

6th Grade Core Curriculum Descriptions

Religion 6 – Students will learn to recognize Scripture as God’s inspired word and the major divisions of the Bible, the chief persons in biblical history, and major biblical themes from the Old and New Testaments. They will learn about the teachings of Jesus and the Church as the basis of Christian morality. By engaging in Catholic forms of personal prayer, and learning about the liturgical feasts, seasons, liturgical symbols, and religious practices, students will find ways of deepening one’s spiritual life. The study of Church history will involve becoming familiar with the central stories, key events, and major figures that have shaped the history and development of the Church over time. Our Catholic literacy will be reinforced with common religious terminology. **Required**

Literacy Block - Writer’s Workshop 6 - Students will use the steps of the writing process (prewriting, drafting, revising and editing) to publishing different genre. Writing for a specific audience or a specific purpose will be addressed. The importance of applying proper writing conventions (punctuation, grammar and spelling rules) will be emphasized in all written work. Students will use a Writer’s Notebook to collect their own writing samples. Writer’s Workshop includes independent writing time, teacher-directed lessons, and teacher-student writing conferences. Writing Workshop approach is a differentiated instructional method that allows students to work at their own ability level. **Required**

Literacy Block – Literature 6 - Sixth grade Literature is designed to teach students a variety of reading strategies to read more interactively, critically, and master a text. These skills will be utilized through reading a wide variety of literature, in addition to building and extending vocabulary. **Required**

Mathematics 6 - Sixth grade Math curriculum is based on the Ohio Academic Content Standards and the Diocesan Courses of Study. These standards include: number sense and operations for whole, fractional, and decimal numbers; percent; measurement; geometry, spatial sense; patterns, functions, algebra; data analysis and probability. **Required OR Accelerated**

Accelerated Mathematics - Accelerated Mathematics is a course for students who can move at a faster pace through the regular sixth grade curriculum in an effort to go beyond the regular sixth grade Math course. **Based on Recommendation**

Social Studies 6 – Sixth grade Social Studies focuses on the study of world regions. Students study some of the earliest people who lived in each region in order to understand how humans interacted with the environmental conditions at the time. Connections are made to present-day world regions including characteristics of governments, religions, and economic interactions. **Required**

Science 6 / Health 6 - Sixth grade Science enables all students to develop standards-based knowledge and skills. Course includes rocks, the rock cycle and identification of minerals; physical and chemical changes in matter, physical and chemical properties; thermal and electric energy and energy transfer, renewable and nonrenewable resources, helpful and harmful results; animal and plant cells, and heredity; technology and human lives, design processes, technology and the environment, automation; documentation of science investigations; careers in science; thinking scientifically in daily life, using results and data, explanation of observations and investigations, methods of investigation, facts and theories, safely conducting investigations, measuring and collecting, formulating conclusions, and communicating findings. **Required**

Health 6 is designed to build awareness of total health, with a focus on the interrelationship of the physical, mental, and emotional health of the student. Positive lifelong health attitudes are developed as a way of life. Students attain an understanding of major health concepts and issues, a sense of responsibility for their own health, and the skills needed to implement positive health actions. **Required**

Technology 6 - Sixth grade computer class is the foundation for other technology classes in the middle school. During the course, the students will use productivity tools such as Microsoft Word, Excel and PowerPoint to produce creative works that will be published and presented. Students learn how to safely search and evaluate the quality and appropriateness of internet resources. Proper keyboarding techniques are further developed to increase student proficiency on the computer. **Required**

Visual Arts 6 – Visual Art class is a study of the knowledge, skills and processes for observing, creating, responding and communicating in ways that are unique to visual art. Art production and the construction of meaning in visual artworks are complimentary learning activities. Course content may include meaningful connections between visual art and other disciplines to enable students to understand art in a broader context. **Required**

Physical Education 6 – Physical Education is a comprehensive subject are which incorporates fundamental motor skills, body control and balance, physical fitness, leisure sports and games skills, cognitive skills, as well as stress management skills. Evaluation will include participation and effort, homework, group projects and tests. **Required**

7th Grade Core Curriculum Descriptions

Religion 7 - Students will learn to recognize Scripture as God's inspired word and learn the major divisions of the Bible, the chief persons in biblical history, and major biblical themes from the Old and New Testaments. They will learn about the teachings of Jesus and the Church as the basis of Christian morality. By engaging in Catholic forms of personal prayer, and learning about the liturgical feasts, seasons, liturgical symbols, and religious practices, students will find ways of deepening one's spiritual life. The study of Church history will involve becoming familiar with the central stories, key events, and major figures that have shaped the history and development of the Church over time. Our Catholic literacy will be reinforced with common religious terminology. *Required*

Literacy Block – Writer's Workshop 7 - Writer's Workshop will be coordinated with seventh grade English Language Arts curriculum. Students will experience various modes of writing. The writing process will be used to support organizing ideas effectively, using evidence to support ideas, varying writing styles and purposes to suit different audiences. The course will provide an in-depth review of grammar concepts, as well as introducing students to new fundamentals of language. *Required*

Literacy Block - Literature 7 - Seventh grade Literature is designed to assist students in improving their reading and comprehension skills. These skills will be utilized through reading a variety of literature genres such as fiction, non-fiction, biographies and science fiction. Students will read short stories, novels, dramas and plays. In addition, students will further develop research skills. In addition to a study of the basic literary elements, students will discover how literature provides a basis for vocabulary enrichment and improvement of writing skills. *Required*

Mathematics 7 - The seventh grade Math curriculum is an introductory year of Pre-Algebra. This is the first year of a two-year program that prepares students to take Algebra I as a freshman. Topics include decimals, statistics and data analysis, patterns, fractions, integers, ratios, proportions, percents, probability and basic algebra. Concepts will be presented through a variety of strategies. The course is based on the Ohio Academic Content Standards. *Required OR Pre-Algebra*

Pre-Algebra - This advanced course covers Pre-Algebra topics in a comprehensive one-year program which requires superior computational ability. This course combines the seventh grade and the eighth grade mathematics curriculum into an intense one-year study. The major focus is problem solving, integers, geometry, systems of equations, inequalities, and graphing solutions of equations on the coordinate plane. Performance as determined by achievement records and teacher recommendations will determine the eighth grade mathematics placement. *Based on Recommendation*

Social Studies 7 - Students begin the four-year historical sequence with a study of the ancient world. This study incorporates each of the seven standards into the chronology. Students learn that each historical event is shaped by its geographic setting, culture of the people, economic conditions, governmental decisions and citizen action. Students also expand their command of social studies skills and methods. *Required*

Science / Health 7 - Students will develop scientific literacy by exploring the relationship between physics, chemistry, biology, earth sciences and technology. The students will learn how these disciplines are relevant and part of their everyday experiences. *Required*

Health in seventh grade is designed to help middle level students develop a healthy life style. This is achieved through understanding body systems, their functions and related diseases, basic nutrition for the adolescents, learning about substance abuse including smoking, drugs, and alcohol.

Technology 7 - The seventh grade computer class is the foundation for other technology classes in middle school. During the course, the students will use productivity tools such as Microsoft Word, Excel and PowerPoint to produce creative works that will be published and presented. Students learn how to safely search and evaluate the quality and appropriateness of Internet Resources. Proper keyboarding techniques are further developed to increase student proficiency on the computer. *Required*

Visual Arts 7 - Visual Art class for seventh grade is designed to be an exploratory program covering the basic design elements of line, shape, color, texture, value and composition. It is intended to promote creative problem-solving and independent decision-making. The students are exposed to a wide variety of media throughout the school year. *Required*

Physical Education 7 - Physical Education course objectives will be accomplished through physical activities such as dance, lifetime sports (aerobics), team sports, supplemental activities and physical fitness. Positive social interaction among students will be stressed. A special emphasis will be placed on the knowledge of physical fitness principles and participation in activities designed to improve fitness levels. Evaluation will include participation and effort, homework, group projects and tests. *Required*

8th Grade Core Curriculum Descriptions

Religion 8 - Students will learn to recognize Scripture as God's inspired word and learn the major divisions of the Bible, the chief persons in biblical history, and major biblical themes from the Old and New Testaments. They will learn about the teachings of Jesus and the Church as the basis of Christian morality. By engaging in Catholic forms of personal prayer, and learning about the liturgical feasts, seasons, liturgical symbols, and religious practices, students will find ways of deepening one's spiritual life. The study of Church history will involve becoming familiar with the central stories, key events, and major figures that have shaped the history and development of the Church over time. Our Catholic literacy will be reinforced with common religious terminology. *Required*

Writing Better 8 - Writing in eighth grade will build upon the foundations that were established, expanding their ability to higher levels in preparation for high school performance standards. Student will experience various modes of writing, including personal narrative, persuasive essays, and research report writing. A writing process approach is used in which students receive support in organizing ideas effectively, using evidence to support ideas, and varying writing styles and purposes to suit different audiences. Students will revise and edit during teacher/student conferences. *Required*

Literature 8 - Students will read and respond to a variety of genres of literature, as well as in their independent reading. Tasks are generated through literature studies. Students will develop an ability to recognize literary devices and analyze literature in discussion and writing. Grammar and usage, vocabulary, spelling, and writing techniques are integrated. *Required*

Mathematics 8 - The eighth grade Math course solidifies pre-algebra skills, moving into the direction of Algebra. It is the second year of a two-year program, starting in seventh grade. Topics include integers, rational and irrational numbers, real numbers, solving equations, proportions, percents, and data analysis. Other topics include functions and their graphs, area and volume, and probability. Both concept and skill development are emphasized. Students successfully completing this course will progress to Algebra in their ninth-grade year. *Required OR Pre-Algebra*

Algebra - This is a complete one-year Algebra course presented at a fast pace for eighth graders with above-average ability, motivation and performance. Topics in this class include polynomials, factoring, rational expressions, solving and graphing linear and quadratic equations and inequalities, systems of equations, functions, square roots, and the quadratic formula. Solving word problems with a variety of methods is also an integral part of this course. *Based on Recommendation*

Social Studies 8 - The historical sequence continues in eighth grade with an in-depth study of the early years of our country beginning with the crucial decade of the 1850's and runs to modern day. While students are studying a particular historic event in the United States they also look at its geographic settings, economic implications, developments in government and the role of citizens. Supplementing the study of history is preparation for proficiency tests, current events, and extensive map work that accompanies each unit of study. *Required*

Science / Health 8 - The eighth grade science course introduces students to concepts in physical, life, and earth science. Topics of study include our environment; forces and motion; structure and design; cell structure and processes; and human systems and anatomy. *Required*

Health in eighth grade emphasizes acquiring healthy habits and attitudes in order to develop a healthy lifestyle. The topics are chosen to meet the needs of maturing adolescents and cover areas as: drug and alcohol abuse, decision making, nutrition and digestive system with emphasis on eating disorders.

Technology 8 - The eighth grade computer class is the foundation for other technology classes in middle school. During the course, the students will use productivity tools such as Microsoft Word, Excel and PowerPoint to produce creative works that will be published and presented. Students learn how to safely search and evaluate the quality and appropriateness of Internet Resources. Proper keyboarding techniques are further developed to increase student proficiency on the computer. *Required*

Visual Arts 8 - Visual Art class for eighth grade is designed to be an exploratory program covering the basic design elements of line, shape, color, texture, value and composition. It is intended to promote creative problem-solving and independent decision-making. The students are exposed to a wide variety of media throughout the school year. *Required*

Physical Education 8 - Physical Education course objectives will be accomplished through physical activities such as dance, lifetime sports (aerobics), team sports, supplemental activities and physical fitness. Self-evaluations, leadership abilities, and observation and evaluation of the social/mental aspects of physical activities will be stressed. Emphasis will be placed on applying the knowledge of physical fitness principles to participation in activities designed to improve personal physical fitness levels. Evaluation will include participation and effort, homework, group projects and tests. *Required*

