

St. Mary of Gostyn School

Grade 7 Curriculum Guide



Social Studies

The focus will be:

- U.S. History from Colonization to Civil War
- Origin and foundation of a republic with emphasis on the birth of the United States of America
- Geography/Map Skills
- U.S. Constitution and U.S. Constitution Test
- IL Constitution and IL Constitution Test
- Current Events

Students will:

- Exhibit map skills to read and intercept maps
- Demonstrate note-taking skills
- Prove comprehension of Federal and State government
- Demonstrate research skills through slideshow presentation as well as other types of presentations
- Discuss various current events using proper speaking and listening etiquette
- Complete group projects using research with emphasis on collaboration

Religion

Seventh graders will learn through Scripture, prayer, discussion, and reflection about their Catholic faith. Catholic values are discussed and integrated not only in Religion, but in all learning.

The focus will be:

- Service for Confirmation (8th grade)
- The life, death, and resurrection of Jesus as told in the New Testament
- Morality and living the Beatitudes
- The significance of the parables and the miracles of Jesus' ministry

Physical Education

In seventh grade, students learn and explore factors that affect a healthy lifestyle.

Students will:

- Develop muscle strength, cardiorespiratory endurance, and flexibility
- Use rules, offensive and defensive strategies in cooperative sports and games
- Demonstrate sportsmanship in sports and games

Spanish

The focus is on:

- Advanced grammar (irregular/stem-changing verbs, reflexive verbs)
- Writing

Music

Students will be able to:

- Identify rounds, canons and antiphonal works
- Analyze musical form of secular and sacred works from several periods of music history
- Define and relate characteristics of periods of music history
- Use knowledge of notation to explore creative process of composition
- Apply an in-depth study of American Blues music as a microcosm of the way music can be viewed as a “reflection of the human condition” throughout history
- Explain the relationship between composer, performer, and conductor

Science

Students will engage in science and engineering practices to develop a conceptual understanding of earth, life, and physical sciences, and their connections, using inquiry and engineering design. Scientific inquiry involves the formulation of a question that can be answered through investigation. Engineering design involves the defining of a problem that can be solved through design of a solution. Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math – STEM – are interwoven and integrated into lessons, as they exist in everyday life. Students will use knowledge gained from different subject areas and apply this learning in different situations to build understanding, retention, and skill.

Students will:

- Research, investigate, develop explanations, design, and model solutions to problems
- Engage in discussion and use evidence to explain and argue
- Organisms
- Explore and apply concepts of genetics and heredity
- Investigate nutrition and its relationship to human body
- Identify and understand cellular structure and processes, including osmosis

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- Construct explanations for the interactions of systems in cells and organisms
- Grow herb plants from seeds, research them, and present findings
- Explore the cycling of matter and flow of energy in ecosystems and study the interactions among organisms within an ecosystem
- Demonstrate knowledge of lab safety and proper use of scientific equipment
- Use computer technology to take notes, research, investigate, problem-solve, and report
- Develop and write a lab report to communicate and explain experimental findings

Math

Seventh grade students acquire a knowledge of Pre-Algebra math and the ability to apply math skills to solve problems through the use of the text, Glencoe Math Accelerated, extended activities, and hands-on experiences. The publisher offers information and activities at their website <http://connected.mcgraw-hill.com>.

- Unit rates and ratios and proportions
- Interest, tax, percent increase/decrease, percent error
- Operations of rational numbers
- Writing equations and inequalities
- Properties of angles
- Area, surface area, and volume
- Population statistics
- Simple and compound probability

Reading/Language Arts

The Language Arts Program includes reading, writing, speaking, listening, and the study of literature. The components of the program emphasize the development of those skills that allow students to read with fluency, comprehend and interpret written materials, communicate well, and listen and speak effectively. The skills acquired and understood are applied and reinforced in all content areas.

Reading:

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

- Analysis and evaluation (text marking) of plot, characterization, setting, point of view, and conflict from a variety of genres
- Identification of various literary devices and figurative language
- Application of word analysis and vocabulary skills

Language Arts/Writing:

Seventh grade students will use the 6+1 Traits of Writing to convey meaning while applying classroom instruction in grammar, conventions, and vocabulary. The two textbooks used are McGraw-Hill's *Writer's Choice* and Sadlier's *Vocabulary Workshop*. Students will:

- Use the steps of the research process to conduct a research project
- Use the writing process including prewriting, revising, peer editing, and final draft
- Write in multiple creative forms including the narrative, expository, argumentative, and descriptive essays

Listening/Speaking:

Seventh grade students will listen for understanding, follow directions, and respond appropriately to the speaker. Students will use acquired language and vocabulary to express opinions. Students will:

- Use presentations skills appropriate to the situation and audience
- Participate in small and large group discussion and presentations
- Express ideas clearly when speaking
- Read fluency with expression

STEAM

The Robotics and Programming section of STEAM will focus on technology activities including the Sphero robotics program. These activities will be more teacher-led and focused on using critical thinking and problem-solving skills to program and code the robots to solve problems and accomplish goals.

The Makerspace section of STEAM will focus on hands-on activities in which students will work independently and collaboratively with their peers to devise solutions to problems and utilize a wide variety of tools to accomplish goals. The Makerspace is more student-led and explorative, while still maintaining structure with students working towards a common goal.