

CURRICULUM HIGHLIGHTS

GRADES K-5



ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC SCHOOL

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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

U.S. 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

U.S. 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.

Digital Media Arts

- Express creativity visually & digitally
- Presentation & communication skills
- Stop-motion
- Photography
- Videography

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

Digital Making

- Electronic circuits & microcontrollers
- Engineering design
- Materials properties
- Aerodynamics & flight

Materials Science

- Crystals
- Metals
- Polymers
- Composites

Makers, Coders, and Innovators

- Design Process
- Product Creation
- Coding

Physical Education

Fall Sports

- Flag football
- Rounders
- Lacrosse
- Croquet

Winter Sports

- Floor Hockey
- Speedball
- Badminton
- Kickball
- Bowling

Flexibility, Strength, and Health

- Stretching
- Dance
- Health-related fitness

Spring Sports

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

Basketball Conditioning

Volleyball Conditioning

Baseball/Softball Conditioning

Spanish

- Grammar
- Cultural and historical connections
- Conversation
- Writing and Reading comprehension
- Language Development
- National Spanish Examination

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

Musical Theater

- On-stage and behind-the-scenes roles
- Rehearse, perform, direct, and choreograph/stage various scenes from shows in the Broadway genre
- In-class and on-stage performances

Introduction to Drumming

- History and technique of various drums
- African, Afro Cuban and Western rhythms
- Pitched and non-pitched, keyboard and auxiliary percussion instruments
- Read rhythms, play in a percussion ensemble, bucket drumming, drum circle

Choir

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