

Embers Academy

Admissions Process



Welcome!

We are so pleased that you are considering Embers Academy for your child's spiritual, moral, academic, and character formation. The admissions process at Embers consists of the following steps:

1. School Visit

The process begins with a visit to Embers by the prospective student and parents. It includes an interview with the Head of School to help parents explore their compatibility with Embers' mission and program. The student also shadows in the classroom of his/her current grade. Assessments may be administered at this time.

2. Application

All prospective families must complete an online application and school records release form through TADS. The online application can be accessed in the "Admissions" tab of Embers Academy's website, www.embersacademy.org. A non-refundable fee of \$50 must accompany the completed application.

3. Review

During this phase, the Head of School meets with the faculty member(s) who observed the student during his/her visit. At this time, they discuss observations, assessments, if any, and the completed application.

4. Notification

The last phase of the application process is notification. If the student is accepted, an enrollment contract will be sent via email. The enrollment contract must be signed and returned within 14 days with a non-refundable \$500 tuition deposit. The signed contract and deposit secures the applicant's place at Embers. The deposit is credited against the last tuition installment.

If you need assistance in completing the application or securing school records, or would like additional information, please contact the School Office at 847.518.1185 or info@embersacademy.org.



Annual Tuition (2017 - 2018)

Full Day Kindergarten - 5 th grade	\$7,575
PreK4 (Full Day, 5 Day: M-F 8:20-3:05)	\$5,675
PreK4 (Extended Day: M,W,F 8:20-3:05)	\$4,890
PreK4 (Morning Only: M,W,F 8:20-11:30)	\$3,390
PreK3 (Full Day, 5 Day: M-F 8:20-3:05)	\$5,675
PreK3 (Extended Day: T,Th 8:20-3:05)	\$3,265
PreK3 (Morning Only: T,Th 8:20-10:30)	\$2,265

Tuition Agreement

The Tuition Agreement allows you to select a payment method for your child's tuition. Parents may select to pay tuition in one, two, nine, or ten installments each year, beginning in August. TADS also allows you to select any of the following monthly billing dates: 1st, 5th, 10th, 15th, 20th, or 25th.

Tuition covers the major portion of instructional and academic costs, as well as the cost of instructional materials. Tuition does not include uniforms or school supplies.

Financial Assistance

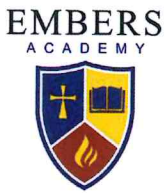
Financial Assistance is a need-based option that requires supporting documentation, such as tax returns, mortgage info, etc. A fully completed application is required before the Finance Committee considers your application. All Financial Assistance applications are submitted through TADS and are due 14 days after acceptance.

For questions regarding financial assistance, please contact Embers Head of School, Mrs. Lisa Hanretty, at 847-518-1185 or LHanretty@embersacademy.org.

Equal Opportunity

It is the policy of Embers Elementary School not to discriminate on the basis of race, sex, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, or physical or mental disabilities unrelated to the ability to work and enjoy the benefits of the school's programs, facilities, and services.





Embers Academy Before-/After-Care Programs (2017-18)

Benefits

- Parents appreciate the convenience, flexibility, and peace of mind delivered by our Before- and After-School Care Programs.
- Children enjoy the opportunity to prepare for the school day, complete homework, and play in a safe and structured environment supported by Embers faculty and staff.

Hours of operation: 7:30 am - 8:00 am; 3:20 - 5:30 pm

Participation

- Both programs are offered exclusively to Embers families, beginning Wednesday, Sept. 6
- Children may be enrolled on a full-time, part-time, or drop-in basis.
- For drop-in basis, a phone call or email/note is required: call the School Office (847.518.1185) or email Mrs. Casaletto (scasaletto@emberselementary.org).

Fee Structure & Billing	After-Care Structure
\$5/student OR \$10/family (7:30 am - 8:05 am)	Check-in: 3:20 pm
\$5/student OR \$10/family (3:20 pm - 4:15 pm)	Study Hall: 3:25 pm - 4 pm
\$12/student OR \$20 family (after 4:15 pm)	Snack (provided): 4 pm - 4:15 pm
Extended care fees will be billed on a monthly basis	Free Time (inside/outside play): 4:15 pm - 5:00 pm
\$10 charge for every 15 minutes past 5:30 pm <i>(After 3:20 pm all students remaining in their classrooms are taken to After-School Care)</i>	Arts & Crafts, Table Games: 5 pm - 5:30 pm Program ends: 5:30 pm
Before care is held in Room 20, After care in the Assembly Room and in the playground outdoors	

Questions: Contact Mrs. Casaletto or Mrs. Boland @ 847-518-1185. If interested, please complete the form below and email or return it to the School Office.

My child/children will participate in Before-Care at Embers

Everyday (M – F)
 Specific days (list days below)
 Drop-in basis

My child/children will participate in After-Care at Embers

Everyday (M – F)
 Specific days (list days below)
 Drop-in basis

Student name	Grade
<hr/>	<hr/>
<hr/>	<hr/>
Parent signature	Parent cell
<hr/>	<hr/>



Embers Academy Calendar 2017-18



AUGUST

W-Th 8/23 - 8/31 Teacher Prep Days: 9 - 3 p.m.
 F 8/25 Ice Cream Social: 6 - 7:30 p.m.
 Th 8/31 K-5th: Parent/Teacher Conferences: 8 a.m.- 8 p.m.

SEPTEMBER

T 9/5 K-5: 1st Day/School: 8:20-11:30 a.m.
 Parent Coffee: 8:20-11:30 a.m.
 W 9/6 PK4: 1st Day/School: 8:20-9:30 a.m.
 Parent Coffee: 8:20-9:30 a.m.
 K-5 After Care begins 3:30-5:30 p.m.
 Th 9/7 PK3: 1st Day/School: 8:20-9:30 a.m.
 Parent Coffee: 8:20-9:30 a.m.
 Th 9/14 K-5: Curriculum Night: 6-8 p.m.
 W 9/27 Grandparent Luncheon / Mass:
 12:30-3 p.m.
 Th 9/28 Bears/Packer Day
 Mini-Monster Football Clinic: 10 a.m.

OCTOBER

M 10/2 Mid-Quarter I
 Th 10/5 K-5: Early Dismissal: 11:30 a.m.
 K-5: Parent-Teacher Conferences:
 1 - 4 p.m. & 5 - 8 p.m.
 F 10/6 No School
 K-5: Parent-Teacher Conferences:
 8 - Noon
 M 10/9 No School: Columbus Day
 W 10/11 Embers Open House: 8:45-11 a.m.
 W 10/18 PK-5: Picture Day
 Sat 10/21 Parent Social: 7 p.m.
 T 10/24 Gr. 5: TWA / NRP Shadow Day
 T 10/31 Halloween Class Parties: 2:15 p.m.

NOVEMBER

F 11/3 Quarter I ends
 W 11/8 Embers Open House: 8:45-11 a.m.
 Th 11/16 Picture Retakes: 8:30 a.m.
 W-S 11/22-11/26 No School: Thanksgiving Break
 M 11/27 Classes resume
 Th-F 11/3-12/1 Usborne Book Fair

DECEMBER

Sat. 12/2 Embers sings @ Immaculate
 Conception Novena Mass @
 St. Mary / Angels: 7 p.m.
 W 12/6 Mid-Quarter II
 T 12/19 Embers Christmas Concert
 @ NRP: 6:30 p.m.
 W 12/20 Christmas Class Parties: 2:15 p.m.
 Th-S 12/21 - 1/7 No School: Christmas Vacation

JANUARY

M 1/8 Classes resume
 F 1/12 Night w Knights @ NRP
 M 1/15 No School: M.L. King Day
 M-F 1/22-1/26 National School Choice Week
 T 1/23 Quarter II ends
 Night w Eagles @ TWA
 W 1/24 Embers Open House: 8:45 -11 a.m.
 F 1/26 P.A. Coffee w Admin: 8:30 -10 a.m.

FEBRUARY

Sat 2/3 Embers Open House: 10 -11:30 a.m.
 Th 2/15 K-5: Early Dismissal: 11:30 a.m.
 PK4-5: Parent-Teacher Conferences:
 1-4 p.m. & 5-8 p.m.
 F 2/16 No School
 PK4-5: Parent-Teacher Conf: 8 - noon
 M 2/19 No School: Presidents' Day
 F 2/23 P.A. Coffee w Admin: 8:30 -10 a.m.
 T 2/27 Mid-Quarter III

MARCH

Sat 3/3 Embers Open House: 10 -11:30 a.m.
 M-F 3/5 - 3/9 Gr. 3-5: Standardized Testing
 F 3/23 P.A. Coffee w Admin: 8:30 -10 a.m.
 W 3/28 Quarter III ends
 Gr. 5: Science Fair
 Th-S 3/29 - 4/8 No School: Easter Break

APRIL

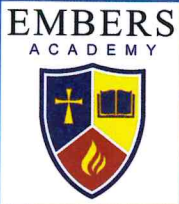
M 4/9 Classes resume
 Sun 4/29 Embers Extravaganza
 M 4/30 No School

MAY

W 5/2 Mid-Quarter IV
 F 5/11 PK4: Grandparents' Day
 NRP Band Concert @ Embers
 Sat 5/12 1st Holy Communion: 1 p.m. @ OLR
 M 5/14 PK4 Graduation / First Communion
 Special Pictures: 8:30 a.m.
 M 5/14 K-5: Grandparents' Day
 T 5/15 PK3: Grandparents' Day
 TBA Variety Show
 TBA Teacher Appreciation Week
 M 5/28 No School: Memorial Day
 W 5/30 PK4: Graduation

JUNE

F 6/1 Quarter IV ends
 T 6/5 Embers Closing Exercises @ TWA
 W 6/6 K-5: Last (1/2) Day/School: Field Day:
 Dismissal: 11:30 a.m.



Embers School Profile

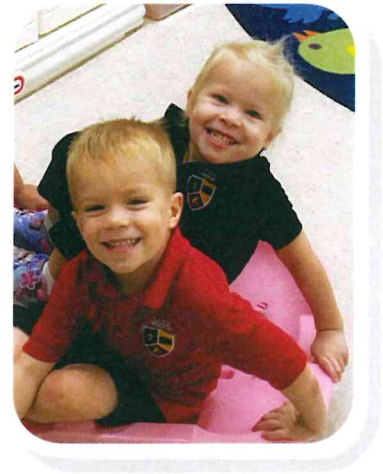
2017 - 2018

Head of School: **Lisa Hanretty**
Asst. Head of School: **Therese Thursby**

Embers is a private, independent elementary school, rooted in the Catholic Faith, serving grades pre-school through 5th, offering a virtue based, classical curriculum.

Awarded both the Illinois and National School of Character distinction.

- **Address:** 8340 N. Greenwood Avenue, Niles, IL 60714
- **Website:** www.embersacademy.org
- **School Colors:** Blue, Yellow, Red
- **School Mascot:** Sparks
- **School Shield:** Faith, Knowledge, Virtue
- **School Founded:** 1995
- **Total Enrollment:** 154
- **Average K-5th Class Size:** 21
- **Students receiving financial assistance:** 47%
- **Specials:** Spanish, Art, PE, Music/Choir, Band
- **Athletics:** Cross Country (3rd-5th grades); Basketball (4th and 5th grade boys and girls)
- **Extracurricular Clubs:** Mass Choir, Drama and Leadership Club, Book Club, Chess Scholars
- **Average National Standardized Score:** 90th Percentile for over 12 consecutive years
- **Where After 5th Grade?** Most Embers graduates attend Northridge Prep in Niles, for Boys in 6th - 12th, Willows Academy in Des Plaines, for Girls in 6th - 12th



Nurturing Your Child Into Someone Beautiful!



Embers Virtue Program

Younger is Better

At Embers, we direct the whole life of our school toward forming the character of our students. The development of virtues is the total and everyday school experience. We carefully focus on every opportunity that arises, be it small or large, in order to build and reinforce good character, realizing that these earliest grades of school provide the most effective character development period in a young person's entire academic career. Children want to please teachers and other adults. They are strongly motivated by praise, and they are powerfully taught by example. A well-formed child can go into adolescence with the freedom to resist peer pressure and the media and respond to greater responsibilities.

Our Character Formation Methodology

Our manner of forming children has four parts:

- **Example.** The most powerful force in the formation of children is the example of adults who surround them. For this reason, Embers Elementary School is a place where teachers and parents make a serious personal commitment to grow in human virtues. Our struggle to improve a little bit each day is the bedrock of the formation of our children's and student's characters.
- **Guided Practice.** This simply means that we have an academic or behavioral expectation for a child, we show the child how to meet the expectation, and we help him/her along the way until the expectation is met. When this process is repeated, good habits - another name for virtues - are formed.
- **Word or Explanation.** This means talking to the children about responsibility or loyalty or any other virtue. This method of instilling virtue grows in importance as children mature mentally.
- **Imagination.** This is the effort to communicate to our children's imaginations the virtues - and ideals related to those virtues - through the use of literature, music, and art.

Character Education at Embers

Each month:

- the entire school focuses on a particular general virtue; however,
- each grade focuses on a different aspect of that general virtue (see back for Virtue Chart)
- teachers integrate the month's virtue into the curriculum through discussion and classroom activities

Every week:

- Embers has an all-school Mass and the priest often ties the virtue of the month into his homilies
- parents receive a weekly evaluation of their child's progress in the area of character formation

Every day:

- begins with opening prayers, the Pledge of Allegiance, and a character education story that reflects the virtue of the month
- daily religion classes in the Catholic faith further educate the child's mind, will and imagination
- when children need correction, they receive it in a way that is clear and direct, yet leaves their dignity intact
- ends with closing prayer and daily homework which fosters organization, self-control and responsibility

What does this add up to?

At Embers we are convinced that in cooperation with parents, we can give each child:


- knowledge of objective standards of right and wrong
- positive ideals, and
- the actual possession of human virtues.

Our entire community - faculty, parents, and Board of Trustees - is committed to this goal. The result is a unique and very positive environment for your child.



Embers Monthly Virtues 2017-2018



 Virtue	PK, K,	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th
SEPTEMBER					
Respect	Respect	Respect	Respect	Respect	Respect
OCTOBER					
Responsibility	Responsibility	Responsibility	Responsibility	Responsibility	Responsibility
NOVEMBER					
Order	Order	Order	Order	Order	Order
DECEMBER					
Self-Control	Obedience	Controlling Emotions	Forgiveness	Patience	Moderation
JANUARY					
Optimism	Joy/Wonder	Cheerfulness	Gratitude	Optimism	Hope
FEBRUARY					
Patriotism	Patriotism	Patriotism	Citizenship	Patriotism	Patriotism
MARCH					
Fortitude	Bravery	Courage in daily life	Fortitude	Intellectual Courage	Moral Courage
APRIL					
Honesty	Honesty	Trustworthiness	Honesty	Humility	Sincerity
MAY					
Charity	Love of Family	Kindness	Generosity	Service	Service

EMBERS
ACADEMY



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847.518.1185 • www.embersacademy.org





Embers Textbook List

2017 - 2018

Embers Textbooks and Materials Deliver Value & Results

- Meet our high expectations, while exceeding state/national standards
- Engage both average and above-average learners
- Positively reflect and reinforce our school mission
- Proven to be pedagogically effective
- Facilitate easy transition for home schoolers

Language Arts

McGraw-Hill Open Court Reading program (PK-5th)
Wordly Wise (Vocabulary 2nd-5th)
Voyages in English (4th & 5th)
Exercises in English (2nd-5th)
Daily Language Review (2nd-5th)
Writing Our Catholic Faith Handwriting (PK-5th)

This program guides the student from the stage of print awareness and pre-reading readiness to the reading and writing exit goals of 5th grade.

- Systematically teaches phonics, decoding, and encoding
- Develops reading fluency and comprehension skills
- Employs pre- and post-reading strategies to increase comprehension
- Teaches the writing process through emphasizing organization and planning
- Includes modeling and practice of a variety of writing genres
- Integrates spelling, grammar, vocabulary, and handwriting as reading and writing develop
- Effectively prepares for annual standardized tests (3rd-5th) and writing assessment (4th & 5th)

Religion

Ignatius Press Faith & Life Series (1st-5th)
Image of God (PK3-K)
Questions for God (PK3-K)
Pauline Books: Jesus Brings Us Life (2nd)

This instructional program in the Catholic faith provides a systematic doctrinal foundation, sacramental preparation, transmission of Catholic culture, and formation in virtues and moral behavior. All materials and lessons are rich in intellectual content and are presented by teachers committed to living their faith in their professional and personal lives.

Spanish

Vamos al Circo (K & 1st)
Colega 1 & 2 (2nd & 3rd)
Hola, National Textbook (4th & 5th)

Conversational Spanish presented by a native speaker fosters confident communication and increases Hispanic cultural awareness.

Mathematics

Saxon Math (PK4-5th)

This program is based on research-proven instruction and educational effectiveness. One new concept is presented per lesson with daily review of concepts previously learned. EBooks available for 3rd-5th.

- Concepts taught through the use of multi-sensory, hands-on learning aids and visuals
- Daily practice to ensure procedural mastery
- Enhanced problem-solving component to promote strategic competence
- Real world and adaptive reasoning connections
- Effectively prepares for standardized testing
- Whole school advanced by 1 year

Science

Scott Foresman Science (K-5th)

This hands-on program focuses on the scientific method and innovative 30-second lab set-ups.

History & Geography

Core Knowledge Sequence (K-5th)
Daily Geography Review (2nd-5th)

Developed by Yale's E.B. Hirsch and designed to foster understanding of Western civilization, this advanced series covers world history and cultures, as well as American history, in every grade. Geography develops map skills and global awareness.



Be A Spark!

EMBERS
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Lisa Hanretty
Head of School

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