



## EIGHTH GRADE CURRICULUM HIGHLIGHTS

### RELIGION

- Church: Students understand and appreciate the Church as the Body of Christ, from the time of early Christians through today, recognize Jesus' resurrection as the central event of the Church, explore various ministries in today's Church as a continuation of Jesus' mission, recall the Feast of the Pentecost as the birth of the Church, understand celebrations and feasts celebrated throughout the liturgical year, appreciate involvement of the life, mission, and work of the parish community.
- Doctrine: Students acquire further knowledge of the Nicene Creed, recognize and honor Mary as the Mother of God, guidance of the Holy Spirit, the Trinity, and Pentecost. They will study infancy narratives of Luke and Matthew, relate to humankind being created in God's own image, understand Jesus as both God and human, and understand the work of ecumenical councils.
- Liturgy & Sacraments: Students understand the four major parts of the Mass/Eucharist, describe how sacraments signify God's grace, compare and contrast the Eucharist with the Last Supper, and explain the concept of transubstantiation.
- Scripture: Students understand that the Bible is the inspired work of God, gives knowledge of our faith, and contains a personal message for each person, that Scripture teaches about Jesus and how we should follow his teachings in today's world.
- Morality/Family Life: Students recognize Catholic morality is based on the human aspect of Jesus' life and he should be our model, identify the moral and theological values in Christ's teachings, become more aware that Christian moral living is a response to their covenant with God, recognize human sexuality is a gift from God that carries with it responsibilities, and identify moral values in the teachings of Christ.
- Catholic Social Teaching: Students understand action for justice and peace is an essential characteristic of Christianity, respond to the challenge of world hunger, poverty, war/peace, inequality, discrimination, and anti-life issues, recognize life is sacred from conception to natural death, analyze how discrimination and prejudice lead to injustice, explore how cultural diversity enriches our Church; comprehend the dignity of the human person.
- Service/Christian Witness: Students identify vocations that reflect our baptismal call to discipleship, identify the uniqueness of the priesthood, examine the role of the laity and the consecrated life in the Church, imitate Christ and the saints in our efforts of service, realize the call to contribute to the growth of the life of the Church, witness through service projects and participation in outreach programs.
- Prayer: Students examine their relationship with God through personal prayer, identify how the Gospel affirms and challenges our thoughts and actions, understand the importance of prayer, its purposes, and various types of prayer, experience full participation in the Eucharist.

### LANGUAGE ARTS

- Written Language – Expository, Informational Essays, Persuasive, Narrative, Friendly and Business Letters, Descriptive Essays, Personal Narrative, Poetry, Descriptive, Dramas, Dialogue, Electronic Messages
- Grammar – Sentence Structure, Nouns, adjectives, Pronouns, Verbs, Verbals, Adverbs, Propositions, Conjunctions and Interjections, and Capitalization and Punctuation
- Oral Language – Use spoken language to communicate effectively, Conduct research and generate ideas and questions orally, Use spoken language to accomplish own purposes, Participate in prayer services and liturgies, Set purposes for listening, Develop active listening skills, Develop critical listening skills, Listen with reverence during liturgies.



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## MATHEMATICS (FOCUS ON ALGEBRA I)

- Expressions, Equations, and Functions
- Linear Equations & Functions
- Linear Inequalities
- Systems of Linear Equations and Inequalities
- Exponents and Exponential Functions
- Quadratic Expressions and Equations
- Quadratic Functions
- Radical Functions and Geometry
- Rational Functions and Equations
- Statistics and Probability

## SOCIAL STUDIES

- Westward expansion and its effect on big business, industrialization, and growth of cities.
- Political movements that affected world events in the early part of the 20th Century
- Our nation's reaction to the changes in the 1920's that led to the Great Depression and its effect on the American people and government
- Causes and effects of World War I and World War II
- Domestic issues, such as the civil rights movement, that occurred in the United States after World War II
- How major national and international events affected the nation
- Challenges faced by the United States in the 21st Century

## READING

- Story elements through reading a variety of suspenseful short stories
- Characterization through reading *The Outsiders* by S.E. Hinton
- Literary analysis through reading *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee
- Independently applying all reading strategies in literature circles through reading various novels containing a theme of affirmation of the human spirit/the human will to endure or survive

## SCIENCE FOCUS ON: PHYSICAL SCIENCE

- Use the Scientific Method, metric system and measuring using common laboratory tools such as the meter stick, triple beam balance, beakers, compound microscopes and graduated cylinders to investigate and collect data with accuracy
- Explore the physical properties and composition of matter (elements, compounds, mixtures and solutions) including atomic structure, physical and chemical changes, the Periodic Table, acids & bases, along with organic and inorganic compounds
- Explore force and motion while being able to describe an objects motion using velocity, acceleration, momentum and applying Newton's Laws of Motion
- Explore how energy provides the ability to do work while learning how simple machines affect how work is done
- Investigate waves and their characteristics especially as they relate to sound and energy.
- Investigate the relationship between electricity and magnetism to more fully understand how electricity is produced and used in series and parallel circuits