

# Grade 8 Curriculum Overview

## RELIGION

- History and structure of the Catholic Church
- Early Church history found in the New Testament, with emphasis on the Acts of the Apostles and the Epistles
- The councils, heresies and schisms, monasticism, Crusades and Protestant Reformation
- Trace Church in America from its immigrant roots
- Sexuality study rooted in Scripture and guided by Church documents
- Dating, life choices and commitment
- Reflect on personal talents and possible ways these might be used to serve the Church and/or society
- Perform service projects in line with the Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy

## LANGUAGE ARTS

### Reading

- Enjoy listening to, reading from and talking about books
- Recognize and recall main idea, sequence, cause and effect
- Predict outcome
- Distinguish fact and opinion
- Apply what has been learned from reading to other situations
- Recognize and appreciate various elements of literature, e.g., plot, characterization, setting, theme, etc.
- Reading a variety of genre

### Listening

- Use appropriate listening/responding behavior
- Recall and identify important details
- Recall important details for notetaking
- Follow oral directions

## Writing

- Participate in activities which precede writing
- Write ideas with fluency and confidence
- Re-see own writing for unity and coherence
- Examine use of precise and descriptive words
- Reconstruct sentences for variety
- Use a thesaurus to choose words which capture tone and mood
- Apply basic editing skills to final draft of writing (correct grammar, mechanics and usage and spelling appropriate to grade level)
- Write short report indicating sources
- Examine use of sensory language, e.g. metaphors, similes, etc. and transitional devices
- Paraphrase and summarize material
- Use transitional devices within and between paragraphs
- Writing connected to real issues
- Creative writing
- Journal writing--recording thoughts and opinions
- Weekly media

## Speaking

- Tell stories, share experiences and ideas appropriately, clearly, audibly and expressively
- Ask appropriate questions and make comments relevant to topic
- Prepare, deliver oral presentations, speeches, reports, etc.
- Choose appropriate vocabulary (formal vs informal)
- Use appropriate body language, eye contact
- Express ideas concisely

## Study Skills

- Use dictionary for cross referencing, word origin, run-on entries, to interpret alternate pronunciations and spellings
- Use reference materials, library classification systems
- Outline information
- Skim, scan, summarize
- Develop flexible reading rate
- Take notes from written materials and lectures

## SOCIAL STUDIES

- Use of the eight strands of social studies to organize, evaluate and analyze situations from history and current world events.
- Continued development of basic geographical and study skills integrated into the material.
- Focus on the development of the United States from the year 1870 to the present day.
- Analyze historical and contemporary situations and problems and their impact on the development of the United States and other countries of the world.
- Evaluate the role of the United States in historic world events and her relationship to other countries from 1870 to the present.
- Study and understand political, historical, and thematic maps.

## MATHEMATICS

- Variables in Algebra, exponents and powers, equations and inequalities
- Properties of real numbers: adding and subtracting matrices, addition, subtraction, multiplication and division of real numbers, distributive property, probability and odds
- Solving and graphing linear equations and functions
- Writing linear equations: writing linear equations in slope-intercept form given the slope and a point or given two points
- Solving and graphing linear inequalities
- Solving linear systems by graphing, substitution, linear combinations, inequalities
- Exponents and exponential functions
- Quadratic equations and functions
- Polynomials and factoring
- Rational equations and functions
- Radicals and connections to geometry

## SCIENCE

- Earth's changes over time: plate tectonics, earthquakes and volcanoes, Earth's past, geologic time
- Universe: sun-earth-moon system, solar system, stars and galaxies
- Chemistry: inside the atom, Periodic Table, atomic structure, chemical bonds, chemical reactions
- Motion, forces and energy: motion and momentum, force and Newton's laws
- Human reproductive system, AIDS, STDs
- Legal and illegal drug use and effects on the body

PE, Music, Art, Computer and Spanish instruction is provided through East China School District's Shared Time program with district-area nonpublic schools.