

WELCOME TO MIDDLE SCHOOL

“The mission of St. John the Beloved is to teach and model the Gospel of Jesus Christ, foster academic excellence, and encourage service to others.”

MIDDLE SCHOOL TEACHERS

Mrs. Curran 6A homeroom and (6-7 Language Arts)--jcurran@sjbdel.org

Ms. Snook 6B homeroom and (6 Math; 7 Science)--ksnook@sjbdel.org

Mrs. Walus 7A homeroom and (6-7-8 Social Studies)--dwalus@sjbdel.org

Mrs. Dunfee 7B homeroom and (7-8 Math; 8 Science)--jdunfee@sjbdel.org

Mrs. Stinchcombe 8A homeroom and (7-8 Language Arts)--astinchcombe@sjbdel.org

Ms. Kenney 8B homeroom and (6-7-8 Religion)--kkenney@sjbdel.org

Mr. Habbersett (6-7-8 Spanish)--jhabbersett@sjbdel.org

STUDENT EXPECTATIONS

- *Practice the school-wide goals of developing “*Reverence, Respect, and Responsibility*”
- *Complete and hand-in homework, plus study for tests and quizzes
- *Be prepared with supplies and assignments daily
- *Always follow the directions of your teacher
- *Participate during Mass

GRADING

All grades are out of 100 points. Tests carry a weight of **3**, quizzes carry a weight of **2**, and class work/miscellaneous assignments carry a weight of **1**.

HOMEWORK

Graded Homework – Homework that is graded is expected to be handed-in on time. If assignments are handed in one day late, the student will receive a 90%. 10 points will be deducted for each additional day late.

Non-graded Homework – If the teacher chooses, students may receive a beginning quiz grade of 100% to represent non-graded homework. Each time a homework assignment is not handed-in or is incomplete, 5 points will be deducted from that grade.

ABSENCES

Students are responsible for making up missed work, quizzes and tests. **When a student is absent, it is the student’s responsibility to come to the teacher to find out what was missed.** Students will be given the amount of time absent to make up any missed work. In addition, if a student knows about an upcoming test, but is absent the day before, **the student is still responsible for taking the test.**

MIDDLE SCHOOL CLASSES

Religion (6, 7, 8)

The textbook for religion class is: Grade 6: *Christ Our Life: God Calls His People*; Grade 7: *Christ Our Life: Jesus the Way, the Truth, and the Life*; and Grade 8: *Christ Our Life: The Church Then and Now*. The publisher is Loyola Press. Resources and study guides can be found at www.christourlife.com . For more information, please see Ms. Kenney’s Back to School Night page.

Social Studies (6, 7, 8)

Sixth grade social studies instruction will focus on early civilizations through the Renaissance. Geography lessons, including map skills, will be incorporated into the curriculum throughout the year.

The sixth grade textbook is *World Civilizations* published by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, and the website is <https://www.hmhco.com>.

Seventh graders will be learning about the history of the United States starting with a review of the Revolutionary War, and will continue through the Civil War and Reconstruction. Eighth grade students will be studying United States history from post Reconstruction and continue through to the 1960s and possibly beyond. For more information, please visit my webpage <https://sjbdel.org/mrs-walus>. The seventh and eighth grade textbook is *United States History* published by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, and the website is <https://www.hmhco.com>.

Math (6-1)

Students will be using the Sadlier Math Grade 6 textbook and workbook this year. Students have been provided the information for logging onto the online text at sadlierconnect.com. In this edition, students will be learning about mathematical concepts, such as: decimal operations and expressions, division operations and expressions, exponents, order of operations, equivalent expressions, the distributive property, equations, inequalities, common factors and multiples, fractions, absolute value, the coordinate plane, ratios and unit rates, percentages, measurement, area and surface area, circumference, and volume. Students will be working at an advanced pace through this text, leading to the following text.

Math (6-2)

Students will be using the Sadlier Math Grade 6 textbook and workbook this year. Students have been provided the information for logging onto the online text at www.sadlierconnect.com. In this edition, students will be learning about mathematical concepts, such as: decimal operations and expressions, division operations and expressions, exponents, order of operations, equivalent expressions, the distributive property, equations, inequalities, common factors and multiples, fractions, absolute value, the coordinate plane, ratios and unit rates, percentages, measurement, area and surface area, circumference, and volume.

Science (6)

Students will be using the text *Science Fusion: The Dynamic Earth* by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt for Science class this year, eventually moving onto the text *Science Fusion: Space Science* by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt. Topics of focus in the first text include: the Earth's surface and layers, geological change over time, minerals and rocks, weathering and erosion, the Earth's spheres, plate tectonics. Topics of focus in the second text include: the structure of the universe, stars, the solar system, and planets.

Students have received their log-in information for the online interactive textbook site, www-k6.thinkcentral.com.

Science (7)

Students will be using the text *Science Fusion: Introduction to Science and Technology* by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt for Science class this year, eventually moving onto the text *Science Fusion: The Human Body* by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt. Topics of focus in the first text include: the nature of science, measurement and data, engineering, and technology. Topics in the second text include: the human body systems and human health.

Students have received their log-in information for the online interactive textbook site, www-k6.thinkcentral.com.

Math (7-2)

Math concepts being covered this year include: integers, expressions and equations, inequalities, rational numbers, percents, and geometry. Quizzes will be given throughout the chapter and a test at the end of the chapter. The online textbook for this class is *Fundamentals of Algebra*. The textbook website is <https://www.sadlierconnect.com/>

Math (7-1)

Math concepts being covered this year include: real and rational numbers, expressions and equations, inequalities, linear functions and inequalities, and geometry. Quizzes will be given throughout the chapter and a test at the end of the chapter. The online textbook for this class is *Foundations of Algebra*. The textbook website is <https://www.sadlierconnect.com/>

Math (8-2)

Math concepts being covered this year include: real and rational numbers, expressions and equations, inequalities, linear functions and inequalities, and geometry. Quizzes will be given throughout the chapter and a test at the end of the chapter. The online textbook for this class is *Foundations of Algebra*. The textbook website is <https://www.sadlierconnect.com/>

Math (8-1)

Math concepts being covered this year include: Linear equations and inequalities, relations and functions, polynomials, and quadratic functions and equations. Quizzes will be given throughout the chapter and a test at the end of the chapter. The online textbook for this class is *Algebra 1*. The textbook website is <https://www.sadlierconnect.com/>

Science (8)

Students will be working from three different books this year. The first book is *Matter and Energy*, the second is *Motion, Forces, and Energy*, and the third book is *Cells and Heredity*. The students should expect homework one to two times a week which will include vocabulary words, reading, completing activities, and lesson reviews. They will also have a quiz after every 2 sections and a chapter test. In-school projects and labs will be done throughout the school year. The web-site for the science books are www.thinkcentral.com

Written Expression (6th and 7-2)

There will be a strong focus on writing in every class. Students will utilize writing purposes including *expository, persuasive and narrative*. Students will also extract text-based evidence from a single source as well as relevant details and evidence across multiple sources to support and defend claims in writing. We will also utilize the multi-step writing process to develop, revise, evaluate and improve writing assignments. Rubrics will be provided for all formal writing assignments. Various informal writing assignments, worksheets, projects, and activities will also be completed throughout the year. Please see Mrs. Curran's web page for assignment due dates and rubrics.

Reading (6th and 7-2)

Sixth and Seventh grade will be using various novels for Reading/Literature. Students will have quizzes, tests, and various in-class and at-home assignments on the texts we read, centering around concepts such as reading comprehension strategies and literary terms. Students will also continue Accelerated Reading (AR) daily in class. In addition, sixth and seventh graders will have Sustained Silent Reading (SSR) once a week. Unless otherwise instructed, students must come prepared with a book to read for both AR and SSR.

Grammar (6th and 7-2)

Students will practice grammar skills using the *Voyages in English* online textbook. There will be regular quizzes and tests, as well as other alternate assessments in English. Specific instructions and rubrics will also be provided, as well as uploaded to Mrs. Curran's website.

- **Link to *Voyages in English* online textbook:** <http://digital.loyolapress.com/login.php>

Written Expression and Grammar (7-1 and 8th)

Students will be writing in class daily and working to revise their writing weekly. Focus will be on both proper conventions (grammar, punctuation, and capitalization) as well as structure and form. Writing will be focused on informative and persuasive writing to prepare students for high school, though there will be some narrative writing as well. Students will be using the *Voyages in English* online textbook and workbook to improve their writing and grammar skills.

Reading and Vocabulary (7-1 and 8th)

Students will be reading daily for class. One standing assignment will be to complete twenty minutes of reading in their independent reading book daily. This will help them to improve their comprehension, vocabulary, and reading stamina. Accelerated reader will play a critical part in their grade as it counts as two test scores each marking period. Additionally, we will be reading short stories and novels as a class. Vocabulary will be taught using Sadlier's Vocabulary Workshop. 7th grade will use this at the end of seventh and finish the workbook at the beginning of eighth grade. Furthermore, students will be studying vocabulary within texts and focusing on acquiring new grade level appropriate vocabulary.

6th grade Spanish

In 6th Grade we will be using the Autentico Level 1 online series in our Spanish class. The Autentico program is designed to support the rapid language acquisition of students through the use of visual cues in the classroom.

- Online Accounts + Textbook: At the start of the year, each student will receive login credentials that are linked to his or her personal student Autentico account. Using their Chromebooks, students will be able to login and access their textbook and workbooks, as well as any other materials presented in the program.
- Homework + Assessments: Homework assignments will consist of textbook and workbook activities, worksheets, quizzes and projects. It is important that students support what was learned in class by practicing and reviewing every night. For the most part, no homework will be given on the weekend.

We will also be using the Flango reading program. This program is all on line with a variety of books in Spanish. Students will be given books to read throughout the year and questions to answer pertaining to those books in the target language. Students will receive a log in at the beginning of the year for this program.

7th grade Spanish and 8th grade Spanish

In 7th and 8th Grade we will be using the Autentico online series in our Spanish class. 7th grade will be using the 2nd half of the Autentico Level 1 program and 8th grade will be using the Autentico Level 2 program. The Autentico program is designed to support the rapid language acquisition of students through the use of visual cues in the classroom.

- Online Accounts + Textbook: At the start of the year, each student will receive login credentials that are linked to his or her personal student Autentico account. Using their Chromebooks,

students will be able to login and access their textbook and workbooks, as well as any other materials presented in the program.

- Homework + Assessments: Homework assignments will consist of textbook and workbook activities, worksheets, quizzes and projects. It is important that students support what was learned in class by practicing and reviewing every night. For the most part, no homework will be given on the weekend.

We will also be using the Flango reading program. This program is all on line with a variety of books in Spanish. Students will be given books to read throughout the year and questions to answer pertaining to those books in the target language. Students will receive a log in at the beginning of the year for this program.

If ever any questions arise regarding our Spanish program feel free to contact me at any time via email.

RESPECT, REVERENCE AND RESPONSIBILITY

St. John the Beloved has a school wide approach to behavior based on the “three R’s.” All faculty and staff strive to maintain and follow these fundamental principles and encourage a 3-way partnership among teachers, students, and parents. Please feel free to contact us if you have any concerns.