



Seventh Grade Curriculum

*The Academy is dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus
and the Immaculate Heart of Mary.*

*We are committed to excellence
in spiritual formation and academics.*

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Seventh Grade Curriculum

Academic Program



Religion /Scripture

The religion program focuses on spiritual formation. The primary text series is Faith and Life, published by Ignatius Press. It is a comprehensive Catholic program that combines beautiful classical and original artwork with a solid doctrinal and scriptural presentation. These texts according to Bishop Thomas Muldoon are unsurpassed in lucidity of doctrine, in fidelity to God's revelations, and in stimulation of real interest and love for the Faith.

The Life of Grace, published by Ignatius Press

Aim

To help the young person treasure the sacraments as indispensable to a full Christian life of love and truth. To understand how grace works in our soul and its relation to practicing the virtues, and to appreciate our gifts of reason and faith.

Theme

Grace, our link with God, His gift to us to bring us to Himself and His eternal life, with an emphasis on transmission of grace through the seven sacraments and on God's loving gifts of revelation of Himself through the prophets, the Incarnation, and the Church. The role of grace in developing the virtues.

Sequence

Part 1: God Revels Himself. The revelation of God through creation, the prophets, and to the chosen people.

Part 2: God Becomes Man. Jesus, true God and true Man, Priest and Sacrifice.

Part 3: God Shares His Life. The operation of grace in our lives and in the development of the virtues, especially through each sacrament.

Reading/Literature

The Prentice Hall Literature Program is an integrated language arts program offering high quality, appealing, traditional and contemporary literary selections, combined with writing activities that guide the students into, through and beyond the literature. Classroom instruction will focus on:

- † Reading actively
- † Analyzing literary selections
- † Critical thinking and reading

Themes covered in the seventh grade Bronze text are:

- † Independence and Identity
- † Common Threats
- † What Matters
- † Meeting Challenge
- † Just for Fun

Literary Genres covered are:

- † Short stories
- † Nonfiction
- † Drama
- † Poetry
- † Legends and, Folk Tales, and Myths

Supplemental texts:

- † Novels
- † The Bible
- † Bennets Book of Virtues

Writing

Seventh graders are introduced to written and oral communication with a literature model; they then move through the following five stages of writing.

- † Brainstorming
- † Prewriting
- † First Draft
- † Revising / Editing
- † Publishing

In addition to continued practice in narrative, descriptive, and expository writing, seventh graders will continue persuasive writing. Reinforced writing techniques at this level are:

- † Avoiding clichés and dialogue
- † Congratulatory letters
- † Poetry
- † Using figurative language
- † Research papers

Listening and Speaking

Students will be given many experiences that foster the development of listening and speaking skills through the following:

- † Class participation
- † Oral reports
- † Class discussion
- † Small group participation

English

A firm grasp of the structure and use of language is critical to successfully harnessing the power of the written word. Mastery of proper grammar, usage, and mechanics is the goal of the comprehensive

English continued...

grammar program in Shurley English. The exercises in the English workbook provide the added reinforcement students need. Skills developed or reinforced in the seventh grade are:

- † Compound-complex sentences
- † Collective nouns
- † Indefinite, relative, and demonstrative pronouns
- † Reflexive and intensive pronouns
- † Progressive, emphatic, and perfect verb tenses
- † Active/passive voice
- † Object complements

Spelling

Spelling skills are integrated into the vocabulary and reading program. These skills teach spelling rules and high frequency words in a structured spelling program called Spelling Workout, published by Modern Curriculum Press.

Vocabulary

Seventh grade students have a developmental sensitivity for new and interesting words. The Academy's vocabulary program, including Amsco's Vocabulary for the High School Student, provides an engaging and systematic approach to new words. Students will:

- † Understand new words meanings
- † Use new words in everyday language
- † Incorporate new vocabulary in writing assignments

Analogies

Ridgewood Analogies and Shurley English puts analogous relationships into five categories: (descriptive, comparative, categorical, serial, and causal) with three levels of difficulty within each category. As they solve and create analogies, students actively process information, make

Analogies continued...

important connections, use information and skills to identify relationships, construct relationships, and generate new knowledge, to improve critical thinking and long-term memory. Analogies are also organized by subject area: geography, history and government, language arts, and math.

Math

Glenco's math series promotes genuine learning, and is demonstrated not only through the understanding of a concept but also through the ability to apply that concept to new situations. In seventh grade the following fundamentals are covered:

- † Ratios and proportional relationships
- † The number system
- † Expressions and equations
- † Geometry
- † Statistics and probability
- † Beginning algebra topics

Think Through Math and ALEKS

Think Through Math (TTM) and ALEKS are web based programs that instruct, assess, support, and motivate students at their level. Students progress at their own rate while developing higher order thinking and problem solving skills.

Science

The Glenco Integrated Science - Green Series, which aligns with the National Science Education Standards provides a blend of concepts, inquiry, and hands-on content. Students are exposed to the process skills needed to form and test hypothesis. The units taught are:

Science continued...

- † Plants
- † Interaction of Living Things
- † Minerals
- † Rocks
- † Cell Processes
- † Cell Reproduction
- † Circulation
- † Digestion and Respiration
- † Support and Movement
- † Heredity

Social Studies

Houghton-Mifflin prepares students for informed participation in tomorrow's America. This comprehensive social studies program presents a mixture of history, geography, economics, citizenship, and culture. The seventh grade text, America: History of Our Nation, explores themes that focus on:

- † A Land of Promise
- † The Constitution
- † Establishing a New Nation
- † Regional Divisions
- † Civil War

Geography

A comprehensive map skills program from Modern Curriculum Press called, Map, Charts, and Graphs, covers map skills. Concepts covered in seventh grade are:

- † Time Zone Maps
- † Comparing Historical Maps
- † Using Maps, Charts, and Graphs together
- † Migration maps
- † Map Projections and Distortions

Health

Students will develop an understanding of personal health and safety issues such as:

- † Nutrition
- † Proper rest and exercise
- † Good hygiene
- † Fitness
- † Violence prevention
- † Safe use of medication

Library/Computer Science

These skills are introduced in the library/media center and computer lab for integration into the curriculum. Children learn how to research and process information. Using Code.org, students become algorithmic thinkers and responsible digital citizens.

STEM

Students integrate Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math in a variety of problem solving situations. Students apply the Scientific Method and Engineering Process during experiential learning.

Specials

Physical Education

Seventh grade students will continue to develop muscle strength, cardio-respiratory endurance and flexibility as they learn to develop a healthy lifestyle. They will learn the following: to follow the rules of sports, teamwork, good sportsmanship, offensive and defensive strategies, aerobic exercises, and health fitness.

Art

Students will explore many of the more sophisticated art media and techniques. They will:

- † Experiment with form and style
- † Use elements of art to express their ideas
- † Use proportion and scale
- † Experiment with gesture and contour techniques

Music

Students will:

- † Understand that different cultures express themselves through their music
- † Be able to creatively express themselves through music
- † Interpret music in movement

Spanish

¡Viva el Español The curriculum, by McGraw-Hill, allows students to practice writing skills, reinforce vocabulary and language concepts, develop language-learning skills, and have fun with the language.

Using sounds, images, and text words the students are able to build sentences and turn sentences into conversation.

Latin

Latin is as vital to vocabulary development as phonics is to reading. Fifty percent of all English words have their roots in Latin. Exposure to this classical language teaches order in the English language and provides order for all facets of life. The text for this course is Latina Christiana - Book I (lessons 12-25) and Book II published Memoria. In addition, the students practice Latin hymns for Mass, and Benediction

General Information

Report Cards/Progress Reports

Students will receive a report card at the end of each ten-week marking period. Students in need of academic assistance will receive a progress report at the end of the five-week point or half way through the marking period.

Parent Conferences

Parent conferences are scheduled for late October. However, parents may schedule a separate conference at anytime.

Homework

For children to achieve mastery, reinforcement is absolutely necessary. Homework is assigned, as needed, for practice and special projects. Expect to give some assistance. Help your child succeed by:

- † Providing a quiet area for study
- † Discourage or prohibit TV on school nights
- † Provide nutritious meals and plenty of exercise
- † Schedule sufficient rest (8 hours for seventh graders)
- † Show an interest in school activities
- † Keep communication lines open with the school

SchoolSpeak

Kindergarten - 8th Grade

SchoolSpeak is an online communication tool which allows parents and students to view homework, newsletters, grades, and report cards. Parents and teachers can easily message each other when the need arises.

