Fifth Grade Curriculum

Overview - Our fifth grade students will be taught in our 5th through 8th grade class. At this age, students are given the opportunity to learn from two different primary teachers. One will focus on English and Language Arts, while the other will teach Math, Science, and History.

Theology - At Salve Regina Academy, the study of theology is infused in every subject throughout our day as students encounter stories of the Saints and biblical lessons in their study of Language Arts, and as they learn to view the world as God's creation in Science and Social Studies. By starting our day with our school-wide Theology Practicum, our students will learn to apply theology to their everyday life through time spent worshipping God in the Church at Mass, or engaging various prayers or devotionals. We will also follow the Spirit of Truth curriculum from Sophia Institute. During their fifth grade year, students will explore in-depth the gift of God’s grace in the Sacraments including what they are and why Jesus instituted them; form, matter, history, celebration, and effects of each Sacrament. They will also learn the meaning of God as the source of life, the Holy Mass and Holy Days of Obligation, and longer biographies of the saints, especially young saints.

Language Arts - Language of God Level D from Catholic Heritage Curricula reviews and teaches new skills including concrete and abstract nouns, singular and plural possessives, verb tenses and helping verbs, diagramming, run-on sentences, prepositions, conjunctions, crafting better sentences, paragraphs, and many others. Lessons on grade-appropriate writing skills are also included as well as regular journaling assignments with topic suggestions. Students will also work through My Catholic Speller which uses a variety of activities to review and teach new skills including Rhyming Words, ABC Order, Understanding New Words, Antonyms, Wordsearch, Synonyms, and many others.

Social Studies - Our social studies curriculum will be taught on a rotating schedule and this year’s social studies text for our 5-8 grade class is All Ye Lands: Origins of World Cultures. This text covers world history and culture from prehistory through the Greeks, the rise of Christianity, up through the Middle Ages, as well as developments in China, Japan, Russia, Europe, Africa, and the Americas up to the mid-1800s. It is a Catholic text that provides a balanced exploration of all major peoples and civilizations.

Science - Due to our multi-grade classes, science will be taught on a rotating schedule. This year's science text for our 5-8 grade class Behold and See 6 is firmly grounded in the belief that faith and reason are inseparable. It provides students with an in-depth, conceptual understanding of physical science, ecology, and astronomy while communicating the richness and order of God’s creation and reflecting on the proper use of scientific knowledge for the glory of God. In Unit 1, students study and experiment with matter and energy, electricity and magnetism, and levers and pulleys. In Unit 2, students tour the biomes of the world, learn about interdependence, food chains, climates, and the remarkable “equipment” God has given His creatures to help them survive. In the third and final unit, students discover the wonders of astronomy and explore the night sky, solar system, galaxies, and the universe. In addition to learning the material from this textbook, students will also be exposed to native animals and plants, and local agriculture through adventure-based learning. Furthermore, students at this age will have the opportunity to participate in "A Mountain Classroom" hosted by the Appalachian Mountain Club and will learn outdoors skills such as how to read a map, use a compass, leave no trace ethics, planning and preparing for a trip, and trail etiquette.
Mathematics – *HMH Into Math* was built from expert insights and real teacher feedback to deliver a student-centered, outcomes-driven approach to learning mathematics that supports deeper understanding of concepts along with true procedural fluency and application embedded throughout. These solutions were designed to foster a longstanding culture of learning that helps students to grow and continue growing year after year by allowing teachers to tailor lessons to the needs and learning styles of their students. At the core of this curriculum is the belief that growth at every level is possible, and its driving goal is to create fearless problem solvers.

**Art - Ever Ancient Ever New Level 1** from Catholic Heritage Curricula is an art textbook that combines art history, art theory, art appreciation, and art practice into one program. In the Art History component, students will be exposed to Cave Art, Egyptian, Greek, Roman, Early Christian, Byzantine, etc. The Art Theory component focuses on the elements of art, covers types of compositions, pattern, symbolism, symmetry, color theory, and perspective. During these lessons, students will complete picture studies of masterpieces to foster Art Appreciation. And finally, students practice art with projects that teach fine art skills such as using lines with different qualities; simplified human figure drawing; drawing facial features; mixing paints; creating actual textures with tooling foil; working with watercolors to create implied texture; drawing with linear perspective; painting with atmospheric perspective; sculpting and drawing the human form in action; creating implied space through overlapping and shading; and more!

**Library** - We will be using the Gorham Public Library in order to foster a genuine love of books in our Fifth Graders. They will learn about the different types of books available, basic library etiquette, and how to locate books in a library. Our students will be encouraged to find and read books about subjects they enjoy as well as subjects with which they are unfamiliar in order to broaden their knowledge base and exposure to various topics.

**Music** - Music plays an enormous role in a child’s education and assists with brain development, particularly with relation to language and reasoning. Music will be incorporated into our Theology lessons as children learn liturgical music as well as various songs that assist with memory retrieval. Students will learn to read sheet music and they will be introduced to various musical instruments. They will also participate in our school-wide concerts which will incorporate seasonal music as well as classic selections.

**Physical Education** - Our goal is to foster a life-long love of physical activity and to introduce our students to various ways to enjoy God’s creation. At the Fifth Grade level, this is completed by challenging students through fun and engaging games to improve their physical abilities, balance, strength, and endurance. Lessons will also include the basic rules and techniques to playing golf, tennis, pickleball, lacrosse, and various other sports. Along with our whole school, students will be participating in hikes and nature walks which will also expose them to the beautiful trails that we have here in the White Mountains. Furthermore, over the course of their time at Salve Regina Academy, students will be introduced to diverse age-appropriate outdoor activities such as snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, canoeing, swimming, ice skating etc.

**Language** - Salve Regina Academy students will participate in our school-wide language program *The Latin and Greek Roots Challenge* by The Rooted Mind. This is a fun, educational program designed to introduce students to Latin and Greek roots, prefixes, and suffixes along with their meanings, which are the “building blocks” of over 60% of the English language. The underlying intent of the program is to instill in students the discipline to "deconstruct" words into their component roots and, therefore, to unlock the meaning of those words.