

AQUINAS ACADEMY

LOWER SCHOOL CURRICULUM

KINDERGARTEN

MATH	<p>Mathematics is based on inquiry, exploration and discovery of their environment leading to the student's future development of abstract thought. Through a variety of teaching strategies the children are exposed to both structured and informal group activities. Kindergarten students use the <i>Saxon Math 1 Series</i>. The following lessons are introduced: Math Meeting Board, Counters of a variety of sizes/shapes, sorting items, pattern blocks-master patterning skills, attribute sets, number cubes, balances, number lines, clock dials, math concepts, measuring units, ordinal numbers, count by 10's, count by 2's, count by 5's, read the calendar, addition and subtraction, money-recognize and identify coins, recognize numerals 0-180, graphing activities and interpreting simple charts, recognize the place values of numbers in hundreds, tens, and ones, recognize and print numerals 0-100, geometric solids, and identify the shapes.</p>
SCIENCE	<p>Natural sciences enable the children to understand themselves, others, the world in which they live, and their Creator. The children examine daily weather conditions and predict changes, explain that the earth has changed though time, compare seasonal changes, study the Rain Forest, examine planting materials, compare the habitats and food of animals, observe the life cycle of butterflies, observe the growth of plants, discuss the color changes observed in the leaves, experiment with magnifying glasses, measure with scales and balances.</p>
LANGUAGE ARTS	<p>Language Arts embodies the communication skills of speaking, listening, reading, and writing. A skill of reading needs to be reading readiness. Learning Experiences in our <i>Modern Curriculum Press Phonics</i> and <i>Open Court Reading Series</i> include the following lessons: experience in reading skills, language development, master sequence of alphabet, recognize upper and lower case letters, identify vocabulary words, auditory and visual perception, listening and visual literacy, printing skills, left to right progression, sequencing, eye-hand coordination, rhyming words, enhance creative thinking, increase oral vocabulary, answer in complete sentences, journaling, independent reading, recognize details of a story, retell a story, to be able to do a simple oral book report, to develop an interest in literature, building comprehension skills, poems, worksheets, and readers.</p>
SOCIAL STUDIES	<p>Social Studies should introduce to the children the people and customs of the community, country and the world around them. Goals include: recognize the importance of self and others, appreciate one's own family and other families, identify occupations performed by people in local government, promote a feeling of patriotism, respect our American heritage and that of other cultures, demonstrate fairness, cooperation and courtesy in dealing with others, respect the ideas of others, recognize the importance of community helpers, learn about different occupations, recognize the importance of maps and globes, and celebrate holidays throughout the year.</p>
RELIGION	<p>The Religion program follows the liturgical calendar of the Catholic Church. In the 1st semester students learn Old Testament stories from Creation to the Birth of Christ. The 2nd semester focuses on the life of Christ including His Miracles, Parables, Death, and Resurrection. Students also learn about saints, parts of the Mass, the Blessed Mother, and the Pope.</p>
SPANISH	<p>Kindergarten children will learn basic Spanish vocabulary words and phrases needed to enhance conversational skills: greetings and introductions, feelings, numbers, parts of the body, colors, clothing, animals, and family.</p>
CENTERS	<p>In center time activities develop and reinforce skills through active play in small group settings. Some of these activities include painting, imagination, writing, reading, creating, playdough, blocks and listening.</p>
STORY TIME	<p>Kindergarten children will be exposed to a variety of authors in order to increase their appreciation for different literary genres.</p>
ART	<p>Art experiences in kindergarten must be based upon the developmental needs of children and allow creative expression: experience different media of art forms, incorporate the holidays in our creations, express ourselves through art, drawing, painting, crafts, sculpting, graphics – create a simple pattern, observe and experiment with simple techniques.</p>
MUSIC	<p>Goals: to promote the joy and appreciation of music, to instill feelings of joy and love of God through music, to establish good listening skills, to simulate participation in music activity, rhythm-move to the beat, melody-differentiate between songs, form-response songs teacher sings and students sing a responding answer, tone and color-differentiate between vocal and instrumental sounds, to learn finger plays, perform sign language with songs taught, and to use music to express our love for God</p>

1ST GRADE

<p>MATH</p>	<p><i>Saxon Math 2.</i> This is a “hands-on” oriented program emphasizing use of manipulative and mental math. Concepts are presented in carefully sequenced increments and are constantly reviewed and practiced.</p> <p>There are 5 instructional components of Saxon Math 2: the Meeting, the Lesson, written practice, number fact practice, and assessments. Each day begins with the Meeting where students practice skills related to calendar, counting, patterning, mental computation, temperature, time, money, problem solving and reading a graph. Lessons are taught through group activities and reinforced through guided and independent practice worksheets. The students graph data, tell time, count money, learn ordinal positions, master basic adding and subtraction, begin multiplication and division, learn basic geometry, measure weight and height, find perimeter area, estimate, identify fractions and patterns.</p>
<p>SCIENCE</p>	<p><i>Discovery Works</i>, Houghton Mifflin Science. This course provides numerous hands-on activities, systematically presenting these investigations in conjunction with concrete scientific information. Theme lessons are presented as ideas and not just offered as facts in isolation. The students learn to think and act like scientists as they study various topics including: the kinds, characteristics, and classification of living things; how to keep their bodies fit and healthy; magnets and their properties; the effects of weather and the seasons; and a study of certain aspects of the earth’s land and water. The ideas are presented in ways that address individual needs offering suggestions for varied learning styles and levels.</p>
<p>LANGUAGE ARTS</p>	<p><i>Student Anthologies, Level 1.</i> SRA Open Court Reading. A comprehensive reading, writing, and learning program. Students begin with six Big Books with the following goals: phonemic awareness, sound/spelling associations, reading fluency, introduction to writing, and responsibility for their own work; students also begin working with Take-Home decodable books. The student anthologies move first graders into the next stage of reading and language skills. Both anthologies are filled with authentic literature that is organized into units with two types of themes: universal topics of interest (friendship, perseverance, courage) and research units (including country life, surviving, medicine). These units of literature are designed so that children gain insight from selection to selection and unit to unit.</p> <p><i>SRA Open Court Reading</i> incorporates all facets of language arts into its program. Students practice: phonemic awareness in whole group and individual settings, comprehension skills and strategies, listening skills through dictation exercises, and poetry. English grammar is taught in the natural context of writing and is reinforced throughout the daily lessons.</p> <p><i>Phonics, Level B.</i> Modern Curriculum Press. Students work with MCP’s second grade program. This book focuses on long and short vowels, vowel pairs, diphthongs, and digraphs, as well as compound words, prefixes and suffixes. High frequency word instruction continues in Level B. New skills are introduced through an array of multisensory teaching options, which are then applied through the student book activities. Student progress is continually tracked with pre/post lesson assessment.</p> <p><i>Spelling Grade 1.</i> Spelling words are teacher generated and coincide with phonic skills, sight words, days of the week, and months of the year. Daily spelling activities culminate in a weekly assessment.</p> <p><i>Handwriting Grade 1, Zaner/Bloser.</i> The students develop and practice correct positioning during the writing process. The handwriting workbook is aimed at introducing and developing the manuscript alphabet letters. The students reinforce their writing skills through writing sentences, phrases, and words. Upon completion of this workbook, the students move to a handwriting folder where they begin copying exercises and creative writing. Sentences are extracted from classic children’s literature and the Bible. There exercises instruct the students in spelling, mechanics, basic grammar, and vocabulary.</p>
<p>HISTORY SOCIAL STUDIES</p>	<p><i>A Child’s Place</i>, Harcourt Brace Social Studies, 2000. <i>What Your First Grader Needs to Know: Fundamentals of a Good First Grade Education</i>, E.D. Hirsch.</p> <p>First grade social studies includes learning experiences that draw upon the main themes in social studies: Geography, history, civics and government, economics and culture. Students examine topics such as: community, family life, schools of today and long ago, our land and its resources, our country and its heroes, and the world near and far. Map and globe skills are taught throughout the course of the year.</p>
<p>RELIGION</p>	<p><i>Our Heavenly Father</i>, Faith and Life Series 1. <i>Leading the Little Ones to Mary</i>, Monfort Publications. <i>Child’s Bible History</i>, Rev. F.J.Knecht, Tan.</p> <p>The first grade religion text is a simple introduction to Bible stories and the teachings of the faith. It aims at helping young students understand basic truths of our faith such as: the Trinity, sin, grace, heaven, Sacred Scripture, the sacraments, and the Blessed Mother. They learn various prayers.</p>

2ND GRADE

<p>MATH</p>	<p><i>Saxon Math 3.</i> The students compare and order numbers; identify place value and ordinal position to twentieth; identify and complete patterns; solve routine and non-routine problems; master all basic addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division facts; add/subtract multi-digit numbers; multiply a multi-digit number by a single digit-number; divide by a single-digit divisors; add positive/negative numbers; picture/name/order fractions; subtract fractions with common denominators; measure to the nearest quarter inch, millimeter, foot and yard; identify volume; compare and measure mass; tell time; measure perimeter and area; determine elapsed time; count money; make change from a dollar; graph ordered pairs; tally, and create, read, and write observations from real graphs, pictograph, bar graphs, Venn diagrams, and line graphs.</p>
<p>SCIENCE</p>	<p><i>Discovery Works</i>, Houghton Mifflin. This science program provides a balance of exciting hands-on activities and engaging content resources. <i>Discovery Works</i> focuses on the point that effective science education gradually introduces students to the knowledge, methods, skills, and attitudes of scientists; while simultaneously recognizing and respecting the educational and developmental needs of all students. Scientific literacy is an important educational goal for all the students. They learn how to use science process, critical thinking, and scientific reasoning skills.</p>
<p>LANGUAGE ARTS</p>	<p><i>Student Anthologies, Level 2.</i> SRA Open Court Reading. One of the founding principles of SRA <i>Open Court Reading</i> is that children need to read fine literature. Throughout the program, students participate daily in reading, writing, discussing, researching, and thinking about authentic, high quality – fiction and non-fiction in a range of genres – presented in the <i>Student Anthologies</i>.</p> <p>The children learn and explore themes such as Sharing Stories, Kindness, Look Again, Fossils, Courage, and Our Country and Its People.</p> <p>Students learn the following skills: Recognizing and understanding the conventions of print and books, recognize discrete sounds in words, and associate sounds and spelling to read words. The students learn and develop listening and speaking skills, as well as inquiry, research and study skills.</p> <p><i>Voyages in English</i>, Loyola University Press. The students learn the following target skills: thinking skills, sentences and sentence parts, nouns and pronouns, verbs, adjectives, and adverbs. The English course encompasses topics such as literature, listening, speaking, composition, grammar, mechanics, usage, and language elements and strategies. Creative writing is also included.</p> <p><i>Spelling</i>, SRA. The program focuses on recognizing dependable spelling patterns in high frequency words appropriate to children’s level of spelling development, so they do not have to depend on memorization as their only spelling strategy. The program introduces spelling of compound words, contractions, plurals, and possessives. The students use the spelling words in riddles, crossword puzzles, and cloze activities.</p> <p><i>Phonics Level C</i>, Modern Curriculum Press. The course focuses on long and short vowels, vowel pairs, diphthongs, and digraphs, as well as compound words, prefixes, and suffixes. High frequency words instruction continues on this level. This is accomplished through a multi-sensory approach, using auditory and visual discriminatory exercises, sound blending, work pronunciation, and culminating in reading, spelling, and writing words in sentences.</p> <p><i>Handwriting Grade 2</i>, Zaner/Bloser. The students develop and practice correct positioning during the writing process. The handwriting course introduces and develops manuscript-writing skills of the alphabet letters as well as cursive writing. The students reinforce their writing skills through writing words, phrases, and sentences.</p>
<p>HISTORY SOCIAL STUDIES</p>	<p><i>Making a Difference</i>, Harcourt Brace Social Studies.</p> <p>Students study six units: <i>We Belong To Many Groups</i>, <i>Where We Live</i>, <i>We All Work Together</i>, <i>People Make History</i>, <i>Being a Good Citizen</i>, and <i>People in Time and Place</i>. The students learn how to use maps, make maps, find land and water on a map, use a globe, read a table, follow diagrams, read a history map, find cause and effect, use a map grid, learn the capitals of the states, and learn about some government.</p>
<p>RELIGION</p>	<p><i>Jesus Our Life</i>, Faith and Life Series 2.</p> <p>The second grade Religion is devoted to preparing the student for the first reception of the sacraments of Penance and Holy Eucharist. It aims at helping one realize God’s personal love for each person as manifested especially in these gifts of confession and Holy Communion. The students learn about the purpose of man’s existence; God and His perfections; the unity and trinity God; original and actual sins; the Redemption; the Church, the Holy Eucharist; the seven sacraments; and the Ten Commandments. The students also learn various prayers.</p>

3RD GRADE

<p>MATH</p>	<p><i>Saxon Math 54</i>. The students become proficient in math through the Saxon method of incremental development and continual review. The students: read, write, compare, and order large numbers; master all basic addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division facts; and work with fractions, decimals, and percents. The student will add columns of numbers, find missing addends, and add and subtract three-digit numbers with regrouping. Multiplication problems include carrying, and multiplying a three-digit number by a two-digit number. The students complete division problems with up to three-digit answers and solve problems with and without remainders. Measurement, geometry, graphing, probability, telling time, counting money, and finding temperatures are topics that are also developed.</p>
<p>SCIENCE</p>	<p><i>Discovery Works</i>, Houghton Mifflin. Students learn science concepts through a balance of hands-on activities and solid content knowledge. They use science process skills, critical-thinking skills, and scientific reasoning skills to help develop scientific literacy. The students learn about the following topics: Life Cycles; Sun, Moon, and Earth; Matter, Energy, and Forces; Earth's Resources; and Roles of Living Things.</p>
<p>LANGUAGE ARTS</p>	<p><i>Student Anthologies, Level 3</i>. SRA Open Court Reading. Novels: <i>Sarah, Plain and Tall</i>, Patricia McLachlan; <i>Mr. Popper's Penguins</i>, Richard Atwater; <i>Louis Braille</i>, Margaret Davidson; <i>Little House in the Big Woods</i>, Laura Ingalls Wilder; <i>The Hundred Dresses</i>, Eleanor Estes.</p> <p>The third grade reading program develops the skills in reading and comprehension, written and oral communication, grammar, usage, and spelling. The aim is to have the child read, write, and communicate fluently, clearly, and with understanding. The literature is organized according to six themes, which are: Friendship, City Wildlife, Imagination, Storytelling, Money, and Country Life. The student will also be reading several novels that will not only develop a love for reading, but also foster a greater appreciation of literature. By learning to analyze stories in literature, the students gain a better understanding of plot, characters, setting, making inferences, drawing conclusions, identifying main idea and details, making predictions, understanding cause and effect, and classifying and categorizing information.</p> <p><i>Voyages in English</i>, Loyola University Press. The English course is designed to include the major areas of the language arts curriculum: writing, grammar, correct usage, mechanics, dictionary and library skills, speaking, listening skills, and literature. Capitalization, punctuation, proper sentence formation, and correct usage of nouns, pronouns, verbs, adjectives, and adverbs are emphasized in the grammar and writing lessons.</p> <p><i>Spelling</i>, SRA. The program focuses on developing the students' spelling skills through the study and practice of words which demonstrate the use of specific spelling or phonics rules.</p> <p>The <i>Vocabulary Workshop</i>, Sadlier-Oxford series helps the students strengthen their vocabulary by practicing, defining, spelling, and utilizing approximately 160 vocabulary words.</p> <p><i>SRA Phonics & Word Studies</i>. In Phonics, the students continue to review phonetic word knowledge and skill foundation to strengthen and improve both the student's reading and writing proficiency. Lessons concentrate on the following topics: consonants, vowels, diphthongs, blends, digraphs, prefixes, suffixes, synonyms, antonyms, homonyms, plurals, and compounds.</p> <p><i>Handwriting Grade 3</i>, Zaner-Bloser. Handwriting in third grade begins with a review of the manuscript letters. Then, cursive writing is taught and practiced.</p>
<p>HISTORY SOCIAL STUDIES</p>	<p><i>Communities</i>, Harcourt Brace Social Studies. Book and Activity Book.</p> <p>The students discover that a community can be identified by its location, its people, its rules and laws, its resources, and its history. The students learn about where people build cities and towns and why they build them there. The students discover how continuity and change affected the beginning of our country and how inventions changed the way we live. The students compare and contrast the organization of local, state, and national governments.</p>
<p>RELIGION</p>	<p><i>Our Life With Jesus</i>, Faith and Life Series 3. <i>The New Saint Joseph Baltimore Catechism #1</i>, Catholic Book Publishing Company.</p> <p>Third grade religion aims to continue and strengthen the child's understanding, love, and appreciation for the sacraments of Penance and Holy Eucharist. The students identify ways God helps one to know Him, namely, through the Old Testament, Jesus, Tradition, and Scripture. The students learn about the creation, Adam and Eve, and those that prepared the people for the Savior including Abraham, Moses, and David. The students are able to identify the beginning of Jesus' public life, and to know and explain some of His miracles. The students learn the Ten Commandments, the Stations of the Cross, the parts of the Mass, the Seven Sacraments, and about the lives of Mary and the Saints.</p>

4TH GRADE

MATH	<p><i>Saxon Math 65, An Incremental Development.</i> The students become proficient through the Saxon method of incremental development and continual review, which consists of the introduction of topics in easily understandable pieces (increments), and the continual review of topics, which are never dropped, but are instead increased in complexity and practiced daily. Problem solving is emphasized as students are called upon to apply math techniques and tools to real math situations through word problems. Math 65 includes whole number concepts and computation, mental computation, patterns and functions, measurement, and statistics and probability. Work with fractions, mixed numbers, decimals, and geometry is developed significantly. Students are introduced to percentages and negative numbers.</p>
SCIENCE	<p><i>Discovery Works, Houghton Mifflin Science.</i> Fourth grade science focuses on providing students with learning experiences that relate science to their everyday world through a variety of hands-on experiments, coupled with the activities and wealth of knowledge provided by the text. The students study five units: Earth's Land, Properties of Matter, Classifying Living Things, Magnetism and Electricity, Weather and Climate.</p>
LANGUAGE ARTS	<p><i>Student Anthologies, Level 4.</i> SRA Open Court Reading Program. Novels: <i>The Cabin Faced West</i>, Jean Fritz; <i>Francis and Clare</i>, <i>Saints of Assisi</i>, Helen Walker Homan; <i>The Door in the Wall</i>, Marguerite De Angeli; <i>Caddie Woodlawn</i>, Carol Ryrie Brink.</p> <p>The literature in the Student Anthologies is organized according to themes, which give the reader a point of reference from which to think, discuss, and learn. The six themes that are studied are: Risks and Consequences, Dreams to Jobs, From Mystery to Medicine, Surviving, Communication, and Trail of Freedom.. The students also read several novels that help to develop their love for reading and appreciation of literature. By learning to analyze these novels, the students gain a better understanding of plot, characters, setting, theme, making inferences, drawing conclusions, identifying main idea and details, making predictions, understanding cause and effect, and categorizing information.</p> <p><i>Voyages in English, Loyola University Press.</i> English grammar for the fourth grade focuses on developing the students' skills in written and oral communication. This is accomplished primarily by studying examples in the text of various writing techniques and then imitating those techniques while creating original paragraphs and stories. Students grow in experience and confidence in oral communication through short oral presentations on various topics of interest. Students also study the grammatical structure of the sentence in greater depth, examining the five major parts of speech, proper usage of the parts of the speech, proper sentence structure, and the correct use of capitalization and punctuation.</p> <p><i>Spelling, SRA.</i> This program focuses on developing the students' spelling skills through the study and practice of words that demonstrate the use of specific spelling rules or the use of specific phonics keys.</p> <p><i>Vocabulary Workshop, Sadlier-Oxford.</i> Fourth grade vocabulary assists students in developing fluency and comprehension in their daily reading by introducing them to approximately 195 vocabulary words. Students learn an average of 12 words per week.</p> <p><i>Handwriting Grade 4, Zaner-Bloser.</i> The students improve the overall appearance of their cursive writing by practicing spacing, neatness, slant, smooth and rhythmic letter formation and letter connections.</p>
HISTORY SOCIAL STUDIES	<p><i>How America Began, Sadlier. How America Grew, Sadlier.</i></p> <p>Fourth grade history focuses on American history. Students are introduced to the major events, dates, and people of America, as well as the beliefs, ideals, and achievements that helped to shape America. Students study the Native Americans, Leif Ericson, the American Revolution, the formation of the nation, the Civil War, the building of the West, the presidents, industrial development, and the United States as a world leader. Students also become more proficient in basic map and globe skills. They also memorize the names, locations, and capitals of the fifty states of our country.</p>
RELIGION	<p><i>Jesus Our Guide, Faith and Life Series 4. The New Saint Joseph Baltimore Catechism #1, Catholic Book Publishing Company.</i></p> <p>Fourth grade religion introduces the students to God's plan of salvation for mankind. The students examine the creation and fall of man, God's promise of a Savior, and the Old Testament Covenant, which prepared the way for the New and Eternal Covenant established by Jesus Christ. The students then examine how Jesus Christ, through the Catholic Church and her sacraments, guides us on our earthly pilgrimage to our eternal home in heaven.</p>

5TH GRADE

<p>MATH</p>	<p><i>Saxon Math 76, An Incremental Development.</i> The Saxon method of incremental development and continual review is presented in daily lessons consisting of four components. The first component includes warm-up activities on facts practice, mental math practice, and a problem solving opportunity. The second is an explanation of the new incremental skill and concept. Practice problems of the new skill make up the third component. The fourth one is a set of problems covering previously presented skills and concepts and those of the current lesson. Lessons cover: basic operations and word problem analysis; operations with fractions, decimals, and percents; tables and graphs; the number line and coordinate plane; operations with integers; geometric concepts with angle measurement; units of measure; problem solving with estimation; compound interest; introduction to algebraic formulas; and roman numerals.</p>
<p>SCIENCE</p>	<p><i>Discovery Works</i>, Houghton Mifflin. Students don't just learn science facts, but critical thinking, scientific reasoning and science process skills. They learn to ask questions and then investigate the areas of Plant and Animal Systems, Ecosystems, Matter and Energy, Light and Sound, The Solar System, and Geology.</p>
<p>LANGUAGE ARTS</p>	<p><i>Student Anthologies, Level 5.</i> SRA Open Court Reading Program. Novels: <i>Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of Nimh</i>, Robert O'Brien; <i>The Story of The Other Wise Man</i>, Henry Van Dyke; <i>The Wheel on the School</i>, Meindert DeJong; <i>A Wrinkle in Time</i>, Madeleine L'Engle; <i>Amos Fortune: Free Man</i>, Elizabeth Yates.</p> <p>The fifth grade reading program continues to develop skills in reading, comprehension, written and oral communication, grammar, usage and spelling. The aim is to have students read fluently, clearly, and with understanding. The literature is divided into six themes: Cooperation and Competition, Back Through the Stars, Heritage, The Civil War, New Frontiers, and Journeys and Quests. Novels are read and studied through participation in literature groups. Members of the groups are given a specific area of study for the assigned reading section of the novel. The areas of study include artistic presentation, summarizing, discussion leading, literary highlights, word definitions, and correlation to real life. Independent reading is strongly encouraged and enhanced through scheduled periods for silent reading.</p> <p><i>Voyages in English</i>, Loyola University Press. The English course is designed to include the major areas of the language arts curriculum: grammar and correct usage; sentence structure; dictionary, thesaurus usage; library and research skills; writing skills; and speaking and listening skills. Grammar and applied usage is developed through exercises and writing assignments. Writing skills emphasis creative writing and progress from sentences to paragraphs, essays, and reports. The continued development of the writing process through the thoughtful use of prewriting, drafting, revising, proofreading, and publishing are emphasized.</p> <p><i>Spelling</i>, SRA. Fifth grade Spelling focuses on the development of spelling skills through a systematic approach based on recognizable spelling patterns in high-frequency words. Lessons encourage contextual learning rather than isolated memorization. Weekly lessons cover 30 words and consist of four workbook pages of activities to help students identify spelling patterns, use words in context, identify spelling errors, and extend vocabulary usage of words.</p> <p><i>Vocabulary Workshop</i>, Sadlier-Oxford. Level Blue Vocabulary teaches students new vocabulary that is useful at the fifth grade level. The program is meant both to help younger students increase their vocabulary and to improve their vocabulary skills. It is designed to help prepare students for vocabulary-related items found in standardized tests.</p>
<p>HISTORY SOCIAL STUDIES</p>	<p><i>All Ye Lands; World Cultures and Geography</i>, Ignatius. Students learn about the very beginnings of civilization, ancient Greece and Rome, the histories of Europe, the Middle East, the Far East, as well as North and South America. Along the way, the role of Christianity and the Catholic Church is highlighted, including lives of the Saints. Geography skills are also taught, including the ability to read and use political, physical, topographical and climate maps.</p>
<p>RELIGION</p>	<p><i>Credo: I Believe</i>, Faith and Life Series 5. <i>The New Saint Joseph Baltimore Catechism #1</i>, Catholic Book Publishing Company. Religion for the fifth grade is devoted to the Creed. The basic truths are studied to demonstrate that faith is not simply a system of learned beliefs, but is to be lived by our students. Students examine more fully, the teachings of grace, free will, the prophets, angels, forgiveness, sacrifice, and the Church. These teachings will be presented through the study of the Holy Trinity presented in the Apostle's Creed.</p>

ART

The students acquire technical knowledge and skill in the following areas:

- Basic skills: drawing, painting, sculpting, printing, cutting, pasting, ...
- Theory of the chromatic circle
- Knowledge of terms related to colors
- Perspective
- Proportions
- Contrast of shade and light
- Expression through techniques and color
- Art history terminology
- Knowledge of artists and their periods

The goal of lower school art, is to increase each child's ability to observe, and to be open to inspiration from the surrounding world and from inside themselves. The students learn skills that they will build upon in the future lessons and years.

In Art History, the focus is on a wide variety of periods so that students are exposed to a vast number of artists and styles.

MUSIC

The goal of the general music department is to offer students the opportunity to study and appreciate music through the following medium:

- The singing of general song material in unison, as partner songs and in parts
- Experiencing music through Eurhythmics, which gives the student the opportunity of moving through music-a whole-body approach to music education
- Learning the use of percussion instruments through rhythmic exercises and games and as accompaniment to song material
- Developing an appreciation of music through the study of composers and their musical styles through various periods of music
- Listening to and analyzing various forms of music
- Understanding music in relation to history and culture, in close association with social studies lessons of the classrooms
- Learning to read music through an understanding of musical notation and the mechanics of music
- Performing and improvising music, using instruments the students study in private lessons situations

The above concepts are taught in each grade and according to the age-appropriateness of each level.

COMPUTER SCIENCE

Grades 4 and 5

The elementary students use their higher order thinking, creativity, research and interpretation skills to complete a variety of technology-based assignments.

Basic skills and concepts of computer hardware, software, telecommunication and productivity technologies are covered with a strong emphasis on improving the students' word processing, desktop publishing, typing and Internet research skills.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Students are taught according to the National Standards in Physical Education

1. Demonstrates competency in many movement form and proficiency in a few movement forms
2. Applies movement concepts and principles to the learning and development of motor skills
3. Exhibits a physically active lifestyle
4. Achieves and maintains a health-enhancing level of physical fitness
5. Demonstrates responsible personal and social behavior in physical activities settings
6. Demonstrates understanding and respect for differences among people in physical activity settings
7. Understands that physical activity provides opportunities for enjoyment, challenge, self-expression, and social interaction.

Physical education at the elementary level helps students learn to work with partners and groups, share equipment, take turns, and solve problems, as they develop physical coordination.

The above is taught through the following courses of study: individual fitness activities, social development/teamwork/cooperative games, sport skills/team play, playground games, dance/movement, and relays.

AQUINAS ACADEMY

“A school in the Catholic Tradition: Academic Excellence, Lifelong Values”

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