



## 6-8<sup>th</sup> Grade Profile

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Classes Available	<p>Two sections per grade level.</p> <p>The Upper School, grades 6-8, are taught in a departmentalized manner. Each grade has two classes and each class is assigned a homeroom teacher. Students rotate on a bell system to various instructors. Lockers are available.</p>
Teachers	<p>Mrs. Missy Daskocil – Spanish; 6<sup>th</sup> grade homeroom</p> <p>Mrs. Shannon Connors – Science; 6<sup>th</sup> grade homeroom</p> <p>Sr. Theresa Mai – Religion; 7<sup>th</sup> grade homeroom</p> <p>Mrs. Katherine Asher- Social Studies; 7<sup>th</sup> grade homeroom</p> <p>Mrs. Judy Gavin - Math; 8<sup>th</sup> grade homeroom</p> <p>Mrs. Toni Pouttu – Language Arts; 8<sup>th</sup> grade homeroom</p>
Class Size	Maximum 25 students
Teacher Notes	<p>We offer a challenging curriculum within the framework of Christian morals and values, designed to deepen a child's relationship with God and develop knowledge and skills needed to excel in higher education. Our students are faith-filled, articulate, collaborative and creative problem solvers, and accomplished leaders of their community, being well prepared for their future. We are an innovative, nurturing faculty with high academic and behavioral standards.</p>
Religion	<p>Upper School Religion classes each have their own focus, but all engage in the study of the Virtues, the Bible, and strive for Bible verse memorization, to improve our daily lives and do all things for God.</p> <p>Sixth grade focuses on the Old Testament using Sadlier's <i>We Believe: We are God's People</i>. They study the history of our Jewish brothers and sisters and all that leads to the coming of Christ. From the Creation to the Judges, 6<sup>th</sup> graders will experience the world of the Old Testament and the prophecy of the coming Messiah.</p> <p>Seventh grade studies Sadlier's <i>We Live Our Faith: As Disciples of Jesus</i>. Students learn to experience Christ on a personal level, learn about the life of Christ and His Apostles, and finally the Seven Sacraments, instituted by Christ for us to experience the Sacred on Earth.</p> <p>Eighth grade examines the history of the Catholic Church with Sadlier's <i>We Love Our Faith: As Members of the Church</i>. From the beginnings of our Church at Pentecost through centuries of change, 8<sup>th</sup> graders learn the true teachings of the Church and Her part in their lives. Our students attend a Diocesan Vocation Day along with all the 8<sup>th</sup> graders</p>



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	<p>in Catholic schools throughout the Diocese of Fort Worth. Our 8<sup>th</sup> graders also attend a Theology of the Body retreat once a year. At this retreat they explore the importance of respecting their bodies, for all are created in the image of God.</p> <p>To help build a strong relationship with Jesus and to practice the values of our faith, we usually dedicate Friday as the day of praise and worship. In ordinary times, we pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet and sing praise and worship songs in class. During Advent, we pray the Rosary, as well as during the Marian months of October and May.</p> <p>During Lent, we go to the church to pray the Stations of the Cross. At times on Friday, we walk over to the parish's chapel for adoration and to reflect on the Sunday Gospel passages. Whatever we contemplate in our prayer life, we put it into action by helping out with the Mass as well as with service projects like garage sales and canned food drives.</p>
Language Arts	<p>Students study Reading, Writing, Listening, and Speaking in an integrated way in the Language Arts classroom. Students use the writing process to plan, draft, revise and edit their writing pieces in a recursive process. Within the writing process, students learn to apply standard English conventions and skills as they write essays for a variety of purposes. In reading, students actively develop their proficiency for comprehending a variety of texts by thinking critically and analytically about the literature they read through the use of written responses to literature and participating in Socratic discussions. Learning to actively listen to others and speaking to communicate ideas effectively rounds out the important components of our Language Arts classroom. Seminar discussions are had on a variety of topics. Our students become thoughtful, articulate young people who can apply their skills of logic and reason to the greater world.</p> <p>Throughout the school year, students will read from a variety of genres to expose him/her to different purposes for writing. To help students develop a love of reading, he/she will also have opportunities to read self-selected books. Below is an overview of our reading schedule for this year, which includes Classic Literature.</p>



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	<p>Poetry reading and poetry memorization will also be embedded throughout the year.</p> <p><b>8<sup>th</sup> Grade</b> <i>The Red Pony</i> by John Steinbeck <i>The Call of the Wild</i>, by Jack London <i>A Separate Peace</i>, by John Knowles <i>The Boy in the Striped Pajamas</i>, by John Boyne <i>To Kill A Mockingbird</i> by Harper Lee <i>The Screwtape Letters</i> by C.S. Lewis (The first six Wednesdays during Lent) Into Literature Reading Series</p> <p><b>7<sup>th</sup> Grade</b> <i>Hatchet</i>, by Gary Paulsen <i>The Crossover</i>, by Kwame Alexander <i>A Christmas Carol</i>, by Charles Dickens <i>Drums, Girls, and Dangerous Pie</i>, by Jordan Sonnenblick <i>The Adventures of Tom Sawyer</i> by Mark Twain Junior Great Books Short Stories, provided by SJCS Into Literature Reading Series</p> <p><b>6<sup>th</sup> Grade</b> <i>Amos Fortune, Free Man</i> by Elizabeth Yates <i>Aesop's Fables for Children</i> (Read.gov) <i>The Watsons Go to Birmingham</i> by Christopher Paul Curtis <i>A Storm Too Soon</i> (Young Reader's Edition) by Michael J. Tougias Into Literature Reading Series</p>
Spanish	<p>The Upper School Spanish program at SJCS follows the <u>World Language Curriculum Standards</u> set forth by the University of Loyola's Center for Catholic School Effectiveness. These achievement standards, as well as our student objectives, fall within the following strands: Communication, Cultures, Connections, Comparisons among Cultures, and Communities. Every lesson utilizes all four language modes: reading, writing, listening, and speaking. The textbook series <i>¡Avancemos!</i> (Levels 1 and 2) by Holt McDougal is used to support our curriculum standards.</p> <p>Sixth and seventh grade classes master all grammar concepts in the present tense and some past tense while building upon the vocabulary</p>



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	<p>previously learned in the PreK-5 Spanish program. Eighth grade branches into using more of the past, future, and conditional tenses with a strong focus on original self-expression in the language. All classes participate in student-centered learning activities that foster students' confidence, creativity, and accuracy in language expression. Students also explore many different Spanish-speaking cultures and think critically about their similarities, differences, and connections to their own community and Catholic beliefs. Teaching methodologies and technology used in the classroom include: TPR (Total Physical Response), TPRS (Teaching Proficiency through Reading and Storytelling), Games, Chants/Songs, Conversational Drills, online WebQuests, computer-based practice and project resources, Qomo Interactive board, flipcharts, ActivBoard, and ActivExpression learner response system.</p>
Math - General	<p>Math is offered at several levels, 6<sup>th</sup> grade math, Pre-Algebra and Algebra I. Pre-Algebra is offered to all 7<sup>th</sup> grade students – in two ways; one class consists of top math students and moves at a rapid pace allowing them to move onto Algebra I in 8<sup>th</sup> grade. The other Pre-Algebra class moves at the pace of the students and continues into their 8<sup>th</sup> grade year. Graphing calculators are used in all Upper School classes to assist in our math program.</p>
Math - 6 <sup>th</sup>	<p>Sixth grade math covers problem solving and graphing; decimals, fractions and ratios – adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing them; proportions and percents; geometry – area and volume; algebra – adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing integers; algebra – solve equations; probabilities</p>
Math - Pre-Algebra	<p>Pre-Algebra covers algebra – adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing integers, solving equations and inequalities solving two-step and multi-step equations and inequalities; ratios, proportions and percents; statistics and probability; geometry; measurement – area and volume; trigonometry; polynomials</p>
Math - Algebra	<p>Algebra covers solving expressions, equations and functions; solving linear equations and inequalities as well as systems of linear equations and inequalities; graphing – relations and functions; polynomials; factoring; quadratic equations and exponential functions; trigonometry; rational and radical expressions and equations</p>



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Social Studies	<p>The primary focus for the sixth grade social studies program is World Cultures. We begin with a survey of early civilizations and their impact on modern cultures in countries all around the world. Students will study the geography, history, cultures and economies of different countries today. Students will continue to learn fundamental concepts in civics, economics, and geography.</p> <p>Students in seventh grade will study Texas history in the Fall semester and world geography in the Spring semester. Students study the history of Texas from early times to the present. Content is presented with more depth and breadth than in Grade 4. Students' focus each year is on key individuals, events, issues, and their impact. Seventh graders use primary and secondary sources to examine the rich and diverse cultural background of Texas. The fundamentals of geography are explored by investigating the cultural aspects of the seven continents. Students will use the five geographic inquiry skills for the course. They incorporate the use of instructional technology, as well as the continued development of critical thinking skills.</p> <p>Eighth Grade United States History is designed as a survey course through American History. This course will focus on the period of American History from the discovery of North America through Reconstruction (after the Civil War.) Students taking this course will attain a mastery of U.S. History from the 1490s through the 1870s with special focus on critical thinking, chronology, and geography.</p>
Field Trips	The Upper School attends various trips to museums and other interesting places.
Enhanced Curriculum	Music, Physical Education, STREAM, Outdoor Learning, Library and Art