



REGINA CAELI  
ACADEMY™

## Learning Priorities

### *Homeschooling with Regina Caeli Academy*

*In the classical pedagogy, the child is working on key skills - some will be repeated in future years, and some must be mastered at a scheduled time to be successful. The breakdown below helps the parent determine which skills to focus on at each grade level when homeschooling with Regina Caeli Academy.*

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### **Kindergarten**

#### **Priorities for Kindergarten**

- Identify colors and shapes
- Count and write numbers 1-100
- Know the names of the letters
- Know the sounds of the first 26 phonograms (the alphabet)
- Write the alphabet, both capital and lowercase correctly
- Sound out simple one-syllable words
- Write his or her own name
- Retell a simple story
- Make the Sign of the Cross
- Be able to follow instructions in the classroom, for example,
  - how to transition from one activity to another
  - how to get out lunch and put it away when finished
  - how to place backpack in the correct spot
  - how to line up and go in and out for recess

## **First grade**

### **Priorities for 1st Grade: Math and Early Reading**

#### **Math Skills:**

- Learn math facts for addition and subtraction for Fact Families up through 20
- Skip count by 2s, 10s
- Use place value - ones and tens
- Tell & write time - hours & half hours
- Identify coins
- Use halves, fourths

#### **Reading & Writing**

- Early reading - Reading and sight words through at least Little Angel Reader Level C
- Copy a sentence correctly with correct capitalization and spelling

#### **Religion**

- Hail Mary and Our Father
- Saints of North America
- 1st Communion Catechism

#### **Science**

- Skills of observation
- Wonder of God's creation

## **Second grade**

### **Priorities for 2nd Grade: Math and Phonics**

#### **Math Skills:**

- Learn math facts for addition and subtraction for Fact Families up through 100
- Count, read & write numbers to 1000
- Skip count by 5s, 100s
- Place value to 100s
- Tell & write time to 5 minutes
- Fractions - thirds, parts in a whole

#### **Reading & Writing**

- Early reading - Read independently (Easy Reader Level: ie. 2nd grade Seton Readers)
- Correct writing posture and correct formation of letters
- Write a simple sentence correctly from dictation

#### **Religion**

- Act of Contrition

#### **Science**

- Skills of observation
- Wonder of God's creation

### **Third grade**

#### **Priorities for 3rd Grade: Math and Reading Comprehension**

##### **Math Skills:**

- Add & subtract multi-digit numbers with carrying or borrowing
- Know multiplication facts up to 100
- Find equivalent fractions
- Tell & write time to the minute
- Compute areas & perimeters of squares & rectangles

##### **Reading & Writing:**

- Read beginning chapter books independently
- Write complete, correct sentences
- Use correct verb tenses
- Write in cursive

##### **Religion:**

- The Ten Commandments

##### **Science:**

- Wonder of God's creation
- Vocabulary for the study of Astronomy

### **Fourth grade**

#### **Priorities for 4th Grade: Math, Independent Reading, Write supporting sentences**

##### **Math Skills:**

- Know multiplication & division facts up to 144
- Find factors/multiples, prime/composite numbers
- Multiply 2 digit numbers
- Divide 4-digit by 1-digit numbers
- Add & subtract fractions with same denominators
- Multiply fraction by whole number
- Name & compare decimals to 2 places
- Compute area & perimeter of triangles
- Name and measure angles

##### **Language Arts:**

- Identify nouns, verbs
- Use singular, plural, possessive
- Write several sentences on a topic following a simple outline

##### **History:**

- Independent Reading

##### **Religion:**

- The Seven Sacraments
- Familiarity with Old Testament Bible stories

##### **Science:**

- Observation and illustration using nature as content

## **Fifth grade**

### **Priorities for 5th Grade: Math and Paragraph formatting**

#### **Math Skills:**

- Read & write decimals to thousandths
- Use 4 operations on decimals
- Divide by 2-digit divisors
- Add & subtract fractions with different denominators
- Multiply fractions
- Divide whole numbers by fractions
- Convert measurements
- Compute volume
- Graph points on coordinate plane

#### **Reading & Writing:**

- Write a paragraph with a topic sentence following an outline

#### **Grammar:**

- Identify adjectives, adverbs
- Identify subject and predicate

#### **Religion:**

- Apostle's Creed
- Familiarity with New Testament Bible stories

#### **Science:**

- Introduction to basic scientific disciplines and the Scientific Method
- Observation of natural world using hands-on science experiments

## **Sixth grade**

### **Priorities for 6th Grade: Math, Grammar, and Advanced Paragraphing**

#### **Math Skills:**

- Ratio, rate and percent
- Divide fractions by fractions
- Find GCF and LCM
- Use rational number line
- Use whole number exponents
- Use variables in equations

#### **Reading & Writing:**

- Write an essay with several paragraphs following a given outline

#### **Grammar:**

- Identify direct and indirect objects
- Identify tense, person, voice of verbs

#### **Religion:**

- Reading and developing an interest in the Gospel books

#### **Science:**

- Explore topics of Earth Science
- Application of the Scientific Method through participation in the RCA Science Fair

## **Seventh/Eighth Grade**

### **Priorities for 7th/8th Grades: Math, Grammar, and Advanced Paragraphing**

#### **Math Skills:**

- Pre-Algebra

#### **Reading & Writing:**

- Writing a structured essay (intro, body, conclusion) following a given outline
- To develop an affinity for good quality literature
- To identify virtue and vice in historical and literary figures, and observe the natural end that virtue/vice lead to (this should be through Socratic Discussion)

#### **Religion:**

- To develop a desire and habit of spiritual reading and to take ownership of one's own spiritual life
- Work on oral presentation skills - using note cards, looking up and making eye contact, comfort level with speaking in front of others

#### **Science:**

- Explore a variety of scientific disciplines
- Hands-On experiments to demonstrate basic science concepts
- Present scientific findings by participating in Science Fair

## **High School Math**

### **Algebra I (8th or 9th)**

- Polynomials
- Graphing Equations
- Scientific Notation

### **Algebra II (10th or 11th)**

- Quadratic Formula
- Vectors
- Logarithms

### **Geometry (9th, 10th or 11th)**

- Logic
- Reasoning

### **Advanced Math (11th or 12th)**

- Trigonometry
- Precalculus

## **Ninth Grade**

### **Priorities for 9th Grade: Math, Grammar, and Persuasive Writing**

#### **Reading & Writing:**

- to grow in the ability to read difficult material (recommend Mortimer Adler's *How to Read a Book*.)
- to uncover the theme of a writing through a study of the author's use of language/characters/setting/genre (through Socratic discussion)
- to improve study habits, by taking notes on literature and history to prepare for Socratic seminar
- to work towards critical self-evaluation in writing and in-class contributions (during Socratic Seminars and writing workshops)

#### **Religion:**

- to move from knowledge of the truths of the faith to understanding the reasons
- to understand the rational and theological basis for morality
- to develop their spiritual life through *Imitation of Christ* and St. Therese's *Story of a Soul*

#### **Science:**

- Training in scientific reading and presentation in the study of Earth Science
- Hands-On experience with contacting local experts to understand the local impacts of weather and natural landforms

## **Tenth/Eleventh Grade**

### **Priorities for 10th/11th Grades: Math, Writing & Oral Presentation, and Mature Spiritual Life**

#### **Reading & Writing:**

- to grow in debate skills and "quick thinking" needed for timed writing
- rhetorical skills: structure and arrangement of arguments to be most persuasive
- developing rhetorical skills needed to enter into the "Great Conversation"
- discuss themes found in works of literature and history, e.g. virtue, human nature, government
- appreciating the beauty of great literature and poetry

#### **Religion:**

##### **Bible History**

- to become familiar with the content and purpose of each book of the Bible
- to learn to interpret Scripture according to Catholic principles
- to understand the unity of God's plan of salvation presented in the Bible as a whole

**OR**

##### **Mass & Sacraments**

- to gain a deeper understanding of the Mass and the Sacraments
- to be able to defend the faith with reasoned arguments in discussion and in writing

#### **Science:**

- explore topics of Biology or Chemistry
- develop skills of precision, accurate description, and reasoned analysis through Labs

## **Twelfth Grade**

### **Priorities for 12th Grade: Math, Writing & Oral Presentation, and Mature Moral Convictions and Civic Duty**

#### **Reading & Writing:**

- to grow in debate skills and "quick thinking" needed for timed writing
- rhetorical skills (learning where to place certain arguments in your writing to make it most persuasive, such as thesis at end of intro paragraph or beginning of intro paragraph, including historical details or not)
- Content is not as important to master - we are working on "skills". However, we want the students to take away the importance of participating in the "Great Conversation"

#### **Religion:**

- to understand the Catholic response to challenges to the faith in society today
- to be able to communicate an understanding of the faith with well-reasoned arguments orally and in writing

#### **Science:**

- Advanced Physics or Anatomy & Physiology
- to develop skills of careful observation, accurate description, and reasoned analysis through lab experiments and reports