

St. Mary of Gostyn School

Grade 8 Curriculum Guide



Social Studies

The focus will be:

- U.S. History from the Civil War Reconstruction to Present
- Political, social, and economic systems through the 20th century
- Emphasis on Industrial Revolution of Early 20th century, Immigration, Depression, Wars of 20th Century
- Individual and group collaborative projects involving research
- Geography/Map Skills
- Current Events

Students will:

- Demonstrate note-taking skills
- Discuss current events as well as other global topics using proper etiquette and respect for others' opinions
- Demonstrate research skills by completing presentations involving various eras in history

Religion

Eighth 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:

- The formation of the early Church and the individuals instrumental in guiding it
- An examination of beliefs outlined in the Nicene Creed
- The sacraments, especially Confirmation
- Service and responsibilities
- Morality
- Church teachings and life choices

Physical Education

In eighth 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

Art

In Art class, the students will learn and work with different forms of media and techniques, studying artists while using their God-given talents.

The focus is on:

- Exploring the elements of design
- Art History

Music

Students will be able to:

- Identify the tonal center or key of a piece of music
- Identify and manipulate elements of a song
- Create a chord progression from a scale
- Extract a melody or musical motif using the chord tones of a chord progression
- Compose lyrics
- Explore song form by manipulating chord progressions into song structure

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
- Identify the characteristics, properties, and interactions of matter
- Investigate, design, and model the periodic table

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- Identify types of chemical bonds and reactions
- Understand qualitative ideas about energy and types of energy, and explore concept of conservation
- Explore forces and motion, and types of interaction
- Investigate wave properties, electromagnetic radiation
- 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

Technology

Eighth grade students will study, retain, and use information from a variety of sources using electronic devices. Students are given a Surface RT tablet by Microsoft for 24/7 use, enabling them to have their device all day at school as well as home for assignments.

Students will:

- Gather and evaluate information using electronic devices
- Become proficient in the use of Google apps for Education including Google Classroom
- Demonstrate proper Internet etiquette
- Use appropriate graphing tools to present data in a multimedia presentation

Math (Algebra)

Eighth grade students acquire a knowledge of Algebra and the ability to apply math skills to solve problems through the use of the text, Glencoe Algebra 1, extended activities, and hands-on experiences. The publisher offers an etextbook, tutor videos, and other resources at their website <http://connected.mcgraw-hill.com>.

- Identify parts of linear expressions
- Factor quadratic expressions
- Operations with polynomials
- Simplify rational and radical equations
- Write, solve, and graph linear inequalities and equations
- Find roots of quadratic equations
- Solve systems of equations
- Arithmetic and geometric sequences

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:

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

Listening/Speaking:

Eighth 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