



HIGHLANDS LATIN *Cottage School*

Kindergarten Readiness

Is my child ready for Kindergarten? At the Highlands Latin Cottage School, we believe in starting slowly and building a strong foundation in the early years so that students are well-equipped to tackle the rich and robust subjects in their Grammar and Upper school years. It is often tempting for parents to advance a student because they are precocious in some way - such as reading at an early age - but it is important to remember that there are many foundational skills that need to be mastered in those early years. These do include academic skills, such as reading, writing, and arithmetic, but also include verbal abilities, physical control - ability to sit and work for an extended time - and social and emotional maturity. When in doubt, go deeper, not farther ahead in a particular skill, while giving your child a chance to mature in other areas. Take your student's personality into account as well as your long-term goals for your homeschool. Our curriculum is balanced, well-paced, thorough and deliberate. It builds from year to year and we want to ensure that students are able to take each progressive step to the best of their ability. *Festina Lente – make haste slowly! Review our recommendations below for student placement.*

Junior Kindergarten

We want our youngest students prepared for a rigorous phonics-based Kindergarten by being “reading ready” and academically mature. As importantly, we want our young students to delight in the pleasures of this stage of life – to capitalize on the curiosity and enthusiasm of their youth and to enjoy the songs, stories, games, rhymes, and prayers enjoyed by pre-school aged children for generations. Our Junior Kindergarten Curriculum follows the top down approach that serves the complete Memoria Press curriculum so beautifully. It provides a gentle foundation for the student before he or she even begins his formal academic career. The goals of the Junior Kindergarten Curriculum are simple – introduce the student to the joy of learning and the satisfaction in a job well done. *We recommend Jr.K for four year olds and young five year olds (who turn five after July 1).*

Kindergarten

Our Kindergarten Curriculum is designed for reading-ready children. These are usually 5-6 year olds with the ability to count to ten, print their names, recognize most letters, rhyme words, and segment sounds. We like to distinguish between an academically focused kindergarten, which we promote, versus a more enrichment-centered kindergarten. As a Memoria Press Cottage School, we are expecting focused work in reading and arithmetic with a penmanship component, which requires more of a young student than just reading and play. *We recommend Kindergarten for students who turn five on or before July 1.*

For more information visit our curriculum publisher [here](#).