

Middle School Curriculum: Grades Five - Eight

Religion

Our junior high students receive daily faith formation at Holy Family Catholic School. Our students learn through prayer, Scripture, activities, discussion, and reflection about their faith. Catholic values are discussed and integrated not only in religion, but in all learning. The focus is on:

- Planning and assisting in liturgy and other forms of worship
- Church responsibility and participation
- The sacraments
- Church history
- Old and New Testament
- Liturgical seasons
- Universality of the church
- Local and diocesan church structure
- Church teaching and life choices
- morality

Language Arts

Our junior high language arts program focuses on writing, spelling, vocabulary, and grammar. Students will apply all components from the LA program to write in multiple forms including narrative, expository, persuasive and descriptive essays, poetry, research writing, and formal letter writing.

Literature

A diverse selection of literature will be used to enhance student development of high levels of comprehension and inferential thinking. Skills will develop and improve as students are presented with the following focus:

- Analyze plot, characterization, setting, point of view, and conflict from different genres
- Distinguish among genre
- Extrapolate and use various literary devices
- Apply word analysis and vocabulary skills to their reading
- Understand author's purpose in various literary forms

Social Studies

5th and 6th grade students learn about the history of our world through studying geography, world cultures and world history beginning with the first civilizations through the Renaissance and European exploration.

7th and 8th grade students prepare for their role as informed citizens by studying United States history beginning with European colonization through modern day US history.

7th grade students will take both the Federal Constitution Test and the Illinois Constitution Test.

7th grade students will visit Springfield as a culminating activity during their study of the Illinois Constitution.

Science

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. Our junior high students study physical science, earth science, and life science. Our junior high students also participate in science fair.

Mathematics

Junior High students acquire a knowledge of mathematics and the ability to apply math and algebraic skills to solve problems. As our students move through the junior high they build on their previous mathematics knowledge and are introduced to more sophisticated forms of algebra.

Spanish

All junior high students will have formal Spanish classes twice a week. They will have the opportunity to participate in conversational Spanish and begin to learn the fundamentals of the language.

Technology

Students will apply proper keyboarding skills, combine word processing and spreadsheets to create a product, use a database, demonstrate proper internet etiquette, use appropriate graphing tools to present data in multimedia presentations, use peripherals to produce a product, and create actions in a multimedia presentation

Physical Education

Students will learn and explore factors that affect a healthy lifestyle. Students will:

Develop muscle strength, cardio-respiratory endurance and flexibility

Use rules, offensive and defensive strategies, cooperation and teamwork in sports and games

Demonstrate safe and fair participation in exercise and sports

Art

Junior high students will have the opportunity to express themselves in various art forms. Students will:

Use elements of art to express ideas

Explore new experiences artistically

Interpret artistic products and experiences using appropriate vocabulary

Compare works of art from different cultures and periods

Apply design skills and technology to convey ideas

Study the role of artists in social, political, and economic issues

Library

Junior high students will gather and evaluate materials from several sources

Research topics using key word searches

Evaluate sources of information for accuracy