

## **Acknowledgments**

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I dedicate this work to God, the source of all that is True, Good, and Beautiful, the One who loved us into being. Thank you to my family, for your love, patience, and support!

May God bless you all!

Book Title:

**Aquinas Learning Schola Parva Guide, Cycle Three, 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter**

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**Let's start with a prayer...**

**Prayer of St. Thomas Aquinas**

Grant me, O Lord my God,  
a mind to know you,  
a heart to seek you,  
wisdom to find you,  
conduct pleasing to you,  
faithful perseverance in waiting for you,  
and a hope of finally embracing you.  
Amen.





## Our Mission

Aquinas Learning is a classical education mentoring program which guides students toward wisdom and virtue. Students meet once a week for a class day with their mentors and peers and, using materials and on-line support that we provide, continue the curriculum with their parents and siblings at home.

By studying the liberal arts and by discussing the great ideas of Western civilization, in full communion with the Catholic Church, students develop a **taste and affection** for what is true, good, and beautiful as well as the **skills** of reading, writing, listening, speaking, and thinking through:

- Good books with Socratic discussions
- Core subject discussions – catechism, history, science, and civics
- Memory practice – Latin, grammar, timeline, and geography
- Fine arts studies – music and art appreciation, chants, and art projects
- Science experiments – exploring the splendor of order in God’s creation
- Oral presentations – elocution, listening, and note-taking skills
- Language arts – IEW, grammar, diagramming, copy work, spelling, and handwriting

Students form a **habit of mind**, that of being inquisitive, perceptive, ordered, and contemplative leading to **moral and intellectual virtue**, right reason applied to right action following God’s will for them.

## Our Curriculum

*"Have no anxiety about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which passes all understanding, will keep your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, do; and the God of peace will be with you."*

- St. Paul: Philippians 4:6-9



## Parva Parent Weekly Planner

Day Two	Day Three	Day Four	Day Five	Weekends
<b>Daily Indep. Work</b> – Math, Phonics, Handwriting	<b>Daily Indep. Work</b> – Math, Phonics	<b>Daily Indep. Work</b> – Math, Phonics	<b>Daily Indep. Work</b> – Math, Phonics	<b>Saturday</b> AM Free + Household Cleaning Gardening Mom work day Dad – excursion with kids? Confessions Homework for those who need extra time or didn't finish previous week's work
<b>Subject Focus:</b> Retell Good Books, Virtue	<b>Focus:</b> Catechism, Saint of the Week	<b>Focus:</b> History, Geography, Timeline	<b>Focus:</b> Science, Reread Good Books or Poetry, Take a nature walk	
<b>Read-aloud:</b> Read aloud from Good Books, Poetry, History, or Catechism.				<b>Sunday</b> God's day Mass Family excursion Invite family / friends over for games / prayer
<b>Prep:</b> • FRA Book • Guide (Visual Aids/WAGS) • Review last week's work • Virtue chart  <i>Change out display board and virtue of the week on dry-erase board.</i>	<b>Prep:</b> • FRA Book • Guide (Visual Aids/WAGS) • Catechism • Prayers • Latin memory work • Virtue chart • Discuss this week's Show & Tell / Oral Presentation	<b>Prep:</b> • FRA Book • Guide (Visual Aids/WAGS) • Geography reference • History Read-Aloud • History CD • Timeline • Prayers • Virtue chart	<b>Prep:</b> • FRA Book • Guide (Visual Aids/WAGS) • Science reading and exploration • Timeline • Prayers • Virtue chart	
<b>Music:</b> (background music during indep work time & lunch) Chant CD				
<b>Extra Curricular Activities:</b> First Friday Mass AM - Field Trip ? Sports Piano Practice	<b>Extra:</b> CCD at parish Piano – 10:30	<b>Extra:</b> AM Mass Sports Piano Practice	<b>Extra:</b> AM Mass Sports Drama Piano Practice Pack AL bag and homework	



## Parva Parent Weekly Planner

Day Two	Day Three	Day Four	Day Five	Weekends
Daily Work	Daily Work	Daily Work	Daily Work	Saturday
Subject Focus/OP:	Focus/OP:	Focus/OP:	Focus/OP:	
Reading:				Sunday
Prep:	Prep:	Prep:	Prep:	
Music this week:				
Extra Curricular Activities:	Extra:	Extra:	Extra:	



## Mimetic Teaching by Andrew Kern, Circe Institute

Aquinas Learning invites the student to WONDER as the great philosophers once did. With the help of great books and great thinkers that came before us, we are able to share in the common heritage of Western Civilization, informed by the Roman Catholic faith. It is in providing truth, goodness, and beauty that the tastes and affections of our students will be raised to the awareness of God.

**“Teach at REST, otherwise all your children will learn is your anxiety.”** (Andrew Kern)

There is a natural way of learning (this is the classical approach taught by Aristotle). We first encounter a new “thing” through our senses (sensory perception), we apprehend it in the context of what we already know, we absorb it into what we know, and we put it to practice by re-presenting it.

In this context, as mentors, we can teach a lesson to follow this natural process by:

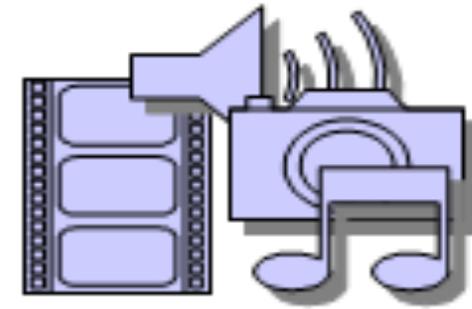
1. Pre-reading – mentors/parents can read a little bit about a new concept prior to presenting it.
2. Pre-presentation – We engage a student through a pre-presentation or a discussion
3. Presentation – We present the material or the concept using engaging techniques remember the use of the senses.
4. We discuss using the 5 types of questions (Aristotle) that lead to greater understanding:
  - a. **definition** questions: what does “spangled” mean? (Star Spangled Banner)
  - b. **compare and contrast** questions: What is the difference between a knight and a squire?
  - c. **circumstance** questions (context): Where was the Magna Carta signed and by whom?
  - d. **relation** questions (cause and effect): What happened after Isabella married Ferdinand?
  - e. **authority** questions (on whose authority): Who gave the dwarves the authority to enter Bilbo’s house?
5. We assess understanding through apprehension activities, where the student is able to show what they’ve learned by re-presenting it. (discussion, oral or written presentations)

DO NOT STRESS over this. These are just fancy terms describing how one learns and how one teaches NATURALLY. Read it, try it, let it soak in. However, remember that your main goal is to marinate in Truth, Goodness, and Beauty with your children!



# Three brain facts to remember when teaching your class:

1) Multi-sensory stimulation improves attention and retention.



2) Movement anchors new information and experiences into neural networks.

3) Rhythm activates processing and memory in the brain.





## SCHOLA PARVA - WAG

## CYCLE 3, Notes

Circle Time			Schedule
<b>CATECHISM/SAINT</b> <i>Before the year begins decide if you are doing Holy Card or book version (lg or sm) of coloring pages.</i> <b>Prep:</b> A coloring page will be linked to at course site where one exists. Also those coloring pages combined 4 to a page for Holy Cards will be available for download. Print out coloring page on card stock for HC and regular typing for Book. <b>In Class:</b> Read story of the saint from Amy Welborn's <u><a href="#">Book of Saints</a></u> . Go over chapter topic and memory sentence. <b>At Home:</b> Talk about the saint more; read about the saint in other saint books you may own; mark feast day on your family calendar to remember; color Saint picture. HC version 4.25x5.5: laminate Saint picture, punch a hole, and put on binder ring; book version: use a 8.5x5.5 binder and page protectors. Slide picture into page protector. You could also use regular 8.5x11 binder/page protectors as well. Make note cards with the memory sentence. Go over sentence each day.			CIRCLE TIME Catechism/Saint Virtue Calendar / Liturgical Calendar MEMORY WORK Latin Timeline History ALPHABET WORK Art Science Fun GOOD BOOKS
<b>VIRTUE</b> <b>In Class:</b> Go over topic. Ask them discussion questions. Talk about ways to demonstrate the virtue. <b>At Home:</b> Talk about the weeks virtue. Help the child find an activity that will demonstrate the virtue and encourage them in doing the activity often. Try to recognize anytime the child acts in a way that highlights the virtue.			
<b>CALENDAR / LITURGICAL CALENDAR</b> <b>CALENDAR NOTES:</b> <b>In Class:</b> Have a large changeable calendar for reviewing the months, days of the week, seasons, holidays, etc. for each month each class. You may read from the suggested books if you like as well. <b>At Home:</b> For each month work with the children to make a poem or drawings for the month, or use the sample poems provided. At the end of the year, put the poems together in a stick book. You might also read from the suggested books or any other books you find on topic. <b>LITURGICAL CALENDAR NOTES:</b> This can vary wildly from school to school depending on when school starts and year to year. Use the suggested resources or your own to include at least one activity or story that matches the current time on our Liturgical Calendar in which you are teaching the class. This will require the most prep work from the mentors and parents.			
<b>LATIN</b> <b>Prep:</b> Go to <a href="http://classicalacademicpress.com/product-support/#ssl">http://classicalacademicpress.com/product-support/#ssl</a> and print out coloring pages which can be half page or full page depending on size of book you wish to make. <b>In class:</b> go over songs and vocabulary <b>At Home:</b> Color the vocabulary pages and place in small or large binder. At the end of the year you'll have your own Latin Review Book. Sing songs and either verbally or in writing do the workbook pages from Song School Latin II.	<b>TIMELINE</b> <b>In Class:</b> Go over timeline and motions. <b>At Home:</b> Go over timeline and motions with all your children daily.	<b>HISTORY</b> <b>In Class:</b> Sing history song. If you have an interesting fact about the subject, share that as well if you like. <b>At Home:</b> Sing history song with all your children daily.	
Alphabet Work			Good Books
<b>ART</b> This will be an in class project. At home display the project for a week then decide if you wish to keep it or let it go. Taking a picture of the project to place in a keepsake book can be a great way to maintain memories while not adding to clutter.	<b>SCIENCE</b> This will be a science/nature topic for the children to discuss in class and you can develop or not at home.	<b>FUN</b> <i>Time Permitting in class or at home</i> Depending on the week the children may or may not do this activity in class, but it is also an idea to carry over at home as well.	Stories will be from <u><a href="#">The Burgess Animal Book for Children, by Thornton W. Burgess</a></u> Read them in class and ask a few questions. Read them at home and do the same. You can use the Story Charts at home or in class as a guide.



## SCHOLA PARVA - WAG

## CYCLE 3, Notes

Afternoon Work			Schedule
<p><b>POETRY MEMORIZATION / RECITATION</b></p> <p><b>Prep:</b> Print out copy of poem</p> <p><b>In class:</b> Go over poem a few times. Try to have the children remember at least the title and author and maybe the first line.</p> <p><b>At home:</b> Work each day to memorize the poem if you so desire. Continue to go over ALL poems every day all year if memorizing. You may also have the child illustrate the poem with or without your help.</p>	<p><b>REST / LISTENING</b></p> <p>Use any classical music or recorded stories you have at home for listening or maintain silence for a silent rest time. Should be done at school. Can be done at home as well.</p>	<p><b>CLOSING</b></p> <p>Wrap up the day with song and review of the day's lessons. Ending prayer.</p> <p>Gather up materials to take home in preparation for dismissal.</p>	<p>LANGUAGE ARTS Poetry Directed Handwriting</p> <p>REST / LISTENING</p> <p>CENTERS</p> <p>CLOSING</p>
<p><b>HANDWRITING READINESS</b></p> <p><b>Prep:</b> Mentor print out class sheets; Parents have book at home</p> <p><b>In class:</b> have the children practice the letters with gross motor skills (writing letter in the air with whole arm). Try to consistently say left slant, right slant, across, around, etc. when writing letter in the air. Use the print outs and allow the students to color and add pictures of things that start with the letter for younger students or practice writing on hand out for older students.</p> <p><b>At home:</b> Continue practicing the letters with gross and fine motor skills. If they are ready trace with finger on the page or in rice/sand and using dry erase on page in page protector are good practice. Try to consistently say left slant, right slant, across, around, etc. when writing letter. Do pages in workbook to students ability.</p>	<p><b>CENTERS</b></p> <p>Chose several activity type games / puzzles / coloring pages / tangrams / lacing beads / letter and number order work / etc. for the children to enjoy together or individually.</p>		
Mentor / Parent Notes			
<p>Use this space to write notes for the week's class. Things you want to be sure to include or that you have thought of that might enhance the day.</p> <p>Suggested but not required readings and activities might be here to give you an idea of what you can do. Feel free to use your own resources for these areas.</p>			



**SCHOLA PARVA - WAG**

**CYCLE 3, WEEK 1**

Circle Time		Schedule	
<p>CATECHISM/SAINT</p> <p>Chapter 1: The Mystery of God Sentence: There are three persons in one God. This mystery is called the Blessed Trinity. Saint: (Welborn, 186): St. Thomas Aquinas</p>		<p>CIRCLE TIME Catechism/Saint Virtue Calendar / Liturgical Calendar MEMORY WORK Latin Timeline History ALPHABET WORK Art Science Fun GOOD BOOKS</p>	
<p>VIRTUE</p> <p>What is Virtue? Virtue is the habit of choosing to do good things.</p>			
<p>CALENDAR / LITURGICAL CALENDAR</p>			
Memory Work			
<p>LATIN</p> <p>salve, vale, discipuli, magister/magistra</p> <p>Chapter 1</p>	<p>TIMELINE</p> <p>Creation Adam and Eve Cain and Abel Noah and the Flood</p>	<p>HISTORY</p> <p>After Columbus came, many Europeans raced to the “New World” in search of wealth, land, and religious freedom. The British settled in the East, the French traders claimed the Mississippi region and parts of the Northeast, and the Spanish colonized the South and the West.</p>	
Alphabet Work			Good Books
<p>ART</p> <p>Name Table Tents Supplies: Card stock folded in half length wise, child’s name on front, stickers or other items to decorate their table tents</p>	<p>SCIENCE</p> <p>Talk about what science is, observation, and nature study</p>	<p>FUN</p> <p><i>Time Permitting in class or at home</i></p> <p>Sing some fun traditional kids songs</p>	<p><a href="#"><u>Jenny Wren Gives Peter Rabbit an Idea</u></a></p> <p><a href="#"><u>The Burgess Animal Book for Children, by Thornton W. Burgess</u></a></p>



**SCHOLA PARVA - WAG**

**CYCLE 3, WEEK 1**

Afternoon Work			Schedule
POETRY MEMORIZATION / RECITATION  “Let Dogs Delight to Bark and Bite”, by Isaac Watts	REST / LISTENING  Use any classical music or recorded stories you have at home for listening or maintain silence for a silent rest time.	CLOSING  Wrap up the day with song and review of the day’s lessons. Ending prayer.  Gather up materials to take home in preparation for dismissal.	LANGUAGE ARTS Poetry Directed Handwriting
HANDWRITING READINESS  Basic Strokes Pages1-5	CENTERS		REST / LISTENING  CENTERS  CLOSING

**Mentor / Parent Notes**

\*Read September from Around the Year, Write a September Rhyming Couplet with the children or share the AL one. Have a September calendar to point out important days for the coming week.



## At-Home Extension

Day	X	Subject	Activity
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Hand-work	Draw their hand and, at the tip of each finger, write 5 things they need to accomplish before the start of school
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Catechism:	Discuss the Catechism lesson for the week and ask the student to retell the story of the Saint of the Week. If they don't remember, re-read the story. Color your saint page/s.
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Virtue:	Discuss the week's virtue with your child. Find opportunities to practice this virtue with your child this week.
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Liturgical Calendar:	Make connections weekly with events in the liturgical year. <a href="http://DivineOffice.org">DivineOffice.org</a> for Liturgy or the Hours and Saints/Feasts of the day.
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Memorization:	Read through all the visual aids with your child. Sing all the songs for this week.
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Timeline:	Review this week's timeline events/figures and practice the motions.
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Latin:	Color the vocabulary pages. Work with your Song School Latin materials.
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Good Books & Poetry:	Discuss this week's reading selection (refer to the course site if needed). Re-read it one more time during the week. Read the poem selection and pick some to memorize for the year.
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Music/Art:	Ask the student to "tell you about their drawing/painting/craft" and then file away work or take a digital photo to reduce paperwork. Listen to classical music or the chants.
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Handwriting:	Practice good posture, pencil grip, paper angle, and strokes. Chant and practice in the air before tracing.

Notes: Did you delight in them today?



# CATECHISM

Week 1

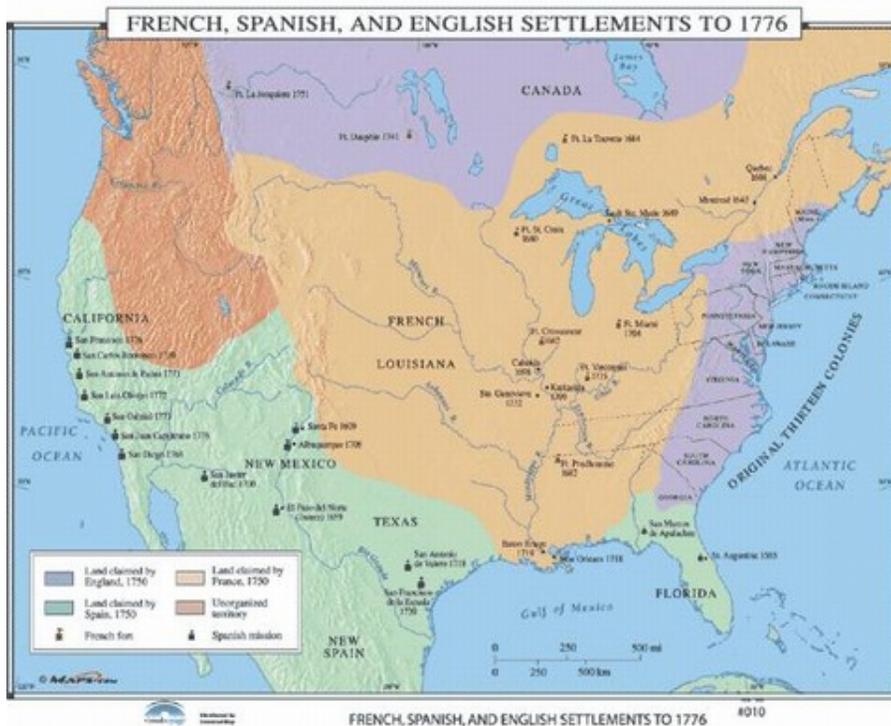
There are three persons in one God. This mystery is called the **Blessed Trinity**.





# HISTORY

## Week 1



After Columbus came, many Europeans raced to the "New World" for wealth, land, and religious freedom. The British settled in the East, French traders claimed the North East and the Mississippi region, and the Spanish colonized the South and the West.



# LATIN

Week 1

SALVE

VALE

DISCIPULI

MAGISTER/MAGISTRA



# Saint of the Week



**St. Thomas Aquinas**  
Feast day: January 28



# VIRTUE

Week 1

Virtue is the habit of choosing to do good things.

