



HOLY TRINITY SCHOOL

BUILDING 21ST CENTURY LEARNERS

GRADES 6, 7, 8 JUNIOR HIGH UNIT - CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

What Your Child Will Learn -

All curricula developed for Holy Trinity School in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia are, first and foremost, based on the teachings of the Catholic Church. In addition, our curricula reflect the Common Core State Standards, the Pennsylvania Learning Standards, the Next Generation Science Standards, the Archdiocesan Guidelines, and the standards of professional education associations. The Diocesan curriculum provides our students with an education that challenges them to live faith-filled lives and succeed in high school and beyond.

Language Arts Shifts

Informational Text: In addition to Literature, students will be reading more nonfiction pieces from across all content areas.

Evidence from Texts: Students will have to read more carefully, to understand the message the author is trying to convey, and to write with a focus on analytical style with evidence supported from texts.

Complex Text and Academic Language: As career and technical texts have become more complex, the standards create a staircase of text complexity so all students are reading for the reading levels necessary for success in college or the career of their choosing.

In Language Arts- Grades 6, 7, and 8

In this literature-based unit, students will continue to strengthen their reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills. The children will read more challenging text types such

August, 2020

as Scripture, novels, articles, plays and nonfiction. Children will use technology to produce and publish longer pieces of writing. For each grade level, students will study five-to-six themes, which will encompass a variety of literature pieces. In addition, the integration of all the specialty subjects is key to this unit.

Some of the activities your child will engage in while in this unit are:

- Understanding how a central idea of a text is conveyed to the reader
- Using technology to produce and publish writing
- Understanding how figurative language is used by an author
- Writing over an extended period of time
- Using multiple texts for comparison

Example of the progression of a concept across Grades 6 to 8

- Explain how a series of chapters, scenes, or stanzas fit together to provide the overall structure of a particular story, drama, or poem
- Analyze how a particular sentence, paragraph, Biblical verse, chapter, or selection is used in a text (including Scripture and other Catholic works).
- Analyze how a drama's or poem's structure (e.g. soliloquy, sonnet, psalm) contributes to its meaning.
- Compare and contrast two or more texts and analyze differences in structure, style and meaning.

Mathematics Shifts

Focus: Each year, teachers will spend more time teaching important areas in mathematics. By focusing deeply on specific content, students will gain a strong foundation and a solid understanding of the concepts.

Coherence: The standards logically progress from grade to grade. Most of the standards at each grade level are not new topics, but extensions of what students have learned in previous years.

Rigor: Students are expected to have conceptual understanding of certain topics, fluency and skill in procedural calculations, and the ability to apply what they have learned in the classroom in everyday situations.

In Mathematics - Grade 6

In sixth grade, the students will maintain a solid foundation in fractions and decimals and develop an understanding of ratios, percents, and percent applications. They will begin to understand how variables are used in equations. They will write expressions and equations to describe specific situations. They will convert between different units of measurement. In geometry, they will solve problems that involve area, surface area, and volume. In statistics, they will use measures of center and variation to describe a set of data. Students will use real-world examples to explain various concepts.

Some of the activities the students will engage in during 6th Grade are:

- Describe quantities using both positive and negative numbers
- Use all operations with fractions and decimals
- Change fractions to decimals and decimals to fractions
- Find unit rates
- Find the percent of a number
- Determine area, surface area, and volume
- Find mean, median, mode, range, and interquartile range

Commented [1]: angled determining to determine to match other bullets

Commented [2R1]: Thank you so much!!!

Example of the progression of a concept across Grades 6 to 7

- Use a pair of perpendicular number lines, called axes, to define a coordinate system...and a given point on the plane by using an ordered pair of numbers
- Find the area of right triangles, special quadrilaterals, and polygons by composing or decomposing into rectangles, triangles, or other shapes
- Solve word problems involving rational numbers

In Mathematics - Grades 7 and 8

In seventh grade, students will develop an understanding of proportional relationships. They will work with scale drawings. In eighth grade, they will further develop their

understanding of proportionality by drawing linear relationships on the coordinate plane and working with slope. Students will write and evaluate algebraic expressions. They will write equations to model real-world situations and will solve them using an algorithm. They will develop an understanding of functions. They will graph linear functions and interpret them. They will recognize congruent and similar figures. They will explore transformations of figures. They will solve problems involving area, surface area, and volume. They will explore probability, both experimental and theoretical. They will continue to study methods of data analysis.

Upon completion of eighth grade, the student will be ready for Algebra I.

Some of the activities your children will engage in during 7th and 8th Grade are:

- Analyze proportional relationships involving real-world situations
- Use algebraic expressions and equations
- Investigate chance and evaluate probability models
- Solve systems of equations that represent real-world situations

Example of the progression of a concept across Grades 7 to 8

- Solve problems involving scale drawings of geometric figures, including computing actual lengths and area from scale drawings, and reproducing a scale drawing at a different scale
- Identify linear and proportional relationships from graphs
- Describe the effect of dilations, translations, rotations, and reflections on two-dimensional figures using coordinates

In Science - Grade 6

Students in sixth grade study Physical Science, beginning with the smallest unit of matter: the atom. They study the physical and chemical properties of a substance in relation to its atomic structure and the effect this has on its interaction with other substances. They explore Newton's Laws of Motion and the forces of gravity and friction through hands-on experiments.

Students also study different forms of energy and their uses in our everyday lives. They research ways to conserve energy and the impacts our energy usage has on the

environment. They also study electricity and magnetism and learn about the development of technology. Students construct their own devices and complete lab activities to further develop their understanding of these concepts.

In Science - Grade 7

Students in seventh grade study Life Science from the cell as the basic unit of life to tissues to organs to organ systems. They study cell structures in both plants and animals, the history and the development of the cell theory, the classification of living things, and the characteristics of the domains and kingdoms. They study the human body systems and how these systems interact to allow us to perform daily life functions. In addition, students research the importance of nutrition and exercise for a healthy lifestyle.

Students are also introduced to the study of genetics and the impact of DNA. They learn about the inheritance of traits and the ways organisms change over time. They also study a unit on ecology and explore relationships between living things and their environments. Students do lab activities for exploration and use technology to research and present information.

In Science - Grade 8

Students in eighth grade study Earth Science. They study Earth as our home planet, first learning about its interacting systems. They study the rocks and minerals that make up Earth's landforms and the role plate tectonics has played in this. They explore the effect water has on both our oceans and our weather and climate. The students then study Earth's natural resources and the impacts of human activities on our climate.

Students also study Earth as the third planet from the Sun in our solar system, which is part of the larger universe. They learn about the life cycle of a star and study the most important star in our solar system: the sun. The students compare Earth and its special properties to the other planets in the solar system. They also examine the effects the moon has on our seasons and eclipses. Students construct their own models of Earth systems, complete lab activities, and use technology for research to further understand Earth's processes.

In Social Studies - Grade 6

The goal of this course is to give students the tools necessary to become informed global citizens, able to make informed decisions. Toward that end, the students will learn about latitude, longitude, absolute and relative location, the equator, the prime meridian, and cardinal and secondary directions. They will study different types of maps and how they give different information. They will learn that geography is divided into two branches, physical and human.

Students will be able to discuss what constitutes a culture group and the benefits and challenges of diverse cultures in a society. They will learn the major cities, rivers, and mountains of each continent. They will learn why rivers are important in developing a civilization. They will learn about trade and transportation. They will get an overview of the first ancient civilizations and why they developed where they did. Students will also learn the major forms of government and the type of government each country follows, as well as who first developed these forms. Students in Grade 6 will be able to identify the major religions of the world and the basic beliefs of each.

In addition to hardcopy and digital textbooks, students will employ technology to enhance their classroom experience using video, Chromebooks, and Google Slides presentations. Each student has the opportunity to select, research, design, and present a topic of their choice expression.

The students will discuss current topics in the news and incorporate these topics in that discussion.

In Social Studies – Grade 7

In seventh grade Social Studies, students will explore how the United States has built a strong and free nation beginning with the theories of how first people arrived in America up to the vision of Manifest Destiny. The students will take a comprehensive look at both the people and events that have shaped our great nation, and make a connection between the events from our country's past with the world in which we live today.

The year begins with an examination of the ways in which the first people arrived in the Americas and the great civilizations and Native American cultures that developed prior to the arrival of Europeans. Students will then study how the Age of Exploration began and the effects the European explorers had on the development of colonialism throughout the world, particularly in the Americas. They gain an understanding of what life was like for people living in the Original 13 Colonies and the difficulties colonists had to overcome both socially and politically as our country prepared to fight for independence.

The students will identify the events that led to the American fight for independence in the American Revolution, and the War of 1812 and the task of establishing a democratic government. They will learn about their own rights and responsibilities as American citizens as they analyze the U.S. Constitution.

To finish the year, the students will examine the journey that Americans took west following the Louisiana Purchase, the Lewis and Clark Expedition, and the vision for America with the idea of Manifest Destiny.

In Social Studies – Grade 8

In eighth grade Social Studies, students will explore how the United States has built a strong and free nation beginning with the abolitionist movement and Underground Railroad up to the fall of Communism in the 1990s. The students will take a comprehensive look at both the people and events that have shaped our great nation, and make a connection between the events from our country's past with the world in which we live today.

The year begins with a journey along the Underground Railroad as students examine the heroic efforts of abolitionists and the increasing conflicts between the North and South in the events leading up to the Civil War. After a close study of the Civil War, they will identify the difficulties our country had in healing the divisions that tore our country apart, some of which are still felt today. As students reach the turn of the twentieth century they will gain an understanding of the importance of the invention of technologies from that era that make our world today more convenient. They will also examine the rise of capitalism and big business in America and the industrialists who gained fame and fortune with their determination.

The students will also examine the complexities of alliances that countries establish and the results that can happen when powerful world leaders abuse their power. They will identify the causes and rippling effects of the Spanish-American War, World War I, World War II, the Cold War, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War. The students will identify the selfless contributions of Civil Rights leaders and their quest for equality for all Americans. To finish the year, students will gain an understanding of how the fall of Communism brought democracy to regions of the world that never experienced freedoms.

In Religion – Grade 6

Students in sixth grade grow in their faith through the study of the Old Testament. From the story of creation to the messages of the prophets, the students will gain a deeper understanding of the origins of Christianity and draw parallels between the Old and New Testaments. The major topics the students will focus on are:

- The structure and books of the Bible
- The Divine inspiration of the Bible
- The story of Creation
- The stories of Adam and Eve and Cain and Abel
- God’s covenant with Noah
- God’s covenant with Abraham
- The story of Exodus
- The influence of King David, Solomon, and the Temple
- The messages of the prophets
- The Liturgical Year
- The Sacraments
- The lives of saints and the importance of prayer

In addition, sixth grade students begin preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation, which they will receive in seventh grade. Through research, service, and prayer, the students will gain a better understanding of and appreciation for Jesus as God’s promise of the Suffering Servant and Savior of Mankind.

In Religion – Grade 7

Students in seventh grade study the Life of Jesus and how the faith that our Church is built upon grew from humble beginnings. From the New Testament, there is a strong

focus on the Gospels and Acts of the Apostles that students will learn about through scripture readings. The major topics that students will focus on are:

- The Infancy Narratives
- Mary and Joseph's role in Jesus' life
- The miracles Jesus performed
- Parables
- The Beatitudes
- Jesus' Passion
- The Liturgical Year
- The Sacraments
- The lives of saints
- The importance of prayer
- Social Justice

Seventh grade students will also focus on making a connection between the messages of Jesus' love for us and applying that to our world today through service and how we treat our family, friends, and neighbors. In addition, seventh grade students will grow closer to the Holy Spirit as they prepare for and receive the Sacrament of Confirmation.

In Religion – Grade 8

Students in eighth grade study the history of the Catholic Church from its origins as small Christian communities following the death of Jesus to the inspirational and influential church we have in our world today. From the New Testament, there is a strong focus on scripture that includes a study of Acts of the Apostles, Letters, and the Book of Revelation. The major topics that students will focus on are:

- The development and Marks of the Church
- The roles of the apostles and disciples in the growth of the Church
- The contributions of missionaries, particularly Peter and Paul
- Church Councils
- History of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia
- The Liturgical Year
- The Sacraments
- The lives of saints

- The importance of prayer
- Social Justice and leadership

Eighth grade students will also focus on making a connection between the apostolic messages of the Church and applying that to our world today through service and how we treat our family, friends, and neighbors.

Library

Encouraging the love of reading and developing an appreciation of literature across all genres are important priorities for students in Grades 6 to 8. Students are motivated to expand their reading repertoire through literature discussion and book sharing. Students are exposed to all genres as they become more and more at ease with choosing books for enjoyment as well as supplements to their classroom studies. Collaboration with the core subject teachers and the library teacher is vital in assisting and supporting classroom teachers with the design and delivery of their curriculum. Library time is also allotted for students to develop and practice appropriate project presentation skills, for research, and to collaborate on group projects.

Literary Genres

- Fiction
- Non-Fiction
- Biography
- Autobiography
- Folk Tales
- Poetry
- Short Stories

Study Skills

- Improving organization
- Creating index cards for studying
- Developing an outline

Life Skills

- How to write a Friendly Letter

- How to address an envelope
- How to write a check
- How to write a deposit/withdrawal slip
- How to fill out a job application
- Scheduling or cancelling an appointment
- Self- reflection
- Gratitude
- Self-control
- Understanding feelings and emotions
- Understanding strengths and weaknesses in school, home, and in life.
- Building relationships and team-building skills

Research Skills

- Checking sources
- Plagiarism
- Asking good questions
- Staying organized and focused
- Organization skills
- Study skills
- Using different resources like encyclopedias, literature sources, articles, textbooks, and web sources

Music

Students in Grades 6 to 8 receive a wide scope in music appreciation tied to Common Core Standards. Through rhythm, rhyme, meter, period music, and sound waves, correlations between ELA, Math, Social Studies, and Science are developed. All students are able to play various instruments reading notation and following dynamic markings. Exposure to the Italian language occurs, since most musical terms are based in that language.

Physical Education

The Grades 6, 7, and 8 Physical Education program is based on the guidelines provided by the Archdiocese of Philadelphia and the Common Core Standards.

Students are exposed to a programmed sequence of experiences that facilitates their physical, social, and mental development, and equips them with knowledge, attitudes, skills, and capacities to engage in a lifetime of health-related activity.

Some of the activities your children will engage in as part of the Grades 6, 7, and 8 Physical Education program are:

- Basic fundamental skills: organized games and sports
- Cognitive concepts: how to plan and implement healthy living
- Fitness capacities: Presidential Fitness testing
- Effective character traits for personal success

Spanish

The Grades 6, 7, and 8 Spanish curriculum is intended to prepare students for their upcoming high school language experience – to familiarize them with the basics of the Spanish language and to help them gain a sense of comfort with pronunciation and simple vocabulary. Classes meet once each week. There is minimal homework given, but many in-class assignments and both formal and informal assessments are administered to help the students measure their progress.

The objectives of the Holy Trinity Spanish Program are to develop, reinforce, and refine communicative competence in listening, speaking, reading, writing, and culture. Through essentially an inductive approach, the goal is for students to gain an intuitive understanding of how the language is acquired and how they can use this knowledge to express themselves linguistically. By developing and refining their intuitive skills, students also acquire a basic understanding and appreciation of the diversity of cultures in the Spanish-speaking world.

Technology

Holy Trinity students in Grades 6 to 8 participate in a cross-curricular Information Technology course. In addition, the school's technology instructor works closely with teachers to ensure that technology is integrated seamlessly into the students' content learning, and the students' content learning is integrated into the technology lessons.

The upper classes' curriculum shifts to leadership and digital citizenship, delving into questions such as, "How does your internet behavior make you look?" Students in the middle grades gain proficiency in Microsoft Office, learn to utilize cloud storage, use email as a means of communication, and routinely use interactive tools, along with basic typing, research techniques, and how to use graphics in presentations. Junior High students focus on relevant, real-world products, including making digital and multimedia presentations, and using the internet to conduct responsible research. Emphasis is on the mastery of Microsoft Office tools, along with cloud computing, Google docs, and web-based communications.

The school is committed to maintaining and updating the infrastructure necessary to support new and emerging technologies. In addition to interactive SMARTboards and wireless internet access throughout the school, the school offers an impressive one-to-one Chromebook technology structure in Grades 6, 7, and 8.

Visual Arts

The Grades 6, 7, and 8 Visual Arts program is based on the guidelines provided by the Archdiocese of Philadelphia and the Common Core Standards.

Our students will gain a degree of control and a measure of confidence with art materials and techniques. They will look to significant works of art to recognize the elements and principles of design and, once having seen how they function in masterpieces, will use complex thinking to apply them to their own art. Students will gain an understanding of the content and aesthetics of artwork and are lead to communicate by expressing meanings, ideas, and stories through art elements and principles in a variety of art materials. Students will use their art skills in a collaborative mode to develop and enhance all learning.

Some of the activities your children will engage in as part of the Grades 6, 7, and 8 Visual Arts program are:

- Exploration of the application of media, techniques, and artistic processes
- Creation of original artwork using acrylics, clay, watercolor, metal tooling, and several other materials
- Use of new tools and materials and expansion of skills in the creation of their artwork
- Use of technology, specifically the iPad, to create and enhance original artwork

August, 2020

- Exposure to Art History through connection with the Philadelphia Museum of Art and the Barnes Foundation
- Observation and discussion of famous works of art and their own original artwork

How can you help?

Learning does not stop once the school day is over. You are the most important teacher in your child's education. Sit down with your child as homework is being completed to give you an understanding of what your child is learning and where specific struggles may be.

- As a family, read every evening for at least 20-30 minutes.
- Review math facts and concepts being taught each day.
- Get a library card and take your child to the library routinely.
- Share in the excitement of learning with your child.
- Talk to your child about what they are learning in school.
- Be supportive of the work of the school.