

Koraes Elementary School at a Glance

11025 S. Roberts Road
Palos Hills, IL 60465
Phone: 708.974.3402
www.koraes.org

Preschool – Ages 3-5

M-F 8:30-11:30 a.m.

Must be 3 years old by October 1 of current school year

Kindergarten

M-F 8:30-3:15 p.m.

Must be 5 years old by October 1 of current school year

Grades 1-8 Elementary School

Curriculum aligned with Illinois State Standards - Fully accredited by the State of Illinois

Registration: Registration is on-going. School tours available with appointment by calling school office

Enrollment: Koraes enrolls new students on a first come, first serve basis and reserves the right to limit enrollment as needed.

- Forms can be downloaded from our website at www.koraes.org, or picked up in the school office.
- Transfer into any grades welcome with transcripts and acceptable student performance/behavior.
- Interview and evaluation required with principal prior to approval for transfer.

Our beliefs:

That our teachers, administration and staff understand that our children come first, therefore, all decisions will be based on what is best for our children while providing a safe environment in which to learn.

That we must not only provide an integrated curriculum that ensures basic competency development for all grades but one that recognizes and allows flexibility based on the abilities and development of all children. Technology is used as a tool to enhance the learning process whenever possible. We recognize and fully acknowledge that Koraes is not equipped to care for children that have severe learning or severe behavioral disabilities and pledge to direct parents to appropriate resources within their own public school district for help.

That a basic, solid elementary school education gives each child more depth in his/her core program of studies, enabling him/her to succeed not only in his/her high school studies but throughout his/her life as evidenced by the many success stories of our graduates throughout the school's 100 year history.

That with limited resources our administration and teaching staff are more individually accountable and produce greater results than their public school counterparts. Our smaller class sizes allow for more individual attention to both the student and the parent. Using teaching techniques acquired through continual staff development, our teachers are able to use best practices and strategies in order to consistently maintain above average achievement on the Iowa Standardized Test Scores and teach our children to become lifelong learners.

That the successful interaction of family, school, and Church is a very subtle yet very powerful and necessary environment for raising stable, morally responsible, and well grounded children that can adapt easily to situations, interact successfully with others, make good solid decisions when necessary as well as excel in their future studies and in life.

That we believe that for productive learning to occur, the environment must be a place where children are disciplined in a fair and consistent manner.

That it is important at an early age to teach children both the beliefs and practices of their Orthodox faith so that before entering our diverse society as high school teenagers, our Orthodox practices have become their daily habits. This gives them a subtle but distinct and significant advantage over other children by helping to "anchor" and guide them spiritually and morally from an early age through junior high. In this way they mature into stronger, more responsible citizens.

That by exposing our children at an early age to our Greek language, heritage and culture we are exposing them to a type of diversity that most children never experience. As 2nd and 3rd generation immigrant families or parents that are new to our Greek culture, learning and experiencing the culture behind a foreign language makes acceptance of other ethnicities easier for them as they grow up in our increasingly diverse and global world. Training in the Greek Language at an early age also assures that your child will excel in any foreign language studies they choose to pursue in high school and college.

That all families should be able to attend our school regardless of financial circumstance.

Our Faculty: We have 14 teachers on staff full-time in our day school. Our blend of many experienced teachers together with newer graduates from teaching programs allows us to deliver instruction that is innovative, yet based on many solid traditional teaching methods. Many of our teachers either have graduate degrees or specific endorsements in math, social studies, science, and reading.

Our Student Body: Currently we have 176 children enrolled in our school. Grade sizes vary from 18-26 students per class. Our preschool class size is 16. The student body is made up of multiple nationalities within one Orthodox Faith. They come from as far as Hinsdale, New Lenox, Lemont, Mokena, Chicago, LaGrange, Romeoville, and Bolingbrook, to Schererville, Indiana.

Our Facilities: We have a technology lab that is fully operational and utilized on a daily basis. In addition, we have a science lab, two classrooms dedicated to our preschool and their specific needs, a dedicated kindergarten classroom and playground, and a full size collegiate gym. Each classroom has a fully functioning computer and overhead projector for assisting the teachers in teaching their subject matter.

Our Parent Organization & School Board: Family, staff, and community all share the responsibilities for the development of well-rounded children. Our parent organization (KPTA) is an active and integral part of our school. Their fund-raising throughout the school year and volunteers that help the principal when needed are both vital to the schools viability. Our School Board is a sub-committee of the Parish Council that is governed by the by-laws of the Parish. It meets every month during the school year and tackles the issues of both budget and policy for the school.

Special Areas of Instruction: Band instruction (Grades 4-8); Music instruction (Grades K-5); Art instruction (Grades K-5); Religious instruction (PreK-8); Physical Education (PreK-8); Greek Studies (PreK-8); Technology Lab (K-8) loaded with SuccessMaker, a software program that individualizes and supports instruction in reading and math for students in K-8.

High School Placement: Our students enroll easily in all of the private and public high schools in the area. Many of our students REGULARLY place in honors classes immediately upon entering their freshman year of high school. Our feedback from our feeder schools Stagg and Sandburg, along with other high schools, is very positive when describing how well prepared our students are as rising freshman.

Academic Competitions: Math counts (Grades 4-8); Geography Bee (Grades 4-8); Science Fair (Grades 4-8); Law Essay Competition (Grades 7-8); Band Solo and Ensemble Competition (Grades 4-8); Hellenic Writing Assessment and Spelling Bee.

Student Testing: Iowa Standardized Achievement Tests (K-8) given in the fall of each year; CoGAT (Cognitive Abilities Test) (1-8) given in the fall of every other year; Benchmark testing in reading, math and writing 3 times per year (K-8).

Extended After School Learning Opportunities: Art; Band; Baking/Cooking Club, Book Publishing; Chess; Computer Club; Drama; Film Club; Geography Club; Greek Authors Club; Greek Mythology; Greek Newspaper; Greek Tutoring; Koraes School Store, Science Enrichment; Stock Market/Finance Club; Student Council; Student Paper; Yearbook Club.

Community youth activities: Basketball, Soccer, Cheerleading, and Traditional Greek Dancing.

Koraes Academic Knowledge and Skills – Main Core Subject Areas

Prekindergarten: A child-centered, Montessori based approach to learning. Greek, religion, music and art is also taught.

Kindergarten- Fifth Grades:

Language Arts: Through the study of language arts students will learn to read, speak and write fluently and understand a broad range of written material. Students will learn to listen carefully and effectively and communicate well. Students will learn to write for a variety of audiences and purposes. Organizational skills are taught and reinforced through the daily use of an assignment notebook. Reading support is offered daily.

Mathematics: Students will learn to identify, describe and investigate patterns found in everyday living as they relate to math. Numbers, quantities, shapes, and numerical relationships will be investigated along with problem solving, visualizing and reasoning skills. Computation skills will be mastered in addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. Math enrichment is provided for all students weekly.

Social Studies: Students learn about political, social and economic systems with an emphasis on the United States and Illinois.

Science: Key concepts and principles of life, physical, earth and space science develop learners who understand the scientific and inquiry process. A hands-on approach to learning is emphasized at all levels.

Sixth – Eighth Grades

Language Arts: Students will read, comprehend and interpret a variety of literary works, use correct usage, grammar and mechanics and compose well-organized writing for specific purposes and audiences. Students will effectively communicate ideas verbally and in writing.

Mathematics: Students in sixth grade study general mathematical concepts. Seventh grade studies pre-algebra: equalities/inequalities, statistics/probability, and functions and graphing. Eighth grade studies algebra: linear equations and inequalities, solving and analyzing systems of equations, and exponential, quadratic, rational and radical forms of expressing numbers. Problem solving is emphasized at each level.

Social Studies: Students in sixth grade study world history, seventh grade studies U.S. history to 1877, and eighth grade studies U.S. history from 1877 to present times. Students will also study current events, and will present research on various historical events

Science: Students in sixth grade study earth science: its internal processes and its history, astronomy and the environment, seventh grade studies physical science: matter, energy, motion and forces, electricity and magnetism. Eighth grade studies life science: life's structure and function, plants, animals, ecology and the human body systems.

Technology: Technology skills are not taught in isolation but within the framework of the curriculum in order to enhance and connect it to learning. Competency in multi-media presentations, spreadsheets, graphs, safety of Internet use, and Microsoft applications is attained through student created projects which support learning in the classroom.