

Eighth Grade Curriculum

Theology - At Salve Regina Academy, the study of theology is infused in every subject throughout our day as students encounter stories of the Saints and biblical lessons in their study of Language Arts, and as they learn to view the world as God's creation in Science and Social Studies. By starting our day with our school-wide Theology Practicum, our students will learn to apply theology to their everyday life through time spent worshipping God in the Church at Mass, or engaging in various prayers or devotionals. We will also follow the *Spirit of Truth* curriculum from Sophia Institute. This program keeps students engaged through interactive lessons, sacred art reflections, games, and role-plays. It covers the breadth of the *Catechism* in a rich and age-appropriate way and is designed to connect with students of diverse backgrounds and differing familiarity with the Catholic Faith.

Language Arts - Grammar and Writing will be taught using *Voyages in English*, which is designed to fully prepare students to become literate masters of the written and spoken word. For Spelling, our students will be using *Spelling Connections: A Word Study Approach*, which connects spelling words to vocabulary, phonics, reading, and writing. Handwriting will be covered using a Zaner-Bloser program which teaches cursive writing while focusing on the four keys of good penmanship: shape, size, spacing, and slant. And lastly, the teacher will guide students through the lessons of reading comprehension by using age-appropriate *Faith and Freedom Readers* as well as reading through the *Stories of the Saints Volume III and IV*.

Social Studies - Our 8th graders will use *The Story of the World Vol. 3: Early Modern Times*. *The Story of the World* series brings to life the people, discoveries, conflicts, and stories that shaped human history, from the ancient era to our own time. Volume III covers other countries and customs that affect our everyday lives and answers questions like "Who was the Sun King?", "How did samurai become sumo wrestlers?", "What was the Black Hole of Calcutta?" and "Why was a California town named Ground Hog Glory?". Curriculum includes and incorporates hands-on activities/projects so that students can truly experience history and not simply read about it.

Science - Our students will be studying *Life Science* from Catholic Heritage Curricula. This comprehensive program covers basic chemistry, the six kingdoms of living organisms, human anatomy, nutrition, disease, and ecology. The curriculum includes experiments such as microscope assignments and seven Formal Labs which provide students with practice in using the scientific method and in completing lab reports for controlled experiments. In addition to learning the material from this textbook, students will also be exposed to native animals and plants, and local agriculture through adventure-based learning.

Mathematics – *HMH Into Math* was built from expert insights and real teacher feedback to deliver a student-centered, outcomes-driven approach to learning mathematics that supports deeper understanding of concepts along with true procedural fluency and application embedded throughout. These solutions were designed to foster a longstanding culture of learning that helps students to grow and continue growing year after year by allowing teachers to tailor lessons to the needs and learning styles of their students. At the core of this curriculum is the belief that growth at every level is possible, and its driving goal is to create fearless problem solvers.

STEM - There will be weekly STEM projects and/or lessons for students PreK-8 at Salve Regina Academy. By adopting the popular interdisciplinary approach to combining science, technology, engineering, and

mathematics into age-appropriate hands-on activities, students will improve their ability to think critically and to form solutions to problems.

Art - Our art program is designed to introduce our students to basic art techniques, and build off of the basics with creative exploration, various mediums, concepts, skills, knowledge, and aesthetic awareness. Students will develop a sense of Art history within the Catholic Church including an ability to value art created by different cultures.

Library – Salve Regina Academy has its very own library which is filled with stories of the saints, various classical books, and so much more. In addition, we will occasionally be using the Gorham Public Library in order to provide a wide range of reading material for our students to explore. Our students are encouraged to acquire their own library card so that they can take full advantage of the variety of books available to them. Teachers and library staff will be available to assist students in finding books with both familiar and unfamiliar subject matters in order to expand each student's knowledge base. They will also be encouraged to conduct research on a particular topic using resources at a library.

Music - Our music curriculum fosters a love of the arts by promoting creation of music, performance, individual response to music, and connecting in a personal way with music. Music will also be incorporated into our Theology lessons as children learn liturgical music and Gregorian chants as well as seasonal hymns and songs.

Physical Education - Our goal is to foster a life-long love of physical activity and to introduce our students to various ways to enjoy God's creation. At the Eighth Grade level, this is completed by challenging students through fun and engaging games to improve their physical abilities, balance, strength, and endurance. Lessons will also include the basic rules and techniques to playing golf, tennis, pickleball, lacrosse, and various other sports. Along with our whole school, students will be participating in hikes and nature walks which will also expose them to the beautiful trails that we have here in the White Mountains. Furthermore, over the course of their time at Salve Regina Academy, students will be introduced to diverse age-appropriate outdoor activities such as snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, canoeing, swimming, ice skating etc.

Service/Outreach – Learning to give of one's time, talent, and treasure and adopting a mentality of service are crucial lessons for children to learn at an early age. We are dedicated to helping our students learn to love serving others in various ways including offering physical assistance to those in need, raising money for those less fortunate, lending a hand to a classmate, giving back to our community, and by praying for intentions daily. As is stated in our Mission Statement, "Students, faculty, and staff of Salve Regina Academy strive together to know, love, and serve God as we commit ourselves to the study of the world around us, to the imitation of Jesus, and to all the teachings of the Catholic Church under the Queenship of Mary, our Mother.