



Christ the King Catholic School
Heart, Mind, Spirit

Ms. Cecchini's Syllabus

To Love and Serve

I am Joanne Cecchini, Panther proud principal of Christ the King Catholic School and Eighth Grade Homeroom teacher. After devoting 30+ years of serving as homeroom teacher for eighth graders in Seattle's Archdiocesan Catholic schools, I return to this school year with enthusiasm. I bring an unshakable conviction that education is a transformative process, especially during the vulnerable and rich-with-potential years of middle school. I earned my BA in English at Cal State University at Los Angeles. I completed my teaching preparation and later, a Masters in Curriculum and Instruction at Seattle University. I completed my Administrator Certification at Saint Martin's University so that I might better serve the families of Christ the King.

I look forward to joining you and your children as we share together our faith journey.

Yours in Christ our teacher,

Joanne

Welcome! I am happy to journey with you in this exciting new year!

Attendance Please feel free to refer to the CKS Family Handbook. If your child is absent, you may request that a student or sibling be given handouts/assignments missed while absent. You may contact your child's advisor to arrange for pickup of any necessary textbooks or handouts. Otherwise, please check the on-line Homework Log to find the day's homework. When it is necessary for them to miss a school Mass I expect students to complete a *Mass Make-Up Sheet* to restore their score in religion.

Please note that the eighth grade year, and especially one's homeroom activities in a K-8 Catholic school provides unique opportunities for making rich memories. Showing up is vital and helps each eighth grader to realize a more meaningful finish that lends to a positive high school start.



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Homework Homework is critical to learning and will be assigned regularly. It is always expected completed by next class meeting unless otherwise stated. I will post homework to my Class Page in as timely a manner as possible. I expect students to record all assigned work in a planner. In addition to assigned reading, I expect students to read for pleasure for at least 20 minutes per evening whenever possible.

Late Work It is expected that assigned work be turned in on time. Late work will be graded one grade lower for every day late. For every day absent due to illness, a day is provided for make-up.

Evaluated Work I will save and file all student work. Students and parents may request an opportunity to review this work at any time.

Curriculum **Eighth Religion** – Eighth begins by studying Church history and finishes the year learning about morality and developing the skills necessary for making moral and ethical decisions.

Eighth English Language Arts – Heavy emphasis is placed upon interpretive reading, explication of poetry and literary text, and writing, writing, writing! Various texts are memorized weekly and recited before one's class. These culminate in a choral reading that is presented in the spring at *Ritus*, a rite of passage experience designed to celebrate personal transformation. We learn Latin and Greek roots to develop vocabulary. Through both Writer's and Reader's Workshop writing and reading are continually integrated into the study of religion. In Writer's Workshop students continue to apply writing process and develop reading strategies for a variety of texts. Reader's Workshop allows and promotes student choice in selecting reading material to build a love of reading while improving reading skill. Literature circles, response journals, skill lessons, vocabulary development, and student reflection are all employed to develop literacy.

<u>Assessment</u>	Eighth Religion:	Assessments	30%
		Practice	45%
		Projects	25%
	Eighth ELA	Assessments	30%
		Practice	45%
		Projects	25%



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Assessment (Continued)

Students will be assessed on an ongoing basis, both formally and informally. Students will take tests, complete projects, execute performance activities, put work in a portfolio, meet individually with a teacher, and keep reflective accounts of learning. The grading scale shown below will be applied to work that is assessed formally:

<u>95% and above</u>	4	<p>Above Standard</p> <p>Student work is generally above the grade level expectations (GLEs)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understands the key concepts with ease • Applies the processes and skills with ease • Extends the concepts, processes, and skills
<u>85% to 94%</u>	3	<p>At Standard</p> <p>Student work is at the grade level expectations (GLEs)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understands the key concepts with limited errors • Applies the processes and skills with limited errors
<u>70% to 84%</u>	2	<p>Approaching Standard</p> <p>Student work is progressing toward the grade level expectations (GLEs)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sometimes understands the key concepts • Applies the processes and skills with errors
<u>69% and below</u>	1	<p>Below Standard</p> <p>Student work is generally more than one grade level below the grade level expectations (GLEs)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has difficulty understanding key concepts • Has difficulty applying processes and skills
	MC	Modified Curriculum



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Classroom Management Please note Schoolwide Learning Expectations (SLEs) and my Classroom Rules. In our Responsive Classroom®, together we will create a classroom community that is safe, predictable, and conducive to learning.

Curriculum Please note attached curriculum maps.

Christ the King Catholic School follows both Common Core State Standards and Archdiocesan curriculum guidelines. In addition, I uphold the National Council of Teachers of English Standards. They can be found on the following websites.

www.corestandards.org

<http://www.seattlearch.org/FormationAndEducation/Schools/Forms/CurriculumMaterials.htm>

[NCTE.org](http://www.ncte.org)

Communication

A weekly Newsletter folder is emailed from the School Office each week with important information about the school and upcoming events. Please develop a good habit of checking it regularly.

Additional communication will include weekly Tuesday Packet, parent letters, and web page updates.

Conferences will be held on November 25th-27th. Report cards will be mailed home at the end of each trimester. Middle school conferences are student led with our belief that the student is an integral partner in his/her learning process. Failure to bring your student to the conference will result in a rescheduling of that conference for a mutually convenient time when the student can be present.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call or email.

I salute the sacrifice you make in order to invest in and provide your child a Catholic education. Together, in partnership, and with Jesus our finest teacher, we can accomplish anything!

Thank You,

Joanne Cecchini

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