



SAINT MARY
SCHOOL

Curriculum Guide
2025-2026



A Saint Mary Education: **An Education For Life**



A Saint Mary Education: An Education For Life

Saint Mary School is a Catholic school in the classical liberal arts tradition. We educate our children in the truest and fullest sense by giving them the necessary tools of learning and by fostering wonder and love for all that is genuinely true, good, and beautiful. We emphasize classical learning because we want our students to read well, speak well, and think well and ultimately because truth and beauty are good in themselves and desirable for their own sake. We seek to incorporate our students into the wisdom of two thousand years of Catholic thought, history, culture, and arts so that they might understand themselves and their world in the light of the truth and acquire the personal character to live happy and integrated lives in the service of God and others. The rich educational tradition of the Catholic church is the oldest and most successful educational system in the world. It has produced and continues to produce some of the greatest minds that ever lived. Education in this deep and comprehensive sense extends beyond the classroom and is more than the acquisition of skills. It encompasses and forms one's life.

Here at Saint Mary Jesus Christ is the bedrock on which everything else that we do is built. Prayer, religion class, Mass, service to others, and seasonal liturgical celebrations are as much a part of life and formation at Saint Mary as academics. We follow the call of Jesus "to go make disciples" through academic excellence and passionate and joyful adherence to the teachings of the Catholic Church using the disciplines of religion, history, and language as our foundation. Following a classical liberal arts philosophy our integrated curriculum follows the natural development of children and of history. Each of the core disciplines has its role to play in the building up of the whole and each has its own more specific set of objectives for the different stages at which it is being taught. Quite simply, at each stage there are things we want children to know, things they ought to be able to do, and habits, dispositions, or aptitudes they ought to have acquired or be acquiring. Teachers at each stage can see how one stage builds upon the previous stage and how their work contributes to the "finished product" of a well-formed and educated child.

The curriculum is divided into the following developmental and historical segments:

Lower Grammar Stage (soaking in the beginning of the foundations of knowledge)

- Kindergarten: The Cradle of Civilization year
- Grade 1: The Greek year
- Grade 2: The Roman year

Upper Grammar Stage (soaking in Knowledge, acquiring the foundations of learning, building a mental inventory)

- Grade 3: The Medieval year
- Grade 4: The Modern year
- Grade 5: The American year

Logic Stage (growing in understanding, making connections and distinctions between ideas, asking why and how)

- Grade 6: The Ancient year
- Grade 7: The Christendom year
- Grade 8: The New World Year

The Rhetoric Stage. Other than the middle school Honors program, we do not use this stage, which is developmentally appropriate for high school students.

Technology is used in all classrooms by both teachers and students. It supports our rich curriculum but does not supplant it. We are proud that our students can read, write, and express themselves through the written word. Each room is equipped with Promethean boards, students up to fifth grade can access I Pads, the computer lab, and middle school students are expected to bring their own laptops to class. We provide robotic experiences for our younger students through Snapology and all our middle school students take STEM yearly as part of their enrichment cycle.

Because we want our students to read well, speak well, and especially, think well we have incorporated Latin into our curriculum for all students. In the early years, our students learn to enjoy the language through songs and games and continue to develop their skills through more complex activities, vocabulary, and grammatical development until they are reading and expressing themselves in the language. Latin is learned in classical liberal arts schools not just for its linguistic superiority or that it is one of the foundational languages of Western Civilization, but because it trains the mind to think analytically. It builds effective communication skills through the understanding of its strong grammatical structure and the reality that most English words have their basis in Latin. Students who know Latin tend to excel academically in high school and are often quite successful in life. Our students use Song School Latin (grades K-2), Latin for children (grades 3-5), and Latin Alive! (grades 6-8). All are published by Classic Academic Press.

Although we are the first school in the Diocese of Trenton to be granted permission to follow a classical liberal arts curriculum, we are not alone. Two other schools are now following this philosophy and others are discussing it. This form of education was the format in all Catholic schools at all levels well into the twentieth century. With the demise of many orders of teaching nuns (who were all educated this way) and the standardization of textbooks and teacher training to match public school requirements it fell into disuse with disastrous results. Through the grace of God, Catholic schools in America and beyond are recapturing their deep educational roots and again using the gold standard of education which is classical Catholic liberal arts education. Across the country over two hundred (as of this writing) Catholic schools have adopted the classical liberal arts philosophy including several complete diocesan systems. It is possible that by the decade's end, most Catholic schools across the country will be classical liberal arts schools.

Why? Because it works.

For more information on Classical Catholic Liberal Arts education, we invite you to visit www.catholicliberaleducation.org. The wealth of information is worth the visit.

Kindergarten

Kindergarten is a transitional year from the play-based learning of Preschool and Pre-K to the expectations of elementary school. It is still a time of group activity, song and fun yet with an emphasis on the wonder of God's creation and of knowledge. The core subjects of Reading, Language, Math, and Religion are often integrated using the skills of one to strengthen the learning of the other subjects.

This is the beginning of the Grammar stage where the solid foundations of language, faith, and the sciences are laid. Our academic theme this year is Ancient Civilizations where our students will hear the stories and participate in activities related to this foundational time in world civilization.

LANGUAGE ARTS

In kindergarten the solid development of language skills is paramount. At this level students perfect their knowledge of the alphabet, not just through the writing of the letters and their use in simple words and sentences, but through the knowledge of the sounds letters make. Our teachers are trained in the Orton-Gillingham method of speech development and use these skills as they teach each letter. The result is students with a firm grasp of the sounds of English.

The Orton-Gillingham method is a multi-sensory approach to teach all components of language development. Lessons are prescriptive, diagnostic, and individualized. The senses are engaged simultaneously to create the neural network that students need to manipulate the components of language structure.

Phonics, spelling, reading skills, and comprehension are all taught through the *Super Kids* series produced by Zaner-Bloser.

Super Kids is our introductory reading program for students in Kindergarten and First Grade. Published by Zaner-Bloser, it incorporates all the language arts,



integrating and overlapping skills from unit to unit and from grade to grade. In kindergarten, students strengthen their alphabetical skills, and with the integration of Orton-Gillingham learn the correct pronunciation of each letter. They then apply their new skills to blend letter-sounds to read and write words and sentences. Reading focuses on developing strong blending, decoding, and fluency skills while building vocabulary and comprehension. Students learn basic mechanics and aspects of the writing process, as they become more comfortable and fluent in their language skills.

Our handwriting program is *Writing Our Catholic Faith* by Universal Publications. This handwriting series builds



on previously learned skills to help students continue to develop manuscript handwriting. Traceable words and sentences reinforce proper letter formation, letter and word spacing. Beautiful Catholic pictures and enjoyable activities keep students engaged in each lesson

RELIGION

Students are introduced to the beautiful fact that God loves them, and they are called to love one another. They are introduced to Jesus, Mary, the Church, the Saints, and the basic beliefs of Catholicism.

In addition, they join all students in daily prayer, weekly Mass, and age-appropriate devotions.

Our text is *Blest Are We* published by RCL Benziger

MATHEMATICS

Students, who were introduced to numbers in Pre-K, now use them to count to 100, and work on simple addition, subtraction, and word problems. They work with shapes as well, introducing them to the rudiments of geometry.

Our text is *Progress in Mathematics* published by Sadlier. *Progress in Mathematics* provides rigorous content focused on building deep conceptual understanding of key math skills and concepts at each grade level in an orderly, natural format.

SCIENCE

One of the beauties of Saint Mary School is the immense campus on which we are located. Our teachers take advantage of this by introducing their students to the beauties and wonder of God's creation through nature walks, material gathering, nature crafts and similar pursuits.

HISTORY

History, along with language and religion, are the foundational subjects of classical education. At this level students learn ancient history by listening to, discussing the stories, and doing related activities.

The text is *The Story of the World-volume 1: Ancient Times* published by Well Trained Mind Press. As we want students to strengthen their listening skills and powers of their imagination, only the teacher has the text used with an engaging and reinforcing activity book. This series is used through fourth grade.

In addition, each day students participate in either Latin, Art, Music, Gym, or Library.

First Grade

This is the continuation of the Grammar stage where the solid foundations of language, faith, and the sciences continue to be developed. Our academic theme this year is Ancient Greece where our students will hear the stories and participate in activities related to this formative time in world civilization.

LANGUAGE

In the grammar stage the solid development of language skills is paramount. In first grade, students continue to develop their knowledge and love of language through vocabulary, phonics, spelling, the beginnings of grammar and oral reading. They continue to develop their handwriting and comprehension skills in all areas of the curriculum.






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Phonics, spelling, reading skills, and comprehension are all taught through the *Super Kids* series produced by Zaner-Bloser. In first grade, students master more complex phonetic elements and learn to decode and encode structural patterns. Their fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension skills increase greatly as they read longer and more complex literary and informational texts. Students use the writing process to write narratives, informational texts, and opinion pieces.

Handwriting is *Writing Our Catholic Faith* by Universal Publications. This handwriting series builds on previously learned skills to help students continue to develop manuscript handwriting. Traceable words and sentences reinforce proper letter formation, letter and word spacing. Beautiful Catholic pictures and enjoyable activities keep students engaged in each lesson

RELIGION

Students are introduced to God the Father and are given an invitation to know, love, and trust Him and to learn his love story with us.

Text: *Our Heavenly Father* published by Ignatius Press

MATHEMATICS

Saint Mary's uses a traditional, sequential approach to mathematics instruction. This sequential approach emphasizes number sense, patterning, mental math, memorization, critical thinking, and grade appropriate algebraic reasoning, all integrated with problem solving and assessment. As a result, students learn, understand and are comfortable with using mathematics.

Our text is *Progress in Mathematics* published by Sadlier. *Progress in Mathematics* provides rigorous content focused on building deep conceptual understanding of key math skills and concepts at each grade level in an orderly, natural format.

SCIENCE

One of the beauties of Saint Mary School is the immense campus on which we are located. Our teachers take advantage of this by introducing



their students to the beauties and wonder of God's creation through nature walks, material gathering, nature crafts and similar pursuits.

HISTORY

History, along with language and religion, are the foundational subjects of classical education. At this level students learn ancient history by listening to, discussing the stories, and doing related activities.

The text is *The Story of the World-volume 1: Ancient Times* published by Well Trained Mind Press. As we want students to strengthen their listening skills and powers of their imagination, only the teacher has the text used with an engaging and reinforcing activity book. This series is used through fourth grade.

In addition, each day students participate in either Latin, Art, Music, Gym, or Library.

Second Grade

This is the continuation of the Grammar stage where the solid foundations of language, faith, and the sciences continue to be developed. Our academic theme this year is Ancient Rome where our students will hear the stories and participate in activities related to this foundational time in world civilization.

LANGUAGE

In the grammar stage the solid development of language skills is paramount. In second grade, students continue to develop their knowledge and love of language through vocabulary, phonics, spelling, the development of grammar and oral reading. They continue to develop their handwriting and comprehension skills through the materials in use.

Phonics, reading skills, and comprehension are all taught through the *Open Court* series produced by Macmillan. Open Court has been one of the best traditional reading series available and has been in publication for many years. This series builds upon the learning of previous years to strengthen language development. Through a systematic approach, students can develop critical reading and writing strategies and skills needed for success.

Our handwriting series is *Writing Our Catholic Faith* by Universal Publications. This handwriting series builds on previously learned skills to help students continue to develop manuscript handwriting. Traceable words and sentences reinforce proper letter formation, letter and word spacing. Students will make the transition from manuscript to cursive handwriting in third grade. Beautiful Catholic pictures and enjoyable activities keep students engaged in each lesson

Spelling Connections is published by Zaner-Bloser. This well-regarded spelling series follows a word study approach to teach spelling. By teaching common spelling patterns and using carefully curated words students learn the letter and sound combinations that they need to learn new words. As they learn how to recognize and anticipate syllable patterns, they can use them to “self-explain” how to apply these learned rules to words at their current grade level as well as to increasingly complex words.

RELIGION

In Second Grade students are preparing for First Reconciliation and First Communion.

Students fully participate in the prayer life of the school through daily prayers, weekly Mass, Penance, seasonal devotions, and social action practices.

Text: *Jesus Our Life* published by Ignatius Press

MATHEMATICS

Saint Mary’s uses a traditional, sequential approach to mathematics instruction. This sequential approach emphasizes number sense, patterning, mental math, memorization, critical thinking, and grade appropriate algebraic reasoning, all integrated with problem solving and assessment. As a result, students learn, understand and are comfortable with using mathematics.

Our text is *Progress in Mathematics: Grade 2* published by Sadlier press. *Progress in Mathematics* provides rigorous content focused on building deep conceptual understanding of key math skills and concepts at each grade level in an orderly, natural format.

HISTORY

History, along with language and religion, are the foundational subjects of classical education. At this level students learn ancient history by listening to, discussing the stories, and doing related activities.

Our text is *The Story of the World-volume 1: Ancient Times* published by Well Trained Mind Press. As we want students to strengthen their listening skills and powers of their imagination, only the teacher has the text used with an engaging and reinforcing activity book. This series is used through fourth grade.

In addition, each day students participate in either Latin, Art, Music, Gym, or Library.

Third Grade

Our students continue to develop their skills through the Grammar stage where the solid foundations of language, faith, and the sciences continue to be strengthened. Our academic theme this year is The Middle Ages where our

students will hear the stories and participate in activities related to this exciting time in world civilization.

LANGUAGE

In the grammar stage the solid development of language skills is paramount. In third grade, students continue to develop their knowledge and love of language through vocabulary, phonics, spelling, the development of grammar and oral reading. They continue to develop their handwriting and comprehension skills through the materials in use.

Reading and writing skills are taught through the *Open Court* series produced by Macmillan. *Open Court* has been one of the most successful traditional reading series available and has been in publication for many years. Phonics, reading skills, and comprehension are all taught through the *Open Court* series produced by Macmillan. *Open Court* has been one of the best traditional reading series available and has been in publication for many years. This series builds upon the learning of previous years to strengthen language development. Through a systematic approach, students develop critical reading and writing strategies and the skills needed for success.

Our handwriting series is *Writing Our Catholic Faith* by Universal Publications. In third grade *Writing our Catholic Faith* provides a brief review of manuscript handwriting before introducing the cursive alphabet. Catholic words, sentences, and pictures reinforce students' faith while they practice their handwriting. They review the manuscript alphabet and begin to learn cursive basic strokes, letters, joining, and numerals.

Spelling Connections is published by Zaner-Bloser. This well-regarded spelling series follows a word study approach to teach spelling. By teaching common spelling patterns and using carefully curated words students learn the letter and sound combinations that they need to learn new words. As they learn how to recognize and anticipate syllable patterns, they can use them to "self-explain" how to apply these learned rules to words at their current grade level as well as to increasingly complex words.



Grammar is taught through *Well Ordered Language* by Classic Academic Press. This book presents grammar in a clear, orderly way, while simultaneously seeking to cultivate a child's wonder of language by presenting instruction in the context of narrative and language, attractive illustrations, and samples taken from classic children's literature and poetry. Students will be able to identify the parts of a sentence and understand how words behave. The curriculum is designed for teachers and students to actively engage with each other and with the grammatical concepts in each lesson, using language skills-reading, writing, speaking, and listening - along with physical movement, songs, and chants. Through *Well Ordered Language's* unique, creative, and orderly method of analyzing the grammatical functions of the parts of speech, students will find the mastery of grammar achievable, meaningful, and delightful.

RELIGION

Students continue to develop their understanding of God's love and mercy through the Sacraments of Reconciliation and the Eucharist.



Students fully participate in the prayer life of the school through daily prayers, weekly Mass, Penance, seasonal devotions, and social action practices.

Our text is *Our Life with Jesus* - Ignatius Press

MATHEMATICS

Saint Mary's uses a traditional, sequential approach to mathematics instruction. This sequential approach emphasizes number sense, patterning, mental math, memorization, critical thinking, and grade appropriate algebraic reasoning, all integrated with problem solving and assessment. As a result, students learn, understand and are comfortable with using mathematics.

Our text is *Progress in Mathematics: Grade 3* Sadlier. *Progress in Mathematics* provides rigorous content focused on building deep conceptual understanding of key math skills and concepts at each grade level in an orderly, natural format.

SCIENCE

Our science program is *Science: A Closer Look* published by Macmillan/McGraw Hill. It offers students exciting

and engaging activities which promote curiosity and foster the development of science inquiry skills. Through a consistent and structured learning cycle, students confidently build upon their experiences to develop a lifelong understanding of science concepts.

HISTORY

History, along with language and religion, are the foundational subjects of classical education. At this level students learn ancient history by listening to, discussing the stories, and doing related activities.

Our text is *The Story of the World-volume 2: The Middle Ages*. Students develop listening and recall skills and participate in medieval projects while using an engaging and reinforcing activity book.

In addition, each day students participate in either Latin, Art, Music, Gym, or Library.

Fourth Grade

Our students continue to develop their skills through





the Grammar stage where the solid foundations of language, faith, and the sciences continue to be developed and strengthened. Our academic theme this year is Early Modern Times where our students will hear the stories and participate in activities related to this crucial era in history.

LANGUAGE

In the grammar stage the solid development of language skills is paramount. In fourth grade, students continue to develop their knowledge and love of language through vocabulary, phonics, spelling, the development of grammar and oral reading. They continue to develop their cursive handwriting and comprehension skills in all subject areas.

In Fourth Grade students are introduced to the novel. Using the techniques of the *Reading Side by Side* Reading Program, they learn how to decode words, develop fluency with synonyms and antonyms, the layout of a novel and a story parts, while learning critical reading and writing skills. The *Side-by-Side* Reading Program exposes all students to longer texts than they have previously experienced. As they are exposed to various genres of writing they will learn how to collect information from what they have read, interpret, and discuss that information, and then apply it. The result will be students who love reading and love reading critically.

Handwriting is *Writing Our Catholic Faith* by Universal Publications. Students continue to develop their cursive handwriting abilities during fourth grade, which they will use throughout life. Catholic words, sentences, and pictures reinforce students' faith while they practice their handwriting.

Spelling Connections is published by Zaner-Bloser. This well-regarded spelling series follows a word study approach to teach spelling. By teaching common spelling patterns and using carefully curated words students learn the letter and sound combinations that they need to learn unfamiliar words. As they learn how to recognize and anticipate syllable patterns,



they can use them to “self-explain” how to apply these learned rules to words at their current grade level as well as to increasingly complex words.

Grammar is taught through *Well Ordered Language* by Classic Academic Press. The curriculum presents grammar in a clear, orderly way, while simultaneously seeking to cultivate a child’s wonder of language by presenting instruction in the context of narrative and language, attractive illustrations, and samples taken from classic children’s literature and poetry. Students will be able to identify the parts of a sentence and understand how words behave. The curriculum is designed for teachers and students to actively engage with each other and with the grammatical concepts in each lesson, using language skills-reading, writing, speaking, diagramming, and listening – along with physical movement, songs, and chants. Through *Well Ordered Language*’s unique, creative, and orderly method of analyzing the grammatical functions of the parts of speech, students will find the mastery of grammar achievable, meaningful, and delightful.



RELIGION

Students delve deeper into the narrative of salvation history. They learn that Jesus is the fulfillment of the Old Testament promises.

Students fully participate in the prayer life of the school through daily prayers, weekly Mass, Penance, seasonal devotions, and social action practices.

Our text is Jesus our Guide by Ignatius Press

MATHEMATICS

Saint Mary's uses a traditional, sequential approach to mathematics instruction. This sequential approach emphasizes number sense, patterning, mental math, memorization, critical thinking, and grade appropriate algebraic reasoning, all integrated with problem solving and assessment. As a result, students learn, understand

and are comfortable with using mathematics.

Our text is *Progress in Mathematics: Grade 4*, published by Sadlier Press. *Progress in Mathematics* provides rigorous content focused on building deep conceptual understanding of key math skills and concepts at each grade level in an orderly, natural format.

HISTORY

History, along with language and religion, are the foundational subjects of classical education. At this level students learn ancient history by listening to, discussing the stories, and doing related activities.

Our text is *The Story of the World-volume 3: Early Modern Times*. Students develop listening and recall skills and participate in appropriate and engaging projects from the related Activity Book.

SCIENCE

Our science program is *Science: A Closer Look* published by Macmillan/McGraw Hill. It offers students exciting and engaging activities which promote curiosity and foster the development of science inquiry skills. Through a consistent and structured learning cycle, students confidently build upon their experiences to develop a lifelong understanding of science concepts.

SPECIALS

In addition, each day students participate in either Latin, Art, Music, Gym, or Library

Fifth Grade

Our students continue to develop their skills through the Grammar stage where the solid foundations of language, faith, and the sciences continue to be developed and strengthened. Our academic theme this year is The American year where our students will hear the stories and participate in activities related to the amazing story of this country. It is during fifth grade that our students begin the transition to middle school

by having electives and switching for a few classes.

LANGUAGE

In the grammar stage the solid development of language skills is paramount. In fifth grade, students continue to develop their knowledge and love of language through vocabulary, phonics, spelling, the use of grammar and of oral reading. They continue to develop their cursive handwriting abilities and comprehension skills in all subject areas.

In Fifth Grade students continue their relationship with the novel. Using the techniques of the *Reading Side by Side Reading Program*, they continue to develop their skills in decoding words, develop fluency with grammatical techniques, the layout of a novel, the parts of a story, and develop critical reading and writing skills. The *Side-by-Side Reading Program* exposes all students to longer texts than they have previously experienced. As they are exposed to various genres

of writing they will learn how to collect information from what they have read, interpret, and discuss that information, and then apply it. The result will be students who love reading and love reading critically.

Handwriting is *Writing our Catholic Faith* by Universal Publications. Students continue to develop their cursive handwriting abilities during fifth grade, which they will use throughout life. Catholic words, sentences, and pictures reinforce students' faith while they practice their handwriting.

Spelling Connections is published by Zaner-Bloser. This well-regarded spelling series follows a word study approach to teach spelling. By teaching common spelling patterns and using carefully curated words students learn the letter and sound combinations that they need to learn new words. As they learn how to recognize and anticipate syllable patterns, they can use them to "self-explain" how to apply these learned rules to words at their current





grade level as well as to increasingly complex words.

Grammar is taught through *Well Ordered Language* by Classic Academic Press. Students will continue to master grammar, analyze, and diagram sentences to understand increasingly complicated examples. The curriculum presents grammar in a clear, orderly way,

while simultaneously seeking to cultivate a child's wonder of language by presenting instruction in the context of narrative and language, attractive illustrations, and samples taken from classic children's literature and poetry. Students will be able to identify the parts of a sentence and understand how words behave. The curriculum is designed for teachers and students

to actively engage with each other and with the grammatical concepts in each lesson, using language skills-reading, writing, speaking, and listening – along with physical movement, songs, and chants. Through *Well Ordered Language's* unique, creative, and orderly method of analyzing the grammatical functions of the parts of speech, students will find the mastery of grammar achievable, meaningful, and delightful.

RELIGION

During this year, students study The Creed as they understand they need to stand firm in their faith.

Students fully participate in the prayer life of the school through daily prayers, weekly Mass, Penance, seasonal devotions, and social action practices.

Our text is *Credo: I Believe* – Ignatius Press

MATHEMATICS

Saint Mary's uses a traditional, sequential approach to mathematics instruction. This sequential approach emphasizes number sense, patterning, mental math, memorization, critical thinking, and grade appropriate algebraic reasoning, all integrated with problem solving and assessment. As a result, students learn, understand and are comfortable with using mathematics.

Our text is *Progress in Mathematics: Grade 5* published by Sadlier Press. *Progress in Mathematics* provides rigorous content focused on building deep conceptual understanding of key math skills and concepts at each grade level in an orderly, natural format.

SCIENCE

Our science program is *Science: A Closer Look* published by Macmillan/McGraw Hill. It offers students exciting and engaging activities which promote curiosity and foster the development of science inquiry skills. Through a consistent and structured learning cycle, students confidently build upon their experiences to develop a lifelong understanding of science concepts.

HISTORY

History, along with language and religion, are the foundational subjects of classical education. At this level students learn American history by listening to, discussing the stories, and doing related activities.

Our text is *From Sea to Shining Sea* which is produced by the Catholic Textbook Project and published by RCL Benziger. The books of the Catholic Textbook Project are the first textbooks written since the 1960's that tell the entire story of history including the tremendous part the Catholic Church has had in the development of western Civilization, including that of American civilization. While telling the truth they continue to inspire wonder in the students who use them as the great drama of history unfolds before them.

SCIENCE

Our science program is *Science: A Closer Look* published by Macmillan/McGraw Hill. It offers students exciting and engaging activities which promote curiosity and foster the development of science inquiry skills. Through a consistent and structured learning cycle, students confidently build upon their experiences to develop a lifelong understanding of science concepts.

In addition, each day students participate in either Latin, Art, Music, Gym, or Library.

Sixth Grade

At Saint Mary School sixth grade is the beginning of Middle School and a change from the Grammar Stage to the Logic Stage. While the skills taught during the Grammar Stage are used, new skills are developed that correspond to the developmental growth of the students from children into pre-adolescence.

The Logic Stage is where our students grow deeper in the understanding of what they are learning. They also begin to ask deeper questions through Socratic questioning and make connections and make distinctions

of opposing ideas through the Socratic Seminar. The practice of Socratic Seminar and of Socratic Questioning are ancient pedagogical techniques that develop deep knowledge and understanding of what is being learned and discussed. Students deepen their ability to discuss and present their findings in a more mature and professional way.

At this stage we vary from the classic liberal arts format of self-contained rooms to a middle school model. Although our teaching methods are classical, we believe the experience of multiple educators and viewpoints to be of value. The sixth grade is historically the ancient year.

LANGUAGE

Students continue to develop their ability to comprehend, analyze, and critique novels. Several novels of a classical nature are chosen by the teacher for use during the year that relate to the historic theme of the year. Students discuss the

novels being read in a Socratic Seminar format.

In addition, teachers may refer to *Voyages in English* published by Loyola Press for literary grammatical support. *Voyages in English* teaches grammar and writing as essential and related skills, presenting concepts in a balanced approach that empowers students to become effective readers, writers, speakers, listeners, and thinkers. The series promotes instruction in and application of the seven traits necessary for high-quality writing: idea development, organization, word choice, voice, sentence fluency, conventions, and presentation. The practice of research and report writing is introduced with presentations made by students regularly.

MATHEMATICS

In sixth grade students use "*6th GRADE MATH*" published by Holt- McDonald. While continuing to strengthen their arithmetic skills, students begin to use and understand fractions within word problems,







$$x + 2y = -6$$
$$2x + y = -6$$
$$x + 2y = -3$$

$$-12$$
$$-4$$
$$+9$$



decimals, the conversion of one to the other, graphing, and other higher order mathematical skills.

HISTORY

This is the ancient year, and students make use of *ALL YE LANDS* as their textbook. This series is produced by the Catholic Textbook Project and published by RCL Benziger. The books of the Catholic Textbook Project are the first textbooks written since the 1960's that tell the entire story of history including the tremendous part the Catholic Church has had in the development of western Civilization, including that of America. While telling the truth they continue to inspire wonder in the students who use them as the great drama of history unfolds before them.

All Ye Lands takes students on a journey through world history and cultures from prehistory through the Greeks, the rise of Christianity, up through the Middle Ages, as well as developments in China, Japan, Russia, Europe, and Africa. Told as a series of historically accurate stories the textbook includes thumbnail biographies, lives of the saints, maps, and illustrations, providing students with the necessary standard historical knowledge, while also giving credit to the contributions of the Catholic Church. Also, students hone their geography skills with vivid color photos, drawings, and maps.

SCIENCE

The study of science at the middle school level is an integration of earth, life, and physical science taught each year at deepening levels. The teachers use text, power points, videos, experiments, demonstrations, and student made projects in their teaching. This integration allows the students to see the connectedness of life at all levels and makes mastery of the concepts easy.

The textbooks used are *Elevate Science courses 1,2, and Life* published by Saavas Publications.

RELIGION

Students discuss and learn the aspects of Catholic Morality through study of the Ten



Commandments and the Beatitudes. In addition, the Holy Mass is studied extensively.

Our textbook is *Following Christ* by Ignatius Press.

Student involvement in the spiritual life of the school is strong with participation in daily prayers, weekly Mass, monthly confession, seasonal devotional practices, and service to others. During middle school students actively participate in the Mass as readers, servers, cantors and may lead morning prayers for the school.

ENRICHMENT

In middle school students participate in "electives." These are chosen to heighten their cognitive abilities and academic curiosities. Each trimester they change electives. The current selections are Computer Science,

Theology/Financial Literacy (taught on alternating days), Philosophy, and Writing & Rhetoric.

SPECIALS

In addition, each day students participate in physical education, Latin, Music, and Art.

Seventh Grade

At this stage we vary from the classic liberal arts format of self-contained rooms to a middle school model. Although our teaching methods are classical, we believe the experience of multiple educators and viewpoints to be of value. The seventh grade is the Christendom year when they study the history of Christian Civilization from the Roman times to the beginning of the Industrial Revolution.

LANGUAGE

Students continue to develop their ability to comprehend, analyze, and critique novels. Several classical novels are chosen by the teacher for use during the year that relate to the historic theme of the year. Students discuss the novels being read in a Socratic Seminar format.

In addition, teachers may refer to *Voyages in English* published by Loyola Press for grammatical support. The practice of research and report writing is introduced with presentations made by students regularly. *Voyages in English* teaches grammar and writing as essential and related skills, presenting concepts in a balanced approach that empowers students to become effective readers, writers, speakers, listeners, and thinkers.

The series promotes instruction in and application of the seven traits necessary for high-quality writing: idea development, organization, word choice, voice, sentence fluency, conventions, and presentation. The practice of research and report writing is introduced with presentations made by students regularly.

For students who have a greater love and understanding of literature we have Honors English. To be in this course students must have high grades in sixth grade Language

and test into the class. They will not only read and study great works of literature, but they will do so from a philosophical, theological, and cultural perspective.

MATHEMATICS

In seventh grade, students can choose two mathematics courses, based on their abilities. A student may be in the regular math class or Honors Math. Students in the regular math program study *Pre-Algebra* which prepares them for the discipline of Algebra. Those in the Honors Math program study *Algebra I*.

HISTORY

During this year students have an in-depth study of Christian Civilization, primarily as it developed in Europe. Their study takes them from the Catacombs to the Christianization of Europe, the Rise of Islam, The Middle Ages, the Crusades, the Reformation and up to the start of the Industrial Revolution.

Our text is *LIGHT TO THE NATIONS* which is produced by the Catholic Textbook Project and published by RCL Benziger. The books of the Catholic Textbook Project are the first textbooks written since the 1960's that tell the entire story of history including the tremendous part the Catholic Church has had in the development of western Civilization, including that of America. While telling the truth they continue to inspire wonder in the students who use them as the great drama of history unfolds before them.

SCIENCE

The study of science at the middle school level is an integration of earth, life, and physical science taught each year at deepening levels. The teachers use text, power points, videos, experiments, demonstrations, and student made projects in their teaching. This integration allows the students to see the connectedness of life at all levels and makes mastery of the concepts easy.

The textbooks used are Elevate Science courses 1,2, and Life published by Saavas Publications.

RELIGION

Students in seventh grade study the seven sacraments and Salvation History.

Our textbook is *The Life of Grace*- Ignatius Press.

Student involvement in the spiritual life of the school is strong with participation in daily prayers, weekly Mass, monthly confession, seasonal devotional practices, and service to others. During middle school students actively participate in the Mass as readers, servers, cantors and may lead morning prayers for the school.

ENRICHMENT

In middle school students participate in "electives." These are chosen to heighten their cognitive abilities and academic curiosities. Each trimester they change electives. The current selections are Computer Science, Theology/Financial Literacy (taught on alternating days) Philosophy, and Writing & Rhetoric.

SPECIALS

In addition, each day students participate in physical education, Latin, Music, and Art.

Eighth Grade

At this stage we vary from the classic liberal arts format of self-contained rooms to a middle school model. Although our teaching methods are classical, we believe the experience of multiple educators and viewpoints to be of value. The eighth grade is the American year when they study the history, literature, and world contributions of the United States.

LANGUAGE

Students continue to develop their ability to comprehend, analyze, and critique novels. Several classical novels are chosen by the teacher for use during the year that relate to the historic theme of the year. Students discuss the novels being read in a Socratic Seminar format.

In addition, teachers may refer to *Voyages in English*

published by Loyola Press for grammatical support. The practice of research and report writing is introduced with presentations made by students regularly. *Voyages in English* teaches grammar and writing as essential and related skills, presenting concepts in a balanced approach that empowers students to become effective readers, writers, speakers, listeners, and thinkers.

The series promotes instruction in and application of the seven traits necessary for high-quality writing: idea development, organization, word choice, voice, sentence fluency, conventions, and presentation. The practice of research and report writing is introduced with presentations made by students regularly.

For students who have a greater love and understanding of literature we have Honors English. To be in this course students must have high English grades in seventh grade and test into the class. They will not only read and study great works of literature, but they will do so from a philosophical, theological, and cultural perspective.

MATHEMATICS

In eighth grade, students can choose two mathematics courses, based on their abilities. A student may be in the regular math class or Honors Math. Students in the regular math program study *Algebra I*.

Those in the Honors Math program study *Algebra II* and, depending on how the class progresses, may be introduced to high school *Geometry*.

HISTORY

During this year students participate in an in-depth study of the history of the United States. Their study takes them from the Explorers to the establishment of the various colonies, the American Revolution, Expansion, The Civil War, the Twentieth Century up to the beginning of the new Millenium. *The American Venture* is our text which is produced by the Catholic Textbook Project and published by RCL Benziger. The books of the Catholic Textbook Project are the first textbooks written since the 1960's that tell the entire story of history including the tremendous part the Catholic Church has had in



the development of western Civilization, including that of America. While telling the truth they continue to inspire wonder in the students who use them as the great drama of history unfolds before them.

SCIENCE

The study of science at the middle school level is an integration of earth, life, and physical science taught each year at deepening levels. The teachers use text, power points, videos, experiments, demonstrations, and student made projects in their teaching. This integration allows the students to see the connectedness of life at all levels and makes mastery of the concepts easy.

The textbooks used are *Elevate Science courses 1, 2, and Life* published by Saavas Publications.

RELIGION

Students in the eighth-grade study the Church and our call to holiness through virtue, works of mercy, vocation, and social justice. Students also begin their in-depth preparation for the Sacrament of

Confirmation which will be conferred in ninth grade.

Our textbook: *Our Life in the Church*- Ignatius Press.

Student involvement in the spiritual life of the school is strong with participation in daily prayers, weekly Mass, monthly confession, seasonal devotional practices, and service to others. During middle school students actively participate in the Mass as readers, servers, cantors and may lead morning prayers for the school.

ENRICHMENT

In middle school students participate in "electives." These are chosen to heighten their cognitive abilities and academic curiosities. Each trimester they change electives. The current selections are Computer Science, Theology/Financial Literacy (taught on alternating days), Philosophy, and Writing & Rhetoric.

SPECIALS

In addition, each day students participate in physical education, Latin, Music, and Art.



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