



# HIGHLANDS LATIN *Cottage School*

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**Q: How does the Cottage School operate?**

A: The Cottage School provides traditional classroom instruction to homeschooled students. Our classes are on Tuesdays (grades K-12) with additional courses offered on Thursdays (grades 3-12) with the remainder of lesson time and homework done with guidance and specific, daily assignments from our teachers. Our school operates with around 100 students. We provide trimester reports, lesson and testing accountability, and a traditional, Christian classroom environment for homeschoolers. Our teachers are excellent at what they do and strive to support the homeschool families that we serve.

**Q: How much do parents need to be involved in teaching students?**

A: Our program functions as a partnership with parents who value the privileges of homeschooling their children. Our program is not an independent study program. Students need guidance and oversight for at-home completion of lessons, although the content and format for that is guided by our teachers. Parents make sure assignments are done thoroughly and work with their students to review and ensure mastery of subjects on a daily basis.

**Q: How many hours a day should I expect my child to work on schoolwork?**

A: The answer to this question varies widely, as all students work differently. It is helpful to think of structuring one's school environment at home to match a "typical" school day (i.e. 9am to 3pm). For older students who work more independently, it is helpful to consider that most students have 1 hour of work each day per subject with additional time spent on any additional areas of study deemed necessary by parents.

**Q: Do all students take Latin?**

A: Latin is a subject that we hold dear at the Cottage School. Most of our students do take Latin as it is the hub of our curriculum. That said, students may elect not to take Latin at the Cottage School. It is not required. Students may be enrolled in courses on an a-la-carte basis and take as few or as many courses as their parents select.

**Q: How many classes do students have to take at the Cottage School?**

A: Students may take 1 class at the Cottage School or a full load. There is no minimum.

**Q: What is the student/teacher ratio at the Cottage School?**

A: We take many factors into consideration when determining class size—i.e. student preparedness, subject matter, grade, teacher experience. These considerations allow us to determine class size individually, not universally. An average ratio of 12:1 is typical.

**Q: What does “traditional” and “classical” school mean?**

A: Traditional classroom instruction means that our classes are teacher-led by skilled and enthusiastic teachers. Students are expected to raise a polite hand before asking a question or commenting in class. Respect for authority is a cornerstone of success in the classroom. Productive classroom discussion and interaction is a result of respect: respect towards teachers, between peers, and teachers’ respect for their students. Classroom demeanor is very important to us, and teachers of younger students spend time gently reminding them of expectations for classroom behavior. As a classical school, our core curriculum is Latin, Classical Studies, Literature, Composition and Math. We are committed to teaching our students how to learn as they study the Classics. Intensive study of Latin in the grammar years develops the minds of students as no other subject can.

**Q: Is the curriculum provided for parents?**

A: Yes. We use Memoria Press curriculum. A book list is published each June for families. Books are purchased by families.

**Q: Are there social opportunities for students and families?**

A: Yes. Students have time prior to school to assemble and greet friends. All students have lunch and recreation with peers to ensure adequate social interaction during the school day. In addition, we have Opening and Closing Ceremonies, Meet the Teacher Day, orientations, Coffee & Conversation events, holiday events, parties, and seasonal socials to engage our entire Cottage School community.

**Q: How do you support parents in their role as teachers?**

A: Every summer, Memoria Press hosts an exceptional conference; the first part of it is devoted solely to homeschool parents. In addition, our orientations include specific tips and techniques for success in your homeschool as well as “Preparing for School” videos and tutorials. Our Primary, Grammar, and Upper School parent liaisons and our administrators are gifted in providing insight and direction to families.

**Q: Are teachers certified in their areas of teaching?**

A: As an independent school, we are blessed to hire the best individuals to teach in areas of specialty.

**Q: Do you require a statement of faith?**

A: Our faith statement is the Apostles' Creed. Highlands Latin teaches and upholds traditional Christian morality, and the Holy Scriptures as the divinely inspired word of God. We pray during the day and scripture is woven throughout our subjects. However, we do not require families to sign a statement of faith. Students at the Cottage School come from a variety of Christian theological backgrounds.

**Q: Do you require uniforms?**

A: We do require uniforms. Our uniform guidelines are published on our website. Adherence to our uniform policy is valued and we ask for the partnership of our parents in this matter.

**Q: How do we apply?**

A: Our application is on our website during enrollment season (opens in February). Current families receive priority application. A deposit is part of this application. If your child cannot be placed in our classes due to a waitlist status, your otherwise nonrefundable deposit will be returned in full. Please note that upper school students new to the Cottage School are required to complete an interview process before applications are fully processed.

**Q: What should families do to prepare for a new school year?**

A: We encourage families to ensure their students are reading worthy literature selections regularly during the summer and throughout the school year. Parents should aim to read with younger students every day and should consider math and phonics flashcard use as needed. Older students should be encouraged to read a classic for every book they read for pleasure. A Summer Program Guide, Supplemental Reading List, and Kindergarten Readiness Assessment is available on our website. Incoming Grammar and Upper School students should be proficient in cursive writing.

*Additional Questions? Contact Us*

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