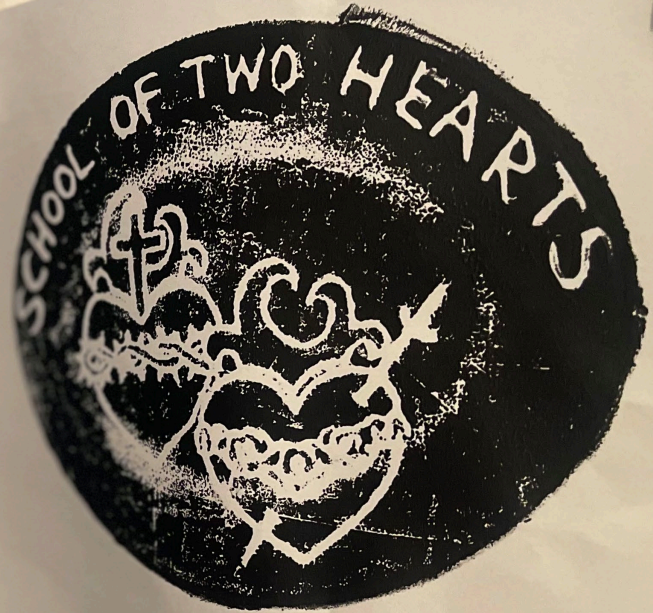




THE SCHOOL OF TWO HEARTS

• ————— •  
*Homeschool Program*

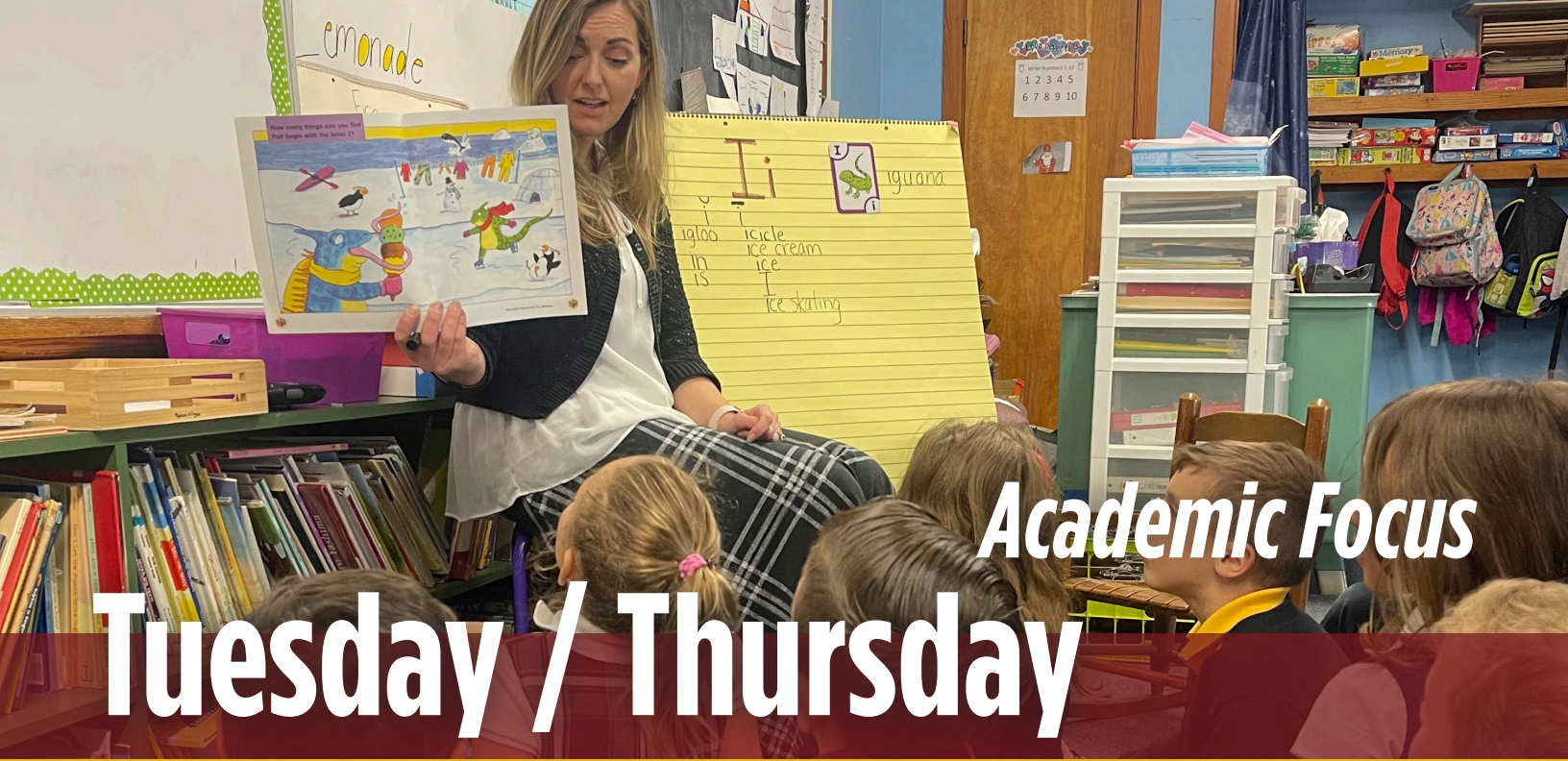
**Course Descriptions**  
**2023-2024**



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# Academic Focus Tuesday / Thursday

**Math:** Instructors review / introduce the math skills expected for their students' respective grade levels. Lessons are based on a variety of sources, including TWTh curriculum programs. Concepts may include addition, subtraction, multiplication, money counting, pattern recognition, problem solving, place value, measurement, and geometry. **Financial Literacy** will be included for the older Grade Groups.

**Humanities:** Reading, writing, and/or discussions based on Literature, Theology, Philosophy, and/or History. The teacher implements the Socratic Method to facilitate a deeper understanding through the lens of our Catholic faith. We introduce important topics of interest and exercise the students' higher level thinking skills, such as analyzing and interpreting; stretching their abstract thinking while considering maturational development. Adults often underestimate what children are capable of understanding; as a result, there is a tendency to dumb down Catholic teaching. This simplification may be contributing to why many young people are indifferent and/or leaving their faith.

**Music:** Students will explore musical technique and expression. A wide range of genres and time periods will be covered. Students' experiences will be a combination of contemplating pieces of music, building singing technique, learning songs as a group, and sharing with other students their own music taste.

**Reading & Writing:** Instructors review/introduce the basic reading and writing skills expected for their students' respective grade level. These skills are incorporated through the fundamentals of a balanced literacy approach to include: phonics instruction (K-2), guided reading (K-3), reading various literature through genre studies (4-8), vocabulary development, comprehension, and reading fluency. As tutors discover their students' needs and their interests, they incorporate these into their lessons. **\*Grades 6-9:** "Students were very engaged in class discussions of readings. They improved their writing skills by receiving feedback, and were forced to be creative by writing in different genres each week. We read some scripture, and literary classics such as *War of the Worlds*, and *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*."

**In addition, students attend Art, Science, PE, Italian via "Immersion,"**

**Civics and Recess/Lunch:** See descriptions on pages 5-6.





## Experiential Focus

# Monday / Wednesday

**Entrepreneurship:** Students will participate in creative and engaging activities that cultivate an entrepreneurial mindset. Our curriculum is based on various sources, including the VentureLab curriculum: *“VentureLab’s programs teach essential mindsets and skills to help youth cultivate innovation through youth entrepreneurship. They’re easy to implement with flexible schedules, and they get results: 94% of youth enhanced their problem solving skills and 92% said they enjoyed it.”* Course goals include: foster creativity, introduce entrepreneurship, and increase idea generation. Then students

will learn how to assess opportunities, conduct market research, and design business models. Students will also learn the difference between needs and wants, goods and services, and consumers and producers as it applies to the concept of entrepreneurship.



**See it! “Study” it! Draw it! Build it! Show it!**

Students develop fine motor and problem solving skills while creating and building. Students will learn about something (i.e., the Peace Bridge, Central Terminal, American Homes, etc.), draw it, then use materials such as Legos, K’nex, blocks, Lincoln Logs, Magna Tiles, etc. to construct the item. After building their item, students present/describe what they have made. Sometimes they may work alone, and sometimes with a team or a partner.



**Culinary:** Students are introduced to the culinary arts; they learn basic cooking skills, such as measuring and making simple dishes, entrées and baking.

## Monday/Wednesday - Experiential Focus (cont.)

### **Public Speaking and Communication:**

Effectively communicating is a skill that children can learn and implement in their lives at any age. Students will be encouraged and instructed the best ways to communicate with family, friends, co-workers, and people with opposing viewpoints. Students will learn about and practice the 3 P's of good communication (Projection, Posture, Polite Participation) to better improve their public speaking skills. Additionally, students will learn the important life skill of polite debate. They will learn appropriate and charitable ways to discuss ideas when there are opposing views.

### **Photography:**

Students (Grades 1+) will learn the basic functions of a digital camera and will practice techniques that will improve the composition of their images. They will also use the knowledge gained to express meaning or emotion in their photos. The class will culminate in a lesson on videography.

**In addition, students attend Art, Science, PE, Italian via "Immersion", Civics and Recess/Lunch:** See descriptions on pages 5-6.

**The following courses are included in BOTH Academic & Experiential focused programs: Art, Recess/Lunch, Science, PE, Italian via "Immersion," & Civics.**

**Art:** Students will complete fun projects to take home! Varied projects will sharpen students' artistic abilities. Students will create art projects using a variety of art mediums and styles; they will learn about artists throughout history and use the Elements of Art and Principles of Design to create interesting compositions. When applicable, the Catholic Faith will be infused throughout the curriculum corresponding to the liturgical calendar of the church, including Holy Days and Holidays. Students will also create greeting cards for family members and the community, i.e., police officers, veterans, nursing home residents, etc.

**Recess/Lunch:** Students select how to spend their free time, within a safe and supervised environment. They may play basketball, dodgeball, tag, read, play cards, board games, solve puzzles, draw and color, etc.

**Science:** Science classes consist of various units of study along with lab activities to supplement these units. Units of study include, but are not limited to: Weather and Climate, Animal and Plant Life Cycle studies, Geology (layers of the earth, rocks, minerals, fossils), and Astronomy (moon phases, the sun, solar system). Throughout the year, students will also engage in a variety of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) activities and tasks in between units to encourage problem solving, cooperation with others, planning, critical thinking, and engineering ideas. Students also engage with the study and care of the classroom animals and habitats. Gardening and maintaining ecosystems are also included in our science classes.





# Courses included in BOTH Academic & Experiential days (cont.)

**PE:** Students learn sportsmanship, play a variety of games, and enjoy some free play. \***Grades 2-4:** “They played games such as Dodgeball, Capture the Flag, Sharks and Minnows, Kickball, and more.”

**Italian - Learn to speak Italian via “Immersion”:** The class will often be divided into two parts. Part One: We will read a story and build vocabulary which is especially important for new students. Before reading the story, students will receive pictures representing the story’s key words and review these new words to prepare for the lesson. Activities relating to the story may include Puppet Theater and/or drawing pictures. Part Two: Activities may involve board games, educational



toys, specific cultural subjects, Italian cooking class, hand craft projects related to folkloristic stories, science experiments, various art projects, i.e., painting, coloring. Some students will learn about phonetics, reading, listening, and grammar in order to better understand the structure of the sentence.

**Civics:** We are blessed to be Americans and to live in the USA! Being a good citizen is essential to our country’s present and future; it transcends voting and reporting for jury duty. Do we know the sacrifices made by the Signers of the Declaration of Independence? Do we understand the Constitution and its implications? Do we know our freedom also came by sacrifice and that freedom is not free? Do we take our freedoms for granted? We shouldn’t; we mustn’t. Students will learn about America’s origins, be grateful to those who serve and protect us and our freedoms - our military and first responders, and be inspired and proud to be an American! The curriculum resources will vary; they include *The 1776 Curriculum* and *Little Patriots*.



**\*\*Compare & Contrast:** The ability to compare and contrast is a skill we use throughout our academic (formal essays) and every day (comparison shopping) lives! Students begin by comparing simple items and then compare more complicated / abstract items\* - especially for the older students. Students work in small groups or individually; they present the similarities and differences via discussion or on paper. \* Possible items /concepts: objects (pen/pencil); animals (dog/cat); characters in a story; a book and its movie, capitalism / socialism. The format can be cooperative or competitive!

***The School of Two Hearts makes it a priority to incorporate: Public Speaking & Communication, Critical/Analytical Thinking and Compare & Contrast skills\*\* every day, across all grade levels and subjects.***

**\*Excerpts (bold) from Quarterly Reports; to read more, please contact Mrs. Suchyna.**



# Friday

**Etiquette for Gentlemen:** The gentlemen will learn about etiquette via a variety of ways! We will have conversations about how society and themselves benefit from good manners, prosocial behaviors and a neat/well-groomed appearance. Our gentlemen will learn about the important health benefits of good posture and physical exercise, and the social benefits of sportsmanship - winning and losing graciously, the importance of a firm handshake, direct eye-contact and how to gain someone's attention appropriately. The boys, while wearing a dress shirt, will learn how to tie a tie - learning how to dress for success!

The gentlemen will practice speaking with others politely - especially when opinions differ. They will learn ways to show and earn respect from others, emphasizing that we are to treat others with the respect and dignity that we all deserve - for we are all made in the image and likeness of God!

As such, becoming a gentleman transcends good manners and good sportsmanship. We will look to St. Joseph, other saints and strong role models who demonstrate what it means (what it *should* mean) to be a man in today's world. We will pray as we humble ourselves, seeking the Holy Spirit's guidance, asking for the wisdom, fortitude, and courage to become the man God intended our young gentlemen to be!

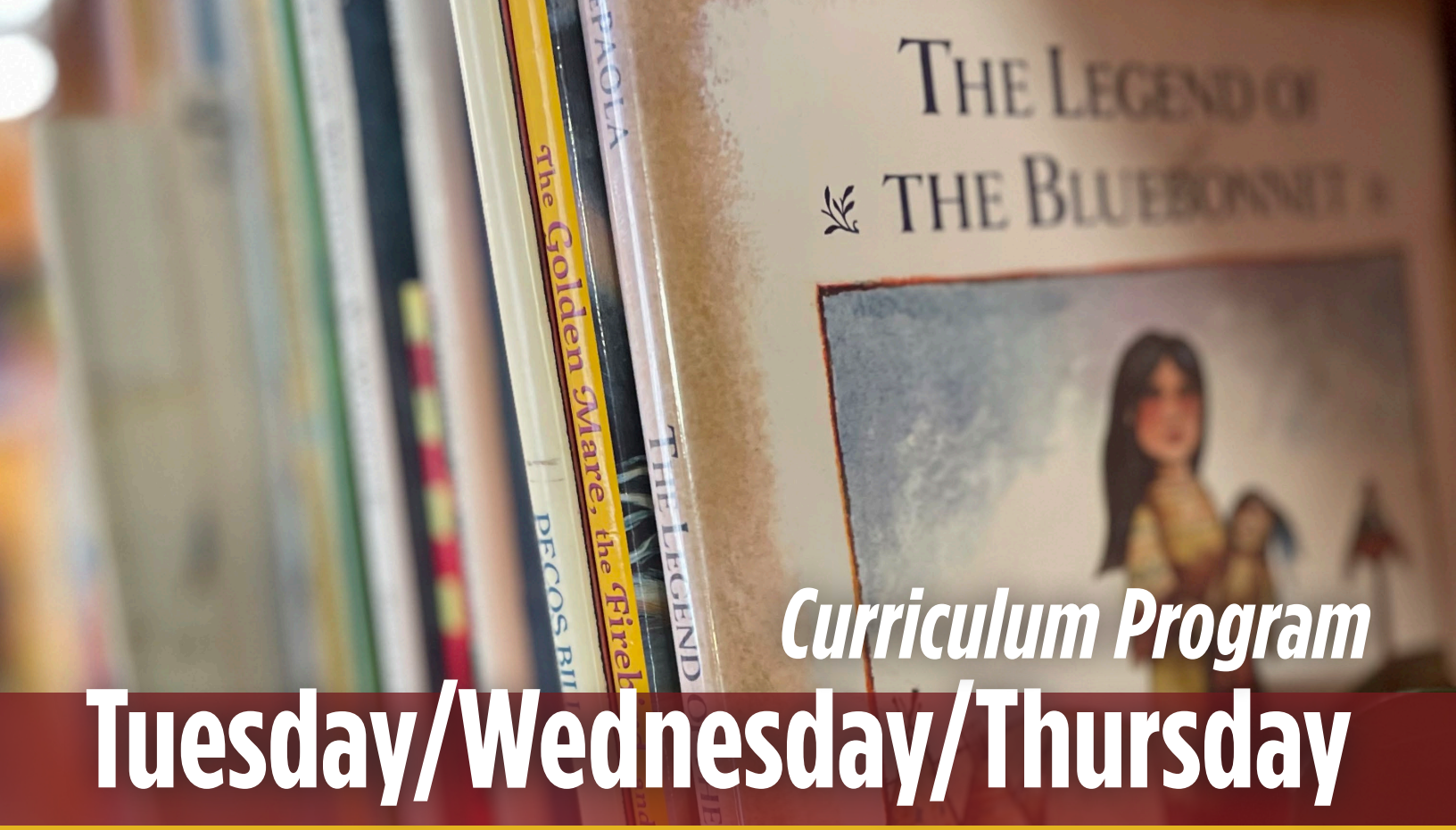
**Etiquette for Ladies:** A Catholic charm school for young ladies, "Little Women of Hospitality" is a program that will teach our girls grace and poise. This is a fun way to teach young ladies the various aspects of the virtue of hospitality by covering skills such as cooking, cleaning, setting/clearing a table, manners and conversation, writing correspondence, sewing and dressing modestly, hosting a tea party and a book club

**Drama / Theatre:** Younger students may conduct Puppet Shows and/or experience Readers' Theatre; this involves students reading aloud scripts from various grade-level appropriate books or stories to build word knowledge, vocabulary, and fluency. Each student has a part or "lines" in the story. Students will create simple costumes and small props using basic craft materials.

Older Students will learn interdependence, teamwork and increase their individual confidence and creativity through learning the basics of on-stage performance. Students will be introduced to the basics of acting, stage presence, and character development. The goal: Students perform a skit in front of an audience!

**In addition, students attend Art, Culinary, Science, PE, Italian via "Immersion", and Recess/Lunch:** See descriptions on pages 5-6.





# Curriculum Program Tuesday/Wednesday/Thursday

**This program's foundation is based on the *Five In A Row (FIAR)* curriculum. FIAR describes their program as follows:**

*Good books have always been the doorway to learning. That doorway leads to growth and an appreciation for the wonders around us. Come along on a learning adventure using picture books to open the door to art, history, vocabulary, geography, science, human relationships, math, and writing. All of this is imparted in a fun learning environment. Students think you're just reading them a book, but they're learning so much every day. The more lessons we do together, the more skills our young students will acquire; skills which will benefit them through high school, college, and throughout life.*

**Students also learn many things about virtues and God; we attend Mass on Wednesdays (in the historical Chapel) and Thursdays (in the Church). We also use the *Draw, Write, Now!* curriculum. This helps the students learn how to draw and write. They practice their writing skills while learning about what they are drawing.**

**The Curriculum Program students join their respective grade groups for Art or Culinary, Math, Science, PE, Italian via "Immersion," and Recess/Lunch:** See descriptions on pages 5-6.

*\*Five In A Row is a well-rounded homeschool program that only needs to be supplemented by Language Arts (i.e., phonics, spelling, grammar, etc.) and Math primarily for Grades K through 3rd or 4th grade students.*





# Enrichment & Tutorial Program

# High School

All interested 8th - 12th graders  
are invited to enroll!

## SCHEDULE

Each Co-op Day starts at 9:00am and has eight 40-minute periods. High School classes are Tuesdays and Thursdays. Each class for our High School students is a Double Period (Periods 2 & 3, Period 4: Recess/Lunch, Periods 5 & 6). *High School students, in addition to Recess/Lunch, may also attend classes offered to their assigned Grade Group during 1st, 7th & 8th periods for no additional charge.*

### SAMPLE SCHEDULE

|          |                        |                        |                             |
|----------|------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| TUESDAY  | Periods 2 & 3: English | Period 4: Recess/Lunch | Periods 5&6: Social Studies |
| THURSDAY | Periods 2 & 3: Math    | Period 4: Recess/Lunch | Periods 5&6: Science        |

- Homework will mostly be limited to reading for English class in preparation for class discussions.
- The grading of tests and assignments is all to be completed by the Parents.
- Instructors will provide a syllabus; instructors will communicate with the parents regarding topics covered/to be covered.
- Parents may select the same or different Curriculum/Textbooks for all 4 subjects.

### MATH: Algebra and/or Geometry

**Format:** Determined by interest/enrollment\*; Private / small group tutoring; Math Labs and Activities

**Curriculum:** Math You See

*\*The Instructor will communicate with the students/parents to determine what best meets their needs.*

**Possible Format Options:** If enrollment includes at least 2 students in each class: When Algebra is covered during Period 2 and Geometry during Period 3, then the Geometry student(s) may attend a class with their Grade Group (and visa versa); complete independent and/or group activities; and/or use this time as a Study Hall to complete their Homeschool work.

**Students who have already completed Algebra and/or Geometry are welcome and are encouraged to attend for one or both Periods!** Reviewing these math concepts may assist with current and future math classes as well as be a good review for the SAT/ACT. These experienced students may also function as peer tutors. Peer tutoring benefits both Tutor and Tutee: <https://www.teachtutors.com/benefits-of-peer-tutoring>

### SOCIAL STUDIES: American History & Civics

**Format:** The Socratic Method (instructor asking thought-provoking questions) will facilitate engaging discussions and enable the students to experience a deeper understanding of the material. The Instructor will lead the students to explore beyond the textbook's content by presenting historical video clips, viewing original sources/documents, etc. History will be brought to life! All taught through the lens of the Catholic faith.

**Curriculum:** Lands of Hope and Promise: A History of North America (Publisher: Catholic Textbook Project)  
The 1776 Curriculum (Civics) (Publisher: Hillsdale College)

### SCIENCE: Biology

**Format:** Lessons & Labs

**Curriculum:** Apologia - Biology 2nd ed.

### ENGLISH: One book will be selected for EACH Quarter.

The 2023-2024 book selection is: Mythology by Edith Hamilton, Animal Farm by George Orwell, The Hiding Place by Corrie Ten Boom and Narnia: The Magician's Nephew by C.S. Lewis. Students will be expected to read the assigned pages in order to participate in class discussions. *All of these books will be provided by the Co-op.*

**Format:** The Socratic Method (instructor asks thought-provoking questions) will facilitate engaging discussions and enable the students to experience a deeper understanding of the material. In addition to providing important information, i.e, historical context of the setting/plot, etc. the instructor will also provide an understanding of symbolism, allegories, and when applicable, how our Catholic faith may relate to these stories.

### Why is this format especially important to offer at our Homeschool Co-op?

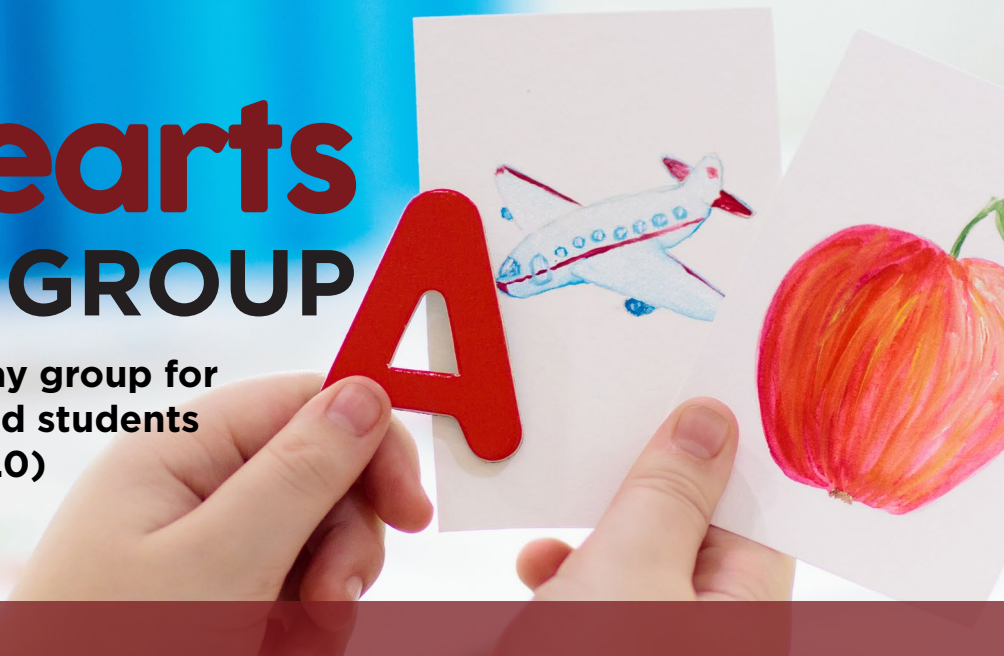
A mother of a 10th grade homeschool student who had attended school K-9th, reported the following:

*"My daughter read Animal Farm. Months later while studying Communism in her Social Studies class, she exclaimed, somewhat frustrated, 'It would have been helpful learning about Communism before reading Animal Farm.' A few months later as my daughter was reading The Screwtape Letters. She became reflective and told me that she would have gotten so much more out of this book if she were taking it with a teacher who guided class discussions."*

**NOTE:** Students may use the Curriculum of their choice at home.

# Little Hearts LEARNING GROUP

A learning readiness and play group for  
our youngest homeschooled students  
(ages up to 5.6 / 6.0)



The early childhood years significantly impact a child's life for many years!  
***The Little Hearts Learning Group*** offered by The School of Two Hearts recognizes and embraces this! Therefore, we will continuously assess what our students are maturationally ready to learn.

***The Little Hearts Co-op day*** will be in two sections: Morning & Afternoon.

## THE MORNING PROGRAM

The Morning Program will begin with a Morning Meeting/Circle Time; students gather and discuss topics such as the day of the week, the weather and any news to share!

Students will experience some Montessori-style activities providing opportunities for hands-on learning and agency: selecting the activities and materials they want to play with and discover in order to encourage intrinsic motivation and sustained attention. Children will be in a safe and nurturing environment enabling them to explore and learn with self-directed play (independent and interactive).

The classroom will have various Centers for students to experience and enjoy!

- Dramatic Play Centers (Play Kitchen, Grocery Store, House, Puppet Theatre, etc.)
- Fine Motor Skills Centers such as pouring and coloring
- STEM Focused Centers such as building with Legos and Magna Tiles.
- Art Center with different colored paper, coloring pages, shape/hole punchers, stencils, markers, crayons, etc.

Basic readiness skills will also be introduced in fun and creative ways!

- Using scissors; learning proper pencil grip; learning letters and numbers with songs.
- Taking turns, sharing, listening skills, making crafts.
- A daily read aloud will include comprehension questions:  
*What was your favorite part of the story?*  
*What did this character do in the story?*  
*How did the story end?*

## THE AFTERNOON PROGRAM

The Afternoon Program will begin after Recess/Lunch for those students who attend the Full Day. Students will join the Kindergarten Grade Group for the remaining classes; please see the Monday/Wednesday/Friday class offerings. If enrollment permits, then the Little Hearts Learning Group will be their own Grade Group.





# ARMOR UP! Academics™

Private tutoring program, available during and after the co-op day. Open to all co-op and non co-op students!

## Is it time to *Armor Up!* your child's Academic Skills?

**The School of Two Hearts is offering private/individual and/or small group one-hour Tutoring Sessions in the areas of reading, writing, and/or math within the Co-op Day on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, as well as after the Co-op Day.**

**Armor Up! Academics™** is for all students! For those performing academically below, at and/or above grade level. Sessions are for everyone who wants to strengthen/upgrade their academic skills! The School of Two Hearts aspires to assist our WNY student community in countering what COVID may have wrought upon their academic skills as well as their self-concepts as learners!

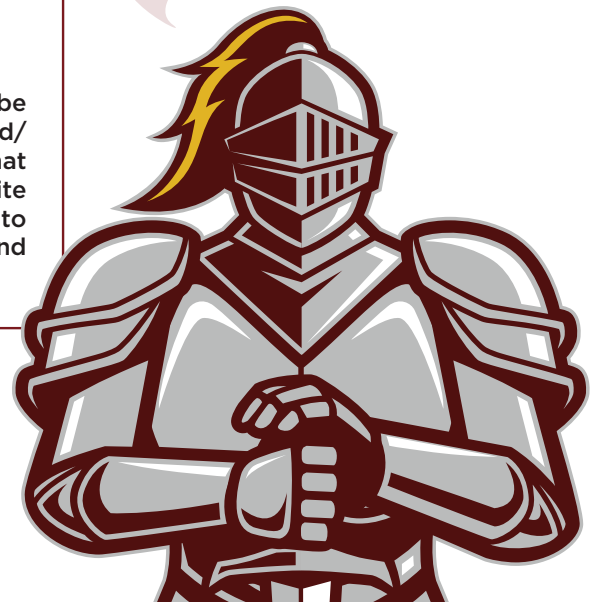
### PRICING

|          |             | Co-op Students | Non Co-op Students |
|----------|-------------|----------------|--------------------|
| Private: | 1 student   | \$45/hour      | \$55/hour          |
| Group:   | 2 students: | \$40/hour      | \$50/hour          |
|          | 3 students: | \$35/hour      | \$45/hour          |
|          | 4 students: | \$30/hour      | \$40/hour          |

Before the student's first tutoring session, an assessment of his skills will be conducted; this may include a review of report cards, parent interview, and/or a formal screening / evaluation. Assessments are important given that Reading, Writing and Math Skills all include mastery of some prerequisite skills; this enables the Tutor to continue to the next level. Our goal is to build upon the child's targeted academic skills, build his confidence, and strengthen his self-concept as a learner!

**What does it mean to *ARMOR UP!*?**

To strengthen;  
To upgrade!



**Although we are post-COVID, the effects on our children are lingering; check out the articles on the next page for more information.**

## ARMOR UP! Academics™ - Helpful articles

**Title:** The pandemic has had devastating impacts on learning. What will it take to help students catch up?

**Date:** March 3, 2022

**Summary:** *Research indicates the drop in Math and Reading*

**Source:** BROWN CENTER CHALKBOARD Megan Kuhfeld, Jim Soland, Karyn Lewis, and Emily Morton

**READ Here:** <https://www.brookings.edu/blog/brown-center-chalkboard/2022/03/03/the-pandemic-has-had-devastating-impacts-on-learning-what-will-it-take-to-help-students-catch-up/>

**Title:** Most K-12 parents say first year of pandemic had a negative effect on their children's education

**Date:** October 26, 2022

**Summary:** *How parents experienced Covid's effect on their children.*

**Source:** Pew Research by Dana Braga & Kim Parker

**READ Here:** <https://www.pewresearch.org/short-reads/2022/10/26/most-k-12-parents-say-first-year-of-pandemic-had-a-negative-effect-on-their-childrens-education/>

**Title:** COVID's impact on classrooms will linger and must be addressed, according to teachers

**Date:** February 2, 2023

**Summary:** Interview with several educators: 4th graders behaving academically and socially as 2nd graders; angry students need to self-regulate.

**Source:** Heard on All Things Considered By Gus Contreras, Christopher Intagliata, Ailsa Chang

**READ Here:** <https://www.npr.org/2023/02/02/1153936515/covids-impact-on-classrooms-will-linger-and-must-be-addressed-according-to-teach>

NOTE: Recorded interview and transcript available

**Title:** New Data Shows That Just as Many Students Are Behind Grade Level as Last Year: The new federal data bolsters concerns over the severity of academic declines and the ongoing challenges to rebounding in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic.

**Date:** Feb. 9, 2023

**Excerpts:** "Both this school year and last school year, public school leaders estimated that about half of their students began the school year behind grade level in at least one academic subject. These data suggest that academic recovery will take time."

**Source:** USNews.com by Lauren Camera

**READ Here:** <https://www.usnews.com/news/education-news/articles/2023-02-09/new-data-shows-that-just-as-many-students-are-behind-grade-level-as-last-year>

NOTE: Recorded interview and transcript available

**Title:** COVID's education crisis: A lost generation?

**Date:** March 26, 2023

**Summary:** Observed drops in Math, ELA and Reading

**Excerpt:** But the bigger picture here, according to educators like Geoffrey Canada, is that this will be a kind of lost generation: under-educated to the point where it drags down their future, and ours.

**Source:** CBS New - Sunday Morning

**READ Here:** <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/covids-education-crisis-a-lost-generation/>

**To learn more about The School of Two Hearts Armor Up! Academics™ Program, please contact Mrs. Suchyna.**