

Middle School Curriculum

	Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8
Theology	<p>OUR RESPONSE TO GOD'S PLAN - students celebrate the Church through the liturgical year while learning about and participating in the sacraments. Emphasis is placed on the history of Jesus' Biblical family and God's plan for salvation. Students are encouraged to respond to God's call by identifying and performing acts of service to others. Various forms of prayer are practiced to enhance a personal relationship with God and evangelize others in the school community and beyond. Catholic Christianity in the Salesian tradition is taught throughout the curriculum.</p>	<p>STUDIES IN CATHOLIC CHRISTIANITY - focuses on the study of God and God's relationship to human beings and the universe. Students meet Jesus as Divine Savior, human being, teacher, healer and friend. They come to know Jesus in order to love Jesus and Live † Jesus. They read selections from the Old and New Testament; study the Jewish tradition from which Jesus comes; are introduced to the Visitation history, tradition and charism; pray with the Church's liturgical cycle; and become aware of the integration of body, mind and spirit. In the context of the students' faith development, they study an overview of the teachings of the Catholic faith.</p>	<p>SACRAMENTS AS PRIVILEGED ENCOUNTERS WITH JESUS CHRIST - the purpose of this course is to help students understand that they can encounter Christ today in a full and real way in and through the sacraments, and especially through the Eucharist. Students will examine each of the sacraments in detail so as to learn how they may encounter Christ and Live † Jesus throughout life. Within the context of this course, students will explore topics of morality that are pertinent and relevant to their age. Salesian Studies focus on the biographies of St. Francis de Sales, St. Jane de Chantal and St. Margaret Mary Alacoque.</p>
Reading / English	<p>LANGUAGE ARTS 6 is designed to strengthen the students' comprehension and appreciation of modern and classical literature. A variety of genres are explored including historical fiction, biography, poetry, modern fiction, mystery, fantasy, and others. Discussion and activities surrounding plot, setting, characterization, figurative language, and other literary devices are present in all literature studies. Emphasis on grammar and editing skills enriches the students' expression in speech and writing. Vocabulary is present in an online word study database, as well as within the study of literature. A variety of writing techniques are introduced including expository and informational writing. Additionally, research skills, including bibliography creation, parenthetical citation, and MLA formatting are introduced in a research project based on the study of a biography/ autobiography.</p>	<p>ENGLISH 7 develops student comprehension and application of essential concepts in grammar, literature, composition, and research. This course will broaden student interaction with and understanding of literature by developing the understanding of plot, characterization, literary devices, and other tools that authors employ to enhance their works. The basic elements of research introduced in sixth grade are reviewed and expanded in their use in student writing. Continuous vocabulary development enriches student comprehension of literature and capacity for self-expression.</p>	<p>ENGLISH 8 develops student comprehension and application of essential concepts in grammar, literature, composition, and research. Previous knowledge of literature is expanded to explore new elements and ideas. In addition to original fiction, creative non-fiction, and poetry, students will work with a variety of written forms to increase mastery of written expression including literary analysis, persuasive, narrative, expository, and descriptive writing. Elements of research introduced in English 7 will be expanded and applied in student writing.</p>
Mathematics	<p>INTRO TO PRE-ALGEBRA</p> <p>NOTE: placement in Middle School mathematics courses is based on readiness and mastery of prerequisite skills. Some courses may be multi-grade level.</p> <p>INTRO TO PRE-ALGEBRA - Topics include proportions, percents, rational numbers, solving and graphing linear equations, and functions. This is a project-based course designed to solidify students' understanding of concepts in preparation for Pre-Algebra.</p> <p>PRE-ALGEBRA - Topics include operations and properties of the real number system; simplifying and writing algebraic expressions; writing, solving, and graphing multi-step equations and inequalities; order of operations and solving proportions. Topics in Geometry, including right triangles and the Pythagorean Theorem, are introduced.</p> <p>ALGEBRA I* - The study of all standard Algebra topics, including the real number system, algebraic expressions, linear equations, inequalities, graphing solutions, systems of equations and inequalities, factoring and solving quadratic equations and functions, rational and radical equations. This course emphasizes problem solving and applications.</p> <p>ALGEBRA I/GEOMETRY** - This course studies all standard Algebra topics covered in the Algebra I course at an accelerated pace. The last quarter of the year continues the study of Geometry begun in Pre-Algebra. Geometry topics include simple proofs, parallel and perpendicular lines, and congruent triangles.</p>	<p>PRE- ALGEBRA</p>	<p>ALGEBRA 1 * OR ALGEBRA 1/GEOMETRY **</p>
Science	<p>SCIENCE 6 - This course promotes the development of science skills through investigation of a variety of topics. Physical science topics will allow the students to discover properties of matter, energy, and waves. Life science topics will include basic inheritance, diversity of life, and ecology. Students will visit the Challenger Learning Center-St. Louis to engage in a simulated space mission and rocket launching. Engineering design is explored throughout the course and these skills are used in the final robotics unit using NXT Lego Mindstorm robots. Students will keep a science notebook, integrate technology and mathematics in their classwork, and will design and carry-out their own investigations.</p>	<p>SCIENCE 7 - This course explores fundamental concepts in Earth, and space science. Topics include: weather/climate, Earth's waters, astronomy, forces inside Earth, and sustainability. Technology resources include: OneNote, Inspiration, Venier probes, Moodle, Senteo, and Lego Mindstorm Robotics. Pearson SuccessNet supplements textbook material. Instruction focuses on inquiry (observing, experimenting, and modeling) and an introduction to the design process. Data collection and analysis incorporates student laptops and Logger Pro software. Skills learned in this class are applied during a trip to the Great Smoky Mountains National Park in the spring.</p>	<p>SCIENCE 8 - This course emphasizes real-world application of biological and physical science concepts. The first unit is an in-depth study of Missouri's Aquatic Ecosystems. Students participate in a field experience in which they look at all aspects of water quality. The second unit culminates by using model wind turbines to apply the study of electricity and magnetism. The next unit applies simple machines and acceleration by designing and building Rube Goldberg machines. An introduction to chemistry is the focus of the fourth unit of study. Study, process, and engineering skills are used in conjunction with technology to help students learn to manage and analyze scientific information. Instruction focuses on using inquiry: observing, experimenting, and presenting.</p>
Social Studies	<p>SOCIAL STUDIES 6 - focuses on the understanding of ancient civilizations with an emphasis on project-based applications to communicate knowledge of world history. Students also identify and explain the effects of current events on daily life.</p>	<p>WORLD GEOGRAPHY - focuses on the five themes of location, place, interaction, movement, and regions with an emphasis on reading, study skills, the effective use of maps, charts, and graphs, development of an understanding of different cultures and a knowledge of current events.</p>	<p>AMERICAN STUDIES - examines the core values and ideas that define American culture. The course focuses on history and social development from the Colonial Period through the 20th Century. The study of the US Government is brought to life by a trip to Washington, DC in the spring.</p>
Modern & Classical Languages	<p>INTRODUCTION TO MODERN LANGUAGES is an exploratory course designed to educate students about general language principles in order to facilitate future language learning. It focuses on beginning level expressions, writing through listening, reading, and pronunciation. It introduces students to the customs, history, and geography of Spanish-speaking, francophone, and Roman cultures through a variety of cultural activities involving music, dance, food, art, theatre, and current events.</p>	<p>MODERN/CLASSICAL LANGUAGES IA - Students may choose French, Latin, or Spanish. This course, the first in a two-part sequence, provides students with the foundation for continued study of the language through level I. It presents basic grammar, vocabulary, and sentence structure. Students practice oral and written communication through language lab activities. French and Spanish students read short stories and complete a TPRS (Teaching Proficiency Through Story-telling) novel. Latin students focus on the study of grammatical structures and vocabulary with a particular emphasis on the influence of Latin on English vocabulary. The course also introduces students to customs and geography through a variety of cultural activities and projects.</p>	<p>MODERN/CLASSICAL LANGUAGES IB *** - This course completes the two-part sequence of level I. It continues to present basic grammar, sentence structure and vocabulary. Students practice oral and written communication through language lab activities. French and Spanish students read short stories and complete a TPRS (Teaching Proficiency Through Story-telling) novel. Latin students continue the study of grammar and vocabulary and the readings of stories adapted for middle school students. The course also continues to introduce students to new customs and geography through a variety of cultural activities and projects.</p>
Visual & Performing Arts	<p>ART (one semester, alternating with Physical Education) - students learn basic principles of art through a variety of projects and media. The appreciation of art is emphasized.</p> <p>MUSIC (one semester, alternating with Physical Education) - Students create, perform, and respond to music in various ways using notation, musical vocabulary, instruments, computer hardware and software applications. Students demonstrate an understanding of the relationship between music, history, and culture.</p>	<p>ART (alternating with Dance and Physical Education) - Students are introduced to a variety of media through projects that relate to the elements of art and design. Students discover how the elements of art can be used to express feelings and ideas.</p> <p>DANCE (alternating with Art) - a study of a variety of dance forms including jazz, tap, modern and contemporary dance.</p>	<p>ART (one semester) - Building upon the 7th grade Art curriculum, students are introduced to art criticism: learning how to describe, analyze, interpret and judge a work of art.</p> <p>CREATIVE DRAMATICS (one semester) - Students explore a variety of communication and theater concepts. Through activities, group work, and performances, students gain self-confidence, cooperation, and time management skills.</p> <p>MUSIC (one semester) - This course leads the student through the historical eras of music from Medieval/Renaissance through today. Learning to "listen" and discuss all styles of music is paramount to the course. Exploration of sound rounds out the course with the design and creation of musical instruments.</p>
Physical Education	<p>PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND HEALTH (alternating with Music and Art) - P.E. units include Volleyball, Tennis, Soccer, Basketball, Floor Hockey and Softball. Health units include nutrition, addictions, the reproductive system, and stress. Students participate in the Presidential Fitness Test.</p>	<p>PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND HEALTH (alternating with Art) - P.E. units include Basketball, Field Hockey, Jump Rope, Volleyball, and Soccer. Health units include nutrition, safety, and substance abuse.</p>	<p>PHYSICAL EDUCATION (one semester) - Units include Basketball, Field Hockey, Fitness, Golf, Lacrosse, Softball, Tchoukball, Tennis, and Volleyball.</p>

TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION & INTEGRATION

One-to-One Technology Program for Grades 6 through 8. 6th grade students take a formal Technology Foundations course designed to introduce computer applications in an integrated approach while applying their skills to the Middle School curriculum. 7th grade students participate in a course designed to enhance the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) skills and activities used in their core classes. 8th grade students' knowledge and use of technology resources is reinforced in all classes.

Focus: A fully integrated technology program allowing students to attain curricular goals with technology enhanced instruction. Digital literacy is attained through knowledge, concepts and skills that are interwoven into curriculum related lessons.

Application/Skill Sets: Students are competent and confident in using technology to: research for meaningful connections while collecting data from a range of resources, create and use visual thinking tools, safely navigate the Internet using proper etiquette, efficiently accomplish tasks involving word processing and spreadsheets, collaborate globally, use web publishing tools, create audience specific oral presentations using a variety of media tools, and accept the rights and responsibilities of using a network.

High School Credit Opportunities

* Upon successful completion of this course, students earn 1 unit of high school credit in Algebra I.

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*** Upon successful completion of this course students earn 1 unit of high school credit in the chosen language.

COUNSELING PROGRAM

Middle School students' unique needs are addressed through a comprehensive guidance program provided in individual, small group, and large group settings. Topics addressed include academic guidance, study skills, social relationships, media awareness, internet safety, and health and wellness.

AFTER-SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

Structured After-School Program until 5:30 PM to include supervised homework time and optional enrichment activities.