

Curriculum Details: Grades 6th through 8th

English Language Arts (ELA)

The Reading & Writing Workshop model structures the ELA block. This model allows for a balanced literacy approach, based on a curriculum that integrates reading, writing, and grammar, to meet the needs of all learners. A balanced approach to literacy allows the teacher to address the standards using the following methods: whole class instruction through read alouds and mini lessons, shared reading/writing, independent reading and writing time, teachers working with small groups, and literacy centers. This model allows time for teachers to use assessment data to differentiate and meet all students' needs by working with students one-on-one or in small group settings. The workshop model provides independent time for students to build stamina, which is an important skill needed for sustained reading and writing, as well as for taking standardized assessments. Independent reading or writing time allows students to transfer skills modeled by the teacher during the whole class mini lesson to their independent work.

Mathematics

The Mathematics program emphasizes computational skills, conceptual understanding and problem solving. Students work independently and in small groups and are required to present oral and/or written justifications for their strategies and solutions. Students in grades 7-8 receive accelerated math instruction. Eighth graders prepare for the Common Core Algebra I examination; a ninth grade Regents course, which when they pass gives them a full year credit for High School Algebra.

Social Studies

The Social Studies program encourages students to make reasoned and informed decisions as citizens of a culturally diverse, democratic society. Students acquire the knowledge skills, understandings and values necessary to function in American Society.

The main focus of study in each grade is:

Grade 6: The Eastern Hemisphere

Grade 7: American History to 1877

Grade 8: American History - Post-Civil War era (1865) to the Modern Era

Science

The Science program integrates life science, physical science and earth science. Students learn about the natural world through exploration and experimentation. They make predictions, ask questions, observe and collect information, draw conclusions and communicate their results orally and in writing. With the implementation of a brand new,

updated science curriculum for grades 4-8, along with our continued integrated daily use of technology, our students and teachers have the tools at their disposal to dig deeper for answers and explanations to some of science's most interesting questions.

The following topics are covered in grades:

- Grade 6 – Physical Science (Matter, Motion, Energy)
- Grade 7 – Life Science
- Grade 8 – Earth Science

Religion

The Religion program emphasizes the basic teachings of the Catholic Faith, as well as the monthly values infusion program, which encourages students to take what they learn and apply it in their daily life. By doing so, and with guidance from our faculty and staff, the goal for our students is to walk on a path toward self-discipline, thereby enabling them to make good decisions based on solid moral ground. Students attend prayer services and school masses and participate in activities throughout the year that reinforce Gospel values.

The following topics are the main areas of study in each grade:

- Grade 6 - Old Testament and Church message
- Grade 7 - New Testament, Creed & Confirmation
- Grade 8 - Church History & Morality

Special Subjects

Students in grades 6-8 receive weekly instruction in Art, Physical Education, Mandarin, and Coding.