

Religion

Seventh graders will learn through Scripture, prayer, discussion and reflection about their Catholic faith. Catholic values are discussed and integrated not only in religion, but also in all learning. The focus is on:

- Church History
- Planning, assisting in liturgy and other forms of worship
- The Sacraments
- Documents of the Church
- Living the faith—Discipleship
- Respect for life
- The Saints
- Using the Bible
- Morality
- First year preparation for Confirmation

Language Arts/Reading

The Language Arts program includes reading, writing, speaking, listening and the study of literature and informational text. The components of the program emphasize the development of those skills that allow students to read with fluency, comprehend and interpret written materials, communicate well and listen and speak effectively. The skills acquired and understood are applied and reinforced in all content areas.

Reading Informational Text/Literature

A diverse selection of literature will be used to enhance student development of comprehension and higher levels of inferential thinking. The focus is on:

- Reads and comprehends literary and informational texts independently and proficiently noting details text structure and integration of ideas
- Researches topics using print and digital tools to locate, analyze and evaluate information
- Identifying plot, characterization, setting, point of view and conflict from different genres
- Identifying author's purpose and style of writing
- Analyzing character conflict
- Understanding the author's purpose in various literary genres
- Identifying purpose of various forms of figurative language

Writing/Language/Speaking and Listening

Seventh grade students use writing, language and speaking skills to convey meaning; applying classroom instruction in grammar, spelling, mechanics and processing. Students will use acquired language and vocabulary to express opinions. The focus is on:

- Producing clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization and style are appropriate in task, purpose and audience
- Demonstrating a command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing and speaking
- Engaging effectively in a range of collaborative discussions building on others' ideas and clearly expressing their own
- Acquiring and using vocabulary based on grade level reading and content
- Using a variety of digital tools to produce and publish writing as appropriate
- Using the steps of the research process
- Writing a research paper
- Using the writing process including pre-writing, revising, peer editing, and final draft
- Writing in multiple forms: narrative, expository, persuasive and description essays
- Writing in a variety of creative modes
- "Writing for Life" Program
- Demonstrating presentation skills
- Expressing ideas clearly when speaking

Technology

St. Matthew follows the National Educational Technology Standards for Students. We believe that students must have regular opportunities to use technology to develop skills that encourage personal productivity, creativity, critical thinking and collaboration in the classroom and in daily life. The focus is on:

- Use collaborative electronic authoring tools to explore common curriculum content from different perspectives with other learners.
- Select and use the appropriate tools and digital resources to accomplish a variety of tasks and to solve problems.
- Evaluate digital resources to determine the credibility of the author and publisher and the timeliness and accuracy of the content.

Mathematics

Seventh grade students, in following the Common Core State Standards, will be able to make sense of math problems and persevere in solving them. They will construct reasonable arguments and critique the reasoning of others, while understanding how to model with mathematics, use appropriate tools, attend to precision and look for patterns. The focus is on:

- **Ratios and Proportional Relationships:** analyzing proportional relationships and using them to solve real-world math problems.
- **The Number System:** applying previous understanding of fractions to add, subtract, multiply and divide rational numbers.
- **Expressions & Equations:** using properties of operations to generate equivalent expressions; and solving real-life math problems by using expressions and equations.
- **Geometry:** making geometrical figures and describing the relationships between them; and solving real-life math problems that involve angles, area, surface area and volume.
- **Statistics & Probability:** using random samples to make inferences about a population; and investigating the probability of a chance event.

Science

Seventh students use concrete, hands-on experiences to understand science in the physical and natural world. Students identify problems, formulate and test hypotheses and evaluate experimental results. The focus is on:

- Using inquiry skills
- Classifying organisms based on traits
- Identifying and determining how cellular life processes are accomplished
- Identifying the effects of policy and ethics on science & technology in the life sciences
- Describing relationships between living & nonliving things in an environment
- Conducting controlled experiments

Social Studies

Seventh grade students will understand events, trends, individuals and movements shaping the history of the United States. The focus is on:

- Using primary and secondary sources to understand events, trends, individuals and movements shaping the history of the United States
- Make inferences about historical events and eras using historical maps and other historical sources
- Understand and explain the basic principles of the United States government
- Describe how United States political ideas and traditions were instituted in the Constitution and the Bill of Rights
- Understand the election process and responsibilities of citizens
- Describe roles and influences of individual groups and media in shaping current policies

Physical Education

In seventh grade, students learn and explore factors that affect a healthy lifestyle. The focus is on:

- Developing muscle strength, cardio-respiratory endurance and flexibility
- Using rules, offensive and defensive strategies in cooperative sports and games
- Demonstrating sportsmanship in sports and games
- Demonstrating safe participation in exercise and sports

Art

In seventh grade, students will have the opportunity to express themselves in various art forms. The focus is on:

- Using elements and principles of art to express ideas
- Interpreting artistic products and experiences using appropriate vocabulary
- Comparing works of art from different cultures and periods
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Music

In seventh grade, students will have the opportunity to participate in music activities and to develop an appre-

Evaluation

Edline will be used to update grades. Report cards are issued at the end of each quarter

Parent-Teacher conferences will be scheduled in November, but can be requested at anytime.

Students will receive a report card at each of the four marking periods.

Homework

Seventh grade students will be assigned homework as needed for practice and reinforcement as well as for the completion of special projects.

Parents can help by:

- Modeling active participation in weekly liturgy, daily prayer, and service
- Showing an interest in homework and school activities
- Providing a quiet place and sufficient uninterrupted time to do school work
- Encouraging good nutrition, rest and exercise
- Staying in touch with the school

This curriculum guide provides a glimpse of goals and activities.

For more comprehensive information, please contact the school principal.

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ST. MATTHEW PARISH SCHOOL

CURRICULUM GUIDE

SEVENTH GRADE

A POSITIVE INVESTMENT IN YOUR CHILD'S FUTURE

