

Seventh Grade Curriculum

Ss. Peter & Paul School

RELIGION

In seventh grade students will read and learn more about the life of Christ. By studying His life, students will better understand the tenets of the Catholic faith.

Students will:

- Develop a deeper understanding of who Jesus is
- Know what it means to follow Jesus in daily life
- Have a greater appreciation of the life Jesus won for us by his death and resurrection
- Participate in a retreat/day of reflection
- Begin to prepare for the sacrament of Confirmation
- Learn the Mysteries of the Rosary
- Take part in Eucharistic Adoration visits
- Participate in the Steps to Respect program
- Have a service experience at Feed My Starving Children
- Visit St. Procopius Abby as a faith experience
- Perform twenty hours of service to the community



LANGUAGE ARTS

The goal of the seventh grade Language Arts curriculum is to improve students' writing, speaking, vocabulary, and grammar proficiency. Our hope is to insure that our students are knowledgeable and trained in the use of language so that they may be prepared not only for higher academic requirements, but in communicating with others in their personal lives.

Students will:

- Focus on expository, persuasive, descriptive and informative creative writing
- Students will learn how to properly construct a business letter learning the various parts. Furthermore, students will learn how to properly create a computer generated envelope.
- Build on the introduction of the research process taught in sixth grade. Students will learn how to properly brainstorm, pre-write, draft, review, revise, edit, and publish a research paper. Furthermore, the students will learn how to create an outline, title page, bibliography, and internal citation abiding by the MLA guidelines.
- Prepare formal speeches in correspondence to research papers and essays
- Review rules of basic grammar and mechanics as used in the English language
- Apply the conventions of our language to written and oral activities
- Build upon their grammar knowledge by reviewing the eight parts of speech, while introducing complements, verbals, and appositives
- To reinforce the above grammar skills through the tool of diagramming sentences
- Students will use the Sadlier Oxford vocabulary program in order to increase their speaking and writing vocabulary
- Writing portfolios are introduced in the English department and creative and formal

writing aspects taught in Language Arts are intertwined cross-curricularly in reading class as well.

Reading

The overall goal of seventh grade reading is to develop their proficiency and reading comprehension skills by utilizing various types of literature through the lens of genres and novels.

- The genres covered consist of short stories and novels including mystery, historical fiction, non-fiction, and fiction, biography/autobiography, and fantasy /science fiction
- Writing portfolios are continued in the English department and creative and formal writing aspects taught in Language Arts are intertwined cross-curricularly in reading class as well.
- Students partake in reflective writing following short stories and/or novel studies
- Students learn how to compare/contrast a novel from a media source
- Literary elements consisting of theme, setting, plot, and characterization are reviewed through reading selections from the anthology and through novels
- Parts of stories such as conflict, climax, resolution and explored
- Reading comprehension skills such as inferencing, prediction, and compare/contrast are exercised frequently
- Review reading skills such as finding the main idea and drawing conclusions in SRA
- Students are taught how to analyze works of literature and encouraged to make personal connection
- Students are taught the skill of annotation
- Presentation skills from Language Arts are incorporated in the reading curriculum
- Students partake in independent novel studies periodically
- Class novel studies are done frequently throughout the course of the year

Writers' Workshop

In grade seven, Writers' Workshop students will hone their prewriting strategy skills bases on specific audiences and/or purposes. They will revise their work using collaboration, conferencing, and self-evaluation. They will edit for language conventions such as syntax, and word usage.

Students will develop skills in writing for various formats, including expressive and informational pieces and business letters.

In grade seven students will also improve their writing skills to explain and inform. They will continue to learn, entertain, and describe through writing, as well as begin writing to persuade analyze, and transact business.

Students will be challenged with an extensive vocabulary program and will extend their vocabulary lessons with antonyms and synonyms. Students will integrate vocabulary into their creative writing.

Students will also review grammar elements and learn verbals- infinitives, participles and gerunds. They will also learn how to diagram verbals as well as adjective and adverb clauses.

Students will complete a research paper and a persuasive essay along with many other writing projects. They will be asked to write a critical analysis and to formulate appropriate oral responses. In grade seven students will continue asking questions to investigate a topic. They will also enhance their ability to access information from a variety of sources as well as improve their skill in conducting independent research and summarizing the information they gather.

Daily warm-up activities are planned to allow for mini grammar lessons, the use of higher level thinking skills, and to review previous objectives. Fluency and conventions are taught through mini lessons that incorporate actual student writing.

Literature Plus

Literature Plus is an enriched reading curriculum for high-achieving students. It provides a small-group setting conducive to unique learning opportunities for students who would most benefit from it: i.e. increased student-directed learning activities and independence. Seventh grade Literature Plus program themes include:

- Character Development
- Religious Parallels
- Short Stories
- Courage and Loyalty
- Literary Debate
- Shakespeare

MATHEMATICS

7th Grade Pre-Algebra

Using a McDougal-Littell Pre-Algebra or Algebra Readiness, our pre-algebra philosophy is to provide a solid foundation in algebra, geometry, and problem solving. To ensure success in more advanced courses, students are provided with numerous worked out examples, note taking strategies, organizational skills, and technological support while concentrating on the algebraic approach.

The mathematical concepts covered in a pre-algebra class are:

- Variables, expressions, and integers
- Solving equations
- Multi-step equations and inequalities
- Factors, fractions, and exponents
- Rational numbers and equations
- Ratio, proportion, and probability
- Percents
- Linear functions
- Real numbers and right triangles
- Measurement, area, and volume
- Data analysis and probability
- Polynomials and nonlinear functions
- Angle relationship and transformations

7th Grade Algebra One

Using a McDougal Littell Algebra One textbook, our algebra one philosophy is to provide a solid foundation in algebra, geometry, and problem solving. It is organized around families of functions with a special emphasis on linear and quadratic functions. To ensure success in more advanced courses, students are provided with numerous worked out examples, note taking strategies, organizational skills, and technological support while concentrating on the algebraic approach.

The mathematical concepts covered in an algebra one class are:

- Expressions, equations, and functions

- Properties of real numbers
- Solving , writing, and graphing linear equations and functions, linear inequalities, systems of equations and inequalities, exponential functions, quadratic functions and rational functions
- Polynomials and factoring
- Radicals and geometry connections
- Probability and data analysis

SCIENCE

Seventh grade science primarily covers a variety of topics in life science and biology, using the text *Exploring Life Science* (Prentice Hall). We cover:

- Natural communities and ecosystems
- Cells and cell biology
- Genetics and inheritance
- Evolution, and adaptation of species to new conditions
- Principles of architecture, design and construction
- Bacteria and viruses; classification and animal kingdoms
- Plant forms, and their various structures and functions
- The basics of human anatomy and physiology (muscle, bone, skin and digestion systems)
- Food, diet, nutrition and fitness

We also look at architecture and engineering principles, and do a model building project in the late winter. We take an annual three day outdoor education trip in the fall to Timber-lee, a Christian camp in southern Wisconsin, and prepare with a review of glaciation and the chemistry of leaf colors. When we look at architecture and engineering principles, we do a model building and research project. Students also take turns reporting on the "Scientist of the Week" to develop students' knowledge about the history of science.

PROJECT EXPLORE

Project Explore in seventh grade is a science-oriented class for qualifying high-performance students. The primary activity in these classes is completion of a "science fair" project which will be taken into Illinois Junior Academy of Science competitions by each student individually. In the latter part of the school year (after competitions), the classes will complete a special large-scale science-related project chosen by the students. These classes meet in the mornings, before normal school hours.

SOCIAL STUDIES

Seventh grade students embark on a study of world geography using the textbook *World Geography Building a Global Perspective* (Prentice Hall). An International High Tea will be held at the end of the school year.

Students will study:

- Political and physical geography of all Europe, Russia, Asia, Australia
- Five themes of geography which are region, movement, location, place and human-environment interaction
- Different types of governments throughout the world
- Economic and social issues involving different countries
- An emphasis on map skills such as placement of countries, capital cities, rivers, seas, gulfs, mountain ranges and oceans

FINE ARTS

Art

All students will be taught the language of the arts through understanding the sensory elements and expressive qualities; understanding the similarities, distinctions and connections in and among the arts.

Through creating and performing all students will understand how works of art are produced. Students will learn about the processes, traditional tools and modern technologies used in the visual arts. Students will apply skills and knowledge necessary to create visual arts.

Students will understand the role of the arts in civilizations, past and present. Students will analyze how the arts function in history, society and everyday life. Students will understand how the arts shape and reflect history, society and everyday life.

Music

All students will be given the opportunity to perform on stage in the school musical.

In seventh grade students will have the opportunity to perform in band concerts and march in parades.

Seventh grade music students will learn:

- To play musical instruments in a group setting
- To read musical notes and symbols
- More advanced music theory concepts
- About musical productions
- Ear training
- How to sight read
- Four music time periods
- To research and write a paper on two different musical time periods
- To compare the seven elements of music
- To compose music
- To analyze music

SPANISH

The seventh grade Spanish students will be able to:

- Identify all the Hispanic countries and capitals, as well as use simple geography vocabulary in Spanish
- Conjugate in the present tense and use regular –AR, –ER, –IR verbs in complete sentences
- Conjugate and use the irregular verbs TENER (and its expressions), VENIR, DECIR, SALIR, HACER, PONER, IR and ESTAR, as well as some e/ie stem-changing verbs in present tense
- Compare word use, phrasing and the structure of interrogative statements in English and Spanish
- Use appropriate vocabulary to describe family members
- Use Spanish to identify basic earth science content (mountain, coast, desert, etc.)
- Discuss telephone etiquette and make plans and present skits using known vocabulary and grammatical structures
- Describe the weather and speak about dates, holidays and the calendar
- Continue to participate in pair and group activities and games conversing in Spanish
- Learn about the culture, currency, and geography of Ecuador and the Galapagos

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Students will:

- Demonstrate good sportsmanship in all activities
- Understand principles and components of health-related fitness
- Study efficient and inefficient movement patterns
- Learn basic knowledge of the Fitness Center and physical fitness, charting progress on the equipment
- Review rules and strategies and continue skill development in softball, flag football, volleyball, basketball and badminton
- Continue skill development

TECHNOLOGY

Technology is incorporated with class curriculum and infused as a tool throughout. Teachers and students will use the ELMO and SMARTBoard for demonstrations and interactive learning. During seventh grade the students will be introduced to and master the following skills:

- Use the highlight function as a means of research paper organization
- Understand fair use and copyright concepts
- Outline and cite using proper word processing tools
- Use a variety of Internet data retrieval tools
- Begin to evaluate information on a website and perform online searches using a search path template
- Dissect web page urls for evaluation purposes
- Differentiate between viable websites and nonviable websites for research purposes.
- Learn the basics of spreadsheet formulas and when to use absolute or dynamic types
- Insert or delete rows, columns or blocks of cells in a spreadsheet
- Create an interactive story incorporating recorded sound and animation in a presentation as a buddy mentor
- Develop a presentation using digital photos from Outdoor Ed experience, incorporating photo effects, transitions and sound.
- Create a "world tour" using online latitude/longitude tools and Google Earth.
- Learn Google Sketchup via tutorials and create CAD drawings of buildings to be constructed in conjunction with Science architecture projects.



HOMework

Seventh graders will be assigned homework as needed for practice and reinforcement as well as completion of special projects. On an average seventh grade students can expect 120 minutes of homework daily.