

GRADE EIGHT CURRICULUM GUIDE



This booklet contains an outline of the instructional goals in each curricular area for eighth 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 for eighth grade students is designed to assist Catholic School adolescents to develop a lasting mature relationship with Jesus Christ. The students explore the teachings and history of the Catholic faith in order to accept the challenge of true discipleship through shared study, prayer and action. Ministry service experiences at home, school and the outside community will be required. Doctrinal study, prayer and service prepare the students for an adult and individual affirmation of faith in the reception of the sacrament of confirmation. The major themes covered in the eighth grade religion program are the study of the New Testament, with particular focus on the person of Jesus Christ; worship, liturgy and the sacraments, particularly confirmation; and the history of the Catholic Church.

The following concepts and objectives are general outcomes of the eighth grade Religion program:

Confirmation

- List and explain each of the seven sacraments, focus on inward and outward signs, and ceremony surrounding each
- Explain in detail the sacrament of Confirmation
- Write an essay that explains individual reasons for receiving the sacrament of Confirmation
- Meet with a selected teacher mentor in two interviews to describe their preparation and readiness for the sacrament of Confirmation

- Write an essay of at least four pages which includes a biographic outline of a saint namesake, their reasons for selecting the particular saint, and ways in which they will emulate the saint
- Complete service ministry projects at home, school, and their community

Liturgy and Worship

- List and explain the parts of the Mass, the central action during each, and the historic traditions of each part
- Demonstrate an understanding of the paschal mystery of Christ's passion, death, resurrection and ascension
- Demonstrate an understanding of the liturgical calendar and seasons of the Church year
- Learn and explain the readings and prayers connected to each liturgical season
- Understand the historic context of the four gospels and their authors
- Understand the meaning in their own lives of "being called to be faithful followers of Christ"

Scripture

- Understand the structure and books of the New Testament
- Compare and contrast the Old and New Testaments
- Compare the writings of the Synoptic Gospels
- Understand the person of Jesus as revealed in the Gospels
- Understand the Gospels as a living Testament of faith rather than a history book

- Understand Scriptures so as to avoid fundamentalist interpretations of Catholic doctrine

History of the People of God

- Understand the events described in the Acts of the Apostles
- Understand the Acts as the first Chapter in the history of the Church
- Understand the ecumenical councils through two millennia as means to clarify doctrinal abuses and/or heresies
- Comprehend the history of the Catholic Church in the context of local/world events
- Explain the significance of ex cathedra proclamations of the Popes
- Explain various ex cathedra teachings throughout the 2000 year history of the Church
- Understand the significance of jubilee years

LANGUAGE ARTS/LITERATURE

Through the achievement of these language arts goals and standards, students will gain proficiency in the language skills that are basic to all learning, critical to success in the workplace, and essential to life as productive citizens.

English language arts include reading, writing, speaking, listening and the study of literature. In addition, students must be able to study, retain and use information from many sources. Through the study of the English language arts, students should be able to read fluently and understand a broad range of written materials. They must be able to communicate well and listen carefully and effectively. In the eighth grade language arts sequence, the students will learn the skills essential for effective communication, reading comprehension, language, vocabulary and study skills. They should develop a command of the language and demonstrate their knowledge through speaking and writing for a variety of audiences and purposes. As students progress, a structured study of literature will allow them to recognize universal themes and to compare styles and ideas across authors and eras.

The following concepts and objectives are general outcomes of the eighth grade language arts/literature program. Students will be able to:

Genres

- Compare, contrast and evaluate ideas and information from a variety of sources and genres
- Read and comprehend literature representative of a variety of societies, time periods and ideas
- Identify authors from a variety of genres
- Recognize ways authors use style to relate point of view
- Compare how authors use text in various ways to express ideas
- Evaluate how an author's tone influences text
- Evaluate the effectiveness of author technique
- Evaluate the author's purpose in a given work
- Interpret and analyze narrative text through story elements, point of view and theme
- Identify the primary characteristics of literary form
- Interpret a variety of literary works
- Recognize ways authors use syntax to relate point of view
- Evaluate how the author's point of view influences reading materials
- Recognize ways authors use word choices to relate point of view

Language Expressions & Mechanics

- Use correct grammar in all written homework and writing assignments
- Edit writing for noun forms
- Use correct subject-verb agreement
- Edit written work for correct use of pronouns
- Identify and use complete sentences

- Write grammatically correct, effective sentences
- Use correct sentence structure
- Identify run-on sentences and edit to form complete sentences
- Combine multiple complete sentences into one complete sentence
- Combine two sentences concisely and with clarity of meaning
- Spell and use words correctly
- Apply fundamental punctuation rules to written works
- Use correct punctuation in all written work
- Use capitalization correctly in all written work

Listening

- Recognize that certain distractions or barriers exist which can influence effective listening
- Listen attentively in both formal and informal presentations
- Follow multi-step directions given orally
- Demonstrate ways that listening attentively can improve understanding
- Compare a speaker's verbal and nonverbal messages

Reading Operations

- Apply reading strategies to improve fluency
- Read a wide variety of literary selections
- Display comprehension skills
- Read fluently
- Respond creatively in writing literature/reading selections
- Use prior knowledge to understand texts

- Respond to literature by forming personal connections
- Create a written response to reading materials that connects similar themes and ideas found in texts
- Understand the relationship between cause and effect
- Determine the main idea stated in a passage
- Draw conclusions about reading materials
- Make predictions about reading materials
- Make predictions from information in written material
- Distinguish between fact and opinion
- Analyze how characters deal with real-life situations
- Summarize content and connect to the purpose of the text
- Identify the theme of a given reading passage
- Make inferences from information in written material
- Explain how the development of theme, character, plot and setting add to the impact of literary works
- Identify story elements, such as setting, plot and characters
- Extend information beyond passage ideas while reading
- Recognize plot climax in reading selections
- Identify and analyze literary devices used in a variety of genres of classic literature
- Identify and analyze literary devices used in a variety of genres of modern literature
- Identify the order of events which occur within a reading selection
- Make generalizations about content and connect to the purpose of the text
- Use information to formulate, explain and support predictions while reading
- Evaluate and analyze information contained in a variety of sources

- Create visual images based on text descriptions in response to reading materials
- Evaluate the effectiveness and purpose of an author in a written response to reading
- Analyze character conflicts
- Analyze problem solving strategies of characters
- Write in response to literal questions from reading materials
- Write in response to reading materials in order to demonstrate a thorough understanding of text
- Create a written response that demonstrates understanding and use of reading strategies
- Create a written response that extends the use of information from documents and forms
- Create a written response that extends the meaning of reading materials to other contexts
- Create a written response that interprets information found in documents and forms
- Compare and contrast themes common to a variety of cultures
- Compare and contrast themes common to a variety of time periods

Speaking

- Speak effectively in a variety of situations
- Deliver a planned oral presentation, applying language and vocabulary appropriate to purpose, message, and audience; give supporting details and information that clarify the central idea, and apply visual aids and current technology to support the presentation
- Prepare and orally present original works supported by research
- Restate multiple step directions or instructions
- Use language appropriate for a given speaking situation
- Use appropriate language for a given audience
- Create strategies to manage or overcome communication anxiety and apprehension
- Use verbal and nonverbal communication techniques to maintain communication and resolve conflict
- Plan and produce group reports
- Plan and produce group multimedia projects

Study and Research Skills

- Make connections between information and ideas found in various sources
- Design, compose, edit, and revise documents, synthesizing new meaning gathered from a variety of sources
- Take notes, participate in interviews, organize, and present information in oral, visual and electronic formats
- Select information sources for independent, academic and functional purposes

- Analyze information sources for independent, academic, and functional purposes
- Interpret textual information and data displayed in visually formatted tables
- Plan a project based on contemporary issues using a variety of sources
- Identify primary sources in a research paper
- Cite various primary sources correctly in a written research paper

Technology

- Use available technology to create multimedia presentation for specific audiences

Vocabulary

- Read, identify and understand grade specific vocabulary words
- Apply a variety of vocabulary strategies
- Apply the use of vocabulary strategies to distinguish the meaning of words
- Use knowledge of word origins to understand content-specific words
- Analyze word meanings within context
- Analyze the meaning of a phrase within context
- Use word analysis skills while reading

Writing

- Write for a variety of purposes
- Communicate ideas in written works to achieve a variety of purposes
- Edit for correct use of adverbs and adjectives
- Edit and revise appropriately written works for word choice, organization, consistent viewpoint and paragraph transitions, using current technology and formats acceptable for submission and publication
- Write organized compositions that are coherent
- Write compositions with complete sentences, effective paragraphs and standard English conventions
- Use writing as a way to organize information
- Organize writing for a variety of audiences and purposes
- Use available technology to create written works for specific audiences
- Utilize a variety of writing strategies
- Write expository, descriptive, and narrative essays
- Identify correct sentence sequence
- Order ideas sequentially when writing
- Write to elaborate information
- Write with the intent to inform a specific audience
- Include relevant information in written works
- Edit written works for correct verb forms
- Edit written works for correct sentence structure
- Edit written works for capitalization errors
- Edit for correct use of punctuation
- Create a persuasive piece of writing which meets the needs of the intended audience
- Use transitional conjunctions in written works

- Use effective transitional words and phrases in written works
- Develop narrative compositions appropriate for specific audiences
- Select the best topic sentence for a given paragraph
- Use outlines as a prewriting strategy

Research Paper

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

MATHEMATICS

Mathematics is a language we use to identify, describe and investigate the patterns and challenges of everyday living. It helps us to understand the events that have occurred and to predict and prepare for events to come so that we can more fully understand our world and more successfully live in it.

Mathematics encompasses arithmetic, measurement, algebra, geometry, trigonometry, statistics, probability and other fields. It deals with numbers, quantities, shapes and data, as well as numerical relationships and operations. Confronting, understanding and solving problems are at the heart of mathematics. Mathematics is much more than a collection of concepts and skills; it is a way of approaching new challenges through investigating, reasoning, visualizing and problem solving with the goal of communicating the relationships observed and problems solved to others.

Eighth grade students will develop competency in algebraic concepts, geometry, functions, data representation and interpretation, measurement, number theory, percents, probability and statistics, trigonometry and graphing. Using the appropriate instruments, calculators, and computer software, students will make measurements, do calculations, use spreadsheets, create images and graph results.

The following concepts and objectives are general outcomes of the eighth grade math program:

Algebra

- Use the basic properties of commutative, associative, distributive, transitive, inverse, identity, zero, equality and order of operations to obtain solutions to problems
- Model and solve simple linear equations using concrete, informal and formal strategies
- Apply an understanding of the coordinate system to represent data as well as solve problems
- Define the elements of the coordinate system and graph of linear and polynomial equations
- Display, illustrate and relate to others a comprehension of operation concepts
- Represent and obtain solutions to problems through the application of algebraic concepts and procedures
- Apply algebraic and analytical strategies to determine and describe patterns and relationships in data, obtain solutions to problems and predict results
- Apply graphing technology and algebraic techniques to examine and predict linear relationships and make generalizations from linear patterns
- Obtain solutions to problems that involve linear expressions
- Obtain solutions to problems involving formulas
- Explain numerical relationships using variables
- Understand the basic concept of a variable as representing an unknown quantity

Data Analysis

- Organize data in appropriate table and graph form
- Choose the most suitable form and method of data display
- Analyze information presented in a variety of graphical forms

Geometry

- Draw or construct plane and solid figures including prisms, pyramids, cylinders and cones
- Study, categorize and draw conclusions about points, lines, planes and space using geometric strategies
- Apply the geometric ideas of symmetry, congruency, similarity, scale, perspective and angles to explain and examine plane and solid figures found in real-life applications
- Display and use geometric concepts involving points, lines, rays, planes and space
- Apply the ideas of planes, points and lines in one, two and three dimensions
- Make, develop and express logical arguments (informational proofs) about geometric shapes and patterns
- Recognize, explain, classify and compare plane and solid geometric shapes and models with respect to their properties
- Visualize and describe the outcome of folding geometric figures a variety of ways
- Develop and obtain solutions to problems by applying geometric models and relationships, with and without the application of technology

Measurement

- Apply physical and graphical models and suitable formulas to determine the perimeters, area, surface areas and volumes of plane and solid regions
- Calculate distances, lengths and measures of angles by applying proportions, the Pythagorean Theorem and its converse
- Estimate, create and apply measurements of objects, quantities and relationships, and identify acceptable levels of accuracy
- Display comprehension of measurement systems, units and instruments, through the descriptions, computations, or estimations of size, place and time
- Use the ideas and attributes of length, capacity, weight/mass, perimeter, area, volume, time, temperature and angle measures in practical scenarios
- Apply the ideas of perimeter, area, volume, capacity, weight and mass in displaying a comprehension of measurement systems, units and instruments
- Apply appropriate tools to measure length, capacity, weight/mass and angles
- Make comparisons of measurement methods
- Solve problems involving scale
- Understand the concept of scale in relation to a ratio in regards to a scale drawing
- Construct two and three dimensional scale models of common objects
- Accurately convert from one unit to within a measurement system
- Solve problems which require converting units of measurement between systems

Number Theory/Operations

- Display, illustrate and relate to others a comprehension of number and number relationships
- Display and use a knowledge and sense of numbers including numeration, operations, patterns, ratios and proportions
- Represent fractions, decimals, percents, exponents and scientific notation in an equivalent way
- Choose computational methods and obtain solutions to problems involving whole numbers, fractions, decimals, percents and proportions
- Demonstrate evidence that the results of computations involving whole numbers, fractions, decimals, percents and proportions are correct, and that approximations are reasonable
- Obtain solutions to problems using common factors and common multiples
- Understand the concepts of inequalities
- Use the properties of powers
- Use properties of perfect squares
- Solve proportion problems
- Propose problems that use proportions
- Identify prime numbers, multiples of prime numbers and composite numbers
- Use primes in obtaining a solution to a problem
- Apply factors and multiples in problem solving situations
- Recognize and use properties of real numbers, including pi, squares and square roots
- Make, study, continue and describe different patterns
- Apply patterns in describing numerical relationships
- Solve problems using number patterns

- Order a sequence of numbers which may include whole numbers, decimals, fractions, percents and integers
- Compute and estimate by applying strategies of mental math, paper and pencil, calculators and computers
- Obtain solutions to real-life computations

Probability/Statistics

- Make comparisons of the mean, median, mode and range of a given set of data, with and without the application of technology
- Evaluate bias, accuracy and validity of data in real-world situations
- Describe and evaluate data
- Evaluate the reasonableness of an argument based on given data and communicate the findings
- Make evaluations of conclusions and conjectures that may be drawn from a set of data
- Illustrate and analyze data, illustrate probability situations, relate trends and evaluate or create arguments founded on data
- Organize and represent data through the creation, reading and interpretation of tables, graphs (including circle graphs) and charts
- Develop an intuitive sense of the concepts of sampling and recognize its role in statistical claims
- Understand the concepts, processes and properties of statistics
- Gather, organize and study data using statistical methods

- Interpret a real-world problem situation and solve it using probability and statistic concepts
- Determine probabilities of events
 - Apply event probability
 - Identify the probability of a given situation
 - Interpret given data
 - Make predictions based on a given set of data
 - Describe event probability
- Find the odds of events by applying fundamental counting principles
- Demonstrate an understanding of combinations and permutations in problem solving situations
- Apply the idea of probability to interpret uncertainty

Problem Solving

- Apply appropriate strategies to solve problems, such as, make a chart or graph, make a simpler problem, work backwards, and break the problem into parts
- Apply suitable approximation methods in problem solving situations
- Investigate problems and express the nature of results by using a variety of different methods individually and as a member of a cooperative group
- Create problems, make evaluations of mathematical arguments, judge and make generalizations of solutions and justify answers and solution methods
- Explore, illustrate and obtain solutions to problems applying number facts, operations and their properties, algorithms and relationships
- Obtain solutions to problems by applying numeric, graphic or symbolic representations of variables, expressions, equations and inequalities

- Identify the information needed to solve a problem
- Verify solutions to problems
- Obtain solutions to non-routine problems
- Use linear functions to obtain solutions to problems
- Propose problems that use linear functions

Technology

- Choose and apply suitable instruments and software programs to obtain solutions, interpret results and communicate findings

SOCIAL STUDIES

In Social Studies, the goal is for all students to develop a deep, rich network of understandings related to the world around them. The objectives and competencies included in this curriculum deal with civics, economics, technology, political and cultural events, and geography.

In eighth grade, students are exposed to the history of the United States from Civil War times to the present day. The content builds upon earlier U.S. history studies, but provides more depth and breadth. The focus of the eighth grade social studies curriculum is the late nineteenth and twentieth centuries, the Presidents, and the role of the United States in world events after the Civil War. The civics and government section includes domestic and foreign policy, types of government, civil disobedience and volunteerism. Geography and economics are presented in the context of United States history. Eighth grade students will also use historical analysis skills to examine the roles of art, literature, media and technology in the development of the United States.

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

Civics and Government

The Civics and Government unit combines United States democratic principles, structure and historical documents with governmental systems found throughout the world.

- Recognize the limitations placed on state powers by the Constitution
- Understand the rationale for the division of power, as stated in the Constitution
- Compare and contrast an amendment to the United States Constitution and a United States law
- Define civil disobedience
- Name possible results of acts of civil disobedience
- Identify times when acts of civil disobedience may be justified
- Explain how the values and principles expressed in the Declaration of Independence affect other nations
- Compare and contrast arguments for the necessity of the political party system
- Explain the historical roles of special interest groups, such as unions, professional organizations and associations, in local, state, or national politics
- Identify key events of U.S. foreign policy from 1865-1900
- Assess how the United States is handling current foreign policy issues
- Name current examples of domestic policies
- Define federal government
- Describe characteristics of a parliamentary system
- Define federal government
- Identify the powers of the executive branch of government

- Identify the powers of the judicial branch of government
- Identify the powers of the legislative branch of government
- Describe the system of checks and balances between the executive, legislative and judicial branches of government
- Identify purposes of the Illinois state constitution
- Describe reasons for a state constitution
- Compare and contrast the Illinois State Constitution to the United States Constitution
- Recognize sources of revenue for the federal government
- Describe the meaning of the scope and limits of rights
- Defend opinions on issues involving citizens' personal rights
- Describe how historical experience has contributed to the shaping of American identity and society
- Describe the significance of freedom of the press in keeping Americans informed about the political system
- Explain how the values and principles expressed in the Bill of Rights affect other nations
- Assess the pros and cons of the adversary system
- Describe the concept of due process of law

Cultural Perspective

- Assess various opinions on the value and challenges of diversity in the United States
- Explain how contemporary American culture is influenced by the media

- Examine how news media, such as newspapers, magazines, commercial advertising, film and radio, enhanced popular world culture during the 20th century

Economics

- Demonstrate an understanding that all societies have developed economic systems in order to assign resources for production and distribution of goods and services
- Identify the Federal Reserve System as the organization that regulates money and banking in the United States
- Understand the distribution of wealth and resources throughout the world
- Examine factors contributing to economic disparities between industrialized nations and developing countries
- Define deflation, inflation, recession and depression
- Analyze economic changes that affect society
- Determine the social effects caused by economic conditions, such as unemployment
- Analyze how unemployment rises during a recession
- Explain how supply shows the relationship between product price and the quantity producers are willing to sell at that price
- Explain how demand shows the relationship between product price and the quantity people are willing to buy at that price

Geography

- Analyze how geographical concepts (e.g., climate) influence economic growth in the United States
- Examine reasons for the increasing world population growth rate

Historical Perspective

- Make generalizations regarding information presented in a chart or graph

Technological Developments

- Understand historical achievements in the areas of communication, math, science, transportation and technological inventions

Historical/Political/Cultural Events

- Review the key issues leading to the Civil War
- Analyze the importance of the Emancipation Proclamation
- Evaluate President Abraham Lincoln's policies in regard to the preservation of the Union and slavery
- Recognize the goals of Abolitionists
- Demonstrate an understanding of the issues surrounding voting rights during the postbellum era
- Understand the influence of women's roles in the reform movements during the postbellum era
- Know the outcome of the Civil War in human, material and future terms

- Compare and contrast the human and material resources of the North and the South sections of the United States in the postbellum era
- Demonstrate an awareness of the changes in African Americans' lives during the Reconstruction era
- Name changes in the social and political structures of the United States during the Reconstruction era
- Identify reasons for President Andrew Johnson's impeachment
- Demonstrate an understanding of the major political and historical contributions of the Presidents of the late 19th century – Ulysses S. Grant, Rutherford B. Hayes, James A. Garfield, Chester A. Arthur, Grover Cleveland, Benjamin Harrison, and William McKinley
- Evaluate the strategies of the Native Americans, including accommodation, revitalization and resistance
- Recognize key philosophical and social movements of the late 19th century and their effects on the nation
- Analyze how factories altered the worker's environment
- Evaluate the careers of business leaders during the Industrial Revolution
- Analyze America's response to the Industrial Revolution
- Analyze how the factory system, established during the Industrial Revolution, affected gender roles and the family
- Identify the cause and effect of labor conflicts during the Industrial Revolution
- Evaluate President Theodore Roosevelt's foreign policies

- Demonstrate an awareness of the issues surrounding the Progressive Movement
- Associate the role of the muckrakers with the Progressive Movement
- Analyze how individuals such as Presidents Roosevelt and Wilson impacted the Progressive Movement
- Trace the expansion of the war to become World War I
- Examine how the progression of World War I was impacted by the entrance of the United States
- Compare and contrast Taft's "Dollar Diplomacy" with Theodore Roosevelt's "Big Stick Diplomacy"
- Explain the leadership style of Herbert Hoover as a Depression-era President
- Analyze the attempts of the Hoover administration to reduce the extent of the Great Depression
- Explain the leadership style of Franklin D. Roosevelt as a Depression-era President
- Define Prohibition
- Analyze the role of the "speakeasies" in the 1920's
- Understand "bootlegging" during the 1920's
- Identify key leaders and personalities during the Great Depression, including Charles Lindbergh and Franklin Roosevelt
- Identify the effects of the Great Depression on specific groups of people, such as farmers, city workers and military veterans
- Analyze the importance and legacy of the New Deal
- Identify the effects of the New Deal on the labor movement
- Analyze how the weakness of the League of Nations contributed to the outbreak of World War II
- Understand issues surrounding World War II prior to U.S. intervention

- Demonstrate an understanding of U.S. international relations prior to its involvement in World War II
- Analyze how the progression of World War II was impacted by the entrance of the United States
- Explain the role of the United States in the United Nations
- Analyze the significance and efficacy of the United Nations in international policy making
- Examine Harry S. Truman's support of the civil rights movement during his presidency
- Examine Truman's foreign policy and the significance of the Korean War
- Demonstrate knowledge of the "Red Scare" and McCarthyism
- Describe the origins of the Cold War and the Iron Curtain
- Describe the role of the USSR in the origins of the Cold War
- Analyze the significance of atomic and nuclear weapons
- Determine how international tensions influenced the foreign policy of President Dwight D. Eisenhower
- Describe segregation and desegregation within the United States during the Civil Rights Movement
- Describe the role of Martin Luther King, Jr. during the civil rights movement
- Examine the impact of the Space Race, beginning with Sputnik, in 1957
- Describe President John F. Kennedy's political policies affecting the Vietnam War
- Analyze the involvement of the United States in the Vietnam War

- Demonstrate knowledge of American disillusionment with the Vietnam War
- Describe President Lyndon B. Johnson's political policies affecting the Vietnam War
- Compare and contrast the foreign policies of President John F. Kennedy and President Lyndon B. Johnson
- Identify President Richard Nixon's foreign policy toward the Soviet Union
- Identify President Richard Nixon's foreign policy toward the People's Republic of China
- Identify President Richard Nixon's political policies affecting the Vietnam War
- Examine the effect of Watergate on public opinion regarding the presidency, the federal government and the system of checks and balances
- Describe President James Carter's role in the Iranian hostage crisis situation
- Understand the significance of OPEC in international relations
- Examine President James Carter's presidency for successes and failures
- Identify the cause and effect of the War Powers Act of 1973
- Identify important domestic issues during Ronald Reagan's administration and how they were addressed
- Analyze how Ronald Reagan's presidency affected public perception of federal government
- Demonstrate an awareness of the Iran-Contra Affair that occurred during Ronald Reagan's presidency
- Demonstrate an understanding of some of the major domestic issues George Bush handled during his presidency

- Evaluate the advantages and disadvantages of U.S. involvement in the Persian Gulf War
- Demonstrate an understanding of the major foreign policies of the Clinton administration
- Evaluate the controversy surrounding the Bush/Gore Presidential elections
- Demonstrate an understanding of how acts of terrorism have affected the foreign and domestic policies of the Bush administration

SCIENCE

By applying scientific concepts to objects and situations that are familiar to them, students draw connections between what they learn in the classroom and what they find in their own lives.

Science is a creative endeavor of the human mind. It offers a special perspective of the natural world in terms of understanding and interaction. The aim of science education is to develop in learners a rich and full understanding of the inquiry process.

Eighth Grade emphasizes physical science – the third topic in a three-year cycle covering matter, energy, reactions, work, motion and force.

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

Physical Science

- Develop an understanding of light
- Develop an understanding of electricity
- Understand chemical reactions
- Describe how forces affect moving objects
- Develop an understanding of heat
- Explain the interactions of matter and energy including state changes and mass and energy conservation
- Explain physical properties of matter
- Model the chemical properties of matter
- Model the physical properties of matter

- Understand the relationship between force and motion
- Show the impact of forces on the motion of objects
- Comprehend the most pertinent ideas and principles of physical science
- Use understanding of physical science in experiments and real world situations
- Explain the chemical characteristics of matter
- Develop an understanding of energy and the various types of energy
- Use the metric system and understand how to measure distance, volume and mass

Scientific Research and Inquiry

- Gather and document data in an accurate manner utilizing consistent recording and measuring methods and media
- Interpret examples, both historical and present day, where the work of science has been impacted by valid and biased scientific practices
- Interpret measurements utilizing quantitative and representational techniques as well as data manipulation tools
- Develop an understanding of scientific inquiries
- Develop the skills necessary to perform scientific inquiries
- Perform investigations in which all but one variable are controlled
- Communicate the results of investigations, verbally as well as in written lab report form
- Create hypotheses that are able to be tested by gathering data
- Present the results of a scientific investigation

- Recognize conditions which may be unsafe before engaging in an activity
- Participate in a local science fair as part of the IJAS

Principles and Processes of Technological Design

- Be able to recognize a real design problem; determine criteria for establishing the success of a solution; sketch, suggest and compare possible solutions, taking into consideration accessible materials, instruments, cost effectiveness and safety; choose the most suitable design; create a prototype or simulation; test the prototype utilizing accessible materials, tools, and technology; record the data from the test; assess test results using the determined criteria; note sources of error and suggest improvements; utilizing accessible technology, present the relative success of the design on the basis of criteria and test results
- 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 information and 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
- Explain how individuals utilize science and technology in their careers
- Comprehend the most pertinent ideas and principles of science that effect society
- Recognize how the knowledge of science drives advances in technology
- Understand how science and technology relate to each other
- Recognize significant contributions of individual groups from different cultures to science and technology

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

FOREIGN LANGUAGE - SPANISH

The foreign language for eighth grade uses many learning strategies. Students will refine their listening skills with oral exercises. Writing and listening skills will be stressed at all times. Students will study culture and continue with the Catholic prayers and traditions that are incorporated in keeping with the religious nature of the school.

Goals in the eighth grade Spanish program are to:

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

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

- Introduce themselves and others
- Talk about what they want and need in the school
- Describe the contents of their room at home
- Talk about what they want to do and need to do
- Describe people and things, demonstrating adjective agreement
- Talk about things they like and explain why
- Use the verb "estar" to indicate the location of people and objects
- Describe a village or a school using drawings
- Use question words like what, where, when, etc.
- Build sentences with verb conjugation
- Identify numbers to one million
- Use numbers in daily events

- Use days and months in sentences
- Use time in conversation
- Tell time of the day when activities take place
- Develop questions
- Develop answers to any questions
- Use "ser" and "estar"
- Use weather expressions with "hacer" - hace frio, calor, viento, etc.
- Understand short stories from the book
- Follow instructions, given one step at a time
- Produce spoken language with almost accurate intonation and inflection
- Recognize cognates in full sentence structures
- Comprehend written classroom directions
- Use common forms of courtesy such as greetings and farewells appropriate to the time of day and relationship (adult, peer, parent)
- Identify one or more art forms representative of areas where the target language is spoken
- Describe the family using possessive adjectives
- Use subject pronouns "tu" and "yo"
- Express age
- Ask where a person is from
- Learn map locations of Spanish speaking countries
- Know indefinite articles (un and una)
- Make nouns plural
- Use subject pronouns (el and ella)
- Use definite articles (los and las)
- Tell time using "ser"
- Use present tense of all regular verbs (ar, er, and ir endings)
- Use "el" and "los" for days of the week
- Use verb "ir" conjugate with all pronouns

- Use "quien" and "quienes" full question and answer
- Use "Tener" idioms (to be hungry, thirsty, etc.)
- Ask and give directions using "estar"
- Explain what they are doing now (present progressive)
- Give formal commands (15 verbs)
- Start using past tense (talk about yesterday)
- Express feelings with "estar" expressions (to be sick, tired, happy, etc.)
- Recite the Our Father (in Spanish)
- Understand the elements of Hispanic Culture – music, dance, folk art, visual and drama

FINE ARTS - MUSIC

The eighth grade music program continues the in-depth study of the development of music – styles, composers, instruments, and notation – begun in the sixth grade. The eighth grade students also have an opportunity to apply their skills at two music productions – the Christmas program and the spring musical/play. The goal of these performances is to provide a venue in which the students work together to present a polished music production.

The students will be able to:

- Identify the starting and ending dates of music periods
- Relate historical events of each period with the music of the time, i.e. inventions, wars, social developments, and politics
- Identify the major composers of each period and their primary contributions
- Demonstrate an understanding of musical phrases, long and short
- Compose a series of short musical phrases
- Identify the use of repetition in music
- Follow a simple music score for varied instruments
- Compose and perform a composition which demonstrates form, instrumentation, repetition, dynamics and mood
- Diagram the form of a Minuet and Trio
- Distinguish between Tragic Opera and Comic Opera content
- Trace the role of the piano in music
- Identify the unique sound of each instrument in the orchestra

- Diagram the organization of the orchestra as it developed
- Identify major instrumentalists from each period in music
- Distinguish between classical, romantic, impressionistic and modern compositional styles
- Identify major career opportunities in the music field
- Perform at two school programs

FINE ARTS - ART

The eighth grade art program continues and expands on the skills and knowledge developed in previous years. The following concepts and objectives are general outcomes of the eighth grade Art program.

The students will be able to:

- Appreciate a wide variety of art styles – modern, impressionist, abstract, portrait, etc.
- Appreciate a wide variety of artists – modern, impressionist, abstract, portrait, etc.
- Use perspective to create their own art
- Compose their own personal art project
- Select the most appropriate media and tools to create their art
- Create unique, appealing and expressive art

HOMEWORK

Students in eighth grade should continue to read 30 minutes or more per night. In addition, written homework assignments will typically require about one hour and thirty minutes to complete; however, this may vary somewhat when long term projects are assigned. The 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.

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