

2018 - 2019
St. Joseph Catholic Academy
Middle School
CURRICULUM HANDBOOK
Grades 6 - 8



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MISSION STATEMENT

Centered in Christ, St. Joseph Catholic Academy builds scholars, leaders and stewards who will transform the world.

St. Joseph Catholic Academy will have achieved its mission when graduates leave the Academy as

Scholars

- having become lifelong learners and seekers of knowledge;
- having experienced a learning environment characterized by high expectations and respect for academic honesty and excellence;
- having completed a rigorous academic program which in content and presentation has prepared them for college admission and matriculation;
- having developed the ability to think and read critically and to express themselves clearly through both spoken and written word; and
- having a working knowledge of current technology and research skills.

Leaders

- having developed an attitude of compassion, justice, and respect for all people, regardless of age, gender, race, culture, religion, talent, ability or socio-economic status;
- having become participatory, responsible, concerned citizens;
- having developed habits and practices which allow them to make choices that encourage and foster a healthy lifestyle;
- having developed leadership and social skills; and
- having learned appropriate characteristics of sportsmanship.

Stewards

- having nurtured their Catholic faith through religious instruction and opportunities for prayer and reflection;
- incorporating Christian morality into all aspects of their daily lives;
- willing and able to respond to God's call to lead lives of loving service to the world around them; and
- having developed a respect and appreciation for life in all of its forms.

Note from the Director of the Middle School ...

“Without confidence and love, there can be no true education.” St. John Bosco

These words of St. John Bosco succinctly summarize my philosophy of Catholic education. No curriculum - no matter how definitively, specifically or rigorously prepared - will have the ability to positively influence the life of a young person unless delivered within a context and culture that helps them grow in confidence and wisdom, and ensures that they feel valued, safe and loved.

Such is the culture that we embrace and nurture here at St. Joseph Catholic Academy. At SJCA, our education develops the whole child - mind, body and spirit. Our academic curriculum is designed with rigorous standards and high expectations for *every child*. A wide variety of co-curricular opportunities - both within and outside the school day - promote an environment of exploration and discovery. Moral character development and spiritual growth is an essential and vital element of all that we do, interwoven into the very fabric of how we educate. Jesus, the Master Teacher, is our model and guide.

I can assure you that with full engagement in our middle school community, your children will be challenged to become their very best selves. They will develop habits of success, an appreciation for their unique gifts and talents, and an ability to recognize and acknowledge areas in which they need to bring specific focus. Most importantly, they will gain a deeper understanding of what it means to use their God-gifted abilities to reach their goals, as well as affect meaningful change in our world.

Catholic education has the power and ability to transform lives. We are privileged to participate in this life-changing work.

In the peace of Christ,

Wanda Jaraczewski
Director - SJCA Middle School

CURRICULUM HANDBOOK

The 2018-2019 Curriculum Handbook provides a summary of the academic offerings and policies that apply to students at St. Joseph Catholic Academy Middle School. Please read the contents for important policies, graduation requirements, and course descriptions. Spend time reflecting on your abilities, interests, and goals for the future, and how those align with our expectations for all SJCA students. The staff at St. Joseph Catholic Academy is here to assist you in meeting your goals in all facets of your life.

ADMISSION/REGISTRATION PROCEDURES

St. Joseph Catholic Academy is a co-educational, comprehensive Catholic school affiliated with the Archdiocese of Milwaukee which accepts students of any race, color, national or ethnic origin, or financial situation. St. Joseph Catholic Academy does not discriminate on the basis of gender, race, color, national or ethnic origin, in the administration of any academic policies, financial aid, athletic or other school administered programs.

FINANCIAL AID

Forms are available online or in the Business Office. Please contact our Director of Finance, Mrs. Jean Fredrickson.

SCHEDULING for the 2018-2019 SCHOOL YEAR

SJCA Upper Campus will utilize a two semester, four quarter schedule, with a seven period day. School will begin at 7:50 a.m. and end at 3:00 p.m. Each class period will be 50 minutes long. Lunch will be 25 minutes, followed by a 25 minute period for homerooms. Every Wednesday will be early release at 2:15 p.m.

Wheel/Elective Rotation Schedule - Physical Education, Fine Arts and Electives

A wheel/rotation sequence is developed for each middle school grade level for one period of the day. This rotation is anchored by physical education classes that alternate with a student's wheel elective. BLUE and GOLD days help students remember what class they attend. Each day, half of the grade level will participate in their Phy Ed class and the other half will be in their elective classes. The following day, the student's wheel period flips. For example, on BLUE days, groups A and B will be in Phy Ed while group C is in World Language and group D is in Art. On GOLD days, groups C and D are in Phy Ed, while group A is in World Language and group B is in Art.

Elective offerings for middle school students will vary year to year based on teacher expertise. Previous wheel electives have included Art, Intro to World Languages (Italian, Greek and Latin), Engineering, Spanish, Italian, Brain Power and Music Appreciation.

REGISTRATION AND ADMISSIONS PROCESS

Registration for the following academic year begins in January. Although students may register after that time, they may not have the same course selections or financial aid opportunities as those who register early in the process. Some courses may be filled and, therefore, unavailable.

INCOMING 6th, 7th & 8th GRADERS FROM WITHIN SJCA MUST PROVIDE:

1. Updated health, immunization records, and emergency information.
2. Completed registration forms, including an updated Family Profile Form.
3. Submit a non refundable registration fee of \$100, which will be applied toward tuition.

STUDENTS REQUESTING ADMISSION INTO SJCA MUST:

1. Be in good standing with at least a **C** average (2.0 GPA) and no significant attendance or disciplinary problems. Under no circumstances will St. Joseph Catholic Academy accept a student who has been expelled from another school. Final acceptance will not be validated until all records of the student are verified.
2. Submit transcripts and all records from the school last attended, including the physical exam form, and health records.
3. Complete the 2018-2019 SJCA Admissions Application and all other required forms.
4. Remit a non refundable application fee of \$100, which will be applied toward tuition.

STUDENT SERVICES/LEARNING RESOURCE CENTER

St. Joseph Catholic Academy has high expectations and standards for all admitted students. Some students will require additional support and assistance to achieve their academic and personal goals. During the admissions process, a previously written IEP, 504, or accommodation plan is evaluated and considered in light of the resources available at St. Joseph Catholic Academy. Though St. Joseph Catholic Academy is not legally bound to adhere to previously written IEP or 504 plans, every attempt is made to provide reasonable support and accommodations to all admitted students.

COURSE INFORMATION & SCHEDULING PROCEDURES

1. The course load for all students is 7.25 credits each year.
2. At the middle school level, math placement is based on teacher recommendation. The recommendation is based on a variety of factors, including previous math grades, standardized test scores, and the maturity and work habits of the student.
3. The school reserves the right to change or cancel any course in the curriculum in order to best serve the needs of our enrolled students.
4. Requests from a student or parent for a specific teacher will not be honored.
5. **Failures and Make-ups**

If a student fails a required course, credit recovery work must be completed. The failure grade will stand, but the student will receive the course recovery credit. This applies to all required courses, including Theology and Physical Education. If a student fails an elective course, a substitute course must be taken in summer school. Arrangements for all make-up courses must be made in consultation with the Learning Support Specialist. Approval is required in advance. **Make-ups must be complete and transcripts/grades must be received no later than the 2nd Monday in August of the upcoming school year.**

ACADEMIC EVALUATION

- Each student's grade point average (GPA) is calculated each quarter. The GPA is the average number of grade points per credit.
- It is the semester grade (1st and 2nd quarter for semester one, and 3rd and 4th quarter for semester two) that determines if a student has successfully completed the course.

The following marking system is utilized by St. Joseph Catholic Academy-Middle School:

Grade	Numerical	Points	Meaning
A+	97 & Above	4.0	Exceptional or (Advanced*)
A	93 – 96	4.0	
A-	90 – 92	3.67	
B+	87 – 89	3.33	Above Average or (Proficient*)
B	83 – 86	3.0	
B-	80 – 82	2.67	
C+	77 – 79	2.33	Average or (Basic*)
C	73 – 76	2.0	
C-	70 – 72	1.67	
D+	67 – 69	1.33	Below Average or (Minimal)
D	63 – 66	1.0	
D-	60 – 62	.67	

			Performance*)
F	59 or below	o	No Credit or Failing

WI DPI classifications are marked with an “*”. The meaning of these standards are as follows:

- Advanced: Demonstrates exemplary understanding and application.
- Proficient: Demonstrates consistent understanding and application.
- Basic: Demonstrates a general understanding, but an inconsistent application of the information.
- Minimal: Demonstrates insufficient understanding of key concepts and skills.

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT RECOGNITION

The administration and staff of St. Joseph Catholic Academy promote academic excellence and encourage students to strive toward this goal. The Honor Roll is a special recognition program for students who earn and maintain high levels of achievement.

HONOR ROLL

The Honor Roll is based on the quarter grading period GPA as follows:

- 1st Honors: 3.5 – 4.0
- 2nd Honors: 3.0 – 3.49

St. Joseph Catholic Academy understands that the skills and habits developed in Middle School are not only indicators of High School achievement, but also directly impact college success. Thus, the St. Joseph Catholic Academy Middle School focuses not just on the academic skills necessary for future success, but also on the specific habits that lead to independent, purposeful learning.

ACADEMIC EXPECTATIONS

Students desiring academic success must practice the following general expectations. On the first day of class, each teacher will make known additional or specific expectations in his/her class. **Students will be successful at St. Joseph Catholic Academy if they:**

- Attend all classes. When a pattern of excessive absences develops, parents will be notified as part of an effort to correct the situation. Continued absenteeism may impact the student’s grades.
- Have proper equipment and materials with them for each class.
- Demonstrate active, constructive participation in class activities.
- Turn in assignments on time with legible penmanship, correct grammar, and spelling.

MIDDLE SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

To receive a St. Joseph Catholic Academy diploma, a middle school student must successfully complete the following:

Required Courses

- Language Arts – 3 credits
- Writing - 3 credits
- Math – 3 credits
- Theology – 3 credits
- Science – 3 credits
- Social Studies – 3 credits
- Physical Education – 1.5 credits (Minimum of .5 credit in each grade)
- Fine Arts/Electives - 1.5 credits
- J-Term – .75 credits

Note: Only those students who have earned the required number of credits by Graduation Day may participate in the graduation ceremony. All financial and disciplinary obligations to the school must be satisfied prior to the student's diploma being awarded.

J-Term

J-Term is a unique learning session that ignites curiosity and inspires creativity. During J-Term, our students immerse themselves in courses that are deliberately experiential, giving them time and freedom to explore topics outside of our normal college preparatory curriculum.

Specifically identified as a "powerful practice" by our AdvancEd accreditation team, J-Term provides our students with a distinctive opportunity that helps reveal talents, gifts, potential and passions.

J-Term is generally scheduled for a two week period between our first and second semesters. In addition to a wide variety of course offerings, SJCA students are able to participate in grade level retreats during this time. Juniors and seniors also have the opportunity to schedule internships in the community.

CREDITS NEEDED	6 TH GRADE	7 TH GRADE	8 TH GRADE
English (3.0)	Language Arts 6	Language Arts 7	Language Arts 8

Writing (3.0)	Writing 6	Writing 7	Writing 8
Math (3.0)	Math 6	Math 7 Pre-Algebra 7*	Pre-Algebra 8 Algebra 1*
Science (3.0)	Earth Science	Life Science	Physical Science
Social Studies (3.0)	World GeoHistory 6	Civics/Economics 7	Early US History 8
Theology (3.0)	Theology 6	Theology 7	Theology 8
Physical Ed. (1.5)	PE 6	PE 7	PE 8
Fine Arts/Electives (1.5)	Fine Arts and elective offerings will vary each year. These courses are part of the wheel rotation. Previous offerings have included Art, World Languages, Brain Power, Engineering and Technology.		
J-Term (.25)	Required	Required	Required
Total Credits:	7.25	7.25	7.25

* *Course enrollment based on Teacher Recommendation.*

GUIDANCE DEPARTMENT

Mission Statement

The Guidance Department of St. Joseph Catholic Academy sees each student as a unique individual gifted with special talents. It is our mission to assist each student in discovering him/herself, understanding his/her relationships with others, and achieving his/her potential. We aim to provide students with the necessary resources to develop decision-making skills with regard to his/her own learning, as well as his/her personal, social, and career developmental needs.

St. Joseph Catholic Academy Guidance Department will:

- Provide assistance to students in understanding the school curriculum and the impact course selection will have on future plans.
- Provide an environment that promotes positive self-esteem in students.
- Provide information for resources in the community to address issues of wellness, prevention, career development, and crisis intervention needs.
- Provide classroom instruction in Naviance, a state-of-the art career and college planning tool.
- Provide academic support in collaboration with teachers, parents, and students to ensure student success.

LEARNING SUPPORT DEPARTMENT

Mission Statement

The Learning Resource Department of St. Joseph Catholic Academy assists students with special learning needs to reach their full academic potential by working closely with students, parents, and teachers. The Learning Support teacher helps students achieve success in school, learn to self-advocate, and develop post-secondary goals.

Goals

1. Provide a Catholic/Christian learning environment in which students feel welcomed, accepted, and appreciated.
2. Provide and coordinate with other classroom teachers feasible modifications and accommodations to the student's learning program and assessments.
3. Provide the student with insights into their strengths, talents, and areas for improvement.
4. Provide constructive communication with students, teachers, and parents to develop a supportive framework for student learning and growth.

ART DEPARTMENT

Mission Statement

The mission of the Art Department at St. Joseph Catholic Academy is to help students develop an understanding of both technical and cognitive skills that will enable them to communicate through a visual medium. This will be done through a progressive sequential art program.

Middle School Courses (part of wheel elective rotation)

- Art 6 (6th Grade)
- Art 7 (7th Grade)
- Art 8 - 2D and 3D (8th Grade)

MIDDLE SCHOOL ART COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

MIDDLE SCHOOL ART 6 #65

An introductory course designed to give 6th graders a sampling of art projects that emphasize the elements (line, form, color, value, texture) and principles of art (balance, variety, harmony, emphasis).

MIDDLE SCHOOL ART 7 #75

An overview course designed to allow each 7th grade student to explore a variety of media, techniques and methods. Projects focus on introducing and developing the elements of art (line, form, color, value, texture) and principles of design (balance, variety, harmony, emphasis). Understanding and appreciation of self and others through art history, culture, and heritage is emphasized.

MIDDLE SCHOOL ART 8 - 2D and 3D #84

This course emphasizes artists, art history and culture as inspirations for art projects. The 8th graders will create two and three dimensional pieces that further develop the elements of art and principles of design. The understanding and appreciation of self and others through art is a focus of the class. Students will have the opportunity to make personal choices about the creation of their art.

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

Mission Statement

Recognizing the need for written and oral communication skills in today's society, the English Department seeks to develop students who can demonstrate a competency in reading, writing, speaking, and listening commensurate with their grade level and ability. Moreover, this department leads students to a better

understanding of themselves and others through analysis, criticism and appreciation of carefully selected works of literature.

MIDDLE SCHOOL ENGLISH COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

LANGUAGE ARTS 6 #161/162

Two Semesters/ 1 Credit

Course Description

Students are exposed to different cultural themes of traditional and contemporary literature, including folklore, short stories, poetry, nonfiction and drama. The literature is a starting point for their writing. Students practice reading, spelling, vocabulary, speaking and grammar skills using a variety of strategies. The course includes a speech requirement.

WRITING 6 #685/686

Two Semesters/1 Credit

Course Description

Required course for all 6th grade students in conjunction with Language Arts 6. Writing 6 introduces students to study skills and computer literacy while developing the student's writing. Students will cover various forms of writing including a persuasive, research, and informational essay. Mechanics and grammar will be examined in the most authentic form – the student's writing.

LANGUAGE ARTS 7 #171/172

Two Semesters/ 1 Credit

Course Description

Students will continue to develop the skills acquired in Language Arts 6. Students will be exposed to different cultural themes of traditional and contemporary literature, including folklore, short stories, poetry, nonfiction and drama. The literature is a starting point for their writing. Students improve their reading, vocabulary, speaking and grammar skills through learning strategies and structures. In addition, the course includes a speech requirement.

WRITING 7 #677/678

Two Semesters/1 Credit

Course Description

Required course for all 7th grade students in conjunction with Language Arts 7. Writing 7 is a continuation of Writing 6. Students will cover various forms of writing including realistic fiction, informational, persuasive, and poetry. Mechanics and grammar will also be examined in the most authentic form – the student's writing.

LANGUAGE ARTS 8 #181/182

Two Semesters/ 1 Credit

Course Description

This course contains literature from classic and contemporary works and includes a comprehensive study of literary types which include: myths, short stories, nonfiction, poetry, drama and the novel. There is a strong emphasis on writing and plot analysis. This course includes a speech requirement.

WRITING 8 #679/680

Two Semesters/ 1 Credit

Course Description

Required course for all 8th grade students in conjunction with Language Arts 8. Eighth graders begin the year with a unit focused on investigative journalism, writing vivid narratives on social activism. Writers elevate their skills as literary essayists in the second unit, making arguments and counterarguments about themes in texts. In the third unit, students craft research-based papers, using principled arguments, drawing on evidence, and addressing multiple perspectives. In the final unit, students will complete a companion text that will correlate to what they are reading in Language Arts 8 at the time.

MATHEMATICS DEPARTMENT

Mission Statement

The mission of the Mathematics Department at St. Joseph Catholic Academy is to ensure that all students attain a level of ability in mathematics, which enables them to further their educational and career pursuits and become productive citizens in today's society. Since math touches most areas of human endeavor, we further strive to help students develop an awareness and appreciation of the role of mathematics in the past, present, and future.

Middle School Courses

- Math 6 and 7
- Pre-Algebra 7 and 8*
- Algebra I*

****Course enrollment based upon Teacher Recommendation.***

MIDDLE SCHOOL MATH COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

MATH 6 #361/362

Two Semesters/1.0 Credit

Course Description

This course serves as a bridge between the concepts learned in elementary school mathematics and the expectations of junior high and high school level mathematics. Computation skills with whole numbers, decimals, and fractions will be further developed and reinforced. Students will be expected to demonstrate competency in these computations without the aid of a calculator. Students will develop understanding of ratio, proportion, and percent, and apply these skills in real-life scenarios. They will integrate their study of graphs and data assessment with the topics they study in 6th grade science classes. Students will also apply measurement skills, conversion of units, and the principles of area and volume in the study of basic geometry. Algebra readiness skills are integrated throughout the course.

MATH 7 #371/372

Two Semesters/1.0 Credit

Course Description

Designed to prepare students for high school level mathematics, this course increases proficiency in essential mathematics skills, exposes students to a wide variety of junior high math topics, and introduces students to pre-algebra and geometric concepts. Problem solving strategies and critical thinking skills will also be stressed in a cooperative learning environment. As warranted, remediation of basic computational skills will be included in the curriculum. From this course students will progress into Pre-Algebra or Algebra I in the eighth grade.

PRE-ALGEBRA 7th grade #375/376 8th grade #383/384

Two Semesters/1.0 Credit (**Open to 7th Graders by school placement and instructor's approval**)

Course Description

Introducing students to the more abstract language of Algebra, this course will reinforce junior high math skills. Students are expected to be proficient in general computational mathematics. Besides learning equation solving and simplification of algebraic expressions, students will also work with geometric concepts. This course strives to foster improvement in problem-solving skills, problem analysis, and independent thinking in preparation for high school mathematics. Students progress to Algebra I or Honors Algebra I upon completion of the course.

ALGEBRA I #381/382

Two Semesters/1 Credit (**Open to 8th Graders by school placement and instructor's approval**)

Course Description

Open to highly motivated students who have demonstrated, by previous achievement, a high level of competency in computational mathematics. This course requires a keen aptitude for problem solving and abstract concepts. Students must have demonstrated diligence in

completing assignments and the ability to handle a demanding pace and workload. This course is equivalent to the first full year of high school Honors Algebra I, students progress to Honors Geometry upon completion of the course.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

Mission Statement

The mission of the Physical Education Department is to utilize both the physical and cognitive aspects of activity, to develop positive attitudes toward lifetime activities, sportsmanship, and personal fitness, as well as the psychomotor skills that make this discipline unique.

Middle School Courses

- Physical Education 6, 7, and 8

MIDDLE SCHOOL PHYSICAL EDUCATION COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

PHYSICAL EDUCATION 6 #561(Boys), 563 (Girls)

Course Description

Course work is aimed at developing positive attitudes toward lifetime activities, sportsmanship, and personal fitness, as well as the psychomotor skills, which make this discipline unique. This course will include, but will not be limited to, flag football, soccer, ultimate Frisbee, team handball, badminton, viking ball, tennis, softball, pickleball, cooperation games, and team building activities.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION 7 #571

Course Description

Course work is aimed at developing positive attitudes toward lifetime activities, sportsmanship, and personal fitness, as well as the psychomotor skills, which make this discipline unique. This course will include, but will not be limited to, flag football, soccer, ultimate frisbee, team handball, badminton, viking ball, tennis, softball, pickleball, cooperation games, and team building activities.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION 8 # 581

Course Description

Course work is aimed at developing positive attitudes toward lifetime activities, sportsmanship, and personal fitness, as well as the psychomotor skills, which make this discipline unique. This course will include, but will not be limited to, flag football, soccer, ultimate frisbee, team handball, badminton, viking ball, tennis, softball, pickleball, cooperation games, and team building activities.

SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

Mission Statement

The mission of the Science Department at St. Joseph Catholic Academy is to cultivate critical thinking skills in all students so that every student will have a better understanding of how scientific laws govern natural phenomena, and will be able to apply the scientific method to daily problem solving. In an ever-changing world, the students will be able to make the sound decisions that impact the environment, evaluate information as it applies to an ever-increasingly technological world, and understand the manner in which science influences the human population.

Middle School Courses

- Earth Science 6
- Life Science 7
- Physical Science 8

MIDDLE SCHOOL SCIENCE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

EARTH SCIENCE 6 #763/764

Two Semesters/1 Credit

Course Description

Providing basic knowledge of earth science. The course will cover topics like the study of minerals, rocks, glaciers, volcanoes, earthquakes, plate tectonics, meteorology, maps, oceanography, erosion and weathering, astronomy, and space travel.

LIFE SCIENCE 7 #773/774

Two Semesters/1 Credit

Course Description

Providing students with a complete introduction to life science, this course is the study of living things. Students are provided with hands-on laboratory exercises in the high school lab. The course emphasizes problem-solving techniques, as it deals with organisms, plants, animals, heredity, human life, health, and the environment.

PHYSICAL SCIENCE 8 #783/784

Two Semesters/1 Credit

Course Description

This course provides students with the basic knowledge of physical science as it relates to chemistry and physics. Included is the study of properties, classification, structure of elements, forces and motion, energy and waves. Students will be exposed to a number of hands-on activities and laboratories.

SOCIAL STUDIES DEPARTMENT

Mission Statement

The mission of the Social Studies Department is to enable students to develop, within a framework of Christian principles, both an American and a global perspective on events and issues that have shaped the contemporary world. In doing so, the program emphasizes the need to acquire skills in information processing, reasoning, communicating, understanding ourselves, and appreciating diverse peoples and cultures. Students will be encouraged to become active responsible citizens in their respective communities.

Middle School Courses

- World GeoHistory 6
- Civics/Economics 7
- Early U.S. History 8

MIDDLE SCHOOL SOCIAL STUDIES COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

WORLD GEOHISTORY 6 #861/862

Two Semesters/1 Credit

Course Description

Students will explore world cultures and world geography with an emphasis on people, places, human-environmental interactions and movement as they learn about the United States, Asia, Canada, Latin America, Africa, Europe and Russia. Students will practice map, chart and graphing skills with an emphasis on application. Print, audiovisual and various media/internet-based materials will be used.

CIVICS/ECONOMICS 7 #871/872

Two Semesters/1 Credit

Course Description

This course focuses on basic concepts and principles of the American political and economic system. First semester focuses on the structure and function of the American system of government, the political process, the relationship of the individual to the law and legal system, the roles and responsibilities of citizenship and the opportunities and challenges of democratic government. Second semester focuses on the basics concepts of economics such as supply and demand, the government's role in the economy, personal finance, business in America and international trade. Print, audiovisual and various media/internet-based materials will be used.

EARLY U.S. HISTORY 8 #881/882

Two Semesters/1 Credit

Course Description

Students will focus on key people, places, events and terminology from the beginning of the United States until 1877. Topics include colonization, the Revolutionary War, Manifest Destiny, the Civil War, Reconstruction, expansion of the West and Industrialization. Students will also

practice map, chart and graphing skills with an emphasis on application. Print, audiovisual and various media/internet-based materials will be used. Guest speakers and field trips may be offered to enhance the curriculum when appropriate.

THEOLOGY DEPARTMENT

Mission Statement

Christian Formation is integral to the mission of St. Joseph Catholic Academy reason for being. The Theology Department is an indispensable component in serving that mission. As a Catholic institution, we serve the teaching mission of Jesus Christ and His Church. The department seeks to foster a good cognitive understanding of our faith, as well as the personal faith development of each student, along with the communal faith development of all who are part of the St. Joseph Catholic Academy family. Because of this, our department is involved in activities that promote faith formation, such as Liturgies, retreats, counseling, and spiritual development, as well as classroom catechesis and service projects.

Middle School Courses

- Theology 6, 7 and 8

MIDDLE SCHOOL THEOLOGY COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

THEOLOGY 6 #961/962

Two Semesters/1 Credit

Course Description

Sixth graders will come to understand the basic concepts of the Creed, beginning with the Revelation of the Old Testament: God is the Creator of all, and everything He has created is good. The student will learn the differences between the Old and New Testaments and their canonical unity. From the Old Testament, students will be able to identify and retell the stories of Abram, Joseph, Moses (Exodus, Passover, Commandments) and David. They will learn the Bible's role in the Church, be able to recognize some different literary forms in the Bible and will understand the meaning of the terms "covenant" and "genealogy". The students will be able to relate the Ten Commandments and Two Great Commandments to their life experiences.

Sixth graders will learn that, as a Temple of the Holy Spirit, each Christian is called to be a saint. The students will grow continually in their understanding of the sacraments and be able to connect them to life experiences. They will be encouraged to participate in Sunday Eucharist, Reconciliation, seasonal practices of the Church and prayer services. Students will be able to relate "Body of Christ" and "People of God" to the Church and recognize the diversity of ministry in the Church.

THEOLOGY 7 #971/972

Two Semesters/1 Credit

Course Description

Seventh graders will recognize that faith is our response to God who gives Himself to us, a unique creation made in His image. Students will understand that the Trinity is God in three divine persons. They will come to know that God revealed Himself gradually in words in actions, but the fullness of His revelation is in the Person of Jesus Christ. They will learn stories from Scripture to come to know the person and ministry of Jesus Christ. The students will grow in their understanding of the many facets of sacramental life in the Church. They will experience a relationship with God through prayer - memorized, meditation, spontaneous and retreat experiences - and come to see that we are called to cooperate freely with God's plan.

Students will also begin to identify their personal and moral choices as expressions of Catholic moral life. They will be able to describe experiences of conscience which signify right and wrong. They will connect Scripture to life issues, associate Jesus as a model of how to behave towards others and be able to name and describe the Ten Commandments, Beatitudes and Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy as guidelines for living. Students will recognize and use music and art as forms of prayer.

THEOLOGY 8 #981/982

Two Semesters/1 Credit

Course Description

Eighth graders will recognize that we know God through creation, our own consciences and our longing for God in addition to the Revelation of Scripture and Tradition handed on by the Magisterium. They will know that God has truly revealed His plan through Jesus Christ who has redeemed us from sin and will be able to tell stories from Scripture that describe the person and ministry of Jesus Christ. Students will pray and understand the Nicene Creed, the Our Father, Marian and other devotions (i.e. Stations of the Cross) and will recognize and experience belonging to a community that prays with and for each other through Sunday Eucharist, other Catholic rituals and rites and prayerful retreat experiences. Scripture will be used as a source for daily prayer.

Students will know that faith and science cannot contradict each other as both come from God. They will be able to explain and defend the core beliefs of the Catholic faith. They will experience a variety of opportunities to serve their neighbors, and see Jesus as a friend and model of how we are called to be friends. They will know that violence begins with a lack of respect for life and will know that we are called to respect life from conception until natural death.

WORLD LANGUAGE DEPARTMENT

Mission Statement

The World Language Department works to prepare students to function in a global society. This is accomplished by developing competency in a language other than English, and fostering understanding, appreciation and respect for language and culture different than their own.

Middle School Courses (as part of elective wheel rotation)

- Introduction to World Languages (Italian, Greek and Latin)
- World Languages (Italian and Spanish)

MIDDLE SCHOOL WORLD LANGUAGES COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

The World Language program introduces students to Italian and Spanish. A variety of teaching approaches are used including: individual and pair activities, dialogue situations, games, and songs.