

Eighth Grade Curriculum

Subject	Themes
Religion	<p>Alive in Christ/Catechism of the Catholic Church The overall focus is the history of the Church and morality, which aligns with the Archdiocesan standards. Themes studied include revelation, the Trinity, Jesus Christ, the Church, morality, the sacraments, and the Kingdom of God. The Eighth graders are required to learn the prayer of the Glorious Mysteries and complete 5 hours of community service each trimester.</p>
Reading	<p><u>Develop reading strategies</u>: making connections, visualizing, summarizing, predicting, clarifying, asking questions, setting goals, monitoring/adjusting reading speed. <u>Develop reading skills</u>: cause/effect, sequence, compare and contrast, inferring, main idea and supporting details, author's purpose. <u>Explore story elements</u>: plot, setting, character, main events, problem/solution Reading list includes many genres and sources: <i>Explorations in Literature, A Christmas Carol, Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry, Across Five Aprils</i>. Students are expected to be reading independently at or above grade level. Book reviews, presentations and analyses will be assigned each trimester.</p>
Writing	<p><u>Focuses on the writing process</u>: prewriting, drafting, editing, revising, publishing <u>Focuses on Six Traits</u>: ideas, organization, voice, word choice, sentence fluency, conventions <u>Writing for many purposes</u>: narratives, expository essays, poems, fantasy, realistic fiction, biographies, historical fiction, myths, folktales, fables. <u>Grammar</u>: parts of speech, sentence structure, punctuation</p>
Spelling/Vocabulary	<p>Vocabulary for Achievement Spelling words will be gleaned from the vocabulary list, curriculum, the most commonly misspelled words, homophones, and students' common mistakes.</p>
Math	<p>National Common Core Math Standards for 8th grade:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Number System – real numbers, decimal expansions, square and cubed roots • Expressions and Equations – radical and integer exponents, understand connections between proportional relationships, lines and linear equations • Functions – define, evaluate and compare functions • Geometry – understand congruence and similarity, understand and apply the Pythagorean Theorem, translations, reflections, rotations and transformations. • Statistics and Probability – investigate patterns, scatter plots • Ongoing emphasis on problem solving and real-world applications

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Social Studies	U.S. History from 1776-1900. Students will be involved in a variety of projects, research and activities. Current events will be woven through the curriculum through <i>Junior Scholastic</i> and other resources.
Science	8 th grade focuses on chemistry and physics. Students study chemical building blocks in the first trimester, chemical interactions in the second trimester and motion, forces and energy in the third trimester. Students will participate in labs to extend learning. The main science resource is <i>Prentice Hall Science Explorer</i> . Students will design several projects in connection with the science concepts they learn, including creating a science fair project and participation in the science fair.