

Eighth Grade Curriculum

RELIGION

Students will:

- Examine the history of the Catholic Church from Apostolic times to the present
- Use the Old and New Testaments to understand early Christology
- Discuss the historical development of the sacraments
- Understand the liturgical year of the Church, its seasons and feasts
- Appreciate the role that the saints play in Christian life
- Discuss the Council Tradition of the Church, and especially understand the significance of Vatican Council II
- Read and meditate on the weekly Sunday readings and understand how they hold a personal message for each of us
- Continue to develop a sense of responsibility for Christian witness and justice in the world by participating in projects for the local and world community
- Deepen the personal relationship each student has with the Lord through experiences in retreats, liturgical celebrations, journaling, participating in the sacraments, activities for world and local justice

LANGUAGE ARTS

LITERATURE/GRAMMAR/WRITING

Eighth grade reading curriculum consists of the study of short stories, drama, novels, and poetry. Grammar curriculum concentrates on parts of speech, parts and types of sentences, usage, mechanics and spelling. Various genres of writing skills are reinforced (expository, descriptive, persuasive, narrative), plus research papers, through the use of the writing process and the study of vocabulary.

Reading

Students will:

- Recognize the main idea of a story
- Identify the causes of a character's actions
- Understand the importance of setting, "irony of situation", and point of view
- Identify figurative language (similes, metaphors, alliteration, assonance, rhyme schemes) humorous rhymes and dramatic terminology
- Interpret the meaning of the title of the story
- Draw inferences
- Recognize cause and effect

- Draw conclusions about a character
- Identify details that suggest authenticity
- Follow incidents of the plot
- Respond to atmosphere and mood
- Experience the work in oral reading
- Interpret dialogue
- Interpret values from myth
- Analyze, understand and relate the theme of each work to the purpose of literature (comedy, tragedy, instructive, biographical, or entertainment)

Writing

Students will:

- Describe an incident in a clear, logical way in a narrative that has a beginning, middle and an ending
- Arrange details in chronological and/or spatial order
- Write step-by-step directions
- Write a comparison-contrasting composition
- Write a vivid description using specific details that appeal to the senses
- Write an expository composition that uses transitional expressions
- Write a thoughtful and well-organized book report
- Identify the importance of news stories
- Learn the MLA research style in producing a research paper
- Acquire the skills of answering “test questions” in appropriate study skills’ method
- Understand the importance of correct usage, punctuation, and spelling in the writing process

PRE-ALGEBRA

Students will:

- Review integers: adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing
- Solve two-step equations
- Multiply and divide monomials
- Use positive and negative exponents
- Review fraction operations
- Solve equations using rational numbers
- Use ratio, proportion and percent to solve equations
- Solve equations with variables on both sides
- Solve two-step inequalities
- Solve and graph linear equations
- Solve systems of equations
- Extend algebra to statistics and geometry
- Learn to add, subtract, and multiply polynomials
- Analyze data and interpret graphs

- Review decimal operations

ALGEBRA I

Algebra I is a high school level course. Students will earn one math credit for high school by earning a yearly grade of 85 or above.

At a high level this course includes:

- the use of symbolic reasoning to represent mathematical situations, to express generalizations, and to study relationships among quantities
- the use of functions to represent and model problem situations, as well as to analyze and interpret relationships
- the setting up of equations in a wide range of situations and the use of a variety of methods to solve the equations
- the use of problem solving, representation, reasoning and proof, language and communication, and connections both within and outside mathematics

Expressions and Equations

Students will:

- Explore using variables to represent data
- Learn to write, evaluate, and simplify variable expressions
- Write and solve linear equations
- Perform operations with real numbers

Linear Functions

Students will:

- Explore data to determine whether a linear relationship exists
- Represent a linear relationship as points on a coordinate plane, and as an equation representing a line
- Graph and solve direct and inverse variation equations
- Analyze how the equation and the graph of a line are related
- Extend their knowledge of linear graphing to inequalities and systems of linear equations

Polynomials and Nonlinear Functions

Students will:

- Be introduced to nonlinear functions
- Learn about polynomials and operations involving monomials and polynomials
- Study various methods of factoring
- Learn quadratic and exponential functions

Data Analysis

Students will:

- Study matrices

- Find the range, quartiles, and interquartile range of a set of data
- Organize and use data in box-and-whisker plots

EARTH SCIENCE

Earth Materials

Students will:

- Learn the branches of science involved in Earth Science
- Study atomic structure and how it affects the formation, identification, and uses of minerals and rocks

Changing Surface of the Earth

Students will:

- Discover how features on the Earth's surface form
- Examine processes and agents that create surface features, including weathering and erosion

Earth's Internal Processes

Students will:

- Learn how earthquakes, volcanoes, and plate tectonics are related
- Study the formation of volcanoes and causes of earthquakes

Earth's History

Students will:

- Examine the Earth's evolutionary history and development of geological time scale

Air and Water

Students will:

- Study the characteristics and movement of air and water (weather, climate, oceanography)
- Discover the causes and effects of pollution and study the impact humans have on land
- Examine in detail the solar system
- Explore the immense nature of the universe

SOUTH CAROLINA HISTORY

Students will:

- Know landforms, rivers, geographic regions of South Carolina
- Recognize names of counties, cities and the state capital
- Know names of state governor and lieutenant governor, local mayor, national Senators and Congressional representatives
- Be familiar with the government structure and the voting process of the state and nation

- Describe life in the Americas before the arrival of Europeans and Africans and the consequences of first contact
- Explain the Lowcountry vs. the Upcountry rivalry
- Discuss the antecedents to the Constitution, the Constitutional Convention and arguments over ratification
- Identify the major domestic and foreign issues of the early presidential administrations
- Recognize the important role of the state in the American Revolution and the Civil War
- Understand the changing nature of the state during the industrial and political period of the late 1800' s
- Discuss the modernization of the state in the 20th century
- Know the role of the Civil Rights movement in the state development
- Be aware of the importance of agriculture to the early economic success of the state
- Understand the downfall of agriculture after the Civil War and how that affected the economic and political development of the state in the 20th century
- Recognize how diversification has led to industrial growth and tourism in the state which is still prevalent today

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