

Grade 7 Curriculum

Reading/Literature

The 7th grade Literature curriculum has one paramount mission – to instill a love of reading in our students. To promote this mission, students are provided an opportunity to read a variety of literary genres such as fiction, non-fiction, poetry, dramas, myths, folk tales, and novels. Critical thinking skills such as interpretation, analysis, and comparison are developed through the oral and written word.

Opportunities for Enrichment and Growth

- Make cross-curricular connections between history and literature through the use of historical fiction novels
- Read voraciously through a point contest supported by the Renaissance Learning Accelerated Reader Program
- Advance their reading level by showing proficiency in comprehension questions and literary skills

Strategic Thinking

- Demonstrate the ability to interpret and analyze a variety of literary forms
- Analyze literature through the elements of plot, characters, setting, climax, resolution, and theme
- Identify and analyze figurative language
- Make connections between a literary work and their own lives and society
- Make connections between history, art, and music in works of fiction and non-fiction
- Read both classical and modern literature for the purpose of information and enjoyment

Students with diagnosed reading weaknesses are provided with remediation by a well qualified auxiliary teacher

Language Arts

Texts: Sadlier-Oxford: *Vocabulary Workshop, New Edition, level B*

Harcourt, Brace, Jovanovich: *Warriner's English Grammar and Composition, First Course*

The seventh grade English course incorporates three primary curricular strands: writing, grammar and vocabulary. Vocabulary is acquired through two-week units of challenging vocabulary words, at the end of which students know definitions, parts of speech, spelling, synonyms, antonyms and connotations. Grammar focuses on the 8 parts of speech and use of sentence diagramming to facilitate an understanding of the function of each. In writing, we begin the year reviewing and honing paragraph-writing skills, and quickly progress to a traditional, highly structured 5-paragraph essay. Students write between five and eight 5-paragraph essays throughout the year, exercising a different

writing style or genre with each. We end the year with an ambitious three to five page research paper, thus taking the students to the next step of expanding their organizational, synthesis and writing skills.

Oral Language

- Communicate and cultivate knowledge in conversations, group discussions and oral presentations
- Use vocabulary appropriate to their audience
- Communicate in an organized and efficient manner
- Demonstrate the ability to ask probing and relevant follow-up questions
- Observe good oral etiquette in discussions and debates when in disagreement with others
- Demonstrate the ability to identify and demystify persuasive messages in all forms of media, print, video, radio and music

Written Language

- Read a variety of fiction, nonfiction and poetry and write an essay analyzing the elements of these works.
- Demonstrate mastery of narrative, expository, persuasive and descriptive writing
- Demonstrate mastery of prewriting techniques such as webbing, list-making, and formal outlining
- Demonstrate mastery of writing a multi-draft, polished five paragraph essay, from detailed outline to final draft, on a variety of topics.
- Edit writing for correct grammar, mechanics, spelling and sophistication of sentence structure
- Revise writing for clarity and effect
- Use a variety of resources, print and otherwise, to gather information for writing projects
- Synthesize information from multiple resources
- Credit primary and secondary sources according to MLA standards
- Learn a variety of new vocabulary words each quarter, and apply them to their writing
- Use sentence diagrams to analyze and understand the function of the eight parts of speech

7th Grade Math

Text: Pearson, Prentis Hall: *Connected Mathematics: Grade Seven*

Seventh Grade Math is a complete mathematics curriculum that helps students develop understanding of important concepts, skills, procedures, and ways of thinking and reasoning in number, geometry, measurement, algebra, and probability & statistics. While learning mathematics, students will be actively engaged with appropriate technologies to enhance the learning experience. Problem solving has been integrated throughout the course and the development of these problem solving skills is a major requirement of the course. Upon completion of the course, students will be able to reason and communicate proficiently in mathematics. Students will have the requisite knowledge and skill to successfully perform pre-algebra and geometric operations. This knowledge will include the ability to define and solve problems with reason, insight,

inventiveness, and technical proficiency.

Number and Operations

- Analyze situations involving relationships among and operations of whole numbers, integers, and rational numbers.
- Reason about and solve problems involving quantities.
- Develop understanding and skills in each number system in the following dimensions of knowledge: number sense, representations, operations sense, procedural skill, and system properties.
- Understand and use large numbers.
- Understand the multiplicative structure of numbers, including the concept of prime and composite numbers.
- Use the multiplicative structure of numbers to understand equivalence of fractions, ratios, and rates.
- Find multiples and factors.
- Multiply and divide using scientific notation.
- Determine place value of numbers.
- Add, subtract, multiply, and divide decimals, fractions, and integers
- Use proper order of operations.
- Change percents to fractions and decimals.
- Reason proportionally in a variety of contexts using both geometric (scaling and scale factor) and numerical reasoning.
- Use calculators for computation, exploration, and verification.
- Estimate answers and measurements.
- Round decimals, fractions and percents.

Algebra

- Solve equations containing integers.
- Recognize situations in which important problems and decisions involve relationships among quantitative variables.
- Translate word expressions into symbols.
- Use tables, graphs, symbolic expressions, and verbal descriptions to describe patterns of change in variables.
- Recognize linear, exponential, and quadratic functions.
- Use proportional ratios with missing variables.
- Use inverse operations to solve equations and inequalities.
- Find the square roots of perfect squares.
- Use variables in equations and inequalities.
- Solve linear equations by manipulating symbols and by using tables and graphs.
- Use proportional ratio with missing variables
- Introduce laws of exponents.
- Connect solving equations in one variable to find specific values of functions.

Geometry

- Recognize and classify shapes and understand their properties.
- Understand the principles governing the construction of shapes and the reasons

why certain shapes have special purposes.

- Recognize and use shapes in a variety of representations and use their ideas to solve problems.
- Recall and apply geometric formulas.
- Appreciate and use critical relationships among plane figures, especially symmetry and similarity.
- Use proportion to determine similar figures.
- Generate a rich set of angles and categorize, define, and relate different kinds of angles (complementary, supplementary, acute, obtuse).
- Specify locations of points or figures in the coordinate plane.
- Describe and reason about specific aspects of situations and use ideas to solve problems.

Measurement

- Find the area and perimeter of rectangles, parallelograms, triangles, circles, and irregular figures.
- Find diameter/radius/arc.
- Find surface area and volume of rectangular solids, cylinders, and prisms, and the volume of cones and spheres.
- Understand the relationships among area and perimeter of rectangles, parallelograms, and triangles.
- Add and subtract mixed units of length, time, and liquid and dry measure.
- Understand angle measure.
- Use tools to measure angles.
- Measure lengths in scale drawings.
- Estimate angle measures relative to benchmark measures such as 45 degrees, 90 degrees, 180 degrees, 270 degrees, and 360 degrees.

Data Analysis and Probability

- Understand the process of data investigation.
- Formulate questions about situations whose analysis might involve data collection.
- Organize, analyze, and interpret data and use the results to make predictions, construct arguments, and/or make informed decisions.
- Determine mean, median, mode, and range.
- Construct line and bar graphs with given data.

Pre-Algebra

Text: McDougal Littell. *Pre-Algebra, An Accelerated Course*

This challenging course enables the most capable students to make the transition from elementary school mathematics to Algebra in one year. The course emphasizes pre-algebra skills and concepts, such as variables, equation solving, and problem solving. This is a course that truly gets students ready for algebra and geometry by emphasizing the following:

- Competency in performing operations on fractions, decimals, and percents without the use of a calculator. (Understanding operations with fractions

especially readies the algebra student for those same operations on rational expressions.)

- Competency in performing operations with positive and negative numbers without the use of a calculator.
- Equation-solving skills.
- Basic understanding of geometric figures.
- Competency in problem solving.

We spend a great amount of time on these concepts allowing the pre-algebra student to master these skills.

Variables, Expressions, and Integers

- Evaluate and write variable expressions.
- Use powers to describe repeated multiplication.
- Add, subtract, multiply, and divide decimals without using a calculator.
- Use the rules for order of operations to evaluate expressions both with and without the calculator.
- Compare and order integers; find the absolute value and opposite of an integer.
- Add two or more integers without using a calculator.
- Subtract integers without using a calculator.
- Multiply and divide integers without using a calculator.
- Identify and plot points in the coordinate plane

Solving Basic Equations

- Recognize and use the properties of addition and multiplication.
- Recognize and use the distributive property to write equivalent expressions.
- Simplify variable expressions.
- Write and solve equations with variables.
- Solve equations using addition or subtraction.
- Solve equations using multiplication or division.
- Solve one-step equations involving decimals.

Multi-step Equations and Inequalities

- Solve two-step equations.
- Solve equations using the distributive property.
- Solve equations with variables on both sides.
- Solve inequalities using addition or subtraction.
- Solve inequalities using multiplication or division.
- Solve multi-step inequalities.

Factors, Fractions, and Exponents

- Write the prime factorization of a number.
- Find the greatest common factor of two or more whole numbers.
- Write equivalent fractions.
- Find the least common multiple of two numbers.
- Multiply and divide powers of numbers or variables.
- Simplify expressions with negative and zero exponents.
- Write numbers using scientific notation; use a calculator to perform operations on

numbers in scientific notation

Rational Numbers and Equations

- Write fractions as decimals and vice-versa without a calculator.
- Add and subtract fractions with like denominators.
- Add and subtract fractions with unlike denominators.
- Multiply fractions and mixed numbers.
- Divide fractions and mixed numbers.
- Use multiplicative inverses to solve equations.
- Use the least common denominator to simplify equations for solving.

Ratio, Proportion, and Probability

- Find ratios and unit rates.
- Write and solve proportions.
- Solve proportions using cross products.
- Identify similar and congruent figures.
- Find unknown side lengths of similar figures.
- Use proportions with scale drawings.
- Find the probability that an event will occur.
- Use the counting principal to find probabilities

Percents

- Use a fraction to find the percent of a number.
- Use proportions to solve percent problems.
- Use decimals to solve percent problems.
- Use equations to solve percent problems.
- Find a percent of change in a quantity.
- Use percents to find markups, discounts, sales tax, and tips
- Calculate interest earned (simple and compound) and account balances.

Linear Functions

- Determine the domain and range of a relation and determine whether or not a relation is a function; use graphs to represent relations and functions.
- Find solutions of equations in two variables.
- Use x and y intercepts to graph linear equations.
- Find and interpret slopes of lines; use slope to describe steepness.
- Graph linear equations in slope-intercept form.
- Write and use function notation.

Real Numbers and Right Triangles

- Find and approximate square roots of numbers.
- Simplify square roots.
- Find an unknown angle in a triangle when given two angles; classify triangles by angle measure (acute, right, obtuse, and equiangular); classify triangles by side lengths (equilateral, isosceles, and scalene.
- State and use the Pythagorean Theorem to solve problems.
- State the difference between rational and irrational numbers; compare and order real numbers.

Measurement, Area, and Volume

- Solve problems involving triangles.
- Classify polygons and quadrilaterals.
- Find the perimeter and area of a triangle, square or rectangle.
- Find the areas of parallelograms and trapezoids.
- Find the circumference and area of a circle.
- Find the surface area of prisms and cylinders.
- Find the surface area of pyramids and cones.
- Find the volume of prisms and cylinders.
- Find the volume of pyramids and cones.

Data Analysis

- Find the mean, median, and mode of a set of data.
- Make stem-and-leaf plots and histograms.
- Make and interpret box-and-whisker plots.
- Make and use data displays (bar, circle and line graphs).
- Identify populations and sampling methods for collecting data.
- Make conclusions about populations using surveys.

Algebra

Text: McDougal Littell: *Algebra: Structure and Method*

This is a challenging course designed to give the students sequential development of Algebraic concepts and skills. Students will be helped to make connections and build relationships between Algebra and arithmetic, geometry, and probability and statistics. These high standards require students to use Algebra as a tool for representing and solving a variety of practical problems. Tables and graphs will be used to interpret algebraic expressions, equations, and inequalities. Throughout this course students will be required to talk about mathematics, use the language and symbols of mathematics in representations and communication, discuss problems and problem solving.

Connections to Algebra

- Evaluate a variable expression and write a variable expression that models a real-life situation
- Evaluate expressions containing exponents and use exponents in real-life problems
- Use the order of operations rules to evaluate algebraic expressions.
- Check solutions to equations and inequalities; solve equations using mental math.
- Translate verbal phrases into algebraic expressions; write an algebraic equation or inequality to solve problems.
- Use tables and graphs to organize data.
- Identify a function and make an input-output table for a function; write an equation for a function to solve a problem.
- Subtract real numbers without the use of a calculator and solve problems involving subtraction.

Properties of Real Numbers

- Graph and compare real numbers using a number line.
- Find the opposite and absolute value of a number.
- Add real numbers without the use of a calculator; solve problems involving addition.
- Multiply real numbers without the use of a calculator and solve problems involving subtraction.
- Use the distributive property and combining like terms to simplify expressions.
- Divide real numbers without the use of a calculator and use division to simplify expressions.
- Find the probability and odds of an event

Solving Linear Equations

- Solve linear equations using addition and subtraction; use these types of equations to solve problems.
- Solve linear equations using multiplication and division: use these equations to solve real-life problems.
- Use two or more transformations to solve a linear equation; use multi-step equations to solve real-life problems.
- Solve linear equations with variables on both sides.
- Find exact and approximate solutions to linear equations that contain decimals.
- Solve a formula or literal equation for one of its variables; rewrite an equation in function form.
- Use rates, ratios, and percents to model and solve problems.

Graphing Linear Equations and Functions

- Plot points in a coordinate plane and draw a scatter plot to make predictions.
- Graph linear equations using a table of values; graph horizontal and vertical lines and recognize their equations.
- Find the intercepts of the graph of a linear equation; use intercepts to make a quick graph of a linear equation.
- Find the slope of a line using two of its points; interpret slope as a rate of change in real-life situations.
- Write linear equations that represent linear equations; use a ratio to write an equation for direct variation.
- Graph an equation in slope intercept form; graph and interpret equations in slope intercept form that model real life situations.
- Solve linear equations graphically; use a graph to solve real-life problems.
- Identify when a relation is a function; use function notation.

Writing Linear Equations

- Use the slope-intercept form to write the equation of a line; model a real-life situation with a linear function.
- Use slope and any point on a line to write its equation; use a linear model to make predictions.
- Write an equation of a line given two points on the line.
- Find a linear equation that approximates a set of data points and determine whether there is a positive or negative correlation in a set of data.
- Use the point-slope form to write an equation of a line and to model real-life

situations.

- Write a linear equation in standard form.
- Determine whether a linear model is appropriate

Solving and Graphing Linear Inequalities and Absolute Value Equations

- Graph linear inequalities in one variable and solve one-step linear inequalities.
- Solve multi-step inequalities; use linear inequalities to model and solve real-life problems.
- Write, solve, and graph compound inequalities; use compound inequalities to model real-life situations.
- Solve absolute-value equations and inequalities.
- Graph a linear inequality in two variables; use linear inequalities in two variables to model real-life problems.
- Make and use a stem-and-leaf plot to put data in order; find the mean, median, and mode of data.
- Draw a box-and-whisker plot to organize real-life data; read and interpret a box-and-whisker plot.

Systems of Linear Equations and Inequalities

- Solve systems of linear equations by graphing using a graphing utility.
- Use substitution to solve a linear system of equations; model real-life situations using a linear system.
- Use linear combinations to solve a system of linear equations.
- Choose the best method to solve a system of linear equations.
- Identify linear systems of equations as having one solution, no solution, or infinitely many solutions.
- Solve a system of linear inequalities by graphing.

Exponents and Exponential Functions

- Use multiplication and power rules for exponents to simplify expressions.
- Evaluate powers that have zero and negative exponents and graph simple exponential functions.
- Use the division properties of exponents to evaluate powers and simplify expressions.
- Use scientific notation to represent numbers and perform operations with them and to describe real-life situations.

Polynomials and Factoring

- Add and subtract polynomials.
- Multiply two polynomials.
- Use special product patterns for the product of a sum and a difference, and for the square of a binomial.
- Solve a polynomial equation in factored form; relate factors and x-intercepts.
- Factor a quadratic expression in standard form with a leading coefficient of one.
- Factor a quadratic expression in standard form with a leading coefficient of something other than one.
- Use special product patterns to factor quadratic polynomials; solve quadratic equations by factoring.
- Use the distributive property to factor a polynomial; solve polynomial equations

by factoring

Quadratic Equations and Functions

- Evaluate and approximate square roots; solve a quadratic equation by finding square roots.
- Use properties of radicals to simplify radical expressions.
- Sketch the graph of a quadratic function.
- Solve a quadratic equation graphically using a graphing utility.
- Solve a quadratic equation by completing the square.
- State the quadratic formula and use it to solve quadratic equations.
- Use the discriminant to find the number of solutions of a quadratic equation and apply it to real-life problems.
- Choose a quadratic model that best fits a collection of data.

Rational Equations and Functions

- Solve proportions; use proportions to solve real-life problems.
- Use equations to solve percent problems.
- Solve direct and inverse variation problems and use variation to model real-life situations.
- Simplify a rational algebraic expression.
- Multiply and divide rational expressions.
- Add and subtract rational expressions with both like and unlike denominators.
- Divide a polynomial by a monomial or by a binomial.
- Solve rational equations and graph rational functions.

Radicals and Connections to Geometry

- Add, subtract, multiply, and divide radical expressions.
- Solve a basic radical equation and use radical equations to solve real-life problems.
- Be able to state and use the Pythagorean Theorem and its converse.
- Find the distance and midpoint between two points in a coordinate plane.

Enrichment Opportunities:

Math Counts

To increase enthusiasm for and enhance mathematics achievement within Walsingham Academy, we participate with the MATHCOUNTS Foundation to provide a challenging math enrichment, coaching, and competition program. The program starts at the beginning of each school year with a weekly meeting of our MATHCOUNTS club. The club is designed to provide mathematical enrichment to all students in the sixth and seventh grades. These weekly meetings are held throughout the school year and culminate with students from the club representing Walsingham in local, regional, and state competitions each Spring.

Continental Math League

Continental Math League is a nationwide mathematics problem-solving competition. All students participate on their grade level and compete against students from 2,000 schools throughout the United States. The goal of CML is to maximize student opportunities to improve their problem solving capabilities.

Science

Text: Glencoe McGraw-Hill Science: *Life Science*

Holt, Rinehart and Winston: *SciencePlus Technology and Society – Level Blue*

Seventh grade science curriculum focuses mainly on life science, to include organs and systems of the human body, cell structures and processes, and the interactions among organisms. Dissection is one of the many hands-on activities that benefit these students, as well as participation in inquiry-based learning, allowing the students at Walsingham Academy to go beyond the limitations of the textbooks.

The **newly renovated science lab** gives students an opportunity to enhance their learning. Reading across the curriculum, walking field trips, and technology are examples of the many other enrichment opportunities.

Life and Environmental Science

- Investigate and understand that organisms change over time as a result of adaptation and genetic variation
- Define, classify, and describe the basic characteristics of the kingdoms of living organisms
- Define and explain the life processes and needs
- Recognize a model of DNA
- Construct and interpret the cell model
- Investigate and understand that all living things are composed of cells
- Describe the utilization of matter and energy in the life processes
- Define and explain the process of photosynthesis and the role of the plant in the environment
- Investigate and understand that organisms within an ecosystem are dependent on one another and on nonliving components of the environment
- Investigate and understand that interactions exist among members of a population
- Investigate and understand interactions among populations in a biological community
- Investigate and understand how organisms adapt to biotic and abiotic factors in an ecosystem
- Investigate and understand that ecosystems, communities, populations, and organisms are dynamic and change over time (daily, seasonal, and long term)
- Investigate and understand the relationships between ecosystem dynamics and human activity
- Identify the major organs and systems of the human body
- Investigate and understand that living things show patterns of cellular organization
- Discuss various theories of the origin of life

Historical Perspectives

- Illustrate the history of the development of technological advancements used in scientific research

- Research various scientists and their contributions to the scientific field:
 - Gregor Mendel (genetics)
 - Walter Flemming (mitosis)
 - James Watson and Francis Crick (DNA)

Science as Inquiry

- Plan and conduct experiments using the steps to the scientific method:
 - Observe
 - Research
 - Form a hypothesis
 - Conduct an experiment
 - Analyze the results
 - Formulate a conclusion

Science and Technology

- Research and report on various scientific topics that have advanced due to technology
- Use a database file that will store and retrieve scientific information
- Recognize the advances and limitations of technology in science.
- Distinguish between technology advances in different societies and their effects on different communities and groups within those societies

Personal and Social Perspectives

- Investigate interactions among the populations in a biological community.
- Investigate the relationships between ecosystem dynamics and human activity

Ethical /Moral Perspectives

- Develop values, which lead to the ethical treatment of organisms in our environment
- Relate our understanding of the world to God and the gifts we have been given by him.
- Document the relationship between science and Catholic morality and doctrine.
- Analyze and demonstrate knowledge of science related issues of genetics and stem cell research and present a Catholic vision

American History

Materials:

Glencoe McGraw-Hill. *History: The American Journey – Reconstruction to the Present*

Glencoe McGraw-Hill. *History: American History – The Modern Era Since 1865*

Junior Scholastic *Current Event Magazine*

Current Event Website: *NewsBowl*

As overall objectives of the 7th grade History Curriculum, students will

- Gain knowledge and understanding of American History beginning with The Civil War Era and continuing through to the War on Terrorism.
- Be informed regarding events of our present day and the relevance of those events to their lives.
- Learn the value and characteristics of being good and responsible citizens of this great nation.

Opportunities for Enrichment and Growth

- Research various topics related to the Roaring Twenties, World War II, and the Sixties
- Present information in the form of a research paper, power point presentations, and oral presentations
- Learn from costumed interpreters from the War Museum in Newport News, as well as guest speakers from the community at large enrich our students
- Participate in the annual trip to Washington, D.C. to culminate our study of American History by touring monuments, memorials, and museums
- Study the various eras in American History including music, dance, fashion, sports figures, and entertainment
- Participate yearly in the National Geographic Bee
- Participate in history essay contests through local organizations

Historical Literacy

- Describe Manifest Destiny, the sectional divisions that caused the Civil War, and Reconstruction
- Describe Western Frontier, The Growth of Industry, and Urban America 1865-1914
- Describe Progressive Reforms, Overseas Expansion, and WWI
- Describe the Jazz Age, The Depression, and WWII
- Describe the Cold War Era, Civil Rights Era, and Vietnam

Ethical Literacy

- Identify ethical choices made by societies in order to accomplish their goals
- Interpret historical events in light of Christian ethical standards
- Demonstrate skills in shared responsibility
- Explain how the Constitution protects individuals

Cultural Literacy

- Describe how migration, trade, and commerce influence cultural development
- Recognize cultural diversity
- Explain how religion and culture influence political decisions

Geographic Literacy

- Reinforce map and globe skills
- Interpret political, physical maps, and special purpose maps
- Identify and locate major political subdivisions of the world
- Illustrate the impact of adaptation to environment and geography on occupations, lifestyles, and military and political actions

Economic Literacy

- Identify economic motives for exploration and discovery
- Explain forces of economic and technological interdependence
- Explain the relationship between economic strength and political strength

Sociopolitical Literacy

- Identify major events that led to economic, political and social changes in the United States
- Identify major sociological, historical and technological events and their effect on development in the U.S.

National Identity

- Identify examples of extreme nationalism
- Define ethnic identity and national identity
- Recognize the status of minorities and women at different time in American history
- Identify national leaders and their platforms

Constitutional Heritage

- Identify and describe how the U.S. government is guided by a constitution for the protection of rights.
- Identify how current issues relate to constitutional changes
- Enumerate how Constitutional Amendments have affected history

Civic Values, Rights, Responsibilities

- Use manners appropriately in all situations
- Explain the beliefs and practices concerning social and political conditions and governmental responsibilities for those conditions
- Recognize the importance of citizen participation in government decisions.
- Discuss citizen responsibility within a free society to confront the unresolved problems of that society
- Explain how the Constitution allocates power and responsibility in government

Basic Study Skills

- Formalize note taking skills
- Retrieve, analyze and display information by using library, community, and technology resources
- Organize and express ideas clearly in writing and in speaking
- Interpret graphs, charts, models, photographs, maps, tables, and political cartoons
- Use technology to develop charts and power point presentations

Critical Thinking Skills

- Analyze information in order to make inferences and draw conclusions.
- Compare and contrast the credibility of differing accounts of the same event
- Implement debating techniques in order to form opinions on issues

Participation Skills

- Demonstrate positive group participation skills, i.e. mutual respect, individual responsibility, compromise and mutual interdependence.
- Engage in class discussions
- Engage in role playing activities
- Identify the roles necessary for cooperative learning
- Demonstrate respect for others
- Debate how democracy differs from other forms of government

Religion

Text: Sadlier. *We Believe*

Pflaum Magazine. *Visions*

The overriding goal for seventh grade students is to know basic prayers and the Magnificat

- Know the Mysteries of Faith
- Continue the mission of Jesus Christ
- Understand the sacraments in relation to the very life of God
- Understand and celebrate the Paschal Mystery
- Relate to Jesus as human and divine
- Respond to one's call to seek justice and peace
- Participate in a retreat
- Celebrate the liturgical year
- Utilize various prayer forms
- Dramatize Biblical stories in prayer services
- Respect the sacredness of the human body
- Attend worship services in school
- Participate in an annual service project

Foreign Language: French

Exploratory French

Text: AMSCO. *Discovering Languages: French*

- Begin to learn basic vocabulary through listening, speaking, writing and reading
- Become familiar with culture including French holidays
- Develop a desire for future French language learning

Extended Exploratory French

Text: McGraw-Hill. *Middle School/High School French I*

- Extend basic vocabulary through listening, speaking, writing, and reading
- Begin to learn basic present tense verbs and basic grammar
- Extend culture with current experiences such as E-Pal correspondence with middle school students from Montpellier, France

French I (equivalent to High School French I)

Text: EMC, *C'est a Toi I*

- Learn basic vocabulary through listening, speaking, writing and reading
- Use present tense of basic regular and irregular verbs, near future and past tense
- Use basic grammatical structures including articles, pronouns, adjectives, contractions, negation, asking questions
- Become familiar with cultural aspects of French-speaking people
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Foreign Language: Spanish

Exploratory Spanish 1:

Text: SRA/ McGraw-Hill. *¡Hola!*

- Apply the following concepts: definite and indefinite articles, N-ADJ agreement, -

- ar verbs, ser, ir, near future, negation, forming questions, basic word order
- Expand usage of basic vocabulary using classroom objects, subject pronouns, and basic verbs

Exploratory Spanish II:

Text: SRA/ McGraw-Hill. ¡Hola!

- Review and apply present tense –ar verbs; -er and –ir verbs, tener, estar vs. ser, and present progressive
- Add irregular verbs and common phrases, building upon foundational vocabulary

Spanish I: Equivalent of first year high school Spanish course

Text: EMC/ Paradigm Publishing: *Navegando Levels 1A & 1B*

- Use the following: present tense, present progressive, near future, and preterit
- Apply basic grammatical structures such as word order, subject-verb agreement in creative dialogues.
- Apply a wide range of basic vocabulary in conversation

Library Elective

- Access to an “open” Library/Media center in which 7th grade students can find fiction, non-fiction, and reference materials as well as computers to select reading materials and use available research sources.

Art Elective

- Practice using elements and principles of design for expressive purposes
- Concentrate on the art of a select culture
- Examine art from several select artists and respond with work inspired by this study
- Demonstrate responsible and effective use of art materials
- Evaluate and critique own work and work of others
- Create art in a variety of modes and media

Music Electives

Beginning Band:

Students begin instruction on a band or string instrument of their choice. Instruction begins at any grade level and continues until the skill levels are mastered.

- Demonstrate proper care of the instrument and will be familiar with the technology of the instrument.
- Demonstrate basic positions, tone production, and fingerings, and will count, read, and perform the beginning level of music being studied.
- Use dynamic contrast as a means of expression
- Demonstrate musical phrasing through the use of melodic contour, natural accents, and proper use of breath.

- Demonstrate ensemble skills.
- Sight-read music of varying styles and levels of difficulty.
- Perform music from a variety of cultures, styles, and historical periods.

Intermediate Band:

Developing basic musicianship skills continues to be a priority at the Intermediate Level.

- Begin to use more articulations, perform scales and music in more difficult key signatures, demonstrate shifting and vibrato, and perform music at an intermediate level of difficulty.
- Develop ensemble skills with participation in band and orchestral settings.
- Describe concepts common to music and other disciplines
- Discuss various cultures, styles, composers, and historical periods.

Hand Bells

- Understand the concept of ringing and employ the skills and technique required.
- Follow a score, read rhythm, identify notes for their assigned position.
- Play as an ensemble and perform successfully at various occasions.

Guitar

- Develop music reading skills in the first position.
- Develop chords and chord progressions.
- Follow detailed instruction in the performance of a wide variety of music representing diverse genres and cultures.
- Play by ear
- Create original accompaniment to songs
- Learn how to improvise a simple solo.
- Learn to compose music over a given chord progression
- Develop an understanding of music in relation to history and culture

Choir

- Demonstrate proper posture and breathing techniques to support vocal production.
- Sing with a free and clear tone, using accurate intonation.
- Sing with purity of vowels and clarity of consonants.
- Perform dynamics and tempos as indicated by markings in the score in both solo and ensemble singing.
- Perform an assigned vocal part in unison and in simple harmony.
- Improvise short melodic and rhythmic patterns in response to aural prompts.
- Study selections that represent various historical, stylistic, and cultural contexts of choral music

Physical Education

- Participate and show knowledge of game situations and leisure activities with an emphasis on teamwork and getting as many involved as possible.
- Participate in Family Life with a focus on understanding basic human anatomy, peer pressure, coping skills, self-esteem, personal hygiene, the changes that take place during puberty, and the potential consequences of sexual activity (STD's and pregnancy).
- Identify the three sides of the Health triangle, covering topics of self-concept, long-term and short-term goals, decision-making, the importance of family

relationships and friends, and nutrition.

Computer Electives

- Become proficient with “touch typing.”
- Engage in interdisciplinary projects.
- Learn and exercise Internet safety.
- Recognize hazards of pop-ups, phishing, spam, viruses, Trojan horses, and Spyware

Digital Productions

- Pre-Production: plan, script, and storyboard.
- Production: shoot quality video footage with attention to lighting, setting, angle, framing, and lead space.
- Post-Production: edit video to create educational, entertaining, and informative video projects, incorporating stylistic transitions, special effects, and audio overlays

Graphic Design

- Create professional quality images, animations, and artistic designs using Adobe Photoshop, the industry standard for graphics professionals.
- Create, combine, modify and export digital images.

Creative Writing

Texts: McGraw-Hill: *Great Writing: A Reader for Writers*

Harper Perennial: *What If? Writing Exercises for Fiction Writers*

Bantam New Age: *Wild Mind: Living the Writer's Life*

Graywolf Press: *If you Want to Write*

Creative Writing is an opportunity for students to experience writing as an on-going process of drafting, revising, editing, and publishing. Although there is considerable freedom of choice regarding topic, genre, and style; there are also specific assignments and exercises to inspire, teach, and hone the skills of these budding writers. We also publish a newspaper once every 6 weeks, with students writing, editing, and arranging the layout. The content targets school and class activities, current events, human interest stories, investigative stories, and humor.

Given a variety of writing assignments, which expose them to issues of style, voice, setting, audience, metaphor, dialogue, humor, and suspense, the results of some of which they will take to a polished, completed state, students will

- Write in 1st or 3rd person
- Write poetry and prose
- Write short and long pieces
- Edit their own and others' work for clarity, grammatical and technical correctness, and efficacy
- Write multiple drafts of their work, bringing selected pieces to “published,” polished completion
- Contribute to a school newspaper as journalist and/or layout editor

Drama/Public Speaking

Text: Pearson and Longman: *Drama, A Pocket Anthology*

Students are given multiple opportunities to perform and speak before their peers. They also read excerpts of plays, as well as the entirety of “Oedipus Rex,” and then select scenes to practice and produce for each other. In addition, the students work closely with the religion department to develop skits and scripts that will bring the religious readings alive to the students of the Lower School.

- Participate in games and exercises designed to train the voice for good acoustic projection
- Give speeches and/or monologues before the class
- Participate in games and exercises which offer opportunities to polish improvisational skills
- Write in collaboration and individually their own one-act plays
- Read excerpts or entire pieces from classical works, such as “Oedipus Rex” and “Othello”

Work closely with the Religion Department to dramatize the scripture readings for school religious ceremonies

Guidance

Academic Skills

- Review the different types of learning styles
- Access their dominant style of learning
- Practice how to study for a test using activities that reflect their particular style
- Review testing strategies for the TerraNova testing program in the spring
- Learn procedures for making course selection for 8th grade
- Learn scheduling procedures for upper school
- Review time management and homework strategies that will be necessary for the upper school curriculum

Social/Personal Skills

Perspective Unit

- Define perspective
- Define and give examples of empathy
- Gain understanding that opinions and perspectives of events change with time
- Understand that people have different perspectives or interpretations of life’s events and that this often affects one’s behavior

Career Skills

- Understand that there are many occupations for career consideration
- Learn that parents and other adults can be sources for career information
- Explore several types of materials that give career information (i.e. phone book, websites, “Dictionary of Occupational Titles”, etc.)
- Discuss jobs that are now obsolete
- Name jobs that will be in demand for the future

- Understand that careers and career decisions change over one's lifespan