

Eighth Grade Curriculum

Language Arts/Grammar

- Sentence structure, descriptive writing, parts of speech, letter and report writing, and punctuation are taught using textbooks and workbooks.
- Each week all students study a spelling unit upon which they are tested.
- Every month an essay on a different writing topic is assigned.
- Students are evaluated through chapter tests, workbooks, quizzes, homework, class participation and essays.

[Pre-Algebra]

- This course is an extension of Mathematics, which students started in the 7th grade, leading to the study of the laws governing polynomials.
- Topics include operations with signed numbers, order of operations, properties of real numbers, solving equations and word problems, factoring polynomials, solving quadratic equations using factoring, solving of linear equations and inequalities, square roots and radical expressions.
- Students are evaluated through chapter tests, quizzes, written assignments, class participation, homework and a final exam.

Algebra I - Honors

- This course is an "accelerated" program, which includes a more sophisticated textbook and requires a deeper understanding of the material.
- Topics include operations with signed numbers, order of operations, properties of real numbers, solving equations and word problems, exponents, operations with monomials and polynomials, solving quadratic equations and systems of linear equations with 2 or 3 variables, algebraic functions, negative exponents, functions, solving irregularities and combined inequalities, simplifying radicals and operation with radicals.
- Students are evaluated through chapter tests, quizzes, written assignments, class participation, homework and a final exam.

Reading/Literature

- Through a comprehensive reading program all students are introduced to a variety of literary styles and works in the textbooks and trade books.
- A book report is required for each trade book, a minimum of four books being assigned during the school year.
- Approximately every week a unit of vocabulary is studied and the students tested.
- Additionally every week a test is administered upon a selected passage in the literature textbook.

Religion

- Students study the Catholic Faith through a study of the life of Jesus Christ, use an approved textbook, workbook, and study Family Life.
- All students take part in retreats, lead the school in prayer, organizing service projects, give of their time in service to others, help to raise money for Catholic charities, and participate in Church services and school pageants.

Science

- A combination of Physical and Earth science topics comprise the curriculum.
- Using scientific method as a way to organize thinking, specific topics include motion, forces, energy, electricity, magnetism, earth's structure, geology, weather and environmental science.
- A combination of discovery, observation, and experimentation and dissection along with traditional lecture and note taking are utilized.
- A variety of technology and media are employed as appropriate to enhance the learning and retention of scientific information.
- Assessment is accomplished through class participation, tests, quizzes, projects, current events and homework.

Social Studies

- Students continue the study of American History beginning with the American Civil War and Reconstruction, and follow with 20th Century overseas expansion, World War I, the Great Depression, FDR, World War II and the Holocaust, the Cold War and the Civil Rights Movement extending to the present day.
- Students use textbooks, trade books, maps, videos and conduct independent research.
- Students are evaluated through testing, projects, homework and group presentations.

Spanish Language

- All students study Spanish on an everyday basis.
- Topics include: extending and accepting invitations, telephone etiquette, places and events, table settings, numbers 200-100,000, articles of clothing, shopping phrases, festivals and holidays, moods and physical conditioning, names of body parts, and vacation activities.
- Grammar structures include: direct and indirect object pronouns, possessive pronouns, and demonstrative adjectives as well as expanding upon verb usage.
- Cultural aspects include the study of Ecuador, Texas and Puerto Rico.
- Students are evaluated by quizzes, chapter tests, projects and presentations.