

AGIA SOPHIA ACADEMY

An Orthodox Christian Classical School

www.AgiaSophiaAcademy.org

Summer 2005



AGIA SOPHIA ACADEMY

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Progress Notes from the Headmaster

June 2005

God be praised! We have successfully completed our first academic year! Twenty-eight students made up our initial class—seven in Pre-K, seven in Primer and another 14 in the Year One class. Looking ahead to the future, we will add one class next year (Year Two) and will be educating approximately 45 young minds. The staff and board of directors of Agia Sophia Academy would like to

express their heartfelt thanks to all who helped make this a successful inaugural year. Donors, volunteers, and prayer warriors all helped make this ministry a success on so many levels. We couldn't have done it without you!

While the staff learned a lot this year, I am really excited for our kids. They really excelled academically this year and have been enriched spiritually through the teaching in the classroom, the worship, and through

the everyday practice of Christian values towards their peers and the staff. Even as they are growing academically, they are being rooted in the Orthodox faith that we hold dear. I look forward to another year and hope and pray that we can continue to be blessed by your prayers and support.

Dn Kevin Haan

Reflections of a Successful Year

Our goal at Agia Sophia is to educate the body, soul, and mind of our students. When looking back on this past year, several moments come to mind that convince me of our success. Watching a very shy student (who would not speak out loud to me at the beginning of the year) get on stage and read clearly a letter he had written to a large adult audience, gave me a true sense of meeting all three goals. We know that our students have been very successful this year academically. All we have to do is look at the standardized tests, but what about the truly important things?

Sometimes, a short comment made in a casual way can really show us what our students are learning. After attending Agia Sophia for two weeks, a student said, "I'm going to talk to my parents about coming to church more, it's important." Once, when I was pressed for time, I suggested missing Faith class the next morning. My students let me know in very clear terms, "Aw! We like reading the Bible," that I needed to make up time in another way. Another student had so much enjoyed our Hours prayers and learning the hymns at school that he is becoming part of the

choir at his church. Yes, our children are learning what is truly important in life, and reminding us along the way.

Often, it takes some reflection to see growth in an area of a child's life. For instance, it did not occur to me how much one girl's attitude toward PE had changed until I realized that she was laughing, smiling and enjoying keeping up with the others, rather than crying and refusing to participate. Glory to God! In all these events, I see that we have had a blessed and successful year. Imagine what next year will bring.

*In Christ,
Marina Schor*



AGIA SOPHIA ACADEMY

Stage One: Grammar

PURIFICATION

Stage Two: Logic

ILLUMINATION

Stage Three: Rhetoric

DIVINIZATION

4 YEAR OLDS

REGISTER TODAY

FOR PRE-K

Primer Class

We are into our second week of summer vacation and I can hardly believe that this first year has come to an end so quickly. As I take a deep breath and reflect upon the first Primer Class and all that we accomplished, I am so proud of these little ones and so grateful to their parents for the love and support throughout the year. Entrusting your children to a new school, and perhaps even a new (but, in fact, ancient) method of education takes a great deal of courage, faith and prayer. Judging from the comments we received from most of the parents, the results have been beyond expectation, especially for the first year of a start up school. As part of the staff, it has been my pleasure to watch the growth and transformation of each of the students. One area that is most apparent is during our 3rd and 9th Hours of Prayer. I wish we had a video of the first months of the squirming, wiggly and mostly distracted children to compare to the last part of the year when they all had their own prayer books and were following, if not actually reading, each part of the service. It is a truly amazing contrast. And if

there is any part of the day that I thought the Primers might always wriggle through, it was Hours, but I believe that as much of a struggle as it was in the beginning, it was worth every effort.

Every day the Bible Lesson was the anchor for our schedule so that we were able to read stories all the way through the Old Testament, the Gospel Book and the Book of Acts. Our Language Arts and Math curriculum was very successful as each student, by year end, was able to read and calculate math problems to the best of his/her ability. History, Science and Art were in the afternoon and at times I sent these little ones home with extremely tired brains! Through myths, legends and stories they learned about the ancient world and how civilization began. Some of them might not yet be able to find Oregon on the globe, but most can recognize the Red Sea and the Mediterranean and name and locate the 7 continents and the oceans!

We had fun learning about our solar system and a bit about weather, sound, water, plants and animals. I had a difficult time letting go of the art work they produced, as

that is one of my favorite things about this age. They love to draw and color and paint and sculpt. Our halls were fully adorned with their creations all year. Next year I hope to integrate art even more fully into the history/geography and science lessons. Our last week included an interpretive dance performance called "I Need a Hero," for which the children made most of their own costumes and props. They delighted us with their enthusiasm for performing and this may become a yearly Primer tradition.

The plans for next year are already in gear, and I am looking forward to a new Primer Class and seeing all the children again. I only hope that they learned as much as I did this first year. I do miss them so much already!

I want to thank everyone who has faithfully supported our school and made it possible for us to continue in our endeavor to fulfill our mission at Agia Sophia. May God bless you all and give you a peaceful, relaxing summer.

In Christ,
Mrs. Powell

