

CURRICULUM HIGHLIGHTS



Catholic Church & School

ST. JOSEPH

a parish school

St. Joseph Catholic School

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Lake Orion, MI 48362

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Kindergarten

Math

- Counting Objects to 100 by 1s, 2s, 5s, and 10s
- Recognize Numbers Out of Sequence to 30
- Geometry and Patterns
- Time, Money, and Measurement
- Addition and Subtraction

Reading/writing

- Story Comprehension
- Read and Spell Sight Words
- Upper and Lowercase Letter Identification and Letter Sounds
- Decoding Words
- Read Leveled Books
- Writing (Personal Narrative, Journals, Story Prompts, etc.)

Religion

- Learn Prayers (Hail Mary, Our Father, Grace, Glory Be, SJS Prayer, etc.)
- Learn About the Church's Liturgical Year
- Make a Rosary
- Learn About Jesus' Life and Follow His Example
- Creation
- Attend Weekly Mass and Lead Mass in May

Science

- Life Science
- Motion
- Earth and Sky
- STEM Activities
- Perform an Experiment and Write a Lab Report
- Write an Animal Research Paper

Social Studies

- Who Am I and What is a Family
- How to Get Along with Others and Making Friends
- Problem Solving
- Where am I in the World and How Do People Live Around the World
- What is in My Neighborhood
- Taking Care of the World

Grade 1

Religion

- Moral decision-making skills
- Scripture and the Catholic tradition
- How the Church worships
- Participation in the liturgy is a life-long commitment
- Witnesses to the Gospel in everyday life

Science

- Dinosaurs
- Weather
- Nutrition/ personal health
- Matter
- Fire safety

Language Arts

- Th, ch, sh
- Long vowels and short vowel sounds
- Creating How-to books
- Sound manipulations, including blending and deleting
- Creating small-moment stories

Social Studies

- Geography
- Voting as a way to make decisions
- Jobs
- Families
- History of: Native Americans, George Washington, Sacajawea, Abe Lincoln, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Math

- "more than" and "less than"
- Adding and subtracting facts from 0 to 20
- Double digit adding (with regrouping) and subtracting (without regrouping)
- Time- half hour and hour
- 2D and 3D shapes
- Fractions: half, third, fourth

Grade 2

Math

- Place value
- Triple-digit addition and subtraction with regrouping
- Time and Measurement
- Fractions and Probability
- Adding and Subtracting Money
- Graphing and Interpreting Data
- Shapes and Geometry
- Multiplication Facts through 5
- Basics of Division

Language Arts

- Cursive handwriting
- Research paper
- Writing and presenting papers on the 4 writing styles using iPads for drafts
- Grammar
- Literature-based spelling and phonics

Religion

- Preparation for First Communion
- Preparation for Reconciliation
- Parts of the Mass
- Working to be a Disciple of Jesus
- Service to our community

Science

- Living/nonliving things and their environments
- Matter
- Earth's materials
- Natural resources and recycling

Social Studies

- Our community
- Landforms and geography
- Government leaders
- Production of goods and services
- Communities in the past

Grade 3

Math

- Review addition and subtraction properties and rules
- Multiplication & division facts
- Fractions
- Geometry
- Daily student and teacher use of Interactive SMARTboard

Language Arts

- Daily spelling work
- Daily grammar
- Daily Five reinforced with basal series
- Biography report and presentation
- 4 oral presentations
- Research paper
- Total review of phonetic skills

Religion

- Sacraments
- Apostles
- Explore Bible stories
- Virtues
- Importance of Prayer
- Research and present on a Saint

Science

- Plants & Animals
- Research and present on a bird
- Weather & solar system
- Electricity and energy
- Circuit building
- Spring field trip to Greenfield Village to reinforce uses of resources and energy

Social Studies

- Field Trip to Poppleton School House
- SMARTboard interactive maps and virtual tours
- Research-based MC3 Model Curriculum lessons
- Core Democratic Values
- Michigan history and geography

Grade 4

Math

- Place Value
- Multi-digit Multiplication
- Long Division
- Fractions
- Geometry

English/Language Arts

- Introduction to reading novels
- Comprehension through Vocabulary
- Parts of Speech
- Types of Poems
- Research paper

Religion

- Ten Commandments
- Review of the Seven Sacraments
- Jesus as a Role Model
- The Beatitudes
- Friendship Circles

Science

- Living things, food chains, and ecosystems
- Electricity
- Forces & Motion
- Simple Machines
- Health

Social Studies

- Local/state/federal gov.
- Regions of the United States
- Economics(Supply/Demand)

Grade 5

Math

- Whole Number Operations
- Decimals/Fractions and all operations
- Ratios and Percents
- Geometry
- Integers and Equations

English/Language Arts

- Parts of Speech
- Novel-based literature program that is integrated with the science and social studies units.
- Book Clubs
- Variety of essays (descriptive, persuasive, narrative, personal experience, comparison, poetry)
- Formal research paper
- Daily proofreading and correcting written work
- Weekly vocabulary development

Religion

- The 7 Sacraments
- Discipleship growth including daily prayer and journaling
- Service Learning Projects incorporating math and geography

Science

- Plants/Animals
- Biomes
- Matter
- Weather/ Space
- Health

Social Studies

- Foundations of geography
- Spatial Thinking, Five Themes of Geography, and thematic map skills
- Modern United States and Canada, Latin America
- Ancient Mesoamerican civilizations
- Geography/map skills

K-5 Specials

Music

K-3 (30 min, 2 days/week)

- Beginning vocal production
- Orff instruments
- Christmas concert
- Rhythm, pitch and other musical concepts

4-5 (30 min, 3 days/week)

- Musical notation
- Multicultural/historical concepts
- Recorders
- Christmas concert

Spanish – 30 min. daily

K-2:

- beginning communication
- Cultural events
- Vocabulary such as colors, calendar, feelings, introductions, etc.

3-5:

- Intermediate communication
- Grammar structures
- Cultural events

Physical Education

K-2 (30 min, 2 days/week)

- Locomotor Skills
- Object Control Skills
- Body Control
- Character (Following Directions, Best Effort, Cooperation, Compassion etc..)

3-5 (45 min, 2 days/week)

- Intermediate Locomotor and Obj. Control Skills
- Rules Strategy
- Character
- Intro to team sports

Art – 1 hour weekly

K-2

- Art history
- Elements of Art
- Produce and appreciate art
- Develop motor skills with art materials
- Develop self-expression and confidence in their abilities
- Create School's Christmas card
- Spring Art Show

3-5

- Art history
- Elements of Art
- Work with a variety of media and materials
- Develop visual and oral communication skills
- Create meaningful and functional forms of art.
- Spring Art Show

STEM & Media – 45 min. 2 days/week

K-2

- Familiarity with keyboard & desktop computers
- Engineering design
- Problem Solving
- Coding
- Library time

3-5:

- Word processing, Spreadsheets, Presentations
- Engineering Design
- Troubleshooting
- Keyboarding
- Library time

Grade 6

Math

- Connections between all basic arithmetic operations including: decimals, fractions, percent, ratio and proportion.
- Beginning algebraic variables and integers
- Equalities and inequalities
- Geometric properties
- Descriptive statistics

English

- Variety of essays (descriptive, persuasive, narrative, personal experience, expository)
- Formal research paper
- Daily proofreading and correcting written work
- Daily grammar exercises

Literature

- Read, discuss, analyze, and write about literature from a variety of genres
- Daily journal responses to reading
- Formal essays (compare/contrast, response to literature, personal reflections)
- Creative writing
- Vocabulary

Religion

- Old Testament
- Creed
- Sacraments
- Christian Living & Prayer

Science

- Life Science: Cells & processes, Genetics and heredity
- Physical Science: Energy, Speed and Motion, Gravity
- Earth Science: Water Cycle, Earth Spheres interaction, Solar energy, Weather and climate
- Scientific Method & STEM

Eastern World Studies

- Modern Europe and Russia, Africa, Asia, and Australia and the Pacific Ocean
- Comparative Religions
- Ancient African civilizations
- Geography/map skill
- Research/Essay writing in the social sciences
- Student centered projects through varying units
- Field Trip to the Detroit Institute of Art for study of world art

Grade 7

Pre-algebra

- Math properties
- Linear equations, slope/ intercepts
- Rational and irrational numbers
- Geometry/Measurement
- Polynomials
- Statistics and probability
- Introduction to trigonometry

English

- Research paper
- Descriptive, expository, narrative, and informational writing; poetry.
- grammar skills
- listening and communication skills
- Vocabulary

Literature

- Literature's impact on culture, history, art, society and the individual.
- Read, discuss, analyze, and write about a variety of literary works from a variety of genres, including US documents, American Literature, the classics, the Bible and Shakespeare's plays.
- Formal essays (compare/contrast, response to literature, personal reflections, etc.)
- Creative writing

Religion

- The Great Commission
- Doctrine, Creed, & Church History
- The Christian Mystery & Liturgy
- Morality, Prayer, & Service

Science

- Life Science: Characteristics of living things, Classification of living things, Fungi, Bacteria, Plant processes, Animal behavior
- Physical Science: Matter, Atoms and the periodic table, Temperature, Physical and Chemical changes, Acids and Bases
- Earth Science: Rock cycle, Physical and chemical weathering, Erosion and deposition, Tectonic plate, Characteristics of minerals
- Scientific Method & STEM

United States History pre-history to Reconstruction-1867

- Pre-history of North America
- Explorers
- Early Americans/Colonial America
- American Revolution
- Westward Expansion, Lewis and Clark Expedition
- Civil War and Reconstruction
- Research/Essay writing in the social sciences
- Student centered projects through varying units
- Field trip to Charles Wright African American Museum of History and Underground Railroad

Grade 8

Algebra

- Linear equations and inequalities
- Factoring
- Systems of equations
- Rational and irrational numbers
- The quadratic equation.

Honors Geometry (Can be taken as an Elective)

English

- Daily proofreading exercises
- Grammar exercises, including diagramming
- Vocabulary
- An extensive research paper
- Online writing program

Literature

- Novels from various genres, including US documents, American Literature, the classics, the Bible and Shakespeare's plays
- Impact of literature on culture, history, art, society and the individual.
- Creative Writing
- Vocabulary development
- Descriptive, expository, narrative, and informational writing; poetry.
- Mastery and application of grammar skills
- Listening and communication skills

Religion

- Confirmation Prep
- Passion Play on Holy Thursday
- Apostolic Project
- Who am I? Created in God's image

Science

- Life Science: Ecosystems, Food webs, Energy Transfer, Human Impact on the Environment
- Physical Science: Waves-sound and light, Energy transfers, Conservation of Mass
- Earth Science: Fossils and geological timelines, Earth's Atmosphere, Tides
- Scientific Method & STEM

United States History since 1867

- Review of early American history through the Civil War, the Constitution and the law
- Industrial Revolution, Immigration, Women's Suffrage Movement, Segregation, Gilded Age, World War I, the Great Depression, World War II
- Current events
- Ancestry project; oral and written history book project
- Holocaust Museum field trip

Middle School Electives

Students in grades 6, 7, and 8 have the opportunity to take 2 elective classes each quarter. During their middle school years, students will be required to take:

- 2 quarters of Art,
- 2 quarters of PE,
- 2 quarters of STEM,
- 2 quarters of Music, and
- 4 quarters of Spanish

This will leave students with 12 quarters of flexible electives, in which they can elect to take further classes in any of these areas. Electives courses tentatively include:

Art

Foundations of Art

- Prerequisite for all other art classes
- Art history and recognition of famous artwork
- Elements of Art
- Develop techniques using a variety of media.

Art 1

- Basic skills in drawing and painting
- Cultural and historical connections
- Critical analysis of artwork
- Appreciation for the arts
- Art related career fields.

Art 2

- Mixed media creation
- Advanced drawing
- Critical analysis artwork
- Creative problem solving
- Independent projects

3/D Media

- Sculpture
- Creative problem solving
- Cultural and historical connections
- Material use and safety procedures
- Work with clay, foam, plaster, papier Mache' and cardboard

Yearbook

- Photography concepts
- Computer use
- Designing of page layouts
- Develop publishing ethics
- Create school yearbook

STEM

Educational Technology (6th grade only)

- IOS apps
- Typing Skills
- Cyber-Safety
- Coding
- Troubleshooting

Science of Technology

- Applied Chemistry
- Nanotechnology
- Applied Physics

Magic of Electrons

- Introduction to Basic Electricity
- Electronics
- Logic and Transistors

Materials Science

- Crystals
- Metals
- Polymers
- Composites

Physical Education

Fall Sports

- Flag football
- Rounders
- Lacrosse
- Croquet
- Volleyball

Winter Sports

- Floor Hockey
- Speedball
- Badminton
- Kickball
- Bowling

Fitness Foundations

- Health-related fitness
- Muscular strength and endurance
- Body Composition and flexibility
- Fitness Testing (Presidential Fitness Test)

Flexibility, Strength, and Health

- Stretching
- Dance
- Health-related fitness

Spring Sports

- Soccer
- Ultimate Frisbee
- Pickleball
- Softball/baseball
- Lawn bowling

Spanish

- Grammar
- Cultural and historical connections
- Conversation
- Writing and Reading comprehension

Music

Music Appreciation

- Music from different cultures
- Value of music in our lives.
- Aspects of music
- Attend a musical performance.
- Jobs in the field of music.

Keyboarding/Piano Class

- Notes of the keyboard
- Major scale patterns
- Chord progressions
- Proper keyboard technique
- Play 3 new pieces of music

Guitar

- History of the guitar.
- Chord charts.
- Play chords within a piece of music, and accompany a learned tune.
- Chord changes.
- Play individual notes on the guitar, and read them from notation.

Creative Composition

- Introduction to interesting artists
- Various instrumental composition
- Electronic composition via iPads
- No previous musical experience required

Choir

- Popular and traditional pieces of music
- Sight reading
- Voice training
- Perform at Choral Festival
- Solo & Ensemble performance
- Spring Concert