

OUR LADY OF PEACE EIGHTH GRADE CURRICULUM

Religion

Our grade eight religion program focuses on spiritual formation. Through reciting daily prayer, planning and assisting in liturgy and other forms of worship, engaging dialogue with our priests and deacons, and participating in various service projects, students build a strong foundation in their faith. Catholic values are discussed and integrated not only in religion classes, but throughout the entire curricula. There is specific focus on:

- Morality
- Sacraments
- Church History
- Preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation

Mathematics

Eighth grade students acquire a knowledge of mathematics and the ability to apply math skills through the implementation of Common Core Standards. Students will:

- Know that there are numbers that are not rational, and approximate them by rational numbers
- Work with radicals and exponent integers
- Understand the connections between proportional relationships, lines, and linear equations
- Analyze and solve linear equations and pairs of simultaneous linear equations
- Define, evaluate, and compare functions
- Use functions to model relationships between quantities
- Understand congruence and similarity using physical models, transparencies, or geometry software
- Understand and apply the Pythagorean Theorem
- Solve real-world and mathematical problems involving volume of cylinders, cones, and spheres
- Investigate patterns of association in bivariate data

*Note: Some standards within the domains of “Functions” and “Geometry” may be introduced in grade seven depending on mathematic progression.

Language Arts

OLP’s Language Arts Program includes writing, challenging vocabulary, speaking, listening, and the study of proper English grammar. 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 are applied and reinforced in all content areas.

Reading/Literature

A diverse selection of fiction and nonfiction will be used to enhance student development of higher levels of comprehension and critical thinking. Following the Common Core State Standards, skills will develop and improve as students are presented with the following focus:

- Making inferences using textual evidence as support
- Identifying the theme or central idea of a text and how it develops
- Analyzing how plot, characterization, setting, point of view, and conflict interact
- Identifying the purpose and effect of various forms of figurative language
- Applying word analysis and vocabulary skills
- Analyzing the structure, style, and purpose
- Analyzing character conflict and how the author develops the characters’ view points
- Comparing and contrasting various texts on a topic process

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- Annotate a text for understanding
- Collaborate on a variety of creative projects to better understand a text

Writing

Students use writing to convey meaning, applying classroom instruction in grammar, spelling, mechanics and process. Students will:

- Write in multiple forms including persuasive, expository, and narrative essays
- Write well-developed essays appropriate for the purpose
- Use the writing process including pre-writing, revising and editing
- Use research to support essays when necessary
- Properly evaluate and cite sources
- Craft well-written, in-class essays with or without prior exposure to the prompt and/or topics

Speaking/Listening

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:

- Participate in small and large group discussion
- Analyze and evaluate the speaker's main ideas, purpose, and argument
- Express ideas clearly using appropriate presentation skills
- Collaborate with peers

Science

Follows Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) and Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM).

- Chemistry: matter and its interactions
- Explain properties of matter
- Design experiments to examine physical and chemical properties of substances
- Demonstrate how the periodic table is organized
- Predict how matter will behave under different conditions
- Describe how energy is transferred from one object or systems to another

Physics

- Describe physical interactions between objects and within systems of objects
- Demonstrate Newton's Law
- Predict the outcome of a system using the Laws of Motion
- Explain how gravitational, electrical, and magnetic forces cause interactions
- Design projects to demonstrate engineering and group interactive skills

Environmental: Human Impact on the Environment

- Discuss how human activities are affecting Earth's systems
- Explain how we know the global climate is changing
- Design/Create/Discuss resolutions to complex and prominent environmental issues facing the world today (climate change, pollution, clean water etc.)
- Describe alternative energy sources

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Social Studies

The social studies curriculum prepares students for informed participation in tomorrow's America. This comprehensive social studies program presents a mixture of history, geography, economics, citizenship and culture. The eighth-grade text explores themes that focus on:

- United States History from 1865, The Constitution (U.S., Illinois), the flag
- Global issues
- Economic systems
- Political system and Catholic teachings

Technology

Our Lady of Peace eighth grade students each have their own, school-provided Chromebook.