

Middle School Objectives & Curriculum

6th Grade Overview

Language Arts

Writing:

- Vary writing style according to purpose
- Develop complete essay responses
- Introduce a variety of organizational structures using narrative, expository, persuasive, poetic and expressive writing
- Introduce the basic elements of the research paper and formal writing expectations

Spelling/Vocabulary:

- Identify synonyms and antonyms of vocabulary words
- Construct complete sentences using varied vocabulary and spelling words

Literature:

- Introduce both fiction and non-fiction; extract important details and make inferences

English/Grammar:

- Introduce the various types of sentences and parts of speech
- Use proper capitalization and punctuation
- Incorporate proper verb/subject agreement

Oral Communication and Listening Skills:

- Introduce the principles of effective speaking, understand and incorporate active listening skills
- Give a personal introduction; write and present a persuasive or demonstrative speech
- Understand and incorporate active listening skills

Integrated Science

Space and Earth Science:

- Weather development and patterns
- Space exploration
- Plate tectonics and physical earth features

Life Science:

- Role of genetics in biodiversity
- Functions of ecosystems
- Cell Structure
- Classifications
- Stewardship within a Catholic context

Physical Science

- Periodic table and basic chemistry properties
- Magnetism and electricity
- Laws of motion and basics of physics
- The Electromagnetic Spectrum
- Thermal and light energy

Social Studies

Ancient World History:

- Study the civilizations of Mesopotamia/Fertile Crescent, Egypt, India, China, Persia, Greece and Rome
- Introduce the beliefs of major world religions including their origins and how they spread
- Examine the importance of art, religion and culture
- Explain current events and their impact
- Identify government systems and their leaders
- Explain the growth of civilizations, the impact of money, trade, political systems and wars

Geography Skills:

- Review basic skills of map reading
- Construction of maps
- Geography terms, five themes of Geography
- Relationship between geography and history

Math

- Number sense patterns, measurement and statistics
- Equations, functions and probability
- Ratios, proportions and percents
- Decimal and fraction addition, subtraction, multiplication and division
- Data and statistics
- Fraction operations, integers, equations
- Factors, fractions and exponents
- Integer operations
- Variables and multi-step equations
- Geometric figures, measurement, area and volume
- Polygons, transformations, real numbers
- Right triangles, area and volume

Religion

- Profession of Faith: Old Testament: Pentateuch, historical, prophetic and wisdom literature, Hebrew history and Salvation history
- Celebration of the Christian mystery: The Mass, the Sacraments
- Life in Christ: human dignity, the Ten Commandments and morality, service projects and vocations
- Prayer: Mysteries of the rosary, personal and common prayers, Marian devotions, memorization of 6th grade prayers

Technology

- Empowered Learner
- Catholic Digital Citizen
- Knowledge Constructor
- Innovative Designer
- Computational Thinker
- Creative Communicator

Spanish

Listening/Speaking:

- Respond to auditory input in Spanish through actions, gestures, and novice-level responses
- Engage in and carry on simple conversations about everyday topics and learned vocabulary
- Produce spoken language spontaneously and without coercion
- 90% Spanish used in classroom

Reading/Writing:

- Comprehend main ideas in a variety of Spanish texts using learned vocabulary and decoding strategies
- Produce novice-level written responses in Spanish on Level 1 topics

Music

- Perform on a wide range of pitched and no-pitched instruments
- Improvise and compose their own song using a variety of instruments
- Listen to, analyze and describe music from a variety of styles and cultures
- Complete a jazz music project
- Prepare music for weekly school Masses

Art

- Learn and utilize the elements of art and principles of design
- Explore various art media
- Create and analyze art that expresses themes in the Catholic faith, cultural heritage and other disciplines
- Discuss positive aspects, values, thoughts, beliefs and expression of others through critiquing artwork
- Analyze, interpret and form opinions about particular works of art
- Identify the role art plays in our culture and history
- Identify and analyze art history

Physical Education

- Complete a daily exercise regimen designed to prevent injury, increase dexterity, promote greater strength and endurance and enhancing a sense of well-being and confidence
- Learn rules and play a variety of games
- Practice competitiveness with regard

- to Christian sportsmanship
- Learn and put into practice the value of treating classmates, teammates and opponents with dignity and respect
- Various health topics are studied on a weekly basis for one trimester

7th Grade Overview

Language Arts

Writing/Grammar:

- Learn various writing styles: essay responses, narrative structure, persuasive writing, summarizing and poetry
- Develop skills for research and essay writing process
- Incorporate proper grammatical structure including verb agreement, pronoun case, phrases, complex sentences and mechanics
- Master grade level grammar and parts of speech

Spelling/Vocabulary:

- Broaden understanding and usage of language through multiple vocabulary and spelling unit assessments
- Learn various word meanings, parts of speech, identify synonyms and antonyms
- Apply newly acquired words in various writing

Literature:

- Read, analyze and interpret a variety of reading selections
- Study the narrative structure and character development through class discussion of novels
- Interpret figurative language and point of view

Oral Communication & Listening Skills:

- Share work and present in a group
- Participate in mini debates
- Actively listen to presentations
- Demonstrate respect for all presenters and audience members

Life Science

- Scientific Method
- Life structure and function
- Study of bacteria and plants
- Animals
- Human body systems
- presenters and audience members

World History

- Develop and use geographic knowledge and concepts to understand relationships between history and geography through: Projections, Map readings, Charts and graphs

- Analyze historical, political, economic and social characteristics in World History
- Develop and promote critical conceptual thinking from the Wall of Rome to the Fall of the Berlin Wall through: Political cartoons, historical documents, primary and secondary sources, historical terminology, inferences

Math

Pre-Algebra:

- Factors, fractions and exponents
- Rational number and integer operations
- Multi-step equations and inequalities
- Ratio, proportions, percent, probability
- Polygons, transformations, real numbers
- Right triangles, area and volume
- Variables, expressions and integers

Algebra I:

- Properties of real numbers
- Writing, solving and graphing linear equations and inequalities
- Exponents and functions
- Quadratic equations
- Polynomials and factoring

Religion

- Gospels and Epistles
- Ministry, miracles and parables of Jesus
- Beatitudes
- Blessed Virgin Mary: apparitions, devotions, prayers, feast days
- Angels and Communion of Saints
- Death, Heaven, Hell and Purgatory
- Review of Sacraments
- Apostolic Succession
- Mass: meaning, significance, liturgical articles
- Human Dignity: moral values and behavior
- Prayer and Eucharistic devotion
- Sin: the need for a redeemer
- Social Justice, family and community service
- Relationships: peer pressure and modesty

Technology

- Empowered Learner
- Catholic Digital Citizen
- Knowledge Constructor
- Innovative Designer
- Computational Thinker
- Creative Communicator
- Global Communicator

Spanish

Listening/Speaking:

- Applications of strategies for listening comprehension through storytelling and repetition
- Use and talk greetings, telling time, discussing likes and dislikes, weather and other simple conversations
- Focus on phonetics
- 90% Spanish used in classroom

Reading/Writing:

- Comprehend sentences and short paragraphs based off current vocabulary
- Generate correctly constructed sentences in various vocabulary-based projects

Music

- Experience music through a variety of repertoire in class and in Mass
- Perform on a wide range of pitched and non-pitched instruments
- Prepare music for weekly school Masses
- Improvise and compose their own songs using a variety of instruments
- Listen to, analyze and describe music from a variety of styles and cultures
- Complete a music video project

Art

- Learn and utilize the elements of art and principles of design
- Explore various art media
- Create and analyze art that expresses themes in the Catholic faith, cultural heritage and other disciplines
- Develop pride and confidence in his/her own artwork
- Discuss positive aspects, values, thoughts, beliefs and expression of others through critiquing artwork
- Analyze, interpret and form opinions about particular works of art
- Identify the role art plays in our culture and history
- Identify and analyze art history

Physical Education

- Complete a daily exercise regimen designed to prevent injury, increase dexterity, promote greater strength and endurance, and enhancing a sense of well-being and confidence
- Learn rules and play a variety of games
- Practice competitiveness with regard to Christian sportsmanship
- Learn and put into practice the value of treating classmates, teammates and opponents with dignity and respect
- Various health topics are studied on a weekly basis for one trimester, including the *Second Step: Success Through Prevention* program

8th Grade Overview

Language Arts

Writing/Grammar:

- Analytical, expository, narrative and persuasive writing
- Standard persuasive written writing English including effective use modifiers of pronouns and mechanics, clauses, sentence types, modifiers and mechanics

Spelling/Vocabulary:

- Mastering grade level and higher units of study
- Using context clues, roots, prefixes, suffixes and etymologies to define new vocabulary
- Studying word relationships in analogies

Literature:

- Studying genres including the novel, short stories, poetry nonfiction and drama
- Identifying and explaining author's purpose and use of literary devices including point of view, theme, irony, satire, allusion and allegory
- Completing independent reading assignments

Oral Communication & Listening Skills:

- Share work and present in a group
- Participate in mini debates
- Actively listen to presentations
- Demonstrate respect for all presenters and audience member

Earth Science

- Scientific Method
- Matter
- Exploring earth
- Geologic changes
- Weather and climate
- Water and other resources
- Exploring the universe

Social Studies

American History:

- Develop and use geographic knowledge and concepts to understand relationships between history and geography through: projections, map readings, charts and graphs
- Analyze historical, political, economic and social characteristics in American History from the Civil War through Civil Rights and the Cold War
- Develop and promote critical and conceptual thinking through: political cartoons; historical documents; primary and secondary sources; historical terminology and

inferences

Social Studies Skills:

- Political cartoons
- Historical documents
- Primary and secondary sources
- Inferences

Math

Algebra I:

- Connection to Algebra, properties of real numbers, solving linear equations
- Graphing, writing, solving linear equations and inequalities
- Systems of linear equations, exponents and functions
- Quadratic equations, polynomials and factoring
- Rational equations, radicals and connection

Geometry:

- Basics of geometry, reasoning and proof
- Perpendicular and parallel lines
- Congruent triangles, properties of triangles
- Quadrilaterals, transformations and similarity
- Right triangles and trigonometry
- Areas of circles and polygons
- Surface area and volume

Religion

- Prayer and Eucharistic devotions
- Memorization of 8th grade prayers
- Virtues in Practice
- Church History: from Pentecost to present
- The Four Marks of the Church
- Hierarchy of the Church, Creeds
- Precepts of the Church
- Holy Days of Obligation
- Mass and the Lectionary
- Human dignity
- Theology of the Body
- Purpose of marriage
- Moral values and behavior
- Peer Pressure, modesty
- Membership in the Body of Christ
- Conscience
- Two great Commandments
- Social justice
- Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy

Technology

- Empowered Learner
- Catholic Digital Citizen
- Knowledge Constructor
- Innovative Designer
- Computational Thinker
- Creative Communicator
- Global Communicator

Spanish

Listening/Speaking:

- Strategies for listening comprehension
- Participate as an active listener in a conversation
- Simple dialogues and skits with level appropriate vocabulary
- Guided conversations, as well as impromptu
- Construction simple questions and responses
- 90% Spanish used in classroom

Reading/Writing:

- Comprehend a variety of sources
- Generate correctly constructed paragraphs in various vocabulary-based projects

Music

- Experience music through a variety of repertoire in class and in Mass
- Perform on a wide range of pitched and non-pitched instruments
- Prepare music for weekly school Masses
- Improvise and compose original songs using a variety of instruments
- Listen to, analyze and describe music from a variety of styles and cultures
- Complete a music project comparing old and new composers in a creative way
- Create sound effects to accompany an animated short

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