

HTS Spotlight: 6th Grade

Sixth grade is a transitional year for students as they enter middle school. Holy Trinity School embraces this change through its continued commitment to creating an environment in which its students can grow and develop academically, socially, and spiritually.

In sixth grade, the curriculum becomes more departmentalized with students rotating classes for various subjects and levels. Grouping is based on the students' academic skills and needs. Students can participate in advanced courses as well as take advantage of additional learning opportunities through the school's Resource Room.

A curriculum which is carefully coordinated by the school's faculty allows the students to participate in departmentalized classes. Students are able to make cross-curricular connections in all subject areas: math, English, science, reading, art, Spanish, French, social studies, and religion. Writing permeates all subjects. Students also have a dedicated S.T.E.M. period each week. During this period, they often take advantage of the school's full science lab that was part of the school when it served as Holy Trinity High School. The science lab provides middle school students with additional hands-on learning experiences.



Holy Trinity School has two periods a day dedicated to English and reading. In the English curriculum, students continue to enhance their grammar skills, learn to diagram sentences, understand the parts of speech, and learn how to independently and creatively enhance their writing abilities. During reading, students spend time on multiple genres of literature building reading comprehension and strengthening vocabulary skills. Students are given writing assignments that span both subjects which allows them to tie together what they have learned. Students are expected to complete assignments by writing in cursive handwriting. "Each year, we hear positive comments from the high schools on the grammar and writing ability of our students," said Mrs. Green who teaches English at Holy Trinity.



Another highlight of sixth grade at Holy Trinity is the annual Heritage Festival, a part of the social studies curriculum. Students select a country that is part of their family heritage. From January to April the students use different media to research their chosen country. Their end project is a written report, a trifold that depicts the country and highlights key points, a food that represents that country, and traditional clothing. The sixth graders then share what they have learned with the broader school community as they present the Heritage Festival. Other students are given passports which are stamped as they move throughout the school's gym to learn about the different countries from the sixth grade students who provide oral presentations.



Similar to all grades at Holy Trinity School, faith permeates everything the students do. Students participate in daily prayer, attend Mass regularly, play a role in the Living Rosary, and participate in a variety of community service projects. During the Advent season, students adopt a family through Catholic Charities, contribute to the Holy Trinity Food Pantry, and complete several "Random Acts of Kindness." Students also write monthly letters to those who are homebound and participate in other year-round community activities.

Students also have the opportunity to participate in a variety of clubs and sports at Holy Trinity School. Sixth grade students participate in the Chess Club, Robotics, Drama Club, Glee Club, Scouts, Volleyball, Basketball, Track & Cross Country, and Forensics.



Mrs. Margaret Knapp and Mrs. Patricia Green serve as the homeroom teachers for Holy Trinity School's two sixth grade classes. Mrs. Knapp has taught at Holy Trinity School for two years. She has a BA degree from Fordham University in Political Science/Public Administration and earned a JD degree from Seton Hall University School of Law. Prior to teaching at HTS, she was an aide for Union County Educational Services as well as an attorney. She has four children who graduated from HTS and has served as Home and School Association president. Mrs. Green is enjoying her thirty-fourth year at Holy Trinity. She was born in the Bronx and raised on Staten Island. She received a Bachelor's Degree from Fordham University and a Master's Degree from the College of Staten Island. "I love teaching and am very proud I can be myself teaching what I have learned from my own Catholic education" said Mrs. Green. "Holy Trinity is beyond a school. It's a family! I am fortunate to have enjoyed many years here."

Since 1916, Holy Trinity has provided a quality Catholic education to Westfield and the surrounding communities. A 2011 National Blue Ribbon School, its mission is to educate students to actualize their full, individual potential both spiritually and academically.