Seventh Grade Curriculum

Subject	Themes
Religion	**Alive in Christ/Catechism of the Catholic Church** Students study the life of Jesus and the New Testament. The curriculum is aligned with the Archdiocesan standards and explores main themes including revelation, the Trinity, Jesus Christ, the Church, morality, sacraments, and the Kingdom of God. The seventh graders are required to learn the prayer of the Sorrowful Mysteries, Hail Holy Queen, Angelus, and the Act of Love. Students are also required to complete 5 hours of community service each trimester.
Literature/ Reading	The seventh graders read several novels from various genres as a class including: *The Adventures of Ulysses* by Bernard Evslin *Old Man and the Sea* by Ernest Hemingway *Night* by Elie Weisel *The Pearl* by John Steinbeck An Agatha Christie mystery Students will also read short stories and choose books of their own for projects and papers. Every trimester, students will choose and read one novel on their own. They will then complete a variety of book reviews. While we concentrate on reading comprehension, we also study aspects of literature, such as theme, literary devices and author's purpose.
Writing/Grammar	Students will write expository, narrative and persuasive papers, with no paper being much longer than five paragraphs. The focus will be on organization of a five-paragraph essay. Students will explore ideas such as imagery, word choice, sentence structure, tone and persuasive techniques. Grammar is linked with writing. In grammar, we focus on understanding and correcting the most common grammatical errors found in writing, parts of speech and proper punctuation.
Spelling/Vocabulary	Vocabulary instruction is focused on content specific words and commonly confused words.
Math	The math curriculum follows the National Common Core Math Standards. Essential areas include: • Ratios and proportional relationships – analyze proportional relationships and use them to solve real-world and mathematical problems. • The number system – apply and extend previous understandings of operations with fractions to add, subtract, multiply, and divide rational numbers. • Expressions and Equations – use properties of operations to generate equivalent expressions. Solve real-life and mathematical problems using numerical and algebraic expressions and equations. • Geometry – draw, construct and describe geometrical figures and describe the relationships between them. Solve real-life and mathematical problems involving angle measure, area, surface area and volume. • Statistics and Probability – use random sampling to draw inferences about a population, investigate chance processes and develop, use and evaluate probability models.

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Social Studies	We study 3 major areas: current events, economics and cultural competency. Students will research a hot spot in the world today. They will gain financial literacy and cultural competency through their study of their own culture and by studying the Holocaust. Students of the 21st century must know how to wade through the internet to get information. They will be taught to do this through numerous assignments. They also need a moral compass so that they know what to do with the information they find. Catholic social teaching provides this compass. The study of Washington State history revolves around the student-centered planning of our end of the year, three-day road trip around the state. Students will research the places we will visit and become experts on the geography, history and the relevance of those places. Our text is ***The State We're In: Washington***.
Science	7th grade students are immersed in biology where they study and practice the scientific method and conduct experiments in the science laboratory. Topics of study include: • "From Bacteria to Plants" – Protists and Fungi; What is life and classifying living things; Microbiology • "Animals" – Sponges, Cnidarians and Worms; Mollusks, Arthropods and Echinoderms; Fishes, Amphibians and Reptiles; Birds and Mammals • "Cells and Heredity" – Cell structure and function; Genetics