

8TH GRADE



This program is for children who are ready and excited to grow both socially and academically.

Students have a six period day consisting of our core religion, math, science, history, and language arts classes. The sixth period is an elective. Electives include Performing Arts, Yearbook, PE, Technology, Speech & Debate, World Language, and Art.

ACADEMIC FOCUS

Religion

Our religion curriculum focuses on the learning of “right knowledge” as well as developing a personalized and communal practice of the Catholic faith.

In the seventh grade, our curriculum focuses on the Life and Teachings of Jesus. We also cover a lectionary-based Bible study each week in preparation for the Sunday Mass.

Ten hours of community service each trimester is required of our middle school students.

Throughout the year, eighth graders will generate their Graduation Portfolio Project. The GP reflects the students’ gains in the School-wide Learning Expectations.

Mathematics

The middle school math curriculum uses the Houghton Mifflin Harcourt (HMH) Go Math. Our eighth-grade math curriculum focuses on:

- Rational and irrational numbers.
- Scientific notation and exponents.
- Proportional relationships.
- Nonproportional relationships.
- Linear equations.
- Functions.
- Two variable equations and systems of equations.



Science

Our eighth– grade Science curriculum focuses on the following areas:

- The scientific method
- The metric system
- The characteristics of life
- Ecology
- Animal and Plant cells
- Cell division/DNA
- Genetics
- Evolution
- The six kingdoms of living things

History

Our eighth–grade history curriculum focuses on the United States and will cover the following themes:

- The Land
- Exploration and Settlement
- The American Revolution
- American Government
- The Constitution
- Westward Expansion
- Sectionalism (North vs South)
- The Civil War
- Naturalization

English Language Arts

Our Language Arts curriculum focuses on the mechanics, usage, and grammar of English through weekly grammar exercises and essay composition. We work on the acquisition of vocabulary as well as literature through this study of short stories and novels.

Spanish:

- Meets daily for 50 minutes.
- Spanish 1 and 2 sequence– introductory to intermediate skill development in listening, speaking, reading, and writing.
- Aligns with first year Spanish at most high schools.
- Curriculum: ¡Qué chévere! Is aligned to the ACTFL World-Readiness Standards for Learning Languages. This is the same program used at Bellarmine Preparatory School.
- Online textbook and language learning resources are fully integrated into the curriculum.
- Effective study skills and active participation are both encouraged and reinforced.
- 15–20 minutes of homework, online practice, or studying for tests/quizzes 4 days a week.



8th Grade Curriculum:

1. ELA: Amplify CKLA and Novel Studies
2. Math: Savaas Algebra
3. Religion: St. Mary's Press
4. Social Studies: Houghton Mifflin, United States History
5. Science: Saavas

Homework Expectations:

English: 15-20 minutes a night, every night. Students are expected to read 1,200 independent reading pages per trimester.

Math: 20 minutes per night.

Science: 15-20 minutes per night.

History: 10-15 minutes per night.

Religion: 15 minutes every other night, 10 hours of community service per trimester.

Curriculum

Community Service Requirement:

The middle school participates in service with L'Arche Tacoma Hope and for Nativity House communities during the school year. Opportunities are offered on a regular basis within St. Charles school and parish community. Students are encouraged to recognize needs and find ways to respond to them within their personal service offerings.

