

8th Grade Curriculum



RELIGION

Students will understand the community of disciples, the gifts of the Holy Spirit and the church's mission. The main focus is the history of the church from St. Peter to Pope Francis.

MATH

Students are using *Glencoe-McGraw Hill* Pre-Algebra OR Algebra I which is a comprehensive program encouraging students to learn mathematics by doing mathematics, by using and connecting mathematical ideas, and by communicating about mathematics through writing and discussion. The Pre-Algebra classes have access to the e-book and may use this resource in class. Additionally, students use a website called IXL which is a comprehensive math review site with an unlimited *number* of practice questions in hundreds of skills — all of which are aligned to state standards.

SOCIAL STUDIES

- U.S. history from the Constitution to WWII
- Use geographic tools such as aerial photographs, satellite images, and geographic information systems to interpret information.
- Study the Bill of Rights that protect individual rights

SCIENCE

- Life- structure, function, classifying life, cells, cell processes, cell structure, cell reproduction, heredity, evolution.
- Bacteria, Protista, Fungi, Plants.
- Animal Diversity- mollusks, worms, fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds, mammals, animal behavior.
- Human Body Systems- structure, movement, nutrition, digestion, circulation, reproduction, immunity and disease.
- Ecology- living and nonliving environment, ecosystems, pollution, biodiversity.
- Weekly labs follow lessons given in class enabling hands on success.

TECHNOLOGY

Microsoft Office Suite: Word, Publisher Excel and PowerPoint to create various curriculum-based projects. Using PowerPoint they will review animation, sound, timing, music, action buttons and hyperlinks. They will continue to use the *Internet* for research. Students will review Movie Maker and also GAFE (Google Apps for Education.) 8th grade students will use all computer skills along with scanner in order to produce a digital yearbook.

READING

Students learn how to expand their skills while reading literally, inferentially and critically. The 8th grade studies novels to prepare them for high school such as "To Kill a Mockingbird" and "Night."

LANGUAGE ARTS

Students practice the three basic forms of writing: persuasive, informative, and narrative. They learn to research and organize information, to write a thesis statement, and support it with facts. The eighth grade year culminates in mock trials in which students practice their public speaking and persuasive writing skills.

SPECIALS

Weekly specials include French, Physical Education, Music, Art, Computers, Library. Eighth grade students enjoy an oceanography trip and a 3day trip to Washington DC.

