

# Holy Trinity Academy FAQ's

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## **Where are you located?**

Holy Trinity Academy (HTA) is an Orthodox Christian parochial school located on the campus of Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral, 1973 E. Maryland Ave. in Phoenix. We are currently the only Orthodox Christian school in the state of Arizona.

## **What grades do you offer?**

We offer preschool to 3 & 4-year olds and full day kindergarten.

## **What is HTA's teaching philosophy?**

Holy Trinity Academy recognizes that preschool and elementary are a child's first steps into the world beyond the family; therefore, our aim is to provide a loving and supporting environment for optimal growth within a developmentally appropriate framework. We are committed to allowing each child the opportunity to learn at his or her own level and to experience success as his or her mastery advances. We strive to be accepting of the child as a unique individual with specific emotional and educational needs. Our goal is to provide challenging new experiences, opportunities to build relationships with other children and adults, and a rich variety of activities leading to the mastery of appropriate skills and overall school readiness. It is our responsibility to create the finest Orthodox Christian environment in which that can happen.

## **What is included in your curriculum?**

Our advanced learning programs are designed to promote every aspect of development – cognitive, physical, social, emotional, and spiritual – and to inspire a love and desire for learning.

HTA uses the Jean Piaget's focus on play and Erik Erikson's scaffolding and mastering methods for early childhood development. Children who are encouraged and commended by parents and teachers develop a feeling of competence and belief in their skills. Successfully finding a balance at this stage of psychosocial development leads to competence, in which children develop a belief in their abilities to handle and master the tasks set before them.

## **Pre-K focuses on all areas for a well-rounded early childhood education**

- Gross Motor Skills
- Blocks and Building
- Language and Communications
- Fine Art
- Dramatic Play
- Basic Greek Language and Culture
- Παιδική Κήπος (Children's Garden)
- Phonemic Awareness
- Letters and Sounds
- Library Corner
- Mathematics
- Science (Hands-on Projects)
- Puppets
- Music
- Orthodoxy

## **Kindergarten uses the following programs:**

**SRA/Open Court Reading and Language Arts.** Students learn reading, writing, and critical-thinking skills through this research-based program that features systematic instruction in phonics, comprehension, word knowledge, and the extensive reading of decodable text and authentic literature. Language arts focus on spelling, vocabulary, grammar, and writing.

**The Spalding Method.** A total language arts approach, the Spalding Method provides explicit, systematic, multi-sensory instruction in spelling, writing, and listening and reading comprehension. This phonics-based research validated program teaches all the components necessary for reading success: phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension.

**SRA Real Math.** Through questions and problems that require thinking, not just memorization and calculation, this time-tested and proven program helps students understand math and apply learned skills to the real world. Real Math is the first program to integrate fully into every lesson the five interdependent mathematical proficiencies, or strands— understanding, computing, applying, reasoning, and engaging— that

every student needs to achieve in math. Learning is made fun with the use of exciting games and manipulatives that support concept development.

**Pearson Learning Core Knowledge History and Geography.** Students learn about peoples and cultures that first lived in America.

**Macmillan/McGraw-Hill Science.** This science program helps the children develop connections between their experiences and the world around them as they study weather, plants, animals, and much more.

**The Faith.** This instructional series summarizes the beliefs and practices of the Orthodox Christian faith and includes daily lessons in Scripture, Liturgy, and Dogma.

In addition to the above programs, **Fine Art, Παιδική Κήπος (Children's Garden), Music and Greek Culture and Language** are part of the daily curriculum.

### **When does your school year begin?**

HTA runs on a traditional school year beginning the day after Labor Day through the end of May. We have breaks in the fall, Christmas, and spring.

### **What is the admission process?**

The admission process for all prospective students includes an application, registration fee, and interview process. Children entering kindergarten must take an entrance test, which will be administered by appointment at HTA.

### **What is your tuition and fee cost?**

Our website address is [www.htaphx.org](http://www.htaphx.org). This site includes information about our school including scholarships, programs, and our staff.

### **Are Before and After Care programs available?**

Before care is from 7:30am each morning. After school care is offered every afternoon until 5:30pm for students on the days that they attend school. Registration for the program is requested at the time of school registration. Monthly and day rates are available.

### **What else should I know?**

Our preschool is licensed by the Arizona Department of Health Services is assessed on a regular basis and has a stellar record. HTA is also a proud member of ACSI (Association of Christian Schools International). We offer small class sizes that are well below the maximum teacher/student ratio, and our teaching staff is knowledgeable, caring and highly qualified. For more information you may call the school office at 602-248-3881, or email the director at [julipritsos@holytrinityacademyphx.org](mailto:julipritsos@holytrinityacademyphx.org).