrs. Rebecca Huffman

Students will be studying the physical and human geography of the seven continents. Students will learn about major landmarks and important saints from each continent. Labeling maps will be done in class. Approximately thirty minutes to an hour of homework will be assigned.

Prerequisites: Students must be able to read and write neatly and independently.

Ages/Grades: 6th-8th grades

Tuition: \$60/semester

Materials/Copy Fee: \$5/semester

Books/Supplies Needed: (please purchase prior to class) *Geography III: Exploring and Mapping the World* (Workbook \$17.95 & Student text \$16.95 from Memoria Press), 3-ring binder with tabs, access to world map and atlas, colored pens for labeling

Maximum Capacity: 8 students

*students in 4th-8th grades will be able to participate in the National Geography Bee, a small fee may apply

History (Elementary): Mrs. Rebecca Huffman

This ancient history class will cover the “Dawn of Civilization” to Emperor Constantine in 35 chapters. Students will do both oral and written (depending on age) narration exercises, map activities, and record events on a timeline. Activities will include coloring pages, crossword puzzles, and crafts. Approximately 1 hour of reading (listening to the reading) and an open book test will be assigned.

Prerequisites: Students should be able to read independently. However, TAN publishes the book on CD so a student can listen to the chapter while he follows along in the book.

Ages/Grades: 2nd-5th grades

Tuition: \$60/semester

Materials/Copy Fee: \$5/semester

Books/Supplies Needed: (please purchase prior to class) *The Story of Civilization, Vol. 1: The Ancient World* (TAN Publishing), 3 ring binder, 100-page 8x10 blank artist notebook for timeline

Maximum Capacity: 8 students

History (Intermediate): Mrs. Rebecca Huffman

This ancient history class will cover the “Dawn of Civilization” to Emperor Constantine in 35 chapters. Each student will take notes in a pre-written outline, record facts in their own personal timeline, and label maps. Homework assignments will include chapter tests, reading, preparing oral presentations and map activities. Approximately 2 hours of homework will be assigned.

Prerequisites: Students should be able to read independently. However, TAN publishes the book on CD so a student can listen to the chapter while he follows along in the book.

Ages/Grades: 6th-8th grades

Tuition: \$60/semester

Materials/Copy Fee: \$5/semester

Books/Supplies Needed: (please purchase prior to class) *The Story of Civilization, Vol. 1: The Ancient World* (TAN Publishing), 3 ring binder, 100-page 8x10 blank artist notebook for timeline

Maximum Capacity: 8 students

Kodomo no Nihongo-Japanese for Children: Mrs. Hitomi Comstock

An introduction to the Japanese language and Japanese culture through stories, activities, songs, and crafts.

Prerequisites:

Ability to hold and use a pencil and crayon

Ability to sit and listen

Ability to count

Basic craft abilities – cutting, pasting, coloring

Ages/Grades: ages 3-5

Tuition: \$60/semester

Materials/Copy Fee: \$4/semester

Books/Supplies Needed: (please purchase prior to class) Origami paper and pencil & crayons

Maximum Capacity: 6 students

Latin (Elementary): Mrs. Kristen Ciaccia

This course covers 1st and 2nd declension endings, present, imperfect and future endings on verbs of the 1st and 2nd conjugations, the 5 basic cases for nouns, the irregular “to be” verb in present, imperfect and future tenses, singular adjectives and basic diagramming and parsing of declarative sentences. This course can be a solid supplement to a grammar curriculum or a stand-alone grammar course. Each week vocabulary is memorized and derivatives from Latin defined and used in sentences. Therefore, this course can serve as a vocabulary language arts program for the year. Approximately 1 ½ hours of homework will be assigned.

Prerequisites: Student must be an independent reader and able to write and copy from a board with ease.

Ages/Grades: 2nd to 5th grades

Class Tuition: \$60/semester

Materials/Copy Fee: \$5/semester

Books/Supplies Needed: (please purchase prior to class) *Latina Christian I* Student Text (Memoria Press), binder, 5 dividers, binder paper

Maximum Capacity: 10 students

Latin Road I (Intermediate): Mrs. Kristen Ciaccia

Material covered = 1st semester of high school Latin. This course will cover nouns of the 1st and 2nd declension, adjectives of the 1st and 2nd declension, verbs of the 1st conjugation and all six tenses in the active voice, the irregular "to be" verb, declarative, interrogative and imperative sentences, the basic 5 Latin cases for nouns and the vocative case, Latin prayers (Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be, Sanctus, Table Blessing, Salve Regina) and sentence diagramming and parsing. This course is grammar intensive and can serve as a grammar curriculum as well. Students will be encouraged to write certain assignments in cursive, thus covering penmanship. Approximately 3 hours of homework a week will be assigned. There will be approximately 6 take home exams and various in class vocabulary quizzes.

Prerequisites: Students should be strong independent readers, able to write in cursive, and able to focus in class for over an hour.

Ages/Grades: 6th to 8th grades

Class Tuition: \$90/semester

Materials/Copy Fee: \$5/semester

Books/Supplies Needed: (please purchase prior to class) *The Latin Road to English Grammar Vol. 1* (Schola Publications) *Available for purchase at Rainbow Resource, binder, 5 dividers, binder paper

Maximum Capacity: 8 students

Literature: Mrs. Annie Lefler

A survey of classical literature through reading and discussion of original texts.

Prerequisites: Student must be able to read independently and aloud to the class. Approximately 25 pages of reading will be assigned each week.

Ages/Grades: 2nd to 5th grades

Class Tuition: \$60/semester

Books/Supplies Needed: (please purchase prior to class) a notebook and the following books: (1) *Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of Nimh* (2) *The Hobbit* (3) *Stuart Little* and (4) *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*

Maximum Capacity: 8 students

Math Concepts: Mrs. Kristina Bergman

Children will explore fundamental math concepts that are needed to be successful in mathematics and many other subjects. Topics include but not limited to: math facts, fractions, money, different forms of measurement, geometry, decimals, and percentages.

Prerequisites: Children need to be able to read and know simple addition and subtraction facts.

Ages/Grades: 2nd to 5th grades

Class Tuition: \$75/semester

Books/Supplies Needed: (please purchase prior to class) Pencil, paper, folder

Maximum Capacity: 8-10 students

Montessori Style Math: Mrs. Kristina Bergman

Math Montessori style is all about exploring with the senses. Children learn through working with their hands, manipulating material, and using their senses to take in information. Math in itself is an abstract concept, but if these abstract concepts are put into a concrete material that the child can manipulate, they are able to learn these concepts at a much younger age and have them stick with them for a long time. Order, coordination, concentration, and independence are experienced by the child using Montessori concepts and materials.

Prerequisites: None

Ages/Grades: ages 3-6

Class Tuition: \$45/semester

Books/Supplies Needed: (please purchase prior to class) folder

Maximum Capacity: 6 students

Montessori Style Nursery Class: Mrs. Ellen Deak

Student will be practicing "Montessori" style life skills and hands-on art.

Prerequisites: None

Ages/Grades: ages 3-6

Class Tuition: \$60/semester

Books/Supplies Needed: None

Maximum Capacity: 6 students

Music for "Littles" (Preschool & Grammar School): Mrs. Renee Figured

Each music class will be planned around a monthly theme and include: nursery rhymes, finger plays, hymns, crafts, and a story about a composer.

Prerequisites: Students should be able to sit and behave appropriately for circle time, follow one and two-step directions, and sit and listen to a story in a group setting.

Ages/Grades: 3 years to 2nd grade

Class Tuition: \$60/semester

Materials/Copy Fee: \$5/semester

Books/Supplies Needed: None

Maximum Capacity: 8 students

Music (Elementary and Intermediate): Mr. Paul Campbell

Elementary and Intermediate Music classes at Maria Kaupas Academy will offer multifaceted engagement with a myriad of disciplines in the study of music: Gregorian Chant, music theory, music history, music appreciation, vocal music, hymnody, instrumental music, keyboard harmony, sight-reading musical notation, ear training, and more. Engagement with all of these disciplines through weekly classes, homework, and daily practice will produce well-rounded young musicians with the knowledge, skills, and love of music necessary to sing and play music joyfully to God's glory throughout their lives.

Though each level is comprised of three grades (3-4-5 and 6-7-8), re-enrollment each year is highly recommended, since reviewing some material each year will aid in retention and expertise before moving to the next level, while challenging new material will be added with each new year as well. Nevertheless, new students may join the program at any grade level, with the teacher making every effort to bring new students up to speed with their peers.

The curriculum will be produced and provided by the teacher. Two simple, inexpensive instruments should be acquired by all students, as indicated above. The Irish Tin Whistle (a simple cousin of the recorder) will provide a means whereby students learn to play a basic instrument. The Melodica (a breath-powered keyboard instrument with a sound akin to a harmonica) is not intended to provide an instrument for performance, as a means for students to understand intervals and chords for their music theory studies. Used in the classroom as well as at home, even those students with pianos in their homes should acquire one.

Weekly homework will be of two types: **written assignments**, which at the student's discretion may either be completed in one sitting, or spread across the week; and **daily practice and exercises**, such as practicing the Irish Tin Whistle for a few minutes each day, or engaging with daily online ear training drills.

There will be a midterm and final exam during the final class period of each semester. These are largely intended to serve as an aid to the teacher to gauge progress and retention, rather than weighing heavily against students who display slower progress.

Prerequisites: Students should be reading independently, and should have some facility (aided by their parents if necessary) with a home computer in order to complete online assignments. *No previous musical training or experience is required*; in most cases, musicianship is a *learned* skill rather than an inborn trait, and music is taught at Maria Kaupas Academy with the understanding that all children can learn music.

Ages/Grades: grade 3rd-5th (elementary level), grade 6th-8th (intermediate level)

Class Tuition: \$75/semester

Books/Supplies Needed: (please purchase prior to class) Students will need internet access at home, and assistance from parents to access online reading assignments, listening assignments, music theory homework, and music theory exercises.

Irish Tin Whistle: <https://tinyurl.com/ybnr4dsp>

Melodica: <https://tinyurl.com/yahyx64t>

Maximum Capacity: 10 students each section

Please note, division of the class into Elementary and Intermediate levels is predicated upon adequate enrollment at each level. The two levels will be combined into one class with a wider range of grade levels if either level, or both, does not garner adequate enrollment.

Physical Education: Mrs. Rebecca Huffman

Each class we will work on coordination, balance, strength, endurance, and agility skills through structured drills. We will also work on catching, throwing, kicking, and jumping through specific exercises and games. Aspects of gymnastics, ballet, line dancing, and square-dancing also may be taught. The class will incorporate some educational chanting while moving to reinforce their memory skills based on content they may be learning in other classes.

Ages/Grades: ages 3-8

Class Tuition: \$45/semester

Maximum Capacity: 8 students

Science (Elementary): Miss Dorina Amendola

We will continue our introduction to chemistry begun in 2017-18, review key topics and dig deeper, as well as foray into related fields such as geology, biochemistry, and nutrition. Students will become familiar with major concepts otherwise introduced in high school, define new vocabulary terms, observe teacher-led experiments, learn a bit about being a research scientist, and have a good time studying the wonders of God's Universe at the micro-microscopic level. They will become conscious of the full compatibility of science and the Catholic Faith. There will be worksheets every so often; a special project or report may be assigned each semester, and a few field trips.

Prerequisites: Note-taking; maturity during chemistry experiments, which may carry a moderate risk of harm

Ages/Grades: 3rd-6th grades

Class Tuition: \$90/semester

Materials/Copy Fee: TBD

Books/Supplies Needed: (please purchase prior to class) Notebook, pencils, folder

Maximum Capacity: 10 students

Science (Intermediate): Mrs. Ellen Deak

Exploring creation: Chemistry and Physics - This class will explore matter, atoms, chemical compounds and mixtures, energy, motion, sound, light, work, electricity and magnetism. Also, there will be experiments, lab reports, worksheets and projects. Homework assignments will vary depending on the subject and will take approximately 1 hour to complete.

Ages/Grades: 6th-8th grades

Class Tuition: \$75/semester

Materials/Copy Fee: \$2/semester

Books/Supplies Needed: (please purchase prior to class) Apologia's Elementary Chemistry & Physics textbook, notebook, pocket folder, and safety glasses (goggles)

Maximum Capacity: 10 students

Spanish (Elementary): Mrs. Annie Lefler

This class will be an introduction to Spanish-speaking culture and language through songs and games. Students will memorize and be evaluated by the teacher in class.

Prerequisites: None

Ages/Grades: ages 3-6

Class Tuition: \$60/semester

Books/Supplies Needed: None

Maximum Capacity: 8 students

Spanish (Intermediate): Mrs. Annie Lefler

This class will be an introduction to Spanish-speaking culture and language. Students will memorize vocabulary and be evaluated by the teacher in class.

Prerequisites: Students should be able to read independently.

Ages/Grades: 2nd-5th grades

Class Tuition: \$60/semester

Books/Supplies Needed: None

Maximum Capacity: 10 students

Traditional Logic I (2nd semester): Mrs. Kristen Ciaccia

An introductory and systematic course in formal logic that presents the concepts and methodology in a clear, concise, and organized way. The student will begin his study of logic but the student will also, through instruction, learn to take Cornell notes and pull key information from a text. There will be 1 ½ to 2 hours of homework to be assigned each week.

Prerequisites: Students must be independent readers and able to write and copy information from a whiteboard with ease.

Ages/Grades: 6th to 8th grades

Class Tuition: \$60/semester

Materials/Copy Fee: \$5/semester

Books/Supplies Needed: (please purchase prior to class) *Traditional Logic 1 Text & Traditional Logic 1 Student Workbook* (Memoria Press), spiral notebook and folder

Maximum Capacity: 10 students

Writing: Mrs. Jessica Nickel

Students in this class will practice the art of sentence, paragraph, and essay writing through analysis of short literary works. Students will learn to: annotate works; to pick out and define unfamiliar vocabulary and to use this vocabulary in their writing as they grow comfortable with doing so; to notice and analyze allusions; to learn to discuss short stories by examining characterization, point-of-view, symbolism, and other literary devices. Students will also work on mastering the essay format; they will write in coherent sentences while incorporating punctuation, descriptive words, proper subject/verb agreements, and other such writing basics correctly and effectively.

Students will be expected to write four to five papers during the semester. These papers will consist of rough drafts and final drafts, and I will offer substantial feedback on all drafts and follow through to make sure students are actively taking constructive criticism and feedback to heart. There may be one or two exams throughout the semester during which students will have to write an impromptu paragraph on a piece of literature. Students should expect 1-2 hours of homework each week.

Prerequisites: Students should be able to read literary works and come away with a basic understanding of what they read. They should be able to write coherent sentences that demonstrate a comprehension of the literature read.

Ages/Grades: 6th to 8th grades

Class Tuition: \$75/semester

Books/Supplies Needed: (please purchase prior to class) Notebooks, lined paper, pencil and/or pens and the following book:

Myers, Lesha. *Windows to the World: An Introduction to Literary Analysis*. Locust Grove: Institute for Excellence in Writing, Inc., 2008. Print. (**ISBN:** 978-0-9801005-1-8)

Maximum Capacity: 10 students

Legal Note: Maria Kaupas Academy is not a ministry of the Sisters of St. Casimir and their community does not sponsor or endorse the school and is not in any way responsible for its governance or management.