



ST. JOSEPH  

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CATHOLIC ACADEMY

Middle School  
Curriculum Handbook

2021-2022

March 7, 2021

The school reserves the right to cancel any course in the curriculum due to insufficient enrollment.

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## ACADEMICS

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### **ACADEMIC EXPECTATIONS**

Each teacher will make classroom expectations known on the first day of class. All SJCA students are expected to do the following to experience success:

- Attend all classes and be on time.
- Demonstrate active, constructive participation in class activities.
- Turn in assignments on time with legible penmanship, correct grammar, and spelling.
- Have proper equipment/materials with them for each class.

### **ACADEMIC EVALUATION**

Students should expect to have their performance evaluated regularly by means of various tests, class participation, projects, etc. Satisfactory achievement cannot be maintained without sufficient effort on the part of the student. The amount of homework assigned to a student will vary with the student's class load and with the teacher's expectations for the course.

### **Grades**

In accordance with Archdiocesan Policy, SJCA Middle School will be utilizing Standards-Based Grading (SBG). Students in 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade will also be assigned traditional letter grades.

### **Standards-Based Grading (SBG)**

Rooted in the concepts of proficiency and mastery, Standards-Based Grading (SBG) measures student learning as students demonstrate consistent understanding and application of concepts and skills aligned with grade level standards. SBG breaks down subject matter into smaller learning targets that students should master over a prescribed period of time. SBG is based on the progress of mastering mastery of these learning targets.

### **Standards-Based Proficiency Scale**

4 Advanced	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Student demonstrates understanding of concepts and skills extending beyond grade-level standards</li><li>• Student can independently complete self-directed studies.</li><li>• Students can teach concepts to others.</li></ul>
3 Proficient	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Student demonstrates consistent understanding and application of concepts and skills aligned with grade-level standards.</li><li>• Student can complete assigned tasks independently.</li></ul>
2 Developing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Student demonstrates partial understanding of grade-level standards.</li><li>• Student can sometimes complete learning tasks without assistance.</li></ul>
1 Emerging	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Student needs more time to develop understanding of grade-level standards.</li><li>• Students can complete some learning activities with assistance.</li></ul>

## Letter Grading Scale

Grade	Numerical	Course Points
A+	97 & above	4.0
A	93 – 96	4.0
A-	90 – 92	3.67
B+	87 – 89	3.33
B	83 – 86	3.0
B-	80 – 82	2.67
C+	77 – 79	2.33
C	73 – 76	2.0
C-	70 – 72	1.67
D+	67 – 69	1.33
D	63 – 66	1.0
D-	60 – 62	.67
F	59 or below	0

An “I” (**Incomplete**) indicates the final work of a grading period or semester has been missed due to illness. The incomplete work must be made up within two (2) weeks of the end of the grading period, or the “I” automatically changes to an “F.” In special cases, with administrative approval, the incomplete may extend beyond two weeks. Incompletes do not apply to cases of unfinished projects, missed daily assignments, or missed tests (unexcused).

### **ACADEMIC RECOGNITION**

The administration and staff of St. Joseph Catholic Academy strive for academic excellence and encourage students to participate in that effort. The Honor Roll is a recognition program for students who earn and maintain high levels of academic achievement.

#### **Honor Roll**

The Honor Roll is based on the semester grades:

1<sup>st</sup> Honors:..... 3.50 – 4.0 or Standards Based grading equivalent

2<sup>nd</sup> Honors:..... 3.00 – 3.49 or Standards Based grading equivalent

### **NATIONAL JUNIOR HONOR SOCIETY**



Beginning in the 2021 school year, SJCA will be an affiliate chapter of the National Junior Honor Society (NJHS). The NJHS is a national recognition program that celebrates student success. Membership in this program is available to students in 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, and 9<sup>th</sup> grades who meet NJHS benchmarks. Unique to SJCA, students who attend SJCA Middle School will be able to continue their NJHS membership through 9<sup>th</sup> grade if they continue to meet NJHS requirements. This is a great first step towards building a strong high school transcript. Once the SJCA chapter is fully developed, details will be listed on the school website at [www.sjcaw.org](http://www.sjcaw.org). In high school, National Honor Society is open to students in 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grades.

### **ACADEMIC STANDARDS AND TESTING**

Like most other schools in the state, St. Joseph Catholic Academy has adopted ACT College Readiness Standards. Students in grades 6-10 will be required to take the ACT Aspire to evaluate their progress in working toward the ACT College Readiness Standards. Students will also take periodic assessments such as the ASPIRE interim exams or STAR testing to assist with evaluating student progress. Parents may request a copy of the ACT College Readiness Standards by contacting their student’s counselor.

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## ACADEMIC GRID

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<b>COURSE</b>	<b>6<sup>th</sup> GRADE</b>	<b>7<sup>th</sup> GRADE</b>	<b>8<sup>th</sup> GRADE</b>
<b>Language Arts</b>	Language Arts 6	Language Arts 7	Language Arts 8
<b>Math</b>	Math 6	Math 7 Pre-Algebra 7	Pre-Algebra 8 Honors Algebra 1
<b>Science</b>	Earth Science	Life Science	Physical Science
<b>Social Studies</b>	World Geography	Civics/Economics	Early US History 8 Early US History 8 Honors
<b>Theology</b>	Theology 6	Theology 7	Theology 8
<b>Physical Ed.</b>	PE6	PE7	PE8
<b>Fine Arts/Electives</b>	Art Introduction to STEM Music Appreciation 6	Art Intro to Coding Music Appreciation 7	Art Engineering Music Appreciation 8
<b>Mandatory Electives</b>	Writing Skills 6	Italian 7, or Spanish 7, or Study Hall	Italian 8, or Spanish 8, or Study Hall
<b>J-Term</b>	Required	Required	Required
<b>Total Credits</b>	7.25	7.25	7.25

**With the 8 period day, a 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> grade student will have the opportunity to take a study hall if he or she does not enroll in a World Language elective.**

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## COURSE SELECTION

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The minimum course load for all students is 7.25 credits each year.

- **SJCA reserves the right to cancel any course in the curriculum due to insufficient enrollment.**
- Prior to the close of business day on Friday, 8/6/21 changes in the student's course selections will be permitted only if space in the requested class is available. **This involves the student's course selections for the first and second semester.** Beyond this date, however, only school-initiated changes based upon teacher and administrative recommendations will be considered.
- Requests from a student or parent for a specific teacher will not be honored.
- **Failures:**
  - If a student fails a required course, credit recovery work must be completed by August of the academic year following the course failure.
  - Options for credit recovery may include summer school or online classes.
  - 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.
- **Make-ups:**
  - Arrangements for all make-up courses must be made in consultation with the Middle School Principal and Learning Support Specialist. Approval is required in advance.
  - Make-ups must be complete and transcripts/grades must be received no later than the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday in August of the upcoming school year.

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## GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

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Students must successfully complete a minimum of 21.75 credits to successfully complete SJCA Middle School. St. Joseph Catholic Academy. Students are required to take 7.25 credits each school year. SJCA will have an 8 period day. All courses must be taken at SJCA with the exception of courses being made up due to failure or courses transferred in from a student's previous school.

### Course Requirements

• 3 Credits in English/Language Arts	• 3 Credits in Science
• 3 Credits in Social Studies	• 3 Credits in Theology
• 3 Credits in Math	• 1 Credit in Writing in 6 <sup>th</sup> Grade

Students may also take:

• Fine Arts (Music and Art)	• Foreign Language (7/8 <sup>th</sup> grade)
• Physical Education	• Students electing to not take a Foreign Language may take a Study Hall
• STEM	

**Additional Requirements:** Middle school students must perform service hours which are recorded in a student's Theology class.

## ART

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.

### **ART 6 (#65)**

#### **One Semester/.5 credit**

6<sup>th</sup> Grade - 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). Understanding and appreciation of self and others through art history, culture, and heritage is emphasized. A variety of media and techniques create an active project based learning experience.

### **ART 7 (#75)**

#### **One Semester/.5 credit**

7<sup>th</sup> Grade - 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. Samplings of two-dimensional and three-dimensional projects are created.

### **ART 8 (#81)**

#### **One Semester/.5 credit**

8<sup>th</sup> Grade - This course emphasizes artists and art history as inspirations for art projects. Students will 2-D and 3-D 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.

## ENGLISH /LANGUAGE ARTS

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**

6<sup>th</sup> Grade - 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)**

6<sup>th</sup> Grade - This class 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**

7<sup>th</sup> Grade - 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. 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**

8<sup>th</sup> Grade - 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. 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.

## **LEARNING SUPPORT**

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**

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

Students who need academic support will utilize study halls and Resource time. These students may also need to report to the Learning Support Center depending on their needs.

## **MATHEMATICS**

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 strive to help students develop an appreciation of the role of mathematics in the past, present, and future.

**MATH 6 (#361/362)****Two Semesters/1.0 Credit**

6<sup>th</sup> Grade - 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 calculator. Students will develop understanding of ratio, proportion, and percentages. They will integrate their study of graphs and data assessment with the topics they study in 6<sup>th</sup> grade science classes. Students 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**

7<sup>th</sup> Grade - Designed to prepare students for high school level mathematics, this course increases proficiency in essential mathematics skills, exposes students to a wide variety of middle school 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 eighth grade.

**PRE-ALGEBRA 7<sup>th</sup> grade (#375/376)****Two Semesters/1.0 Credit**

**Prerequisite: Open to 7<sup>th</sup> Graders by school placement and instructor's approval.**

Introducing students to the more abstract language of Algebra, this course will reinforce middle school 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 will progress to Honors Algebra I upon completion of the course.

**PRE-ALGEBRA 8<sup>th</sup> grade (#383/384)****Two Semesters/1.0 Credit**

**Prerequisite: 8<sup>th</sup> Grade students are placed on testing and instructor recommendation.**

Introducing students to the more abstract language of Algebra, this course will reinforce middle school 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 1 or Algebra 1A/1B upon the successful completion (passing) of Pre-Algebra 8 and by Teacher recommendation.**

**ALGEBRA I Honors #381/382****Two Semesters/1 Credit**

**Prerequisite: Open to 8<sup>th</sup> Graders by school placement and instructor's approval.**

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 Algebra I students will progress to Honors Geometry upon successful completion of the course.

## MUSIC

Realizing that music is a fundamental part of overall learning and recognizing the connections between music and brain development, this semester course allows all middle school students to explore and gain an appreciation for many different genres of music.

**All electives are One Semester/.5 credit: MUSIC APPRECIATION Grade 6 (#442), MUSIC APPRECIATION Grade 7 (#443), MUSIC APPRECIATION Grade 8 (#444)**

## PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Physical Education classes in the Middle School will 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. Physical education at each grade level 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.

**All electives are One Semester/.5 credit: PHYSICAL EDUCATION Grade 6 (#561), PHYSICAL EDUCATION Grade 7 (#571), PHYSICAL EDUCATION Grade 8 (#581)**

## SCIENCE

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 population.

### **EARTH SCIENCE 6 (#763/764)**

#### **Two Semesters/1 Credit**

6<sup>th</sup> Grade - 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. Students will be challenged to think like real scientists and engineers through hands-on experiences.

### **LIFE SCIENCE 7 (#773/774)**

#### **Two Semesters/1 Credit**

7<sup>th</sup> Grade - Providing students with a complete introduction to life science, this course is the study of living things. Content includes the study of plants, animals, heredity, human life, health, and the environment. Student learning is maximized through engaging inquiry-based investigations, STEM activities, and real world connections.

### **PHYSICAL SCIENCE 8 (#783/784)**

#### **Two Semesters/1 Credit**

8<sup>th</sup> Grade - 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. Emphasis is on hands-on experiences with a special focus on experimental design and reasoning.

## STEM Electives

SJCA is committed to introducing our middle school students to a variety of STEM concepts, skills and activities including hands-on projects, problem-solving, coding, engineering, and basic programming. These STEM middle school electives are a unique opportunity for our students to get learn more about STEM majors, degrees, and careers.

### **STEM INTRODUCTION (#790)**

6<sup>th</sup> Grade - Hands-on, project-based course that focuses on enhancing problem solving skills while also introducing students to the Engineering Design Process. Students will need to employ creativity, critical thinking, collaboration and communication.

### **INTRODUCTION TO CODING (#793)**

7<sup>th</sup> Grade - This course is an introduction to coding principles. The course blends online and “unplugged” non-computer activities to teach students computational thinking, problem solving, programming concepts and digital citizenship.

### **ENGINEERING (#794)**

8<sup>th</sup> Grade - This course will combine students hands-on engineering skills with a deeper introduction to coding skills centered around the use of LEGO® MINDSTORMS®. This is a hands-on, cross-curricular STEM course that engages students by providing the resources to design, build and program their creations while helping them develop essential skills such as creativity, critical thinking, collaboration, and communication.

## SOCIAL STUDIES DEPARTMENT

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.

### **WORLD GEOGRAPHY 6 (#861/862)**

#### **Two semesters/ 1 Credit**

6<sup>th</sup> Grade - 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 7 (#871/872)**

#### **Two semesters/ 1 credit**

7<sup>th</sup> Grade - 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 US HISTORY 8 (#881/882)**

### **Two semesters/ 1 credit**

8<sup>th</sup> Grade - 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.

## **EARLY US HISTORY HONORS 8 (#813/814)**

### **Two semesters/ 1 credit**

8<sup>th</sup> Grade – Prerequisite: Open to 8<sup>th</sup> Graders by school placement and instructor's approval. Students will focus on key people, places, events, and terminology from the beginning of the United States until 1877. Topics include Native Americans, exploration, colonization, the Revolutionary War, Manifest Destiny, expansion of the West, industrialization, the Civil War, and Reconstruction. There will be an emphasis on the application of many skills, as well as continued growth of critical thinking skills. Print, audiovisual, and various media/internet-based materials will be used. Students will be expected to take notes, interpret readings, and critically analyze many historical concepts.

## **THEOLOGY DEPARTMENT**

Christian Formation is integral to the mission of St. Joseph Catholic Academy reason for being. 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. The Theology department is involved in activities that promote faith formation, such as Liturgies, retreats, spiritual development, classroom catechesis and service projects.

### **THEOLOGY 6 #961/962**

#### **Two Semesters/1 Credit**

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. 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**

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**

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**

The World Language Department works to prepare students to function in a global society.

### **Goals**

- Develop competency in a language other than English
- Know, respect, and appreciate a culture different from their own
- Achieve a better understanding of their own language and culture by providing a basis for comparison
- Foster a curiosity about the global community and expand individual awareness of global issues
- Acquire the disciplined study habits required for World Language learning

### **WORLD LANGUAGE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS**

#### **SPANISH 7 (#273/274)**

Spanish Grade 7 is the first semester of high school Spanish level 1 course. This is a course for students who wish to learn communication skills in Spanish. Beginning vocabulary and grammatical structures, and additional material will be introduced. This course will be conducted in both Spanish and English. Students will be assessed based on the ACTFL (American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages) Proficiency Guidelines and Standards. Students will be evaluated on performance assessments.

#### **SPANISH 8 (#283/284)**

Spanish Grade 8 is the second semester of high school Spanish level 1 course. The study of vocabulary and grammatical structures is continued, as well as are communication skills in Spanish. This course will be conducted in both Spanish and English, working toward instruction and oral participation completely in Spanish by the end of the school year. Students will be

assessed based on the ACTFL (American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages) Proficiency Guidelines and Standards. Students will be evaluated on performance assessments. Any student mastering the Proficiency Level of Novice Mid in 8th grade will be eligible to take Spanish level 2 in high school. The 8th grade second semester Final Exam will be considered as a placement test for high school.

**ITALIAN 7 (#275/276)**

Italian Grade 7 is the first semester of high school Italian level 1 course. This is a course for students who wish to learn communication skills in Italian. Beginning vocabulary and grammatical structures, and additional material will be introduced. Students will conduct basic conversation in Italian and will learn about the Italian culture. Students will be assessed based on the ACTFL (American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages) Proficiency Guidelines and Standards. Students will be evaluated on performance assessments.

**ITALIAN 8 (#277/278)**

Italian Grade 8 is the second semester of high school Italian level 1 course. The study of vocabulary and grammatical structures is continued, as well as are communication skills in Italian. This course will be conducted in both Italian and English, working toward instruction and oral participation completely in Italian by the end of the school year. Students will be assessed based on the ACTFL (American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages) Proficiency Guidelines and Standards. Students will be evaluated on performance assessments. Any student mastering the Proficiency Level of Novice Mid in 8th grade will be eligible to take Italian level 2 in high school. The 8th grade second semester Final Exam will be considered as a placement test for high school.

