

## 8th Grade Courses Starting Fall 2023



"Under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, rooted in Sacred Scripture and centered on the Eucharist, Our Lady of the Lake Catholic School embraces the values of Education, Faith and Citizenship."



**IRIS LIS ALPERT**  
Art



**ALEXANDRIA ANSINN**  
Math



**BROOKE AVELLO**  
Spanish Language & Culture



**JOSH EGERT**  
FIT4LIFE



**CAROLINE ERHARDT**  
Academic Counselor



**MAX GLEISS**  
Life Management



**GINGER HYSELL**  
English Language Arts



**KATHLEEN SANT**  
Science



**TIM WHEELER**  
Theology



**DANE WHIPPLE**  
Social Studies



**BRANDON YENCHUS**  
Band



## 8th Grade Required Courses

### THEOLOGY

2 Semesters (Required)

#### Description:

**Theme:** Our Life in the Church

The history of the Church - its founding by Christ, its birth in the Holy Spirit, the marks of the one, true Church, the Fathers and Doctors of the Church, the saints and the role of the religious and laity up to the present. The structure of the Church Jesus planned, the role of the Magisterium, the clergy, the religious and the laity and our own vocations.

#### Sequence:

- Part 1: The Church. Christ's plan for the Church's structure and its necessary attributes; the Church's teaching authority. The early Church: Martyrs, Fathers, Saints and Mary.
- Part 2: The Christian in the World. Religious and laity, Holy Orders, Marriage, and family life; call to holiness.
- Part 3: The Last Things. Death, Judgment, the end of the world.

**Aim:** To help eighth-grade students know and love the Church as Christ's Body, and respond to the teaching of the Magisterium as the sure voice of Jesus, so that young people may be strengthened through their lives in the Church to face the confusion and secularism of modern-day society.

### MATH

2 Semesters (Required)

#### Description:

This Pre-Algebra course is offered to 8th grade students and is an introduction to basic algebra concepts and a review of arithmetic algorithms. The course emphasizes the concepts necessary to be successful in Algebra I and II. The course helps students develop good mathematical study skills and learning strategies. Students will explore algebraic expressions and integers, solve one- and two-step equations and inequalities, factors, ratios, proportions, percents, exponents, linear functions and graphing, area and volume, data analysis and probability, and nonlinear functions and polynomials.

### SCIENCE

2 Semesters (Required)

#### Description:

This course enables students to further their understanding of the core studies of science before high school electives. It is the third step of the integrated curriculum as directed by the Diocese of Kalamazoo. Students will further focus on 4 areas of study in Earth Science, Life Science, Physical Science and Engineering Design and Practice.

**Life Science:** Natural Selection, Genetics and Heredity, Adaptations, Body Systems

**Physical Science:** Waves--Sound Energy, Physical Energy, Electromagnetic Energy

**Earth Science:** Space, Earth-Moon relationships, Solar System, Astronomy

**Engineering Design and Practice:** STEM practice and application, Coding introduction and practice and Technology use and inquiry/learning

### ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

2 Semesters (Required)

#### Description:

This is a course of integrated studies of literature, composition and language. Students will engage in the study of grammar usage and mechanics, listening skills, spelling, vocabulary, and study skills. Units organized by genre, as well as novels and literature, will be used to engage students in word recognition, fluency, comprehension, and metacognition activities. Students will use informational and narrative text, as well as practice the writing process for a variety of purposes and audiences. Speaking, listening, and viewing skills will be employed in this course. This course will emphasize integrating the use of current technology tools to practice the writing process and publish student work.

### SOCIAL STUDIES

2 Semesters (Required)

#### Description:

Eighth grade students continue their study of United States History from the writing of the Constitution through Reconstruction. Geographic, civics/government, and economics content is integrated within the historical context. Using significant content knowledge, research, and inquiry, the students analyze an issue or propose a plan for civic action. They develop reasoned arguments and write a persuasive essay addressing issues from the past within a historical context. Where appropriate, they make comparisons to relevant contemporary humanities. The purpose of the Social Studies curriculum is to promote civic competence and responsible behaviors that enable students to actively participate in our democratic society. Our approach is the teaching of social studies that integrates our Christian values with the development of civic attitudes and responsibilities. We consciously connect responsible citizenship with the Social Justice Teachings of the Catholic Church, establishing real world application for Social Justice in the study of historical events and figures, economic conditions, cultural influences and appreciation, political issues, and the participation of civilization in society. The Social Studies Curriculum also integrates literacy standards in reading, writing, speaking, listening, and language when appropriate. Students will learn about past and present global issues. Using significant content knowledge, research and inquiry, they will analyze issues and be given opportunities to compose essays using reasoned argument.

Continued

# 8th Grade Required Courses

## ADVISORY

2 Semesters

### Description:

Grade 8 students are assigned an advisory teacher for the entire year. There is a shared advisory curriculum between the two grade 8 sections that addresses the spiritual, academic, physical and social and emotional needs of their students. The course is intended to afford students an opportunity to build personal relationships with their peers and an adult in their grades 6-8 team. The advisory teacher is the students' advocate at school and may serve as the direct link to home communication when needed. The program is intended to strengthen one's understanding and application of Gospel Values in our lives. The advisory program at grade 7 also addresses strategies to identify and detour bullying, harassment and conflict.

## EXPLORATION

4 week flash-electives, 2 Semesters (Required)

### Description:

Grade 8 students will be exposed to 8 different and directed flash-elective courses focused on orienting students to OLL, acclimating students to engaging and interesting content, and having fun while learning and exploring one's aptitudes, likes and dislikes. 8th grade flash courses will include:

#### Exploring the World

- Exploring Ancient Languages, Latin/Greek, Geography

#### Learning How to Serve

- CPR/First Aid, Reading week (service)

#### Making Scripture Come Alive

- Theater Skits, Lectio/Visio Divina

#### Wellness for the Soul

- Stress/Anxiety coping, Self defense

#### Say What?

- Words have power... teaching our 8th graders how to speak to one another with respect, compassion, and kindness

#### How to be a Good "Loser"

- Building/Shop class, Creating a Board game, Olympics, CSI/Escape room

#### (Wheeler) Egert and Wheeler's High School Survival Guide

- Get Organized/Avoiding Procrastination, Prepare 8th graders for the best practices in keeping themselves organized and on track to be successful in high school

#### (Egert) Egert and Wheeler's High School Survival Guide

- Anti-procrastination, Sex talk
- Baseball/whiffle ball league
- Go to a South Bend Cubs game, End of year

\*Mandated tutoring and extra academic help will be assigned to students in mathematics and reading during this time as needed.

# 8th Grade Electives

## BAND

2 Semesters

### Description:

In 7th and 8th grade, band students will continue to build upon the skills they have learned in previous years. The 7th grade rehearses independently, but combines with the 8th grade band for concert performances and festivals. In March of every year the combined 7th and 8th grade band perform at the Concert Band Festival. In addition to festivals the 7th grade band performs at the Fall concert, Christmas Concert, Pre-Festival Concert, Spring Concert and the Blossomtime Parade. Students in 7th and 8th grade are able to perform in District Solo and Ensemble events in December and April. All students in 7th and 8th grade will explore solo and chamber ensemble music as part of the band curriculum.

## ART

1 or 2 Semesters

### Description:

Students will be learning the rudiments of drawing, painting in acrylic and watercolor, and will construct simple dimensional art works. Color theory will be explored and used after tints, tones and shades are mastered. Harmonies such as Complementary, Monochromatic, and Analogous will be taught. Calligraphy and pottery will be explored. Many of the drawing and painting projects will be collaborative with other classes. Emphasis will be placed on preparing works for Art Show entry.

## LIFE MANAGEMENT

1 Semester

### Description:

Life Management topics include Nutrition, Basic Cooking, Sewing, and Consumer Education. During Nutrition and Basic Cooking, students will explore nutrients and the effects on the body, kitchen safety, food safety, safe appliance use and parts of a recipe. Responsibility for handling equipment will be stressed. Reading directions, reasoning, and many problem-solving techniques will be utilized in a way that will be new to most students. The expected benefits will be much more than just a finished product; more importantly, students will experience a successful learning process. Students learn advertising, appliance care, and basic money skills in Consumer Education. This course will be taught in a Finance Lab setting. Students will have access to our Global Trading Platform-StockTrack.

## FIT4LIFE

1 or 2 Semesters

### Description:

Physical education is a sequential, developmentally appropriate educational program that provides students with the knowledge, skills, fitness, and attitudes necessary to lead a healthy lifestyle. All students will show competence in the following six physical education content standards: motor skills and movement patterns, understanding of movement concepts, principles, strategies, and tactics as they apply to the learning and performance of physical activities, regular participation in lifelong physical activity, achieving and maintaining a health-enhancing level of physical fitness, exhibiting responsible personal and social behavior that respects self and others in physical activity settings, and value of physical activity for health, enjoyment, challenge, self-expression, and/or social interaction.

Health education provides students with the knowledge and skills necessary to practice healthy behaviors and teaches students how to recognize the influence of responsible decision-making on quality of life.

## SPANISH LANGUAGE & CULTURE

1 Semester

### Description:

Spanish Language and Culture introduces students to the Spanish language so that they can develop proficiency on a basic level. Language learning in this course will focus on understanding and learning to speak simple phrases, learning limited vocabulary and very basic grammatical structures. The course does not overlap with Spanish I. All language skills will be practiced: listening, speaking, reading and writing. This course also introduces students to the Spanish-speaking cultures of Spain, Mexico, Central America, the Caribbean and South America. Students will learn similarities and differences in values, attitudes and actions as they investigate different cultures through a wide variety of resources (e.g., online resources, texts, videos). Students will also investigate specific topics related to cultural experiences (e.g., ecotourism in Costa Rica, indigenous cultures in Guatemala).



**James White**  
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