



Eighth 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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Eighth Grade Curriculum

Academic Program



Religion /Scripture

The religion program focuses on spiritual formation. The primary text series is the Didache Series, published by Midwest Theological Forum. It is a freshmen level textbook and a comprehensive introduction to the Catholic faith. It presents the life and doctrine of the Roman Catholic Church in the context of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* and the teachings of Vatican II. The series draws from the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, Sacred Scripture, the lives of the saints, the Fathers of the Church, and the teachings of Vatican II as witnessed by the pontificate of Pope John Paul II. This book has received the Nihil Obstat, the imprimatur and the approval of the United States Catholic Bishops Office for the Catechism.

Introduction to Catholicism: A Complete Course published by Midwest Theological Forum

Aim

To help the teenager know and love the Church as Christ's Body and the Magisterium as the sure voice of Jesus, so that the young person may be strengthened through his life in the Church to face the confusion and secularism of modern-day society.

Theme

Introduction To Catholicism is a book that sets out the basics of why we are here and where we are going. Every baptized person has been personally called to serve God and love his neighbor. The goal of our lives is personal sanctity, and the destination is Heaven.

Sequence

This book contains 27 chapters designed to give the teenager a complete understanding of the faith. Chapter units include: The Call to Holiness, Prayer, The Trinity, The Church, The Blessed Virgin Mary, Revelation, The Old Testament, The New Testament, The Sacraments, The Moral Virtues, The Beatitudes and the Commandments.

Reading/Literature

The Prentice Hall Literature Program is an integrated language arts program, offering high quality, appealing, traditional and contemporary literary selections, and 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 eighth grade Silver text are:

- † Coming of Age
- † Meeting Challenges
- † Quest for Justice
- † From Sea to Shining Sea
- † Extraordinary Occurrences

Literary Genres covered are:

- † Short stories
- † Nonfiction
- † Drama
- † Poetry
- † The American Folk Tradition

Supplemental texts:

- † American Cardinal Readers
- † Bennett's Book of Virtues
- † Novels

Writing

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

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

Eighth graders continually practice in narrative, descriptive, expository, and persuasive writing. New writing techniques at this level are:

- † Speech writing
- † News writing
- † Research papers

Listening and Speaking

Students will be given many experiences that fosters 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 grammar program in Voyages in English, by Loyola Press. The exercises in the English workbook provide the added reinforcement students need. Skills developed or reinforced in the eighth grade are:

English continued...

- † Collective possessive nouns
- † Reflexive and intensive pronouns
- † Perfect, progressive, and emphatic verb tenses
- † Verbal phrases - gerunds, participles, and infinitives.
- † Adjectival and adverbial phrases
- † Active and passive voice
- † Compound - complex sentences

Spelling

Spelling skills, spelling rules, and high frequency words are taught in a structured spelling program called Spelling Workout, published by Modern Curriculum Press.

Vocabulary

Eighth grade students have a developmental sensitivity for new and interesting words. The Academy's vocabulary program, in conjunction with Amsco's Vocabulary for the High School Students Book B, provides an engaging and systematic approach to new words. Students will:

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

Analogies

Ridgewood 5 Analogies groups 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 important connections, use information and skills to identify relationships, construct relationships, and generate new knowledge, and improve critical thinking and long-term memory.

Math

Glenco uses a balance approach to learning mathematics through a variety of teaching modalities. Genuine learning is demonstrated not only through the understanding of a concept but also through the ability to apply that concept to new situations. Eighth grade Algebra 1 curriculum includes:

- † Properties of real numbers
- † Absolute value
- † Equations and inequalities
- † Scientific notation
- † Unit conversions
- † The algebra of polynomials and rational expressions
- † Word problems requiring algebra
- † Graphical solution of simultaneous equations
- † Statistics and probability
- † Factoring
- † Direct and inverse variation
- † Exponential growth
- † Pythagorean Theorem

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 Glencoe Integrated Science Text - Blue 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 covered are:

- † Interaction of life
- † The nonliving environment
- † Ecosystems
- † Inside the atom

Science continued...

- † Periodic table
- † Atomic structure
- † Chemical bonds
- † Chemical reactions
- † Waves, sound, and light
- † Motion
- † Force
- † Work and simple machines

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 eighth grade text, America: History of Our Nation explores themes that focus on:

- † The Constitution
- † A Nation Divides and Reunites
- † A Time of Transformation
- † The Promise Continues

Geography

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

- † Contour Maps
- † Cartograms
- † Land Use Maps
- † Ocean Floor Maps
- † Migration Maps
- † Map Projections and Distortions
- † Solar Systems Maps
- † Map Skills

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

Eighth 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, and 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
- † Compare historic art trends
- † Study the vital role of artists in social, political and economic issues

Music

Students will:

- † Understand that different cultures express themselves through their music
- † Be able to creatively express themselves through music
- † Interpret music in movement
- † Interpret social statements in music
- † Analyze contemporary music styles

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 II published Memoria Press. 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 eighth 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.

