

# GRADE SEVEN CURRICULUM GUIDE



This booklet contains an outline of the instructional goals in each curricular area for seventh grade students at St. Joseph School. The topics are covered in a sequence that is responsive to the individual class of students. Overall, the philosophy of St. Joseph School emphasizes that learning is integrated, experiential, value-based and a foundation for continued and lifelong learning. Learning is designed to promote the spiritual, intellectual, social, physical and emotional growth of each unique child.

## **RELIGION**

The Religion program in the seventh grade is designed to assist Catholic school adolescent students to develop a lasting mature relationship with Jesus Christ. The students explore the teachings of the Catholic faith in order to accept the challenge of true discipleship through shared study, prayer and action. The Religion program will provide enhanced opportunities for shared prayer in an all-day retreat.

Ministry experiences at home, school and the outside community will all be required of the seventh grade students. The major themes covered in seventh grade are morality and Catholic beliefs.

The following concepts and objectives are general outcomes of the seventh grade Religion program. Students will be able to:

### **Prayer**

- Recite the Apostle's Creed and explain each part of the Creed
- Learn the Morning offering and Memorare as well as one other traditional Catholic prayer that is meaningful to the student
- Write and illustrate their own prayer to be compiled into a classroom prayer book
- Demonstrate an understanding of different prayers – adoration, petition, and thanksgiving
- Demonstrate understanding of prayer and the liturgical year through seasonal classroom prayer services

- Learn morality and understand the vocabulary relating to morality - sin, morality, conscience, Beatitude, and covenant
- Understand that through God's law and God's grace we are called to form our consciences and make moral decisions as followers of Christ and members of the Church
- Understand the elements necessary and the responsibility to form a good conscience
- Learn and understand the requirements for good behavior as found in the Ten Commandments
- Learn the Beatitudes and the requirements for Christian action intended in these Christian mandates
- Study the four Gospels and the teaching and example provided in this section of the New Testament
- Understand sin and the effects of making poor or bad choices and rejecting God's friendship
- Understand the importance of committing one's lives to Jesus in priesthood or religious life

### Creed/Catholic Beliefs

- Understand the Catholic church hierarchy - clergy, apostolic, ecumenical, transcendence, advocate and evangelical
- Understand that through divine revelation we come to know God
- Understand that the present day Church is guided by the Holy Spirit
- Understand the role of Mary throughout salvation history

- Understand the call of the human heart and spirit to follow God through the practice of the Catholic faith
- Discuss and learn about the Holy Trinity
- Understand the basic elements of the Catholic faith proclaimed in the Creed – the Holy Trinity, incarnation, death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus; original sin; the Paschal sacrifice; the Mass; Pentecost; the Holy Spirit in the Church and our lives; the successors of the apostles – the bishops; the magisterium of the Church
- Understand the importance of daily prayer and the formation of a spiritual life founded on constant prayer
- Understand the marks – the essential characteristics of the Church – one, holy, Catholic and apostolic
- Appreciate the lives and choices of ministry for some of the Church’s saints and holy people – Mother Theresa, St. Paul, the apostles, Cardinal Bernadine
- Research the life of their own namesake Saint

Text: Morality: A Course on Catholic Living, Sadlier Faith and Witness Series; William H. Sadlier, Inc., 1998

Creed: A Course on Catholic Belief, Sadlier Faith and Witness Series; William H. Sadlier, Inc., 1998

Catholic Vocabulary: A Glossary, William H. Sadlier, 1999

Prayer Celebrations for the Liturgical Year, William H. Sadlier, 1998

(Resource reference for classroom use)

Continued use of student Bible received in 6<sup>th</sup> grade

## **LANGUAGE ARTS/LITERATURE**

Students will read and understand grade-level-appropriate material by describing and connecting the essential ideas, arguments, and perspectives of the text using their knowledge of text structure, organization and purpose.

The following concepts and objectives are general outcomes of the seventh grade Language Arts/Literature program. Students will be able to:

### **Reading**

- Analyze the differences in structure and purpose between various categories of informational materials
- Analyze text using various organizational patterns i.e. cause and effect, problem and solution, comparison
- Identify an author's point of view
- Evaluate the adequacy and accuracy of an author's evidence to support claims, noting instances of bias and stereotyping
- Students will read and respond personally, creatively, and critically to historically or culturally significant works of literature
- Identify the expressed purposes, characteristics, and authors of different forms of prose and genres
- Identify and analyze literary elements such as plot, characterization, recurring themes, setting and point of view

- Evaluate responses to literary works and determine connections between the various literary elements present and the critical responses
- Identify and analyze a variety of literary techniques
- Identify ways that an author uses language structure, word choice, and style to convey the author's viewpoint
- Analyze how characters in literature deal with conflict, solve problems, and relate to real-life situations
- Identify idioms, analogies, metaphors, and similes in prose and poetry
- Apply knowledge of word origins and derivations to comprehend words used in various content areas
- Analyze meanings of words using context

### Writing

- Write clear, coherent, focused essays which exhibit awareness of audience and purpose, and contain introductions, supporting evidence, and conclusions
- Create an organizational structure that balances all aspects of the composition and uses effective transitions between sentences to unify ideas
- Support all statements and claims with descriptions, facts, and specific examples
- Use appropriate organizational strategies such as note-taking, outlining, and summarizing to organize drafts
- Revise writing to improve organization, clarity and word choice
- Write narrative, persuasive, and descriptive texts which exhibit awareness of audience and purpose

- Write fictional narratives which have a plot line, point of view, major and minor characters, and a setting, using a range of appropriate techniques
- Write responses to literature which exhibit careful reading, understanding and insight justified by use of examples from text
- Write persuasive compositions which state a clear position, and clearly articulate supporting points
- Write summaries of reading materials which include main ideas and significant details, and which reflect ability to make inferences about underlying meaning
- Use correct capitalization and punctuation including hyphens, dashes, brackets, and semicolons
- Demonstrate appropriate English usage involving pronouns, antecedents, infinitives, participles, modifiers and all other parts of speech
- Spell derivatives correctly by applying the spelling of bases and affixes

### Research Writing

- Identify topics; ask and evaluate questions, and develop ideas leading to inquiry, investigation, and research
- Convey clear and accurate perspectives
- Include evidence compiled through the formal research process
- Document reference sources by means of footnotes and a bibliography using a consistent and sanctioned format and methodology for citations
- Create documents by using word-processing skills and publishing programs; develop simple database and spreadsheets to manage information and prepare reports

- Students will create a research report of at least ten pages in length, edited to produce a document without error, including correct citing of at least five sources

### Listening and Speaking

- Students will deliver focused, coherent presentations that convey ideas clearly and relate to the background and interests of the audience
- Use language and vocabulary appropriate to the purpose, message, and audience
- Clarify main ideas with supporting details and information
- Use visual aids and contemporary technology as support
- Ask probing questions to elicit information, including evidence to support a speakers' claims and conclusions
- Determine the speaker's attitude by comparing verbal and nonverbal messages
- Provide constructive feedback to speakers concerning the coherence and logic of a speech's content

Text: Literature: Timeless Voices, Timeless Themes, Bronze Level, Prentice Hall, 1999  
Voyages in English: Writing and Grammar, Loyola Press, 1999  
Vocabulary Workshop, Level B, Sadlier-Oxford, 1996

## **MATHEMATICS**

The seventh grade math curriculum understands that the middle school experience is critical in preparing students for success in algebra 1 and geometry. Concepts introduced in sixth grade are reinforced in seventh to bridge the gap from the concrete number oriented mathematics in elementary school to abstract symbol-centered algebra and geometry. Each concept is related to a real world situation to help the students understand how it will be used in their lives. Technology is integrated in the curriculum as students have opportunities to use computer software or graphing calculator to solve problems, organize data or make predictions.

Individual remediation and enrichment programs/strategies will be utilized. A sequential objective based continuum will allow students to reinforce already learned concepts and, for those whom are ready, to proceed beyond the seventh grade curriculum.

The following concepts and objectives are general outcomes of the seventh grade Math program. Students will be able to:

- Read, write and compare rational numbers in scientific notation
- Add, subtract, multiply and divide rational numbers (integers, fractions and terminating decimals, and find powers of positive rational numbers)
- Convert fractions to decimals and percents, and use these in estimation, computation and applications

- Differentiate between rational and irrational numbers
- Understand terminating and repeating decimals and convert terminating decimals to reduced fractions
- Calculate percentage of increases and decreases in quantity
- Solve problems that involve discounts, markups, commissions and profit
- Understand negative whole number exponents and multiply and divide expressions
- Identify and use properties of real numbers including pi, squares and square roots
- Apply ratio and proportion to solve problems

### Measurement

- Use appropriate instruments to find and compare weights, capacities, perimeter, area, volume, times, temperature and angle measures using common metric standards
- Use formulas to find the perimeter, area, surface area and volume of two and three dimensional figures including parallelograms, trapezoids, squares, triangles, circles, prisms and cylinders
- Estimate and compute the area of irregular two and three dimensional figures by breaking figures down into more basic geometric objects
- Understand what is meant by scale and create a scale drawing by changing the units of measure
- Convert change in scale (1 square foot = 144 square inches or 1 cubic inch = 16.38 cubic centimeters)

## Algebra

- Use variables and appropriate operations to write an expression, an equality, an inequality or a system of equations that represent a verbal description (i.e. three less than a number)
- Know and apply the correct order of operations in a multistep problem
- Know and use algebraic terminology
- Simplify numerical expressions by applying properties of rational numbers including identity, inverse, distributive, associative, commutative, transitive, zero and equality
- Solve problems using linear expressions, equations, and inequalities
- Represent quantitative relationships graphically and interpret the meaning of the situation represented on the graph
- Plot the values of quantities whose ratios are the same
- Construct a line
- Understand the slope of a line
- Solve problems involving proportions and formulas
- Simplify and evaluate expressions that involve exponents, perfect squares, and square roots

## Geometry

- Identify and be able to construct two and three dimensional geometric figures including prisms, pyramids, cylinders and cones
- Draw transformation images of figures with and without the use of technology

- Use concepts of symmetry, congruency, similarity, scale perspective, and angles to describe and analyze two and three dimensional shapes found in real life applications
- Formulate logical arguments about geometric figures and patterns and be able to explain them
- Solve problems using geometric relationships and models with and without the help of technology tools
- Construct and measure distances, lengths and angles using proportions, and the Pythagorean theorem

### Statistical Probability and Representation of Data

- Construct and read tables and graphs to organize and represent data
- Understand and compare mean, median, mode, and range to explain data (with and without technology)
- Analyze data and predictions, and communicate findings of conclusions based on statistics
- Formulate questions, organize data, draw conclusions and communicate results of relationships between data and predictions (i.e. years of schooling and income)
- Determine odds and probability of events using fundamental counting principals
- Analyze problem situations and make predictions of results using principles of probability

Text: Mathematics: Applications and Connections,  
Course 2, Glencoe, McGraw-Hill, 1999

## **SOCIAL STUDIES**

Students will learn about the social, cultural and technological changes that took place in Europe, Asia, and Africa from the year AD 500 to the late 1700's. After reviewing prior world history and the ways in which archaeologists and historians learn about the past, students will focus on the great civilizations that were developing concurrently throughout the world during medieval and early modern times. They will examine economic and ideological interaction among civilizations, as well as the growth of the Enlightenment philosophy and its impact.

The following concepts and objectives are general outcomes of the seventh grade Social Studies program:

- Analyze the causes and effects of the vast expansion and ultimate fall of the Roman Empire
- Analyze the geographic, political, economic, religious and social structures of Islam in the Middle Ages
- Analyze the geographic, political, economic, religious, and social structures of the civilizations of China in the Middle Ages
- Analyze the geographic, political, economic, religious and social structures of civilizations in Medieval Africa
- Analyze the geographic, political, economic, religious and social structures of the civilizations of Medieval Japan and China
- Analyze the geographic, political, economic, religious and social structures of the civilizations of Medieval Europe

- Compare and contrast geographic, political, economic, religious and social structures of the Meso-American and Andean civilizations
- Analyze the origins, accomplishments and geographic diffusion of the Renaissance
- Analyze the historical developments of the Reformation
- Analyze the political and economic change during the Enlightenment
- Use geographic markers and boundaries to analyze and navigate the earth
- Use geographic representations to provide and enhance spatial information maps, graphs and charts
- Understand how physical processes including climate, plate tectonics, erosion, soil formation, water cycle and circulation patterns in the ocean shape patterns in the environment and influence availability of natural resources
- Understand how changes in components of an ecosystem affect the system overall
- Understand how human activity is affected by geographic factors
- Understand how human processes influence settlement patterns, including migration and population growth
- Understand how market prices signal producers about what and how much to produce
- Understand the “market clearing price” of a good or service

Text: Across the Centuries, Houghton Mifflin, 1999

## **SCIENCE**

The seventh grade science curriculum focuses on Life Science. It is the second year of a three-year cycle of Earth and Space Science, Life Science and Physical Science. Students will be expected to learn information and facts about Life Science, and be able to formulate different hypotheses using the scientific method. In addition to scientific information, students will learn the importance of their role in God's creation and their responsibility to preserve and protect our resources for the greater good of humanity.

The following concepts and objectives are general outcomes of the seventh grade Science program. Students will be able to:

- Understand the process of the scientific method to investigate questions, conduct experiments and solve problems
- Make observations objectively
- Develop a hypothesis from observed events
- Select and use appropriate instruments and technology to perform tests and measure data
- Set up an experiment with a control and one variable
- Communicate results of data collected in an organized format using tables, graphs and charts utilizing software, such as Microsoft Excel
- Utilize mean, median and mode to quantify results
- Obtain information and research on related subjects using a variety of sources including books, periodicals, encyclopedias, primary sources and the internet

- Organize information from varied research sources and communicate information in a written report which cites sources and uses data to support conclusions
- Formulate an explanation or conclusion based on research and tested results
- Explain and present an experiment to an audience, using visual displays prepared with and without the use of technology
- Participate in a local science fair as part of the IJAS
- Identify a design problem in an existing instrument or device and seek a solution
- Design and build an appropriate prototype to address an environmental or health related problem
- Test the prototype and recognize sources of error and recommend improvement
- Use available technology to report success of prototype design based on tested results
- Use the metric system and understand how to measure distance, volume, temperature and mass

### Life Science

- Understand that all living things are composed of cells
- Understand cell functions in all living organisms
- Differentiate between plant and animal cells
- Recognize certain types of cells under a microscope
- Understand the genetic information stored in a cell
- Know how cells reproduce, by means of mitosis and meiosis
- Understand how multicellular organisms develop through cell differentiation
- Understand genetic instructions that create traits

- Differentiate between sexual and asexual methods of reproduction
- Understand how genes from both parents are present in offspring
- Explain dominant and recessive traits
- Explain DNA and the complexity of the blueprint of life
- Know what DNA is and the complexity of the blueprint of each new life
- Understand how plants and animals are classified
- Know and understand the importance of the systems of the human body
- Discuss the importance of good health habits and proper nutrition
- Explain the delicate balance of living and nonliving things within ecosystems
- Understand the responsibility to preserve and protect all life
- Understand how living things survive in various environments

### Safety, Technology, and Historic Contributions

- Identify potential hazards and the importance of using safety practices when conducting scientific experiments
- Understand the proper use of instruments used in scientific settings and use instruments safely
- Understand how popular beliefs have impacted science
- Recognize important individuals and their contributions to science
- Understand various scientific occupations

- Understand the ongoing struggle between available resources and economics
- Study advantages and disadvantages of conservation of natural resources and economic growth

Text: Life Science, Prentice Hall, 2001

## **FOREIGN LANGUAGE - SPANISH**

Seventh graders will reinforce and refine their listening skills, increase proficiency in speaking, writing and reading, and continue to study culture. They will have opportunities to develop and refine proficiency while they use a basic, positive and enthusiastic learning approach to the language. Catholic prayers and traditions will continue to reinforce our faith.

Goals in the seventh grade Spanish program are to:

- Continue reinforcement of listening skills
- Expand word recognition
- Develop sentence writing skills

The following concepts and objectives are general outcomes of the seventh grade Foreign Language program. Students will be able to:

- Introduce yourself and others
- Use greetings and farewells
- Continue with verb conjugations
- Expand knowledge of cognates
- Identify numbers 0 to 100,000
- Use numbers in daily events, like shopping
- Use days and months in sentences and conversation
- Use time in conversations
- Tell time of the day in which activities take place
- Develop question writing skills
- Use personal pronouns in sentence construction
- Talk about favorite classes and sports

- Describe of their houses, room names, and basic furniture
- Recite the Our Father
- Use common prepositions
- Use "ser" and "estar"
- Use expressions with "tener" – frio, calor, hambre
- Use "hacer" with weather expressions
- Understand short written passages in textbook
- Recognize basic language patterns, forms of address, questions, and case
- Respond appropriately to simple commands
- Comprehend illustrated stories, audiovisual programs or websites
- Follow instructions, given one step at a time, for a wide range of activities
- Respond to and ask simple questions with prompts
- Imitate pronunciation, intonation and inflection
- Produce language using proper pronunciation, intonation, and inflection
- Comprehend gestures and body language often used in everyday interaction and the target language
- Recognize the written form of familiar spoken language and predict meaning of key words in a simple story, poem or song
- Infer meaning of cognates from context
- Comprehend written classroom directions, read simple passages
- Decode new vocabulary using context clues and drawing on words and phrases from prior lessons
- Use common forms of courtesy, greetings and farewell appropriate to the time of day and relationship (adult, peer, parent)
- Understand the elements of Hispanic culture - music, dance, folk art, visual art, drama and

architecture Identify one or more art forms  
representatives of areas where the target language is  
spoken

Text: Spanish is Fun, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition Softbound, 2000

## **FINE ARTS - MUSIC**

Students in seventh grade will study the history of music by period - ancient music, middle ages, renaissance, baroque, classical and the romantic periods. The course will cover styles of music, instruments, and developments that are unique to each period. The role of the musician in history and the changing role that music has had throughout history will be covered. The development of music notation and the tonal system will be studied along with the development of traditional forms. Rounds, canons, liturgical forms, secular forms, sonatinas, sonata form and the symphony are some of the forms covered.

In the performance area, students will be involved in the Christmas and spring music programs. Some emphasis will be placed on singing multiple part music. Music of the highest quality will be rehearsed to enhance the school liturgies and the general school environment. Music that exemplifies and encourages the values of our faith community will be stressed.

The following concepts and objectives are general outcomes of the seventh grade Music program:

- Know the names and starting and ending dates of the periods in music history
- Understand life in each period of music history, in the areas of politics, society and culture and science
- Understand the role of the arts in each period of music history, in the areas of literature, architecture, painting and decorative arts and sculpture

- Understand the characteristics of music in each of the periods in music history
- Trace the development of music notation from the eleventh century, when the Benedictine monk Guido of Arezzo refined the system, to the modern notation system
- Understand plainsong or monophonic music and be able to identify it upon listening
- Understanding of the structure of the Mass and its role in music history
- Understand secular song, songs of the troubadours, trouveres and minnesingers
- Understand the role of the development of polyphony (music with multiple parts) and be able to distinguish it from monophonic music upon listening
- Experience the sounds of instrumental, dance, and vocal music from each period of music history
- Understand the role of the musician in each of the periods of music history
- Identify at least three pieces of music from each period and communicate its unique characteristics upon hearing
- Understand the role of women composers throughout the history of music
- Understand the role of the many forms that music has taken throughout history and be able to communicate the uniqueness of each form
- Place composers in their appropriate period and be able to identify at least three major compositions by each major composer as well as comment on their contribution to music
- Participate in the preparation and performance of music for school liturgies

- Participate in the preparation and performance, by singing, acting, stage crew, stage design, and planning, of the Christmas program and spring music program
- Demonstrate their comprehension by completing regular homework assignments, quizzes, and examinations
- Keep a notebook/journal in music class that will be used as a study guide for examinations
- Display pride in their work in the areas of neatness, spelling, grammar and content
- Display the highest level of appropriate classroom behavior at all times

Texts: The Music Connection, Silver Burdett Ginn, 1998  
An Illustrated History of Music for Young Musicians, Summy Birchard, 2000

## **FINE ARTS - ART**

The following concepts and objectives are general outcomes of the seventh grade Art program. Students will be able to:

- Identify and describe the elements of intensity and translucence
- Explain color schemes in a work of art
- Explain texture and its decorative qualities and expressive impact
- Identify the expressive qualities of theme
- Recognize how a theme is developed in sequential works of art
- Identify and describe the principles of contrast in two and three dimensions
- Describe the arrangement of elements and principles of art to create a feeling of completeness or wholeness through repetition, overlap, development of a theme
- Explain the emotional qualities of color – purple suggests death and/or royalty, red suggests anger
- Explain the symbolism of lines – lazy, angry and tense
- Discuss how shading and light sources define the form
- Discuss how mark making - stippling, cross hatching –creates form
- Distinguish between one-point and two-point perspective by use of slanted lines that meet at the vanishing point when objects appear to go back in space
- Explain balance - radial shapes, lines or forms arranged around a central point

- Identify the expressive qualities of interest
- Describe how emphasis, variety and proportion add interest to a work of art

## **PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

An effective physical education curriculum incorporates many aspects of physical, emotional, social, and personal growth. The program includes the following components:

- 1) Emphasize the child as a whole person and exercise the mind as well as the body
- 2) Utilize a variety of learning strategies
- 3) Emphasize core skills, such as locomotion, throwing and catching
- 4) Emphasize the development of lifelong physical fitness
- 5) Demonstrate good sportsmanship and cooperation as fundamental core values
- 6) Emphasize participation in all sports – individual as well as team

The following concepts and objectives are general outcomes of the seventh grade Physical Education program:

- Chase, flee, and dodge particularly in regard to stationary objects and moving people
- Volley and serve a volleyball
  - Return a served ball using a bump, set and dig
  - Set or bump a ball to a teammate
  - Serve a ball over the net using an underhand serve
- Throw and catch
  - Throw a softball properly
  - Throw and catch during game situations
  - Catch while moving and stationary
- Dribble and kick a ball

- Dribble around moving and stationary defenders or objects
- Dribble or kick during game situations
- Strike or hit a ball
  - Hit a slow pitched ball
  - Serve, lob, and drive the ball with a pickle ball racket
- Understand the fundamental rules of various sports – basketball, softball, pickle ball, badminton and scooter hockey
- Execute track and field events – run relays, long jump and distance throw
- Establish good sportsmanship habits
  - Put forth full effort
  - Encourage teammates without negativity
  - Be courteous and respectful of each other
- Develop individual physical fitness level
  - Cardiovascular endurance
  - Muscular strength
  - Flexibility
  - Demonstrate outcomes of regular and daily exercise
  - Increase exercise duration and stamina

## **COMPUTER**

The Computer curriculum, in a sequential and stepwise fashion from kindergarten through eighth grade, incorporates classroom strategies and student activities that promote the following core foundational skills – keyboarding and word processing. Students are encouraged to enhance individual skill levels and to continue to improve independently. Students are also encouraged to develop cooperative classroom skills of patience and mutual respect. The computer curriculum emphasizes lifetime skills of research, writing and document development. The following concepts and objectives are general outcomes of the seventh grade Computer program:

- Understand current changes in technology and the effect on society and the workplace
- Understand the proper use of information and technology and the consequences of misuse
- Use content-specific tools to support research
- Understand and use toolbars
- Save files in different locations
- Open a saved document
- Design and develop electronic presentations of data, such as spreadsheets and graphs
- Design in-depth Power Point presentations
- Use input and output devices correctly
- Discuss common uses of technology in daily life and identify the advantages and disadvantages
- Develop and master correct keyboarding techniques
- Write a class newspaper using correct word processing skills, clipart, search engines, graphs and tables

## **HOMEWORK**

Students in seventh grade should continue to read 30 minutes or more per night. In addition, written homework assignments will typically require about one hour and fifteen minutes to complete; however, this may vary somewhat when long-term projects are assigned. Student's first and last names and the date should be included on all homework. Blue and black inks only are acceptable (no markers or gel rollers). Math assignments must be done in pencil. All work must be neat and clearly legible and no doodling or extra artwork should be present.

Rev. 11.03