

Religion

Eighth 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:

- Who Jesus Christ is
- Planning, assisting in liturgy and other forms of worship
- Second year preparation for Confirmation
- Morality
- Church teaching and life choices
- Becoming disciples
- Catechism of the Catholic Church
- Focus on the Eucharist

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
- Analyzing plot, characterization, setting, point of view and conflict from different genres
- Distinguishing among genres
- Extrapolating and using various literary devices
- Applying word analysis and vocabulary skills

Writing/Language/Speaking and Listening

Eighth grade students use writing to convey meaning applying classroom instruction in grammar, spelling, mechanics and process. 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 writing process including pre-writing, revising, peer editing and final draft
- Writing in multiple forms: narrative, personal and descriptive essays
- Writing in a variety of creative modes
- "Writing for Life" Program
- Using presentation skills appropriate to the situation and audience
- 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

Eighth 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:

- **The Number System:** learning that there are numbers that are not rational and learn how to estimate them using rational numbers.
- **Expressions & Equations:** understanding the connections between proportional relationships, lines and linear equations; and solving linear equations.
- **Functions:** defining, evaluating and comparing functions; and using them to model relationships between quantities.
- **Geometry:** analyzing two- and three-dimensional space and figures using the Pythagorean Theorem.
- **Statistics & Probability:** investigating patterns in data including scatter plots and linear models.

Science

Eighth 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
- Conducting controlled experiments
- Reading and understanding the periodic table
- Identifying the effects of policy and ethics on science & technology in Physical Sciences
- Explaining how forces affect motion
- Explaining physical and chemical properties of matter
- Demonstrating interactions of energy & matter

Social Studies

Eighth grade students will understand events, trends, individuals and movements shaping the history of the United States and other nations. 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
- Compare the basic principles of the United States and its International interests
- Describe ways in which the United States developed as a world power
- Describe roles and influences of individuals groups and media in shaping current policies

Physical Education

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

- Applying design skills and technology to convey ideas
- Studying the role of artists in social, political and economic issues
- Comparing works of art from different cultures and periods

Music

In eighth grade, students will have the opportunity to participate in music activities and to develop an appreciation for music. The focus is on:

- Singing in groups
- Recognizing characteristics of a variety of

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

Eighth 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.

St. Matthew Parish School
1555 Glen Ellyn Road
Glendale Heights, IL 60139
(630)858-3112
www.stmatthewschool.org

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ST. MATTHEW PARISH SCHOOL

CURRICULUM GUIDE

EIGHTH GRADE

A POSITIVE INVESTMENT IN YOUR CHILD'S FUTURE

