



CURRICULUM:

Junior High

6th/7th/8th

St. Mary's Visitation Catholic Parish School's Junior High curriculum is fully aligned to the Archdiocese of Milwaukee Standards based on Wisconsin state standards. Our Junior High curriculum fosters a love of learning while building foundational academic skills. With our approach to learning, teachers emphasize hands-on learning, creativity, and character development in a nurturing environment. Junior High students are active participants in our school liturgies twice a week.

The Whole Child

A complete Junior High experience revolves around developing the skills of the whole child. At St. Mary's Visitation, it is our goal to provide an opportunity for children to grow not only academically, but spiritually, socially, emotionally, and physically. We instill in children the Catholic Values, social skills, manners, independence, and the routine and structure of school. St. Mary's Visitation Catholic Parish School endeavors to provide an atmosphere of high expectations that challenge the individual and promote lifelong learning so each student can reach the fullness of his or her individual potential. Through partnering with parents, we are able to meet these expectations and goals.

Religion

Religious education at St. Mary's Visitation encompasses not only formal religion classes, but also an education in Catholic beliefs and values that is integrated in every aspect of the academic curriculum. Junior High students learn about their Catholic faith through Scripture stories, prayer, discussion and reflection, music, and weekly liturgies. They also participate in some service projects and activities throughout the year. The Junior High religion curriculum we use is called *Spirit of Truth* from Sophia Institute Press and Catholic teachings are discussed and integrated across all subject areas. The following topics are the focus of the Junior High religion curriculum:

- Describes relationship with God associated with a life of faith in Jesus Christ
- Discusses the roles of Scripture and Tradition in Catholic life
- Conducts a personal examination of conscience
- Creates, composes, and articulates spontaneous prayer to deepen one's relationship with God
- Constructs prayers of petition
- Uses Scripture, especially the parables, as a source of prayer and can relate the parables to life experiences
- Narrates and discusses key passages from the Gospels that reveal Jesus' ministry

English Language Arts

Reading

Junior High students experience different genres including classics, informational, fiction and nonfiction. Throughout the year, students will:

- compare and contrast one author's presentation of events with that of another
- determine a theme or central idea of a text and how it is conveyed through particular details; provides a summary of the text distinct from personal opinions or judgments
- cite several pieces of textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly, as well as inferences drawn from the text
- analyze how particular lines of dialogue or incidents in a story or drama propel the action, reveals aspects of a character, or provokes a decision
- delineate and evaluate the argument and specific claims in a text, assessing whether the reasoning is sound and the evidence is relevant and sufficient; recognizes when irrelevant evidence is introduced

Writing and Grammar

Junior High students will produce works that include the four step writing process: plan, draft, edit, publish. Students will write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas, concepts, and information through the selection, organization, and analysis of relevant content. They will use *Voyages in English* by Loyola Press which systematically combines grammar and writing into a single consumable book, ensuring students master the mechanics of language while developing strong writing skills.

Speaking and listening

Junior High students will listen to others when speaking and participate in collaborative discussions. Students will use language and vocabulary to express thoughts, feelings, and ideas clearly. Student will participate in class discussions along with presenting materials orally. Many lessons provide opportunities for students to collaborate and share ideas.

Mathematics

Junior High students use the mathematics curriculum through *Savvas enVision*. Starting on a firm foundation of conceptual understanding, students can connect and apply math ideas in amazing ways. In Junior High, students will learn the following topics:

- Integers and rationale numbers
- Understand and use ratio, rate, and percent
- Real numbers
- Equivalent expressions
- Probability
- Congruence and similarity
- Linear equations
- Exponents and Exponential functions
- Summarize data
- Solve area, surface area, and volume problems

Science

Junior High will work collaboratively with each other and use hands-on experiences to understand science and the world that God created around them. As they engage in hands-on, collaborative problem solving focused on real-world challenges, students use and stretch their imaginations in brand-new ways and connect their learning to life. Students will take a look at the *Project Lead the Way Gateway* curriculum to assist with communicating, explaining, analyzing, and understanding. In Junior High, students will study:

- Design and Modeling
- Magic of Electrons
- Flight and Space
- Energy and the environment

Music

Junior High students will attend to music class twice a week where they will explore rhythmic and melodic phrases, perform music and show audience etiquette, identify fast and slow tempos, demonstrate high and low pitches, how to connect with our faith and sing music at Mass.

Library

Junior High students will visit the school library frequently to choose a book based on interest.

Social Studies

Junior High student use the social studies curriculum from *Savvas myWorld*. Junior High students will develop awareness on community and the people around them along with the integration of our Catholic Social Teachings. The focus will be on:

- American History
- World History
- World Geography

Physical Education

In Junior High, students will explore and demonstrate factors that contribute to a healthy lifestyle. Students will participate in physical education twice a week to show competency in motor skills and movement patterns. They will also exhibit responsible social behavior that shows respect to self and others. Students will also work collaboratively and cooperatively.

The Arts

In Junior High, students will be introduced to various artists including Alma Woodsey Thomas, Wassily Kandinsky, and Hundertwasser. They will be using different art materials such as:

- tempera paint
- oil pastels
- watercolor pens
- colored pencils
- markers

Recess

In Junior High, students benefit from recess once a day where they interact with others which offers cognitive, social, emotional, and physical benefits.

ST. MARY'S VISITATION

Catholic School † Elm Grove, WI

St. Mary's Visitation Catholic Parish School exists to direct children toward God and toward Christian service to society through Catholic religious formation, academic challenge and continuous improvement.