

# BALSHALA ORIENTATION 2022-23

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**WELCOME**

**KIDS & PARENTS**



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# **FEEES**

**Free for Perpetual Donor Families**



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# PURPOSE OF BALSHALA

Teach

Teach kids aspects of Hindu religion and philosophy

Provide

Provide good spiritual foundation through prayers, stories, and rituals

Help

Help children connect to their cultural heritage

Have

Have fun along the way!!!!

# TRADITIONAL FORMAT

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- CLASSES ARE HELD AT AUGUSTA HTS PREMISES
- APPROXIMATELY 15 BALSHALA CLASSES PER YEAR
- SPORTS DAY, ARTS & CRAFTS, END OF YEAR (EOY) PROGRAM
- INTRODUCTION TO YOGA
- 20-20-20 (MINS)
  - FOCUS ITEM DISCUSSION
  - FOCUS BHAJANS
  - FOCUS SHLOKAS

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## GROUPS

VANARA (PRE K)

BALA (KINDERGARTEN)

LAVA (1<sup>ST</sup> GRADE)

KUSHA (2<sup>ND</sup> GRADE)

DHRUVA (3<sup>RD</sup> & 4<sup>TH</sup> GRADE)

GUHA (5<sup>TH</sup> GRADE)

YUVA (6<sup>TH</sup> & 7<sup>TH</sup> GRADE)

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# TEACHERS

VANARA(Pre-k)	Surekha Prasad & Jyoti Gotam
BALA(k)	Vinay & Payal Doshi
LAVA(1)	Rashmi Karanth & Sarika Shastry
KUSHA(2)	Sonal Patel & Payal Doshi
DHRUVA(3-4)	Kiran Karanth & Mittal Patel
GUHA(5)	TBD & (Srinivasan Thiyagarajan/ Vidhya Sridharan)
YUVA(6-7)	Nandi Shetty & Vineet Shastry
BACK UP TEACHERS	TBD

TBD: To be decided  
on 09/11/22

# LEARNING OBJECTIVE

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- VANARA ---- Values such as recognition of Murthi's, coloring Dashavatars, basic symbolism (pradakshina, ringing bell, conch, etc.)
- BALA --- Dasha-avatar and concept of Hindu Trinity
- LAVA --- Ramayana
- KUSHA --- (Bala) Bhagavatam
- DHARMA\* --- Mahabharata
- GUHA --- Symbolism & Introduction to Hindu scriptures
- YUVA\* --- Essence of Hinduism (Concepts like Karma, Rebirth, Samsara, Bhakti, Jnana, Yoga, how to perform pooja etc.)

\* Two year program

# RESOURCES

- Website: [Balshala.org](http://Balshala.org)
- Email: [teambalshala@balshala.org](mailto:teambalshala@balshala.org) (Updates & Communications)



## BALSHALA

[Balshala Home](#) [About](#) [FAQ](#) [Contact](#)

[Balshala Calendar](#) [Groups & Content](#) [Volunteer Schedule](#) [Photo Gallery](#) [Community Outreach](#) [ReSourceS](#)

Balshala at the Hindu Temple Society (HTS) of Augusta is a volunteer run program designed to teach children various aspects of Hindu religion and philosophy. Through a defined curriculum which includes prayers, rituals and stories from sacred scriptures, the program aims to provide a good spiritual foundation. Arts & crafts, Hindi class, and other supporting activities of the program help to connect children with their cultural heritage. Balshala fosters a sense of identity and individuality in children of Indian origin and helps raise responsible citizens of the global community.

The Balshala program is open to children (ages 4 - 12 years) of HTS members. Classes and meetings are scheduled in the HTS premises on designated Sundays starting in September as published in the yearly Balshala calendar. An End of Year performance and lunch is traditionally scheduled around Mother's Day in early May.

### News & Notes

**BALSHALA FOR 2021 - 22**  
Dear Parents,  
It's time again for us to start the HTS Balshala program for the new session 2021-22. We seek your input to start in-person Balshala classes this year.  
As you all know, the temple is opening up in phases for religious gatherings and pujas. We are still following COVID restrictions at the temple and kids will be required to wear a mask in the class and common areas.

[Balshala Calendar 2021](#)

### Balshala Dates - 2021

- Balshala Registration start date: Aug-15, 2021
- Balshala Orientation: Sept-12, 2021
- Registration End date: Sept-30, 2021



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### Group Structure

Balshala curriculum has been developed according to children's ages and groups are organized by grades. Click on links provided below to access learning objectives and content for each group.

<a href="#">VANARA</a> <a href="#">Pre-K</a>	<a href="#">BALA</a> <a href="#">Kindergarten</a>	<a href="#">LAVA</a> <a href="#">1st Grade</a>	<a href="#">KUSHA</a> <a href="#">2nd Grade</a>	<a href="#">DHRUVA</a> <a href="#">3rd &amp; 4th Grades</a>	<a href="#">GUHA</a> <a href="#">5th Grade</a>	<a href="#">YUVA</a> <a href="#">6th &amp; 7th Grades</a>
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[Morning Assembly Prayers](#)

[Printable Version of Morning Assembly](#) [Printable Version of Daily Prayers](#)

### KUSHA (2nd Grade)

Meeting Location (after Assembly): Assigned Room in Cultural Center

### Learning Objectives

- \* Learn shlokas:
  - a) Lingastakam [Lingastakam](#)
- \* Learn bhajans:
  - a) Rama Namu Rama Namu [Rama Namu](#)
  - b) Devi Bhavani Devi Bhavani
- \* Learn and discuss stories from the Srimad Bhagavatam
- \* Learn and understand simple Sanskrit words used in prayers and rituals
- \* Learn about various Hindu festivals
- \* Learn about India and its culture

Click on links to access [focus material](#) for this group.



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# VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES



Morning Assembly



Teachers



Substitute Teachers



Sports Day



Arts & Crafts Day



Balshala Third Sunday Puja



**End Of Year Celebration—WE NEED AS MANY DADS AS POSSIBLE!!!**

# CHECKLIST

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Registration

Prasad &  
Clean up  
Sign up

Volunteer  
Sign up

# FIRST DAY

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SEPTEMBER 25, 2022

