

Team C



Grades 6, 7, & 8
Middle School

St. Joseph Catholic School
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Team C

Sixth through Eighth Grade

Goals

- Develop knowledge of Christian principles and their application to everyday life
- Provide a well-rounded curriculum and a warm environment for learning
- Provide on-going opportunities to develop confidence and self-worth
- Promote self-motivation within the learning program
- Develop problem solving skills and organizational skills to become lifelong learners
- Develop the skills to become responsible, contributing members of their school and church community

Strengths

- Flexible grouping based on abilities
- Continuous progress reporting
- Teacher-pupil ratio
- On-campus parish staff and facilities
- Student participation in liturgy planning and implementation
- Service projects
- Science and computer laboratories
- Technology instruction
- Comprehensive and challenging curriculum
- Articulation with high school programs

Religion

- Review basic Catholic tenets including Sacraments, prayer, commandments, rituals, symbols
- Focus on a study of the Creation & Building Covenants
- Focus (in a two-year cycle) on the life of Jesus Christ and a study of the Gospels and on church history—past to present
- Plan and participate in weekly liturgies
- Participate in opportunities for prayer, retreats, Sacraments
- Read, interpret, and apply Scripture for life
- Participate in service opportunities—school and community

Guidance

- Participate in weekly formal guidance classes
- Learn how harassment and violence affect others
- Integrate guidance lessons in their daily lives
- Set personal goals and use self assessment techniques

Language Arts

- Master the Basic Skills of Reading
- Small group instruction and discussion ranging from grade-level basal text to ninth grade Literature texts
- An appreciation for life-long reading
- Use of on-site media facility
- Strategies for increasing comprehension and vocabulary
- Master the Basics Skills of Writing
- Research skills, grammar, spelling, mechanics
- Styles: essay, narrative, descriptive, poetry, biographies, autobiographies, novels, etc.
- Master the Basics Skills of Oral Communication
- Listening with a purpose
- Oral reading, report, book talk, discussion
- Focus on communication process –sender, message, receiver
- Master elements of speech planning—topic, audience, introduction, body, conclusion
- Recognize the impact of verbal and nonverbal communication (gestures, eye contact, posture)
- Explore the influence of media (persuasion vs. propaganda)
- Present types of speeches to inform, entertain, and persuade
- Utilize support materials in preparation and presentation (research material and visual aids)
- Focus on audience involvement (adapt to audience and be an active member of audience)
- Participate in Metro Speech Festival

Spanish

- Cultural Studies including:
 - Spanish Flamenco and Bullfighting
 - International Speakers from the University of Iowa
 - The Caribbean
 - Latinos in the U.S.
 - Spanish/Latin American Art
- Conjugation of verbs
- Sentence structure
- Thematic vocabulary studies
- Listening comprehension
- Pronunciation
- Asking and answering questions
- Skits, research projects, games, partner work, books and more to aid in comprehension
- Students are adequately prepared for either Spanish I or Spanish II in high school

Mathematics

- Master basic operations of addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division
- Use a variety of strategies for problem-solving techniques
- Understand and apply the grade level expectations of:

-concept of numbers

-measurement

-data analysis

-problem solving

-computation

-geometry

-probability

-patterns and functions

- Continue progress through a range of math courses from grade-level basal tests through Pre-Algebra and Algebra
-completion of the ninth-grade Algebra text makes student eligible for advanced math courses at the high school level.

Social Studies

- Master basic skills of map reading and data interpretation through daily oral geography
- Explore the 5 themes of geography
- Participate in a Junior Achievement program
- Focuses on American History and World History
- Cross curricular projects

Science

- Learn to use laboratory space and equipment for a full range of science activities
- Develop skills in observing, communicating, measuring, comparing, contrasting, organizing, classifying, analyzing, inferring, hypothesizing, predicting, and cooperative work
- Explore the basic concepts of Life, Physical and Earth Science

Physical Education/Health

- Participate in activities to develop total wellness, cognitive development, basic movement skills, socialization abilities, and Christian values
- Participate in a sequential, instructional (two times per year) program which develops an individual's lifetime leisure activities
- Develop an individual's basic sports and game skills
- Develop the ability to monitor and maintain a health-enhancing level of physical fitness

Technology

- Master keyboarding speed and accuracy
- Gain proficiency in word processing
 - move or copy text between documents
 - import, create, position, and manipulate graphics
 - edit and format text, paragraphs, and layouts
- Gain proficiency in spreadsheets
 - recognize the parts and functions
 - navigate, insert, delete cells and enter text, numbers, and formulae
 - change the order of information by sorting
 - create bar, pie, line, and x-y scatter graphs from spreadsheet data
- Further develop skills in database design and interpretation
- Exercise and reflect upon essential practices: communication, critical thinking, craftsmanship, creativity, and ethics
- Create slide shows that integrate word-processing, drawing and painting, spreadsheets and graphing, and graphics and sounds
- Utilize on-line resources for research and the creation of documents and slide shows
- Shoot and edit digital movies and photos
- Design original web pages/wikis

Art

- Complete a sequential program of Art instruction
 - American Art Appreciation
 - Art History
 - Elements and Principles of Art
- Participate in the study of aesthetics, art criticism, art history, and art production
- Use a variety of media (watercolor, clay, pastel, print-making, pencil, chalk, crayon, markers, tempera, acrylic, plaster of paris)

Music Theory/Appreciation

- Improve music reading and writing skills
- Study the science of sound
- Explore various occupations within music
- Discover history through music
- Study different genres of music

Choral Music

- Improve vocal techniques through singing
- Perform a variety of music with multiple parts
- Discover history and theory behind various genres of music
- Perform in various music opportunities and concerts

Instrumental Music

- Understand advanced elements of rhythm, melody, harmony, and form
- Continue the study of music history and theory
- Read and write music and musical elements
- Participate in individual and large group lessons
- Perform in various music opportunities and concerts

Activities

S.O.D.A. (Students Okay without Drugs & Alcohol)
Student Council
American Math Exam
Spelling Bee
Junior Achievement
Yearbook Staff
Volleyball
Softball
Wrestling
Track & Field
Mixed Choir
Christmas Program
Pit Orchestra
Chamber Ensembles
Marion Junior Honor Band
Tri-State Middle School Honor Band
LEGO League

Eighth Grade Class Office
Math Counts
National Geography Bee
F.S.E.A.
Metro Speech Festival
Eighth Grade Ski Trip
Basketball
Football
Baseball
Arts Festival
Spring Musical
Jazz Band – Ensemble & Lab
Coe College Jr. Honor Band
Opus Honor Choir
State Honor Band (8th Grade)
Pep Band
Five Seasons Honor Band

Service Opportunities

Kindergarten Buddies
Preschool Buddies
Arts Festival Volunteers
School Needs
Community Service Projects
Parish Mass Serving
Metro Catholic Service Learning Projects