

Eighth Grade Curriculum

Ss. Peter & Paul School

RELIGION

The goals of the curriculum are to form Catholics who appreciate: the Teachings, Tradition and History of the Church, who are growing in the understanding of the Paschal Mystery, who serve others in their needs and who are people of prayer.



Students will:

- Study scriptural images of the Church
- Analyze the Church as servant, sacrament, herald, teaching institution and community
- Learn the role of Mary in the Church and Marian prayers
- Recognize the key points in the Nicene and Apostle's Creed
- Explain the four Marks of the Church
- Be familiar with the history of the saints and our relationship with the Communion of Saints
- Understand the development of the early Church and the Church today
- Know the responsibilities of Church membership
- Give witness by prayerful example
- Recognize the holiness of family life
- Participate in a Confirmation retreat
- Prepare for and receive the Sacrament of Confirmation
- Perform 25 hours of service to the community
- Prepare a Lenten Triduum Service
- Learn the Memorare prayer
- Depend their understanding of the Eucharist in their lives
- Incorporate the Revised Roman Missal into their understanding of the Mass
- Recognize the holiness of life with the Family Life Program and Steps to Respect

LANGUAGE ARTS

The goal of the eighth 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 narrative, expository, and persuasive creative writing
- Build on the research process taught in sixth and seventh grade by continuing to utilize the writing process in various research and organizational methods
- Writing essays and research papers abiding by the MLA guidelines
- Prepare various formal speeches
- 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,

complements, verbals, and appositives that were taught in seventh grade, while introducing all types of clauses in relation to sentence structure

- 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.

Writers' Workshop

The goal of the eighth grade Language Arts: Writer's Workshop curriculum is to improve students' writing, speaking, vocabulary, and grammar proficiency in a small- group setting. Our hope is to insure that our students are knowledgeable and challenged in the use of language so that they may be prepared not only for Honors English courses in high school, but in communicating with others in their personal lives.

The students will do all that is required of the standard Language Arts curriculum in addition to the following unique opportunities:

- Focus on informal writing including: narrative, descriptive, creative writing, and poetry
- Focus on formal writing including: auto-biographical narrative, expository, and persuasive
- Increased student-directed learning
- Extensive amount of formal and informal presentations
- Accelerated pacing of grammar mechanics and usage
- Compile a Literary Anthology of their work over the course of the year
- Participate in contests at the local and national level that showcase their writing capabilities

Reading

The overall goal of eighth grade reading is to develop their proficiency and reading comprehension skills by utilizing various types of literature through the lens of genres including novels, plays, poetry, and non-fiction.

- 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.
- Read and discuss class novels from a variety of genres
- Review the elements of literature: plot, character, tone, mood, theme, setting, conflict
- Read and analyze selected short stories in their anthologies
- Review reading skills such as main idea, words in context and sequencing in SRA
- Students may have the opportunity to select independent novels in accordance with a particular focus
- Compare the pros and cons of stories made into videos/movies
- Presentation skills from Language Arts are incorporated in the reading curriculum
- Students continue to utilize the skill of annotation

8th Grade Literature Plus

The goal of Literature Plus is to provide a small group setting, conducive to unique learning opportunities for students who would most benefit from it. Students in this program take advantage of increased student-directed learning, greater independence, enriched discussion and debate, as well as rigorous reader response.

Students will:

- Compare and contrast story elements and figurative language among a variety of literary works and authors
- Use literature to increase self-awareness
- Use disciplined, collaborative questioning and discussion to reach consensus
- Provide personal reflection on and written response to literary works
- Provide oral presentation
- Discover the styles of various authors along with what in the authors' lives influenced their writing
- Participate in a multi-school competitive debate of literary topics

MATHEMATICS

8th Grade Pre-Algebra

Using a McDougal-Littell Pre-Algebra textbook, 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

8th Grade Algebra One

Using a McDougal Littell Algebra One textbook, our Algebra One philosophy is to further develop those concepts covered in pre-algebra. 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
- Advanced eighth graders have the opportunity to complete an honors Geometry course that will further help the students to become independent learners. Using a McDougal Littell high school geometry textbook, students will discover that studying geometry is useful, challenging, logical, and provides a visual meaning to arithmetic and algebra.

SCIENCE

The focus of eighth grade science is general physical science (chemistry and physics), using two texts, *Exploring Physical Science* (Prentice Hall), and *Introductory Physical Science* (Science Curriculum Inc.)

Topics covered include:

- Experiment design
- Physical properties of matter, such as density, buoyancy, freezing and boiling points, solubility and molecular forces
- Chemical reactions and relative reactivity of different elements; organization of the Periodic Table; families of elements and their chemical properties
- Structure of atoms, molecules and compounds
- Radiation and the electromagnetic spectrum; radioactivity; nuclear fission and fusion
- The nature of waves; how waves behave and interact; sound and light waves Sound and light waves
- Nature of magnetism and magnets; electricity, circuits, electric motors

In the fall we build on our work in human physiology from seventh grade by dissecting frogs and sharks, and compare them to humans. The class takes an annual field trip to Fermi National Accelerator Lab in Batavia. During the year, students develop computer research, teamwork and critical thinking skills by working in groups on an online research problem. Students also develop their science literacy throughout the year by critiquing news media reports on science topics. Regular lab reports are an integral part of the experiments conducted in eighth grade, and there are a number of classes during the year combining issues in both religion and science.

PROJECT EXPLORE

Project Explore in eighth 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

Eighth grade social studies prepare students for their role as informed citizens with a thorough knowledge of United States civics and history using the textbook *American Journey* (Glencoe). Learned map skills will be emphasized throughout. Students will participate in the Daughters of the American Revolution Essay Contest

Students will study:

- The United States and Illinois constitutions
- U.S. history – a survey of United States history starting with Explorations, Colonies, the American Revolution, the Pre-Civil War Era, the Civil War, Reconstruction, World

- War I, the Jazz Age, the Depression, World War II, 1950's, 1960's
- Economic systems with emphasis on the United States themes
- Current events will be stressed as appropriate

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

Music students will:

- Learn about the seven elements of music
- Play musical instruments in a group setting
- Read musical notes and symbols
- Learn more advanced music theory concepts
- Compose music
- Analyze music forms
- Learn the history of American jazz
- Learn about two composers, and then compare them using the seven elements of music

SPANISH

The eighth grade Spanish students will complete their study of the Spanish I curriculum and be able to:

- Conjugate and use some o/ue u/ue e/i stem-changing verbs
- Describe clothing and shopping
- Identify and describe parts of the body
- Have a working knowledge of the structure and phrasing of demonstrative adjectives, comparatives and superlatives
- Discuss and describe food and meals including their likes, 'really' likes and dislikes
- Use prepositional phrases to indicate location
- Conjugate regular and select irregular verbs in the preterit tense in order to express action in the past
- Talk about sports in Spanish, with a special emphasis on those sports which are important to the culture of Hispanic countries
- Continue to participate in pair and group activities and games conversing in Spanish
- Comprehend written and oral directions as well as short videos, read simple passages and infer meaning of cognates in Spanish

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Students will:

- Demonstrate good sportsmanship in all activities
- Learn total knowledge of the fitness center and physical fitness – progress is charted year to year
- Review rules and strategies to develop total understanding of rules
- Continue skill development
- Develop cardio-vascular endurance
- Learn the principles of training (frequency, intensity, time)

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 eighth grade the students will be introduced to and master the following skills:

- Merge documents with database information
- Incorporate a variety of graphical techniques and principles
- Create an interactive project using formulas and IF statements in a spreadsheet
- Incorporate tables into word processing documents
- Design posters using a desktop publishing program; and multimedia posters using Glogster.
- Create schematics of the campus buildings using Google Sketchup
- Edit video clips to create learning tools
- Complete inquiry-based online projects
- Perform virtual frog dissections
- Create web pages using several methods and software applications
- Use systems tools to perform computer maintenance
- Understand the importance of Internet ethics and safety
- Complete a two week online unit
- Learn how to incorporate Web 2.0 tools into authentic learning situations
- Create digital portraits using specialized photo tools



HOMEWORK

Eighth graders will be assigned homework as needed for practice and reinforcement as well as completion of special projects. On an average eighth grade student can expect 140 minutes of homework daily.