

SEVENTH GRADE CURRICULUM

RELIGION

The seventh grade Religion program is rooted in Scripture, gradually introducing them to God's word and giving them background knowledge that prepares them for reading and understanding Scripture. The course is grounded in teaching moral principles and duties of a Christian.

Some of the topics covered at this grade level include:

- a focus on faith and religion
- coming to know Jesus
- guidelines for Christian living
- prayer styles
- understanding the mass
- understanding the Sacraments
- Christian morality
- the Catholic church today
- celebrating the Church year
- coming to know God
- to believe and have faith

A part of the Religion Curriculum includes a Family Life program. Topics of study include:

- family living
- personal growth and self-understanding
- respect for life
- Catholic Christian sexuality
- social living

LANGUAGE ARTS

The Language Arts program consists of three main components: Literature, English, and Spelling.

Literature

The curriculum contains a variety of literature appropriate to the interests and needs of our children. It provides practice in developing those skills necessary to understand and appreciate literature. It relates literature to language, composition and thinking skills. Students will read short stories, plays, poetry, nonfiction and novels.

Literacy terms

Students will understand and be able to apply the reading of the following terms:

- Alliteration - personification

- Characterization - plot
- Connotation/denotation - point of view
- Figurative language - rhyme
- Imagery - setting
- Inference - simile
- Irony - stereotype
- Metaphor - symbol
- Mood - theme
- Foreshadowing - tone

Reading Skills

Students will understand and be able to make use of the following reading skills:

- recognize cause-effect relationships
- recognize comparison-contrast relationships
- draw conclusions/make generalizations
- distinguish between fact and opinion
- use graphic aids
- make sound judgments
- identify main idea and supporting details
- predict outcomes
- identify author's purpose
- understand sequence of ideas
- summarize

Vocabulary Skills

Students will be able to recognize, understand, or make use of the following vocabulary skills:

- affixes
- antonyms
- combining forms
- compound words
- context
- dictionary
- etymologies
- homophones
- idioms
- inflected forms
- pronunciation key
- roots
- synonyms
- usage

Thinking Skills

Students will be able to understand and practice the following thinking skills:

- classifying

- evaluating
- generalizing
- synthesizing

Speaking & Listening Skills

Students will be able to develop the following:

- compose orally
- read orally
- participate in discussion
- deliver a speech
- listen for understanding and meaning
- interpret a selection individually or participate in group oral interpretation

English

Written and oral communications are integrated throughout the curriculum.

Grammar - Sentences:

- subjects and predicates
- avoiding fragments
- avoiding run-ons
- clauses
- participles
- gerunds
- infinitives

Grammar - Nouns:

- singular and plural
- possessive
- abbreviation
- appositive
- collective nouns

Grammar - Verbs:

- action verbs
- linking verbs
- main and helping verbs
- present, past, future, perfect tenses
- regular and irregular verbs
- direct objects and indirect objects
- transitive and intransitive verbs
- predicates and adjectives
- using complements
- active and passive voice

Grammar - Pronouns:

- subject and object
- antecedents
- possessive, interrogative, demonstrative
- indefinite, reflexive, intensive

Grammar - Adjectives & Adverbs:

- predicate
- comparisons
- phrases
- avoiding double negatives

Prepositions, Conjunctions & Interjections Introductory phrases

Writing; students will:

- know and use the stages of the writing process
- write a news article
- use precise, descriptive vocabulary
- use figurative language
- organize a book review
- outline a research report
- write a research report
- outline/map main ideas before writing
- write dialogue

Writing; students will write/edit for:

- syntax
- paragraphing
- word usage
- punctuation
- capitalization
- spelling

Listening & Speaking Skills; students will:

- participate in drama activities
- present for a variety of purposes and audiences
- identify rhythm in poetry
- identify various forms of poetry
- give a speech
- develop interviewing techniques

Study/Reference Skills; students will:

- develop dictionary skills

- develop thesaurus skills
- develop and apply test taking techniques

Spelling

Spelling words are phonetically based lessons. High frequency words and words drawn from a variety of curriculum areas are included. Students are encouraged to use these words in their daily writing.

MATHEMATICS

The goal of the mathematics curriculum is to have students learn to value mathematics, become mathematical problem solvers, become confident in their ability to do math, and learn to reason and communicate mathematically. Concepts are taught through real-life situations and the use of a variety of tools, manipulatives, and materials. Students participate in instructional activities based upon the following strands:

- read, write, and order whole numbers and decimals expressed as standard numerals and vice versa, through 15 digits
- to write expanded numerals for whole numbers and decimals expressed as standard numerals and vice versa, through 10 digits
- to compare and order, round, add, subtract, multiply, and divide whole numbers, money amounts, decimals, like and unlike fractions, mixed numbers, and integers
- to estimate sums, differences, products and quotients of whole numbers and decimals
- to multiply or divide a decimal by a power of 10
- to determine if a number is divisible by 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, or 10
- to find the square roots of perfect numbers
- to find the least common multiple and greatest common factor of up to 3 numbers by prime factorization, with exponents
- to find the value of numerical expressions using the rules for the order of operations
- to check that the solution answers the question and formulate sensible questions to solve questions
- interchange decimals (terminal and repeating), fractions and percents
- use formulas in solving rate, distance, and percentage problems
- compute percent and interest; use ratios and proportions to solve problems

Measurement:

- to choose the appropriate metric or customary unit of length, mass, or capacity
- to measure length to the nearest centimeter and millimeter
- to change between measures of length, mass, volume, or capacity in the metric and customary systems
- to add or subtract with regrouping in the customary system
- to find temperature changes (Fahrenheit and Celsius)
- to add, subtract, or change between units of time
- to find elapsed time within and across time zones

Statistics & Probability:

- to collect and record data by making a table, bar graph, broken-line graph, circle graph, or pictograph
- to find the mean, median, mode, and range
- to list the elements of a sample space for an experiment
- to find the probability of simple, independent, and dependent events
- to use information from a scatter gram to solve problems
- to interpret information from graphs and statistics

Algebra:

- to write and evaluate 1-step and 2-step algebraic expressions
- to write, solve, or graph the solutions of equations in two variables
- to name or locate an ordered pair in a coordinate plane

Geometry:

- construct geometric figures
- to name points, lines, line segments, and rays and to identify parallel and perpendicular lines
- to name, measure, and classify angles and to find the complement or supplement of an angle
- to classify triangles according to the measure of their angles or sides and to find the measure of an angle given the measures of the other two angles
- to identify and name polygons and to identify the parts of a circle
- to identify congruent figures and lines us symmetry
- to solve problems involving corresponding parts of similar polygons
- to identify translations, rotation, or reflections
- calculate perimeter, area, circumference, surface area, and volume
- to recognize solid figures

SOCIAL STUDIES

The fundamental goal of the Social Studies curriculum is to enrich student awareness of important ideas. In seventh grade students explore world civilizations and European history from the fall of Rome to the Enlightenment. Some of the major themes covered this year include:

- World regions and their historical, cultural, economic and political characteristics
- Developing an appreciation for the rich complexity of society's culture and an understanding of how the parts of a culture interrelate.

The major topics studied in the seventh grade are:

- contributions of Ancient Rome
- rise of the Islam religion and civilization
- West Africa and the empires of Ghana, Mali, and Songhai
- Asian civilizations: Mongols, Ottoman Empire, Mughal Empire, China, and Japan
- Medieval societies of Feudal Europe and Japan
- Europe: rule, religion, and conflict
- Renaissance and Protestant reformation

- contributions of Mayan, Aztec, and Inca civilizations

An important part of the Social Studies program is the development of study skills. This year students will:

- organize information from reference sources to address issues or problems
- understand and use locational terms; locate places and positions on a map or globe
- use maps and geographic models

SCIENCE

Students will study Life Sciences, which includes the following subjects:

Cell Biology

- Parts of the cell
- Process of mitosis and meiosis

Structure & Function in Living Systems

- Plant and animal physiology and anatomy
- Primary purpose of the human body systems

Diversity of Life

- Classifications and kingdoms

Genetics

- Genes, DNA, and Inherited traits

Evolution

- Darwin's Theory of Evolution
- Fossils and geology

Physical Principles in Living Systems

- Properties of light
- Sound waves

Scientific Method, Investigation & Experimentation

- Demonstrate the steps on the scientific method
- Construct models and labeled diagrams
- Select and use tools and technology to perform tests
- Record data using the metric system

Study materials include the student science textbook, directed reading workbook, quiz sheets, review questions, video tapes and CD-ROM's.

The Science curriculum provides many opportunities for students to develop and maintain the essential skills that form the basis for lifelong learning. The Scientific Method skills are essential for investigating the natural world. Students learn to ask a question, form a hypothesis, experiment and analyze results. The curriculum integrates science with reading, writing and math skills through meaningful activities and strategies.

The scientific skill and knowledge gained in the seventh grade Life Science are building blocks for high school level science.