

**The Thomas More Institute  
Course Catalog  
Fall 2008**



**The Avalon School  
7000 Radnor Road  
Bethesda, MD 20817**

**301 320- 0143**

# The Thomas More Institute

## FALL '08 SEMESTER

### High School Classes

#### HS: Literature Seminar I<sup>1</sup>

**Duration:** 14 weeks- every other Tuesday

**Start Date:** September 16<sup>2</sup>

**Time:** 4:00 P.M. to 5:30 P.M.

**Location:** Brookewood School

**Cost:** \$340 (includes purchase of 13 books)

**Description:** This seminar is designed for high school students and middle school students who read above grade level. The first session will provide a general approach for studying literature. Students will learn to recognize plot, character, themes and more. Students will be expected to read one work every two weeks. Classes will be led by teachers and scholars from various educational institutions including: The Avalon School, The Catholic University of America, Fordham University, and Brookewood School. The content of this seminar series will be less rigorous than HS: Lit II (1 high school credit). Among the texts to be studied are: *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, *Old Man and the Sea*, *The Inferno*, *MacBeth* and more (1 high school credit).

#### HS: Literature Seminar II

**Duration:** 14 weeks- every other Wednesday

**Start Date:** September 17

**Time:** 4:00 P.M. to 5:30 P.M.

**Location:** Brookewood School

**Cost:** \$340 (includes purchase of 13 books)

**Description:** This seminar is for more advanced high school readers. It will begin with a session on how to read a masterpiece. Students will be assigned a different book for each session. The sessions will be conducted by teachers and scholars from various institutions including: Fordham University, The Catholic University of America, The Avalon School, Brookewood School, DeMatha Catholic High School and others (1 high school credit). Among the texts to be studied are: *Crime and Punishment*, *Perelandra*, *The Great Gatsby*, *Beowulf*, *Othello*, *Beyond the Pale*, *Wuthering Heights* and more.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Please note that we will start classes one half hour later than in the past in order to give the teachers time to travel to Brookewood School. We apologize for any inconvenience.

<sup>2</sup> Fall '08 Institute Classes begin the week of September 15, 2008. The 16 week science classes will run into the first three weeks of January, 2009.

<sup>3</sup> For a full listing of the texts for both seminars, please contact The Institute. If you are uncertain of which seminar would be best for your student, Mr. Eames will be pleased to assist you in the decision.

### HS: Composition part I

**Duration:** 14 weeks- Thursdays  
**Start Date:** September 18  
**Time:** 4:00 P.M. to 5:30 P.M.  
**Location:** Brookewood School  
**Cost:** \$325 (includes purchase of 13 books)  
**Description:** This course introduces students to the rules of style, composition and grammar. Students will use a workbook written by the teacher who is a former Capital Hill speech writer. The course is designed to assist students in preparing for the SAT Writing Section (1/2 high school credit).

### HS: Biology part I

**Duration:** 16 weeks- Tuesdays  
**Start Date:** September 15  
**Time:** 4:00 P.M. to 5:30 P.M.  
**Location:** Brookewood School  
**Cost:** \$350  
**Descriptions:** This introduction to the study of biology will include both lectures and laboratory sessions (1/2 high school credit). It will prepare students for the study of Advanced Placement Biology and for more advanced studies in college.

### HS: Chemistry part I

**Duration:** 16 weeks- Wednesdays  
**Start Date:** September 17  
**Time:** 4:00 P.M. to 5:30 P.M.  
**Location:** Brookewood School  
**Cost:** \$350  
**Description:** This popular Institute class returns for a third year. Some alteration was made based on the comments of parents. We added two additional classes to the semester, and included laboratory sessions every other week (1/2 high school science credit).

### HS: Physics part I

**Duration:** 16 weeks- Thursdays  
**Start Date:** September 17  
**Time:** 4:00 P.M. to 5:30 P.M.  
**Location:** Brookewood School  
**Cost:** \$350

**Description:** This is the first time physics is being offered at The Institute. Like all the high school science classes, it will include both lectures and labs (1/2 high school credit).

### HS: Latin I part I

**Duration:** 14 weeks- Thursdays  
**Start Date:** September 18  
**Time:** 4:00 P.M. to 5:30: P.M.  
**Location:** Brookewood School  
**Cost:** \$325  
**Description:** This high school Latin class is a traditional first year study of the language that is the basis of Romance tongues. The class will provide a thorough introduction to both the language and Classical culture (1/2 high school credit). Students will be eligible to take The National Latin Examination.

### HS: Latin II part I

**Duration:** 14 weeks- Wednesdays  
**Start Date:** September 17  
**Time:** 4:00 P.M. to 5:30 P.M.  
**Location:** Brookewood School  
**Cost:** \$325  
**Description:** Latin II is a continuation of the first year course, with a concentration on the writings of Julius Caesar. In this course, the student will advance his or her understanding of grammar and vocabulary (1/2 high school credit).

### HS: Spanish I part I

**Duration:** 14 weeks- Mondays  
**Start Date:** September 14  
**Time:** 4:00 P.M. to 5:30 P.M.  
**Location:** Brookewood School  
**Cost:** \$325  
**Description:** Spanish class returns to The Institute after a one year hiatus. This is a traditional introduction to Spanish grammar, vocabulary and pronunciation. After completing the class, students should be able to hold a rudimentary conversation in Spanish (1/2 high school credit).

### HS: Mathematics Camp part I

**Duration:** 14 weeks- Mondays  
**Start Date:** September 14  
**Time:** 4:00 P.M. to 5:30 P.M.  
**Location:** Brookewood School

**Cost:** \$325

**Description:** This is the second year for the HS: Mathematics Camp. Last year was a resounding success. Students were able to progress through their texts with greater efficacy because they had an experienced mathematics teacher assisting them. The initial session will begin with a diagnostic test to determine the level of mathematics appropriate for each student. Using the results of the test, the teacher will speak with the parents to make a final determination of the course of study. Through the year, adjustments will be made based on the progress of the student. We will use the Saxon mathematics texts for all but the calculus courses (1/2 high school credit).

### HS: Sacraments part I

**Duration:** 14 weeks- Tuesdays

**Start Date:** September 16

**Time:** 4:00 P.M. to 5:30 P.M.

**Location:** Brookewood School

**Cost:** \$325

**Description:** The Institute High School Religion Curriculum includes five courses: Scripture, Church History, Ethics, Dogma and Sacraments. This sacraments class will introduce students to the meaning of a sacrament, to an understanding of how and when Christ established the sacraments, to form and matter, to the effects of the sacraments and to the function of grace. The course will include historical, as well as theological analysis. All Institute religion classes are taught by Catechists who are certified by the Archdiocese of Washington, or hold pontifical licentiates from the Vatican.

### HS: Dogma and Doctrine part I

**Duration:** 14 weeks- Mondays

**Start Date:** September 15

**Time:** 4:00 P.M. to 5:30 P.M.

**Location:** Brookewood School

**Cost:** \$325

**Description:** The Dogma Class is designed to introduce students to the teachings of the Church. This course was suggested an Institute parent.

### HS: American History part I

**Duration:** 14 weeks- Thursdays

**Start Date:** September 18

**Time:** 4:00 P.M. to 5:30 P.M.

**Location:** Brookewood School

**Cost:** \$325

**Description:** This is another new offering for Institute students. It is a traditional American history course designed to introduce students to their country. This course is particularly important in this presidential election year (1/2 high school credit).

<b>HS: History of Music part I</b>
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**Duration:** 14 weeks- Wednesdays

**Start Date:** September 17

**Time:** 4:00 P.M. to 5:00 P.M.

**Location:** Brookewood School

**Cost:** \$325

**Description:** This course is new to The Institute. It introduces students to the history of music and to the basics of music theory.

## Middle School Classes

### MS: Composition part I

**Duration:** 12 weeks- Mondays  
**Start Date:** September 14  
**Time:** 4:00 P.M. to 5:00 P.M.  
**Location:** Brookewood School  
**Cost:** \$250  
**Description:** This course is designed to develop writing skills. It includes both grammar and style. Regardless of the student's writing proficiency, he or she will benefit from this course.

### MS: Drawing part I

**Duration:** 12 weeks- Tuesdays  
**Start Date:** September 15  
**Time:** 3:30 P.M. to 4:30 P.M.  
**Location:** Brookewood School  
**Cost:** \$250  
**Description:** This popular course returns to The Institute after a one year hiatus. It is designed to introduce students to the basics of drawing. Both the beginner and the more advanced student will gain from this study.

### MS: Poetry part I

**Duration:** 12 weeks- Wednesdays  
**Start Date:** September 17  
**Time:** 4:00 P.M. to 5:00 P.M.  
**Location:** Brookewood School  
**Cost:** \$250  
**Description:** This class will introduce students to 20 masterpieces of poetry from Shakespeare to Robert Frost. Each student is expected to memorize and recite at least two poems during the semester.

### MS: Mathematics Camp part I

**Duration:** 12 weeks- Tuesdays  
**Start Date:** September 16  
**Time:** 4:00 P.M. to 5:00 P.M.  
**Location:** Brookewood School  
**Cost:** \$250  
**Description:** This course was such a success last year that we brought it back again. On the first day, the teacher will administer a diagnostic test. Using the results from that test the teacher and parents will decide the level of mathematics to be studied.

If the student progresses to a higher level of study, the teacher will introduce the next text. All texts are from *The Saxon Mathematics Series*.

### MS: Spanish part I

**Duration:** 12 weeks- Wednesdays  
**Start Date:** September 17  
**Time:** 4:00 P.M. to 5:00 P.M.  
**Location:** Brookewood School  
**Cost:** \$250  
**Description:** This semester marks the return of Spanish for middle school students. This introductory class aims at teaching the rudiments of grammar, vocabulary and dialogue.

### MS: Confirmation part I

**Duration:** 12 weeks- Wednesdays  
**Start Date:** September 17  
**Time:** 4:00 P.M. to 5:00 P.M.  
**Location:** Brookewood School  
**Cost:** \$250  
**Description:** Although this class will not be a substitute for the parish-based CCD programs, it will provide a solid analysis of the materials required by The Archdiocese of Washington for sacramental preparation. All Institute religion classes are taught by a Certified Master Catechist or theologians holding a Licentiate from the Vatican.

### MS: Biology (Life Sciences) part I

**Duration:** 12 weeks- Thursdays  
**Start Date:** September 18  
**Time:** 4:00 P.M. to 5:00 P.M.  
**Location:** Brookewood School  
**Cost:** \$250  
**Description:** This middle school biology class is new to Institute students. It is designed to introduce students to the study of the life sciences. Sessions will include both lectures and demonstrations.

### MS: Chemistry part I

**Duration:** 12 weeks- Wednesdays  
**Start Date:** September 17  
**Time:** 4:00 P.M. to 5:00 P.M.  
**Location:** Brookewood School  
**Cost:** \$250

**Description:** This course introduces students to the study of chemistry. Sessions will include both lectures and demonstrations. With permission from the teacher in consultation with the parents and the director, some middle school students will be permitted to participate in the high school chemistry class.

<b>MS: Music Theory part I</b>
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**Duration:** 12 weeks- Thursdays

**Start Date:** September 17

**Time:** 4:00 P.M. to 5:00 P.M.

**Location:** Brookewood School

**Cost:** \$250

**Description:** This course is designed to teach students to read music. It will introduce scales, rhythm, tempo, melody, harmony and chords. The course is for those who are learning music for the first time.

## Lower School Classes

### LS: Natural Science

**Duration:** 12 weeks- Mondays  
**Start Date:** September 14  
**Time:** 4:00 P.M. to 5:00 P.M.  
**Location:** Brookewood School  
**Cost:** \$265  
**Description:** The class investigates the wonders of nature by studying bugs, animals, rocks, weather and more. The class will include field trips and many hands-on demonstrations.

### LS: Grammar and Style part I

**Duration:** 12 weeks- Tuesdays  
**Start Date:** September 16  
**Time:** 4:00 P.M. to 5:00 P.M.  
**Location:** Brookewood School  
**Cost:** \$250  
**Description:** This class is designed to introduce students to the basic workings of English grammar and spelling. Students learn the parts of speech, sentence structures and elementary style. This is an excellent vehicle to steer your student toward academic excellence.

### LS: Twenty Great Poems

**Duration:** 12 weeks- Wednesdays  
**Start Date:** September 17  
**Time:** 4:00 P.M. to 5:00 P.M.  
**Location:** Brookewood School  
**Cost:** \$250  
**Description:** This popular course returns to The Institute after a two year break. It introduces students to poetry and the beauty of using language to convey thought, ideas and images. Every student will be expected to memorize at least two of the poems.

### LS: Bible Stories

**Duration:** 12 weeks- Thursdays  
**Start Date:** September 18  
**Time:** 4:00 P.M. to 5:00 P.M.  
**Location:** Brookewood School  
**Cost:** \$250

**Description:** The fall semester marks the return of this course after a short hiatus. In twelve sessions, students explore the lives and stories of the great figures of the Old and New Testaments. This is not to be missed.

**LS: Drawing part I**

**Duration:** 12 weeks- Tuesdays  
**Start Date:** September 15  
**Time:** 3:30 P.M. to 4:30 P.M.  
**Location:** Brookewood School  
**Cost:** \$250  
**Description:** The lower school class in drawing is designed to teach younger student- how to draw, how to use colors, and how to enjoy the beauty of art.

**All Schools: Choir**

**Duration:** 14 weeks- Thursdays  
**Start Date:** September 17  
**Time:** 3:30 P.M. to 5:00 P.M.  
**Location:** Brookewood School  
**Cost:** \$100  
**Description:** The choir is open to all students from all the Avalon Education Group schools: Avalon, Brookewood and The Thomas More Institute.

Please note that all locations are at Brookewood School in Kensington because The Avalon School will be relocating up-county some time during the fall semester. If it is possible to use the new facilities for classes, and if it is agreeable with the parents who enroll, we will move some of the classes to the new location.

Thank you for your patience as we expand and continue to adapt to the needs of our families.

As always, if you have comments, ideas or concerns, please call:

Charles J. Eames, KHS  
301 320 0143