Seventh Grade Curriculum

RELIGION

Students will:

- Understand that Jesus is Son of God, Son of Man, Messiah
- Examine the culture and Jewish life of 1st century Palestine
- Read and understand the gospels as writings that give different portraits of Jesus because of different audiences
- Understand the mission of Jesus, the significance of his baptism, the role of his disciples
- Understand how the sacraments strengthen us and help us become disciples of Jesus
- Use the gospel stories of Jesus, his parables, the Beatitudes, and the Ten Commandments as models of behavior for following Jesus
- Understand how the Transfiguration, Passion, Resurrection, and Ascension of Jesus show us his power over death and sin
- Appreciate how the Holy Spirit gives us guidance and strength to live as Christians
- Understand how our Christian witness calls us to work for peace and justice in the world in connection with World Geography
- Develop a personal relationship with Jesus through journal writing, private prayer, Eucharist celebrations, participation in the sacraments, seasonal retreats, and social justice activities

LANGUAGE ARTS

READING

Students will:

- Decode unfamiliar words and phrases using etymology, derivations, phonetic clues, and word reference materials
- Determine genre, story and literary elements, themes, conflict, plot, and characterization when reading fiction
- Make inferences and predictions, demonstrate comprehension, draw conclusions, and form opinions when reading nonfiction expository writing
- Make critical judgments, evaluate source credibility, validity, bias and purpose when reading nonfiction argumentative writing
- Identify examples of figurative language and sensory images, forms and styles, plot and character development when reading poetry and drama
- Engage in sustained daily reading

WRITING

Students will:

- Use proper capitalization, abbreviations, and forms of punctuation (apostrophes, colons, semi-colons, commas, quotation marks, hyphens, dashes, and end punctuation)
- Continue to develop proper sentence and paragraph structure and style and editing skills
- Use writing as a tool to paraphrase, summarize, hypothesize, synthesize, evaluate and assimilate what is heard or read
- Use a variety of writing forms to describe, narrate, explain, and persuade
- Write technical compositions showing evidence of working outlines, paraphrased notes, working bibliographies and use of resources for editing
- Apply the skills needed to complete the writing process including prewriting, rough drafts, organization, evaluating, revising and editing
- Identify and apply the rules for using various parts of speech including nouns, verbs, pronouns, adjectives, adverbs, prepositions, conjunctions and interjections
- Identify, understand, and use parts of sentences including complete and simple subjects and predicates, complements, direct and indirect objects, phrases, clauses and sentence bases
- Use diagramming as an aid to understanding sentence structure

COMMUNICATION AND STUDY SKILLS

Students will:

- Speak clearly and concisely using standard English
- Participate appropriately in small and large group discussions
- Continue to develop and refine basic study skills including following directions, previewing, skimming, outlining, note taking, paraphrasing and summarizing

- Continue applying knowledge of resources and conducting research in preparing written and oral presentations
- Communicate through application of software and networks and have a basic understanding of computer systems and technology
- Process, store, retrieve, and transmit electronic information using local and worldwide networks, search strategies, databases, electronic encyclopedias, almanacs, indexes and catalogues

MATH

DECIMALS, ALGEBRA and STATISTICS

Students will:

- Use tools such as decimals, algebra, and statistics for problem solving
- Examine powers, exponents, scientific notation, and the order of operations
- Use knowledge of algebraic variables, expressions, and properties to solve equations
- Use frequency tables, line plots, and measures of central tendency to analyze data and make predictions
- Learn to interpret statistical data through the use of stem-and-leaf plots, box-and-whisker plots, bar graphs, and histograms

INTEGERS and ALGEBRA

Students will:

- Compare, add, subtract, multiply, divide, and order integers
- Use a coordinate plane to locate and graph ordered pairs
- Solve one- and two- step equations
- Graph linear equations and inequalities
- Learn how to find the slope of a line

FRACTIONS

Students will:

- Learn to simplify fractions using the greatest common factor (GCF)
- Learn to express fractions as decimals
- Learn to convert fractions to percents and percents to simplified fractions
- Use the least common multiple (LCM) to compare and order fractions
- Add, subtract, multiply, and divide fractions and mixed numbers
- Learn how to change customary units
- Explore perimeter, area, and circumference

PROPORTIONAL REASONING

Students will:

- Examine ratios and rates and solve proportions
- Learn to use a percent proportion
- Estimate percents and use statistics to make predictions
- Explore possible outcomes, permutations and combinations of items

- Explore theoretical and experimental probability and independent and dependent events

GEOMETRY and MEASUREMENT
Students will:
- Explore two-dimensional and three-dimensional figures
- Learn to classify, construct, and bisect angles
- Construct parallel lines and triangles
- Learn to transform two-dimensional figures
- Investigate squares, square roots, and the Pythagorean Theorem
- Estimate the area of a circle
- Find the volume and surface area of three-dimensional figures

SCIENCE

LIFE
Students will:
- Explore features, needs, and origins of living things
- Compare and contrast characteristics of viruses and bacteria
- Use scientific method and problem solving
- Study processes, functions and reproduction of cells

HEREDITY AND EVOLUTION
Students will:
- Discover patterns of heredity and hereditary changes that influence evolutionary trends
- Study simple and complex patterns of genetics
- Investigate evidence for and mechanisms of evolution

DIVERSITY OF LIFE
Students will:
- Learn methods by which organisms are classified and characteristics used to classify them
- Study differences in cell structure, protists, and fungi

PLANTS
Students will:
- Study plant characteristics, relationship of plants to other organisms, and the processes of photosynthesis and respiration

ANIMALS
Students will:
- Examine animal characteristics of major animal groups
- Explore animal behavior and behavioral adaptations

ECOLOGY
Students will:

- Learn fundamentals of ecology, including living and nonliving factors, changes in ecosystems and the effect of humans on non-renewable and renewable resources

HUMAN BODY
Students will:

- Study systems of the human body (muscular, skeletal, circulatory, respiratory, nervous, and excretory) – how they function and interact
- Discuss human development from conception to birth
- Learn basic health concepts, including diet and nutrition

GEOGRAPHY
Students will:

- Identify, make and use various types of map projections
- Demonstrate proficiency in using maps to determine latitude, longitude, distance, and time zones
- Identify the 12 types of climates on the earth and understand how climate affects the development of regions
- Name the countries of the world, by region, and identify the major landforms, bodies of water, rivers, natural resources, cities, and economic activities
- Explain how human migration has affected ecosystems, natural resources, agriculture, environment and native people
- Explain how the world is organized politically into nations with different types of governments
- Recognize how nations interact and how conflict changes national boundaries
- Understand the role of economics in the development of countries and the shift in populations
- Explain how natural resources, human resources, and capital are combined in the production process
- Explain the reasons for government regulations and how those affect workers and business
- Know and appreciate the cultural aspects that make each country unique

ART

Students will:

- Develop skills necessary for understanding and applying media, techniques, and processes of art
- Develop knowledge of the elements of art and principles of design
- Understand the visual arts in relation to history and cultures
- Appreciate the expression, subject matter, symbols, and ideas used in art
- Reflect upon and assess the merits of their work and the work of others
- Perceive the connection between art and other disciplines

CONCERT BAND – 7th/8th Grade

A student who has successfully completed the Beginning Band course, or who has been auditioned by director as a new 7th or 8th grader will choose Concert Band. The Concert Band meets five days a week for 40 minutes a day in addition to individual practice at home. A student who completes the Concert Band elective will be able to do the following:

- Sing (Read) on note names or Play a 5-8 note melody of 4-8 measures
- Perform on a woodwind, brass, or percussion instrument melodies and rhythms from text and supplemental music with a difficulty of Grade II-III (on I-VI scale) in large group, small ensemble or solo
- Perform 5 major scales and a 2 octave chromatic scale
- Perform various genres, i.e. Traditional overture, march, waltz, jazz, latin, with appropriate expression and articulation
- Perform music in Meters of 2, 3, and 4/4, 6/8 and 2/2 Alla Breve and rhythms through sixteenths and dotted eighth sixteenth and corresponding rests
- Compose a short melody for their instrument over an assigned accompaniment
- Evaluate (using relevant terminology) their own performance or that of another group after hearing recording of various pieces of music. *Develop criteria for these evaluations
- Classify by genre and style various pieces of band and solo literature from Western music

CHORUS/DRAMA

Students will:

- Sing in an ensemble in unison, two and three parts, blending vocal timbres, and matching dynamic levels with the appropriate style in response to cues from a conductor with most songs sung from memory
- Study solo singing with proper vocal technique and technical accuracy
- Implement Solfege for beginners with appropriate hand signs
- Identify symbols and traditional terms referring to dynamics, tempo and articulation and interpret them correctly when performing

- Write a song using standard notation, perform song
- Identify how the arts interrelate
- Create theatrical improvisations, develop basic acting skills to portray characters, research and organize improvisations and scripted scenes, resulting in the performance of a short play, musical or set of scenes
- Dramatize a now extended portion of instrumental music with appropriate body movements, identifying emotional responses to prominent musical characteristics and portraying these physically, verbally
- Apply specific and appropriate criteria when judging quality of performances, their own and those of others, accepting and using constructive suggestions for improvement

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Students will:

- Learn and understand the benefits of exercising and flexibility
- Learn to provide opportunities for increased responsibility in planning, organizing, and leadership
- Learn to master locomotion skills to use during different sports
- Learn team play and partner work
- Learn different techniques with footwork
- Learn the difference between speed and agility
- Learn ball control and ball skills
- Learn position awareness during activities
- Learn jumping sequences to music
- Learn the difference between offense and defense strategies during team play
- Learn to work with others with different skill abilities
- Learn to handle conflict with others