



Catholic Schoolhouse®
Information and
Discernment
Packet





Catholic Schoolhouse®

HOMESCHOOL SUCCESS THROUGH A CLASSICAL APPROACH

So what exactly IS
Catholic Schoolhouse?

— CLASSICAL —

CATHOLIC SCHOOLHOUSE is a program designed to support homeschooling families by providing a weekly classroom experience through a classical approach. By a classical approach, we mean that Grammar students—those traditionally of elementary ages—will encounter facts each week that provide a peg on which to hang future knowledge. These facts can be used as springboards for further learning at home, serve as additional contact points to refresh material that was previously taught, to introduce new topics, or simply to enrich your current homeschooling style. Dialectic and Rhetoric students (grades 7–12) stay connected to the family while exploring topics in greater depth.

One of the great advantages of Catholic Schoolhouse is the efficiency and consistency that comes from presenting the same information to all classes. Siblings will be able to relate to one another as older students encourage the younger, and parents will enjoy the enhanced effectiveness of teaching only one set of information at a time. Furthermore, Catholic Schoolhouse not only guides our children academically but also forms an encouraging social network for parents and children.

— SUPPORTIVE —

We are anticipating another wonderful year at [St. Frances Cabrini Catholic Church on Hartsook Road in Houston](#). With more than thirty faith-filled families, our chapter has grown to an ideal size, allowing for the “load” to be shared without overburdening families. This year, we pioneered a core-course curriculum addition on an optional second day, which we called the Scholé Day on Thursdays. Scholé refers to restful learning. But next year, for added clarity, we are adopting the name +PLUS for the added day. **Personalized Learning+Uplifting Support**. One of the key blessings of +PLUS is the personalized DAILY lesson plans for EACH child, which allows families to have greater accountability and structure in their week at home in a manner similar to a restful hybrid home education program.

— CATHOLIC CULTURE —

[CATHOLIC SCHOOLHOUSE National](#) mission:

Empowering families to share Catholic Culture.

At CATHOLIC SCHOOLHOUSE we bring families together, allowing them to share and experience immersion in a loving Catholic Community—a community that strives to grow in virtue and holiness.

*Together we encounter the true, good, and beautiful
while forming tomorrow’s Catholic adults to be light in the world.*

Our chapter has truly embraced CSH National’s mission to be more volunteer-based and to grow together. These changes allowed more opportunities for all members to be involved and to provide for easier succession from one volunteer to the next. Our aim is to build a community with long-term stability, in which volunteers can joyfully serve without burning out. As you think about next school year and what it holds for your family, consider how you are called to use your gifts to help your community thrive. God gives us our gifts and calls us to share them with our neighbor for His glory. As we bless those around us, we also model stewardship for the next generation—forming tomorrow’s Catholic adults to be light in the world. Every family is an invaluable part of our community!

— MISSION —

Our chapter is driven by a desire to raise saints who will seek and spread truth, goodness, and beauty. We hope to do this by immersing our children in:

- Worthy studies based on a classical model of education
- Living books that inspire them to be lifelong learners
- The Sacraments that give them Grace
- Opportunities for growth in virtue through service projects
- A community of joy-filled families who we pray will be treasured as true friends

Additionally, our new parish home, St. Frances Cabrini, affords our families the opportunity to more tangibly serve in mission work by allowing our parents and children to help to beautify the campus (landscaping, gardening, cleaning, painting and maintenance) and by allowing us to work on forming Catechesis of the Good Shepherd programming for parishioners in the future. And we are thrilled to be able to serve in these ways!

THE MISSION OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLHOUSE HOUSTON SOUTH:
*To support Catholic homeschooling families striving to grow in knowledge and virtue
through classical education, community, service, and faith.*

— CHAPTER DAY —

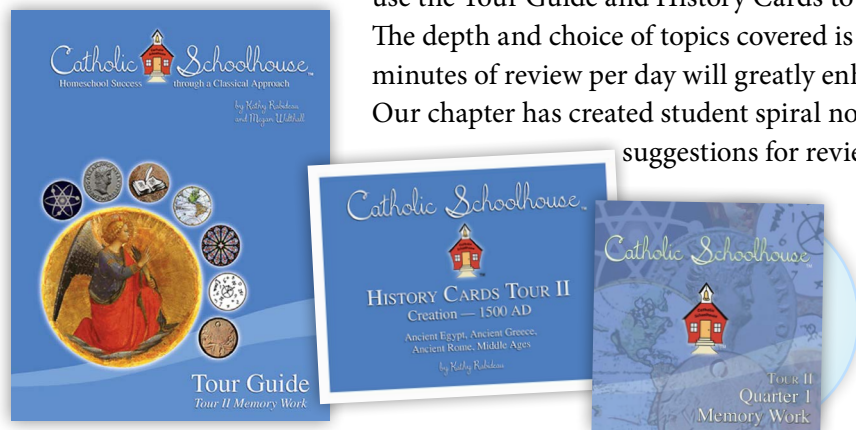
St. Frances Cabrini has welcomed us with open arms! The pastor, Fr. Nicolas Ramirez, has invited us to begin our days with daily Mass at 8:00 a.m., preceded by Confession for those who are able and wanting to receive that Sacrament. Then our chapter day on Tuesday will begin with prayer, announcements, and chorus (from Grammar levels). The Grammar scholars will proceed to their classes to begin their academic day. Grammar and Pre-Grammar scholars will experience 30 minutes each of art and science and a total of two non-consecutive hours of memory work/homeroom. The Class Leaders will introduce all the memory work in the classroom and guide children’s presentations (show-and-tell for youngest students and topics relating to studies for older students). Scholars will rotate into separate classes to do projects and experiments coordinating with memory work. Upper Level scholars (Dialectic and Rhetoric, grades 7-12) will have three hours of their communications, seminar, Latin, speech, and writing—with breaks as needed! Rhetoric will have a Rigor course in Traditional Logic. (Next year, it will be Economics; the following year, Government).

At lunch time, all classes join back together for their meals brought from home and for play time. Lunch and recreation time will be one hour long for everyone. Afterwards, an optional writing course [with the Institute for Excellence in Writing] will be hosted by CSH for 4th-6th grade students by an outside tutor with payment to her. All other children will have the option to stay for more recreation time with curated games and toys to further immerse them in the memory work while letting them use their joyful energy and play! If your family has no one in the optional IEW writing class, you are free to leave at your leisure but welcome to stay until afternoon programming ends.

— CURRICULUM —

At home, you will decide how best to incorporate the CSH Memory Work. Some parents listen to the tracks in the car, maybe do some copy work as handwriting practice, and nothing more. They focus instead on highly structured curriculum options or boxed sets. And that works! Others go so far as to completely structure their curriculum choices around the memory work, using it as the spine of all they do. That works, too, and there is a WEALTH of support on our private server [Basecamp] from the thousands of families across the nation who use CSH in a chapter and at home. Lesson plans, resource lists, book lists, member-created worksheets and other supports are all shared for free.

To follow along with our chapter, the only curriculum purchase you would need to make would be the Tour II Core Curriculum Bundle of a Tour Guide, History Timeline Cards and CDs for your family to share (optional: subscribe through the CSH app to gain access to the memory work songs instead of purchasing CDs). Throughout the week, you can use the Tour Guide and History Cards to help their children master the material at home. The depth and choice of topics covered is under each family's discretion; however, just a few minutes of review per day will greatly enhance your child's ability to participate in class. Our chapter has created student spiral notebooks [included in the supply fee] that have



suggestions for reviewing memory work, and you can choose any of the ideas that best suit your own family's style of homeschooling! There are also hundreds of pages of age-appropriate curated materials included for your use if you so desire. But merely playing the CD in the car is an effortless way to encourage memory of the material.

— CSH+PLUS —

One of the greatest gifts of our move to St. Frances Cabrini is that we have use of our space on a second day of the week to enhance and enrich our children's studies and their growth in virtue, grace, and the classical studies. The +PLUS Day is *completely optional* but very worthwhile! There will be a *per-student supply fee (\$10 Pre-Grammar, Grammar; \$20 Dialectic, Rhetoric)* to cover supplies for the year, along with a *one-time \$300 family fee*.

The purpose of the +PLUS Day is to bolster Catholic classical education and provide accountability for scholars and parents. It is meant to support families in a manner similar to a restful hybrid program for those that desire it. In fact, with CSH Chapter Day AND +PLUS Day curricula, your children will have a full educational opportunity before them. The second day focuses on Core Curriculum. It provides accountability for parents and students, with the students submitting work to a teacher and by providing lesson plans that assist parents at home.

While embracing the truth that the parents are the primary educators, +PLUS helps encourage students to pursue the True, Good, and Beautiful with instructors and peers. When you read a great book, it is so wonderful to share it with a friend. While struggling to master a math concept, it is helpful to get assistance from someone with an outside perspective. +PLUS seeks to provide those simple aids so that homeschooling is even more fruitful.

ALL GRAMMAR LEVELS

Four 45-minute classes:

- Math at their level
- Humanities Seminar (History + Literature)
- Communications (Grammar/Phonics/Spelling)
- Religion (CGS, then Great Bible Timeline)

Plus lunch, then recess!

DIALECTIC + RHETORIC

Three 60-minute classes:

- Math at their level
- Humanities Seminar (History + Literature)
- Applied Sciences: Novare Science courses

Plus lunch, then recess and games!

Pre-Grammar includes ages 3 through 5 or 6; Lower Grammar Grades 1-3; Upper Grammar Grades 4-6; Dialectic Grades 7-9; Rhetoric Grades 10-12

— WHAT DOES +PLUS LOOK LIKE IN PRACTICE? —

MATH

Math is taught first period for all students so that scholars can receive instruction based on their mastery, rather than their age or grade. Mastery is to be assessed by the parent prior to the start of classes. (Important Note: Families that have found an alternative math curriculum that is working well for their family should not feel compelled to switch! Those scholars are encouraged to complete their math in the Cabrini Center during first period study hall quietly with an adult walking around, ready to help when necessary.) The instruction in each math class will be simple, covering the topics for the week.

- In Pre-Grammar, class begins with prayer and math memory work songs, followed by math manipulative and counting games (Example: “Hi Ho Cherry-O”).
- In K-3rd, class begins with prayer and speed drills or games for 5-10 minutes. The class lead introduces new concepts with visual aids/manipulatives. Students complete Abeka workbook pages independently or as a class.
- In Saxon 5/4-8/7, class begins with prayer and speed drills for 5 minutes. Class lead demonstrates the problem and procedure; students demonstrate the procedure with help at their desks and then go to the board and demonstrate/teach the procedure. Utilizing the See 1- Do 1- Teach 1 Method helps scholars gain confidence to complete problems during the remainder of the week with the lesson plans. After instruction, they work on the mixed practice problems from that lesson.
- In Algebra 1/2-Calculus, class begins with two review problems on the board that they work independently and then present to the class. Instruction from the class lead follows on the most difficult concepts assigned for the upcoming week. Class lead utilizes the See 1- Do 1- Teach 1 Method referenced above so scholars can complete problems during the remainder of the week with the lesson plans. After instruction, they work on the mixed practice problems from that lesson.

Homework and tests can be submitted to the class lead to show completion ONLY to help support parents at home. “Have you finished your math today? You are turning it in to Mrs. Avila tomorrow” is much more persuasive than: “Is your math complete?” “Why?” “Because I said so.” Parents will still do the corrections at home. Class leads can look over the homework and tests to see if scholars are missing the same questions and if any concepts need review.

RELIGION

Religion is offered to Pre-Grammar and K-2 students utilizing Catechesis of the Good Shepherd in the Atrium. To learn more about this joyful, beautiful approach to religious education, please visit:

https://www.cgsusa.org/wp-content/uploads/Catechesis-of-the-Good-Shepherd_An-Introduction.pdf

Grades 3-6 will utilize Ascension Press’s Great Adventure: God’s Plan in Scripture (GPS) Program to augment their understanding of the many Old Testament and New Testament stories touched on in the CSH Timeline events.

LITERATURE + HISTORY

Literature courses are offered for all ages. Great books are the backbone of classical education! Parents can view booklists and will select the appropriate courses for their children.

- Pre-Grammar and Lower Grammar students can expect class time to begin with the memory and recitation of poetry. The rest of class is devoted to read aloud from their class leader in a restful joyful setting. The final five minutes of class can be used for “Book Club.” Students will be asked on home days to retell/narrate stories to their parents while parents record them in each student’s notebook. The scholar then spends time illustrating their story and copying the text to practice handwriting. Illustrations can be presented in class the following week during “Book Club” time.
- Upper Grammar, Dialectic and Rhetoric students will get to enjoy works that align with Catholic Schoolhouse’s history and timeline events, while meeting them at their reading level. Students can expect to read 10-14 books each year along with poems, plays and speeches. Families can purchase books early if scholars want to prepare ahead of the school year. Literature classes at these levels are devoted exclusively to Socratic Discussion guided by the class lead.

GRAMMAR

In this course, Upper Grammar-level students receive instruction on English grammar, review phonograms, handwriting, and spelling rules, all corresponding to the CSH Memory Work for the week. Each class begins with a short “spelling test” from last week’s spelling list. The test is sent home for parents to review with their child. Students then play games to drill phonogram sounds and spelling rules for 5-10 minutes. The new spelling list is presented to the class. The remainder of class time is used for instruction on new grammar concepts for the week. On home days, the students have English workbook pages to complete and spelling words to study and practice.

READING/WRITING

Pre-Grammar and Lower Grammar students have a multi-sensory class that focuses on the memory work and logic of reading. In this class, scholars play games to practice phonogram sounds and reading fundamentals like rhyming, consonant/vowel identification, etc. They also practice proper handwriting and start spelling fundamentals with tactile manipulatives.

SCIENCE

Science is offered for Dialectic and Rhetoric students utilizing [Novare’s](#) science curricula. Each week, students are expected to read the material ahead of time and complete homework and quizzes, following the lesson plans set forth. Classes consist of instruction, discussion and experiments. Depending on the course, lab reports are also assigned. *Example: If your student is taking Biology, they will get instruction, discussion and dissections at Scholé Day and be expected to complete reading, homework and quizzes at home.*

— FORMATION —

We have a Community Formation Day over the summer for ALL home educators in CSH; and we also have a Formation Day for Upper Level parents, class leaders, and students. We also for quarterly formation days to support our efforts as home educators. Akin to teachers' professional development days (except that you'll actually want to attend—but by no means are required to!), these events will focus on topics such as:

- What is a Classical Education, and how can it serve our family?
- Teaching from Rest
- Using IEW and Lost Tools of Writing at Home
- Working with Special and Extra Needs
- Balancing Home and Home School
- Habit Training at Home
- Scheduling and Time Tables at Home

If you have suggestions for more topics to cover, please let our Program Coordinator know!

— CONNECTION —

All of us in this CSH Houston South Chapter have been called to homeschool. But we don't need to do so in isolation. In fact, our children need worthy friends, and so do we! We have a monthly Moms' Day/Night Out on the calendar already; and this year, we would like the Dads to consider spearheading their own social events quarterly. Our mothers' gatherings can range from casual conversation, coffee dates, or hanging out at someone's home ... to karaoke, painting parties, peg doll exchanges, cookie and ornament exchanges, curriculum sharing, retreat days, Jane Austen movie viewings, knitting/crochet days, Easter egg decorating, etc. The important thing is just doing those things together in community!

— CSH CHAPTER COSTS —

FEE	HOW MUCH?	PER STUDENT OR FAMILY?	WHAT IS IT FOR?
Registration	\$150* <small>*Early bird registration of \$105 ends at 11:59 p.m. on March 29</small>	Per Family	Registration fees go to Catholic Schoolhouse, Inc, a non-profit national corporation. It allows us to continue our mission of helping Catholic homeschoolers and especially Catholic homeschool communities thrive in order to mentor one another in the Faith. Registration nationally gives you access to our private Basecamp server, your local chapter, and all discounts & benefits [Office Depot, Lands End, HSLDA, RaiseRight Fundraising, etc.]
Family Fee (Includes Insurance)	\$300	Per Family	Family Fees stay with your local chapter. The funds are used for general costs of running a local not-for-profit chapter. It is a real bargain; one low amount for all students in your family for 24 weeks of programming.
Supply Fees	\$95 / Pre-Grammar and Grammar \$185 / Upper Level	Per Student	The once-a-year supply fee pays for classroom needs such as copies, student notebooks, and 24 weeks' worth of quality science and art supplies. Upper Level fee covers science and fine arts supplies, literature, writing, binder, and all texts, which students will keep.
Grading Donation	TBD by family	Per UL Student	Our trained IEW and LTW class leaders lead rigorous writing courses requiring weekly editing and grading, and as such, we ask that each family make a donation to those instructors in gratitude for their expertise and their time.
Facility Donation	Suggested donation of \$150-\$300+	Per Family	St. Frances Cabrini is offering our use of their facilities on a donation basis, and we ask that you prayerfully discern what your family can give to repay their kindness.
Curriculum	\$99 one-time purchase of Tour 2 Core Program	Per Family	\$38 Tour Guide book is required. \$39 History Timeline cards are needed for learning timeline. \$40 Memory Work CDs are essential; though you could opt to instead pay \$1.99/mo. for access to songs in CSH app.
OPTIONAL +PLUS Fees	\$300 per family fee \$10 per P-G,G \$20 per D,R	Per Family Supply Fee is Per Student	Participation in the optional Thursday +PLUS activities requires one \$300 family fee plus a nominal per-student supply fee to cover the costs of science and math manipulatives. Each student will receive book lists and syllabi for their age- or developmentally-appropriate classes. Families are responsible for purchasing those books and incidental classroom supplies.

— IMPORTANT DATES —

FEBRUARY 15, 2024: Registration opens to returning members; VIRTUAL Informational Meeting via Zoom at 8:00 p.m.

FEBRUARY 20: OPEN HOUSE 9:30-10:30 a.m. [during Chapter Day] at St. Frances Cabrini.

MARCH 1: Registration opens to new families.

MARCH 9: Informational Meeting 11:00 a.m. at Tom Reid Library in Pearland.

MARCH 30: Early bird registration deadline. Please encourage your friends who haven't yet registered to consider registering by this time to take advantage of the discounted \$105 family registration cost. On April 1, the cost returns to the regular price of \$150.

APRIL 10: First bulk curriculum order (Tour Guide, CDs, and/or Timeline Cards) payment deadline. IF you need or desire any of the materials listed below, you can pay the Supply Coordinator by April 10. You save 14% off regular price by ordering the bundle through the bulk order, plus free shipping.

- ***Tour 2 Core Curriculum Bundle (Tour Guide, CDs, History Cards): \$99 (14% discount)***
- Tour Guide only: \$38
- History Cards only: \$39
- CDs only: \$40
- App Subscription: \$1.99/mo can be used in place of the physical CDs
- Science Guide only: \$37 [This guide for chapter-day experiments will be provided for Science Class Leader]
- Art Guide only: \$44 [This guide for chapter-day projects will be provided for Art Class Leader]

MAY 5: First Installment for Chapter Fees Payment due (suggested date).

MAY 31: CSH Houston South registration officially closes and will only be allowed on a case-by-case basis.
Registration will close earlier only if our student enrollment capacity is reached sooner.

JUNE 5: First Installment for Chapter Fees Payment due (suggested date).

JULY 5: Third Installment for Chapter Fees Payment due (suggested date).

AUGUST 5: [Final] Payment deadline for Chapter Family and Supply Fees.

AUGUST 10: Second/Final bulk curriculum order payment deadline (see above for prices).

AUGUST 22: First Chapter Day—Intro Day! (Not week 1 material; this will be an introductory day to familiarize all students and parents and class leaders to procedures, virtues, expectations, and each other!)

SEPTEMBER 5: +PLUS Supply fees due for families registered in the optional program.

OCTOBER 5: +PLUS Family fee due for families registered in the optional program.

FEBRUARY 15, 2025: Prayerfully discerned Facility Donation due [this may be given sooner].

— CALLED —

Your role as a parent participating in Catholic Schoolhouse is to observe your child in class and offer a helping hand, assisting the Class Leader as needed. You will also be assigned as an assistant in a particular class for an hour or two. By observing your child's peer interactions and classroom behavior, as well as techniques used by the Class Leader, you will gain tools and knowledge that will enhance your own personal homeschool. This participation is essential to an effective program.

Furthermore, as we begin renewing our chapter in preparation for next school year, we have a team of Coordinators ready to take on all the tasks required to get our two days of programming up and running, social and service events organized, field trips set up, and communications between chapter and parish facilitated. Over the summer, we will have formation days for chapter members and Class Leader training. As we have embraced our call to homeschool, let us listen for God's calling to serve as needed. We all have a place of service in our chapter if we seek His call and listen!

— JOIN —

If you feel the call to join our CSH Houston South Chapter community, then let's talk!
Feel free to call or email the Chapter Team Director at *HoustonSouthTX@CatholicSchoolhouse.com*
so she can send you more information!

Our family of families is growing, and we would love to grow with you, too!

With Thanks in Christ,

Your Catholic Schoolhouse Houston South
2024-2025 COORDINATOR TEAM

Morgan Costigan
*Chapter Team Director &
Grammar Program Coordinator*

Laura Ambro
*Supply Coordinator & Assistant
Administrative Coordinator*

Denise Guajardo
Administrative-Finance Coordinator

Sarah Wilson
Facility Coordinator

Jessica Counts
Pre-Grammar Program Coordinator

Jennifer Vogelgesang
Upper Level Program Coordinator

Tiffanie van Sant
Community Coordinator

Betsy Perryman
+PLUS Education Coordinator

WEEK 1 *Catholic Schoolhouse* 

<p>History</p>  Creation  Mesopotamia  Sumerians c. 4000 BC  Nile River Towns c. 4000 BC  Indus Valley Civilization c. 3000 BC	<p>Religion</p>  <i>Moses</i> <p>What Is the Mass? The Mass is the sacrifice of the new law in which Christ, through the ministry of the priest, offers Himself to God in an unbloody manner under the appearances of bread and wine.</p> <hr/> <p>Math Skip count by twos: 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24 Skip count by threes: 3, 6, 9, 12, 15, 18, 21, 24, 27, 30, 33, 36</p> <hr/> <p>Science—Botany Plants pick up nutrients and water through their roots. They move up the stem through xylem and phloem. Then, transpiration releases water through the leaf's stomata.</p> <hr/> <p>Latin 1st Conjugation, present tense (to love): <i>amo, amas, amat, — amamus, amatis, amant</i></p> <hr/> <p>Language Arts What are the eight parts of speech? Nouns, Pronouns, Verbs, Adverbs, Conjunctions, Interjections, Prepositions, Adjectives</p> <hr/> <p>History We've got to quit this wandering and settle down, between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers, live in cities and towns. Mesopotamia, the fertile crescent, will be our home; we will farm its rich soil, and no longer will we roam. Mesopotamia.</p>	<p>Music</p> <p>Percussion Instruments Sistrum, Ancient Egypt and Iraq</p> 	<p>Art</p> <p>Ancient Art Cave Art from Lascaux, France</p> 	<p>Geography</p> <p>Continents North America South America Europe Asia Australia Africa Antarctica</p> <p>Oceans Atlantic Pacific Indian Arctic Southern</p>
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Week 1

Can I see inside the tour guide?