

Students should be placed in classes for their grade level only. Exceptions will be considered by teachers on a case by case basis. Below is a list of the classes offered for the next session. Class details follow the list.

Included in the following order (listed alphabetically by teacher's last name) are:

Class List and Descriptions for Fall 2025 - Grades Pre K - 12

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| 1. (Apen) | Little Scholars PreK (3-4) |
| 2. (Bartelo) | WNY Invention Convention 5-8, Emerging Technology 9-12 |
| 3. (Doty) | Good Shepherd (Ages 3-6) |
| 4. (Kruszka) | History 3-4, 5-6, 7-8; Mock Trial 9-12; Make & Learn 1-2; Civics/Govt |
| 5. (Lawson) | Writing for Grades K-2, 3-4, 5-6, Guitar lessons |
| 6. (Muntain) | Literature 3-4, 5-6, 7-8 |
| 7. (Pietras) | Sewing for Grades 5-12, Alphabet (PreK-K) |
| 8. (Pratt) | First Aid 5-6, 7-8 |
| 9. (Reese) | Science 1-2, Calligraphy 1-2, 3-4 |
| 10. (Turner) | Science K, Play and Learn, Mileage Club 1-2, STEM Science 3-4 |
| 11. (Walker) | Apologetics 8-12; World Events 9-12, JOY 5-12 |
| 12. (Weber) | Literature 1-2, Storytime PreK-K |

1. Little Scholars - Mrs. Linda Apen and Mrs. Victoria Levine- Preschool: age 3-4

This preschool class is geared towards young students who are not quite ready for writing or phonics classes, but eager to put concepts together in a classroom setting.

Using stories, songs and poems, our Little Scholars will learn about, and have fun with, some of the building blocks of learning.

We will meet for a double period each week, which will allow us to present and discuss the lesson for the week, to do an activity or related craft, enjoy snack time together, and have free play/reading time. Topics such as Names, Family, Kindness, Obedience, Numbers, Time, Music, Saints, Gratitude (and more!) will be covered.

Awareness of our faith, and God's loving hand in all things, will be woven into our lessons.

Note that this is a 2 period class.

Class fee \$150 (includes fees for craft supplies, stipends for classroom aides)

Maximum Enrollment: 15

2. WNY Invention Convention (Grades 5-8) - Mrs. Diane Bartelo

Do you want to be an inventor??? We will prepare for the local WNY Invention Convention by learning about famous inventors and the invention design process. We will touch on engineering and STEM. This class is perfect for students who enjoy project based/hands on creative learning. in.... The WNY Invention Convention wnyinventionconvention.org is a nonprofit invention competition that draws 250 WNY students. The competition is free to enter and takes place at the Buffalo Museum of Science on April 26, 2026.

Class fee \$60 Maximum Enrollment: 10

Emerging Technology (Grades 9-12) - Mrs. Diane Bartelo

This class is for older students.

Prepare yourself for tomorrow's technology, today!

We will survey emerging technology and focus on STEM subjects. We will discuss aerospace, Artificial Intelligence, metadata, RFID, Internet of Things, etc. We will focus on the ethics and privacy concerns surrounding the technology. We will incorporate project based learning with group and individual in-class challenges. We will practice our research and communication skills.

Class fee \$60 Maximum Enrollment: 10

3. Good Shepherd (Grades PreK-K) - Mrs. Tracie Doty

The Good Shepherd program is a Montessori based "hands on" religious education program where children can grow in faith and their relationship with God through a deep engagement in Scripture and Liturgy. They will work in an "Atrium", a specially prepared environment that will add works made of simple materials throughout the year. Practical life will be done daily to aid in the development of concentration, meditation and inner self discipline. Repetition for 3–6-year-olds is vitally important and should not be rushed. There is a maximum of 8 children per class.

Class fee: \$70 Maximum: 12

4. Make and Learn 1-2 - Mrs. Rebecca Kruszka

A happy, somewhat messy and fun class that takes one topic per day to explore and make a related craft project. I try to incorporate English (past projects- we have done story cubes, sentence games), Science (galaxy jars, snakes, dragonflies and balloon insects), Math (turtle and frog math games), History (geography salt maps, paper roll Washington and Lincoln, Prehistoric cave drawing) and more! It is fun, creative and engaging.

Parents may be asked to provide things like paper rolls, a jar, etc.

Class fee: \$60.00

History of New York 3-4 - Mrs. Rebecca Kruszka

In a grade appropriate manner, this class will cover American history topics but focus on the resources, geography, government and unique aspects of our state including the Erie Canal, Ellis Island and immigration and how Buffalo was once the largest grain port in the world!

Class fee \$60.00

History 5-6 - Mrs. Rebecca Kruszka

This course will continue where we left in the spring with the European countries' exploration and the race for territory. We will cover the discovery and colonization of the new world as well as having segments on the native American tribes and cultures. (This part will count towards your NYS requirements and I can detail that at the end) This area is a key source of misinformation today and a knowledge of both the cultures and Catholic missionaries motivations and accomplishments is vital. We will move on to the early American government, growth and key figures. We also cover key conflicts/wars and the advancement in weapon/fighting that changed drastically. Activities to reinforce our topics are often included to keep interest/focus. (This will also include a section on Buffalo history).

Class fee: \$60.00

History 7-8 - Mrs. Rebecca Kruszka

American History

Class will begin with a review of the key European countries and the tensions and race for new territories. Beginning in the American continent, we will cover Native American populations, missionaries, natural resources and the colonies. As we progress we will look at the French and Indian War, Revolution, the development of the American government and a study of key documents and political figures. I try to work from a broad basic knowledge but bring in more unusual aspects so that it compliments and supports the basic grade textbooks most of us use. The additions will cover Government and NYS history requirements.

(FYI I keep an alternating schedule of American, World, Ancient and Bible History)

Materials: three ring binder is nice to have for organization, because I do use map handouts.

Class fee: \$60.00

Civics/Government (High School 9-12) - Mrs. Rebecca Kruszka

The Civics and Government course involves learning about the structure and processes of government, including different branches, levels, and how laws are made. It encompasses the study of government structures, civic participation, and the relationship between citizens, government, and society. It explores the rights, duties, and privileges of being a citizen, including how to engage in civic processes like voting, volunteering, and participating in public discussion and how to do so effectively. Not to mention our obligation as Catholic citizens!

Depending on the level of involvement that the parent wishes, I will hand out recommended movies, and reading to support the material that we are covering. I will also be using materials handed out to participants in the DC youth leadership college program, aside US House of Representatives staffer.
Materials needed three ring binder

Class cost: \$55

Mock trial (High School 9-12) - Mrs. Rebecca Kruszka

****Registration must be pre-approved, if students fill a wait list to a full team size, another team may be added.****

We meet and prepare a case from the NYS Bar Association, with a competition/trial at the conclusion of the year. We will be using an actual courtroom this term and we have had amazing guest judges. This helps fulfill the civics and government requirements for your student. I really recommend looking at the Bar association link below to see the benefits. It is great for developing public speaking skills, strategy, knowledge of law and courtroom protocol and confidence.

This year will be a criminal case as last year was civil

<https://nysba.org/nys-mock-trial/#:~:text=Objectives%20of%20the%20tournament%20are,better%20communication%20and%20cooperation%20among>

Students assigned as age, seniority and talent apply. When we have more than the team needs, we use alternates for team members. This is actually a great way to learn and prepare.

Materials: 3 ring binder is great, highlighter, tabs helpful

Contact for Mrs. Kruszka: rebeccakruszka@gmail.com

Class fee: \$20

Limit 12 students

Supply fee ONLY for printing costs, case and handouts.

5. Young Readers and Writers - Grades K-2 - Mrs. Shannon Lawson

This class will be a fun introduction to writing and reading for our young students. Writing will be introduced in a fun way through reading literature, practicing sight words, and working with different word families. Beginning students will start by telling stories aloud and drawing their stories, and as they advance, students will be encouraged to write their stories, adding more detail and organization. Basic editing skills will be taught in-context, and reading skills will be taught through writing. There will be a greater emphasis on learning to read through writing this year. A student is ready for this class when he knows all the letters and tier sounds.

Required materials: Writing journal and pencils. A primary writing journal, with or without space to draw, is helpful.

Class Fee: \$60

Minimum: 5 Maximum: 10

Six Traits + 1 - Grades 3-4 - Mrs. Shannon Lawson

This class is a fantastic foundational writing course for your young writer. I will explore Ruth Culham's six areas of writing: ideas, organization, voice, word choice, sentence fluency, and conventions. Each area will be studied, and students will learn specific strategies that will help them improve their writing. Required materials: Just lined paper, pencils, pens, and creativity!

Class Fee: \$60

Minimum enrollment: 6

Maximum enrollment: 12

Writing through Classic Fairy Tales- Grades 5-6 - Mrs. Shannon Lawson

During this class, all students will study different types of writing, using Classic Fairy Tales as a literature base. We will practice thinking critically, reading purposefully, and responding to literature in a variety of ways. Students will consistently keep an analysis journal as they complete the reading at home and read in the classroom. We will use this journal weekly in class to practice different skills and complete formal writing assignments. This class will encompass both essay-based writing and creative writing. We will also learn about good ways to revise writing, making it the best it can be.

Required materials: Just lined paper, pencils, and pens. Reading assignments will be emailed as the fairy tales are public domain.

Class fee: \$60

Course Minimum: 6 students

Course Maximum: 12 students

Guitar Lessons: Mrs. Shannon Lawson

I am offering group guitar lessons during periods 2 and 4. Students will learn how to read music and play notes and then progress to playing chords and popular songs. Schedule with me individually if interested so I can ensure appropriate placement with current students. shannonlawson26@yahoo.com

Class fee: \$20 per each 30-40 minute class

6. Literature for Grades 3-4 - Mrs. Chantel Muntain

Over the course of the semester, students will read and study several classic books. During class, we will discuss the stories from a Catholic perspective as well as cover historical, scientific, and geographical aspects. Students will also learn about different literary elements (i.e. the six parts of a story, themes, perspective, characters, and vocabulary). Weekly assignments will consist of reading a few chapters from a book and writing out answers to comprehension questions. In class, we will do activities to broaden comprehension and apply newfound knowledge in order to bring these books to life. Books for this session are Mr. Popper's Penguins, The Magician's Nephew, and The Light at Tern Rock.

Class fee: \$60.00

Minimum enrollment - 6 students

Literature for Grades 5-6 - Mrs. Chantel Muntain

Over the course of the semester, students will read and study several classic books. During class, we will discuss the stories from a Catholic perspective as well as cover the historical, scientific and geographical aspects. Students will also learn about different literary elements (i.e. the six parts of a

story, themes, perspective, characters, and vocabulary). Weekly assignments will consist of reading up to five chapters from a book and writing out answers to comprehension questions. In class, we will do activities to broaden comprehension and apply newfound knowledge in order to bring these books to life. The three books for this session are: The Trumpet of the Swan, The Christmas Carol, and The Little White Horse.

Class fee: \$60.00 Minimum enrollment - 6 students

Literature for Grades 7-8 - Mrs. Chantel Muntain

The first half of this class will be similar to a “book club”: we will read Lilies of the Field by William E. Barrett and Emma by Jane Austen. Homework will mostly consist of reading up to five chapters per week. In class, we will have open discussions that may cover historical elements, themes, characters, and plot, all from a Catholic perspective. We also will do creative writing, play games, and do activities. The second half of the class, we will assign parts and read the Shakespeare play The Comedy of Errors out loud as much as possible. If we have time, we will act out scenes as well.

Class fee: \$60 Minimum enrollment - 4 students

7. Sewing for Grades 5-12 - Mrs. Lisa Pietras

****Contact Mrs. Pietras at jlpietras89@gmail.com BEFORE registering****

Sewing 101:

Beginner:

Designed to develop confidence in the art of sewing using fun, simple projects. This class would be appropriate for an individual new to sewing .

Homework may consist of practicing the straight stitch or on a specific project, if needed.

Possible projects: fleece hat/scarf set, hot/cold pack, table cloth and matching napkins, pillowcase and more.

Prerequisite: know how to thread your machine, fill the bobbin and operate your sewing machine.

Necessary supplies: working sewing machine, correct bobbins, and basic sewing kit. Supplies not included. A supply list will be sent after registration.

Your basic sewing kit should consist of:

- Hand sewing needles
- Pincushion
- Straight pins (universal 1 ½” - 2” -- preferably the ball head style)
- Seam ripper
- Pencil
- Fabric marking pencil or pen or chalk
- Measuring tape

- Paper scissor
- Fabric scissor
- Seam gauge
- Extra bobbin for your sewing machine
- A spool of neutral color thread

All of the above items may nicely fit in a plastic pencil or shoe box. If you find one with a handle, that would be even better.

Single period class

Cost: \$60 Minimum: 1 Maximum: 5

Intermediate:

Intermediate sewing is intended to build on individual skills learned in sewing 101 while also expanding sewing terminology and pattern use. Homework would include any necessary sewing for the project.

Fall 2025 project: Quilted tote bag

Prerequisite: Sewing 101

Necessary supplies: working sewing machine, correct bobbins, basic sewing kit. Supplies not included.

After registration, you will be sent a supply list.

Single period class

Cost: \$60 Minimum: 1 Maximum: 5

Advanced: (single class period)

Advanced sewing is designed to help you perfect and advance your sewing skills, with a focus on reading and using patterns and sewing terminology. Who knows? Perhaps we'll make our own pattern as well.

Projects and patterns will be discussed with student(s).

Prerequisite: High School

Necessary supplies: working sewing machine, correct bobbins, basic sewing kit, necessary materials for projects

Single period class

Class Fee: \$60 Minimum: 1 Maximum: 4

Let's Learn the Alphabet (PreK-K) - Mrs. Lisa Pietras

Each week, this class will introduce a new letter and an activity. The alphabet letters will be collected during each class and assembled into a simple book that the student will take at the end of the school year. We will also have circle time, songs, and playtime.

Cost: \$60 Minimum class: 4 Maximum class: 10

8. First aid class 2 (5-6, 7-8) - Mrs. Kristin Pratt

Welcome to first aid! The students will receive knowledge and basic skills that can potentially save a life!

First, we will deep dive into some of the most exciting first aid topics including cpr, choking, orthopedic emergencies, first aid in the field, and anaphyl. Each class will have an anatomy run lesson that connects the first aid skill. The class does continue in the spring with more and new topics this year.

And we will complete the year with a science fair!

There are no official certifications given in this course.

(Disclaimer: For the sake of maturity level and Virtus compliance, we will NOT be covering the reproductive system or any OB/GYN emergencies.)

Class cost includes supplies.

Cost: \$75

Minimum class size: 5

Max class size: 16

9. Calligraphy - (Grades 1-2 and 3-4) - Mrs. Paula Reese

Calligraphy is not only a fancy way of writing, but also an art form that can be enjoyed and appreciated.

Children as young as 5, to adults of any age, can benefit greatly from practicing calligraphy. In this class, we will be using verses from the Book of Psalms as we will learn and practice the art of calligraphy. We will do practice sheets and create several projects using this beautiful ancient writing.

Name placards, cards, bookmarks, and wall art are some of the planned projects.

Cost includes materials. Each student will receive one calligraphy marker to be used in class and brought home for practice.

Cost includes materials. Each student will receive one calligraphy marker to be used in class and brought home for practice.

Cost \$65

Minimum class: 5

Maximum class: 12

Science 1-2 - Mrs. Paula Reese

In this class we will use fun, hands-on physical science lessons and experiments to learn science principles as found in state and national science standards. Students will learn and practice critical thinking through the application of the scientific method of investigation. They will be prompted to verbalize their step-by-step observations, predictions, and conclusions. The focus for this class is inquiry-based, hands-on science. Most supplies included, but some items may be requested to be brought from home.

Class Fee: \$60

Minimum class: 6

Maximum class: 12

10. God's Wonderful Creation (Science-Kindergarten): Mrs. Nadine Turner

We will explore what God made in the 6 days of creation using books, hands-on activities, prayers and songs. Our students will be St. Francis' Little Scientists as we learn about the world God made us!

Class Fee: \$60

Min: 3

Play and Learn (PreK-Kindergarten): Mrs. Nadine Turner

In this class we will incorporate learning through play! We will have scavenger hunts, play Bingo, setup play areas such as veterinary offices for stuffed animals, post offices, an airport and more! We will work on basic reading and writing activities, listening, following directions, crafting, working together, community, some US geography and will incorporate our Catholic faith with prayers, the saints, and virtues. There will also be plenty of movement time!

Class Fee: \$60

Min: 3

Mileage Club (Grades 1-4): Mrs. Nadine Turner

The goal of Mileage Club is to foster good relationships with each other and with the Lord through interaction, memorizing Scripture, and moving our bodies. Isaiah 55 tells us that God's word will not return to Him void but shall do His will. Trusting in this promise, we will focus on memorizing a few key scriptures. Each week we open with our verse repetition, do stretches, focus on moving (walking or running) for about 25-30 minutes and track our progress on fitness tracker watches.

Class Fee: \$60

STEM projects (Grade 3-4) - Mrs. Nadine Turner

In this hands-on class we will create STEM (science, technology, engineering, math) projects, such as games and build tasks using common household items and will learn concepts in an interactive way. We will engage in problem-solving, creative thinking, independent and team/group activities.

Max: 14

Cost: \$70 (supplies included in class fee)

11. APOLOGETICS: HOW TO ANSWER MUSLIMS (Grades 8-12) - Mrs. Maria Walker

Teens will learn how to explain their faith clearly, defend it charitably, and share it confidently with Muslims. The class will be using the "Beginning Apologetics" course by Fr. Frank Chacon & Jim Burnham (published by San Juan Catholic Seminars). The classes are "crash courses" to help answer the most common objections about their faith, using the bible.

Topic content: An Historical Overview of Islam, Islam and Europe, The Koran, What Muslims Believe, The Trinity, Jesus & the Crucifixion, Mary & Islam

This session course will take most of its content from the study book, various videos, articles, etc from reliable Catholic sources, mock in-class debates, and various informational trivia contests throughout the session; homework assigned moderately (not every week).

It is not necessary for your child to have taken any of my previous Apologetics classes in order to take this class. This Muslim class WILL be a year long class divided into Fall and Spring sessions.

Link for book: <https://www.amazon.com/Beginning-Apologetics-How-Answer-Muslims/dp/1930084226>

Class Fee: \$65

Minimum registration: 5

Maximum registration: None

WORLD EVENTS from a Catholic Perspective (Grades 9-12) - Mrs. Maria Walker

This class consists of a study of several current event topics. Each of the topics will be studied in a three-pronged approach:

- Analysis: lessons in history & government to understand the issue
- Awareness: viewing the issue from a Catholic perspective
- Action: what are we called to do with this issue as Catholics?

Topics include: GENOCIDE, EUGENICS, EUTHANASIA, BIRTH CONTROL, and ABORTION

Student work expected: Online open book quizzes; minimal homework (reading articles and summarizing them); session-end individual or group oral presentation

This session course will take most of its content from class handouts, various videos, articles, etc from reliable Catholic sources, mock in-class debates, etc.

Class Fee: \$65 Minimum registration: 5 Maximum registration: None

JOY: THE ROSARY MUSICAL (Grades 5-12) - Mrs. Maria Walker

Want your child to learn more about the history and beauty of the rosary while also bringing the mysteries of the rosary to life musically? I plan on taking one set of mysteries (Joyful) this Fall 2025 session and teaching students the song for each mystery and how to act out each mystery in a prayerful and powerful musical performance at the end of the session.

I will need:

- ~ students willing to sing! (but you do NOT need to sing - lots of "non singing" roles!)
- ~ students willing to act!
- ~ students willing to have a little fun!

Class Fee: \$65 Minimum registration: 10 Maximum registration: None

12. Literature 1-2 - Mrs. Richelle Weber

In this literature class, we will explore a chapter book together, building listening comprehension, vocabulary, and a love for stories. Each class will include a read-aloud session, a group discussion to reflect on the story, and a fun, related craft or coloring activity to bring the book to life. Students do not need to bring a copy of the book, though they are welcome to follow along if they'd like. Tentative book selections include The Secret of the Hidden Scrolls, Chime Travelers, and The Boxcar Children. This class aims to create a warm and engaging space where young readers can enjoy good books with their friends.

Class Cost: \$60

STORYTIME: AFTERNOON ADVENTURES WITH STORY, SAINTS & PLAY (PreK-K) - Mrs. Richelle Weber

Join us for a joyful and engaging afternoon rooted in faith, fun, and creativity! Each class centers around a weekly theme, often inspired by the liturgical calendar or the life of a saint—like St. Thérèse during her feast week or All Saints in November. We'll read a beautifully illustrated book about the featured saint, and some weeks will include a simple craft or coloring activity that brings the story to life. We'll also read other age-appropriate and engaging books on topics kids love—like animals, dinosaurs, nature, and more.

After a light snack, children will have time for free play, giving them the chance to explore, build friendships, and unwind in a warm and welcoming environment. This class is designed to be a peaceful, purpose-filled close to the co-op day with a gentle structure and lots of joy.

Books used: A variety of saint picture books (e.g., St. Thérèse of Lisieux: The Little Flower by Demi), as well as rotating selections on animals, nature, dinosaurs, and other seasonal favorites.

Class Cost: \$60
