

Upper School Curriculum

Language Arts Curriculum

The Upper School English Program is designed to improve critical thinking through analytical reading, writing, public speaking, and active listening. Literature study includes selections from a variety of genres, cultures, and historical periods. The selections grow in length and thematic complexity through the grade levels. There is an intensive writing component to the program that specifically focuses on expository composition. Students learn to organize thoughts, express ideas, improve sentence structure, understand and use vocabulary with growing sophistication, and revise their work for meaning and accuracy. Proper grammar and mechanics are taught throughout the curriculum and are connected to the literature whenever possible. Students learn public speaking skills through a variety of presentations and daily class discussions, while being guided in their listening and note-taking abilities. There is also a strong focus on word processing skills, as students complete a number of writing assignments on their computers. Many of the features of the program introduced in a particular grade are reinforced and expanded in subsequent grades.

Language Arts 5

The Fifth Grade Curriculum is designed to reinforce and build upon the basic foundation of language and reading skills that are taught in the Lower School and to enhance students' fluency in basic reading and writing skills. To foster an appreciation for literature, students are introduced to a wide variety of genres. Process writing techniques, including prewriting, drafting and revising, proofreading, and error recognition are taught, with an end goal of publication. Completion of the course enables the students to understand the following concepts and skills.

Literature

- Recognize genres of literature
- Identify literary elements including plot, character, setting, and point of view
- Make personal connections through journal writing
- Develop critical reading and thinking skills through textual analysis and comparison/contrast

Writing

- Use correct punctuation and sentence structure within various types of sentences
- Apply transition and linking techniques in written pieces
- Use correct subject/verb agreement
- Write simple and complex sentences
- Compose the following: personal narrative, how-to report, compare and contrast essay, story, persuasive argument and research report
- Structure written work in organized paragraphs with specific topic sentences and on developing an analytical essay
- Study grammar, writing mechanics, and sentence structure within various types of sentences

- Expand working vocabulary through the study of selected words
- Identify the meaning of unfamiliar words through contextual clues in literature

Vocabulary

- Expand working vocabulary through the study of selected words
- Identify the meaning of unfamiliar words through contextual clues in literature

Listening and Speaking

- Participate in collaborative group work that enhances speaking and listening skills
- Present oral reports that stem from notes, stories read aloud, or research conducted in the media center

Language Arts 6

The Sixth Grade Curriculum continues to provide students with a basic foundation of language and reading skills. Students gain an appreciation of literature as they read samples of many genres. Students are encouraged to develop their own writing style while incorporating all elements of the writing process. Completion of the course enables the students to understand the following concepts and skills.

Literature

- Read samples from genres including short story, drama, poetry, novel, and nonfiction
- Identify elements of narrative such as plot, character, setting, and point of view
- Recognize literary and poetic devices such as rhyme, repetition, personification, allusion, and symbolism
- Enhance critical reading and thinking skills through textual analysis, prediction, and comparison /contrast
- Recognize and interpret narrative structures, patterns, and reoccurring symbols as a function of theme

Writing

- Introduce essay structure
- Improve style and vocabulary usage
- Use more complex sentences and transitions through basic descriptive and persuasive pieces, nonfiction reports and articles, and journal entries
- Develop peer and self- editing skills, and revise work for mechanical and expressive accuracy
- Compose the following: personal narrative, how-to report, compare and contrast essay, story, persuasive argument and research report

Vocabulary

- Expand working vocabulary through the study of selected words
- Identify the meaning of unfamiliar words through contextual clues in literature

Listening and Speaking

- Participate in collaborative group work that enhances speaking and listening skills
- Give oral presentations that stem from notes, stories read aloud, or research conducted in the media center

Language Arts 7

The Seventh Grade Curriculum enhances students' writing skills with a strong focus on expository writing. Students continue to read samples of literature and learn to incorporate the ideas of great authors into their own writing. Students hone their writing skills through the use of extensive editing and error recognition skills in expository and process writing projects. Completion of the course enables the students to understand the following concepts and skills.

Literature

- Recognize and interpret literary and poetic elements and devices, figurative language, symbolic imagery, allusions, and references
- Enhance critical reading and thinking skills through textual analysis, prediction, and comparison/contrast
- Recognize and interpret narrative structures, patterns, and reoccurring symbols as a function of theme
- Identify poetic devices including alliteration, rhyme, metaphor, simile, and imagery

Writing

- Write organized, developed expository essays showing insight and attributed analysis of textual evidence
- Use precise vocabulary, complex sentences, and transitions between paragraphs
- Use the writing process, peer editing skills, and extensive development and revision of work to improve written projects

Vocabulary

- Develop working vocabulary through the study of selected words in the *Wordly Wise* textbook
- Identify the meaning of unfamiliar words through contextual clues in literature

Listening and Speaking

- Participate in collaborative group work that enhances speaking and listening skills
- Use public speaking techniques in oral presentations

Language Arts 8

The Eighth Grade Curriculum is a culmination of the concepts, topics, and skills taught throughout the Language Arts Program. Students are expected to have the ability to independently read sophisticated texts for understanding and to write meaningfully and logically about what they have read. The focus of the course is on expository writing techniques in preparation for high school English classes. Students are expected to engage in active discussions about the readings. As writers, students are expected to work independently and

collaboratively using literature as a springboard for writing. Completion of the course enables the students to understand the following concepts and skills.

Literature

- Recognize and interpret literary and poetic elements and devices, figurative language, symbolic imagery, allusions, and references
- Enhance critical reading and thinking skills through textual analysis, prediction, and comparison/contrast
- Recognize and interpret narrative structures, patterns, and reoccurring symbols as a function of theme

Writing

- Write organized, developed essays showing insight and attributed analysis of textual evidence
- Use precise vocabulary, complex sentences and phrases, and logical transitions between coherent paragraphs
- Use the writing process, peer editing skills, and extensive development and revision of work to improve written pieces

Vocabulary

- Develop working vocabulary through the study of selected words in the *Wordly Wise* textbook
- Identify the meaning of unfamiliar words through contextual clues, deconstructions, and semantics

Listening and Speaking

- Participate in collaborative group work that enhances speaking and listening skills
- Use public speaking techniques in oral presentations

Mathematics Curriculum

The Mathematics Curriculum in the Upper School builds a bridge of solid skills and understanding from the concrete math of the Lower School to the more formal abstract math of high school. It is designed to emphasize the importance of math as a useful and creative area of study. Reasoning, computation, problem solving, and patterning are threads used throughout the curriculum to teach concepts and help students gain self-confidence. In all grades, previously taught math concepts are reviewed and new material is introduced. Problem-solving and enrichment activities include: the effective use of calculators, weekly enrichment problems, and participation in math contests.

Mathematics 5

The Fifth Grade Mathematics Curriculum provides a simple transition from the Lower School into the Upper School. Students build upon their basic foundations and take their skills to the next level. Completion of the course enables the students to understand the following concepts and skills.

- Use addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division of whole numbers, decimals, fractions, mixed numbers, and integers
- Interpret and create bar graphs, line graphs, and metric measurements
- Determine perimeter and area of geometric figures
- Solve ratio, proportion, probability, and percent problems
- Graph using statistics which include finding mean, median, mode, and range
- Solve beginning algebraic equations

Mathematics 6

The Sixth Grade Mathematics Curriculum connects directly with the previous course and takes each skill a step further. Completion of the course enables the students to understand the following concepts and skills.

- Identify commutative, associative, and distributive properties
- Utilize exponents, scientific notation, and square roots
- Broaden ability to manipulate decimals, fractions, mixed numbers, and integers
- Solve one and two step equations and inequalities
- Create functions given a set of data
- Develop problem solving strategies that concentrate on critical thinking

Mathematics 7

The Seventh Grade Mathematics Curriculum introduces students to algebra concepts that will be enhanced the following year. Completion of the course enables the students to understand the following concepts and skills.

- Expand the use of exponents by focusing on zero and negative powers
- Determine the slope and equation of a line, given two points or intercepts
- Solve linear equations and inequalities
- Identify and manipulate polynomials
- Use given formulas to solve for a missing variable
- Use Trigonometric Functions to solve for missing values of a triangle

Mathematics 8

The Eighth Grade Mathematics Curriculum prepares students to transition to the high school level and take the Regents Exam for Integrated Algebra 1 at the end of the course. Completion of the course enables the students to understand the following concepts and skills.

- Identify number systems and their characteristics
- Use trigonometry to identify angles and lengths of sides of a triangle

- Graph linear functions and relations
- Write and solve systems of linear functions
- Factor polynomials
- Solve quadratic equations and inequalities by completing the square and using the quadratic formula
- Simplify rational expressions using addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division

Science Curriculum

Science 5

Fifth Grade students begin the year studying plant and animal cells and how they reproduce. We move on to a study of the basic principles of chemistry and end the year building on our third grade ecology studies with the creation of a school garden and a field trip to study acid rain.

Completion of the course enables the students to understand the following concepts and skills.

- Review the basic structure and function of cells and organelles
- Understand mitotic and meiotic cell division
- Explore the area of genetics using the Mendelian concepts with Punnett squares and family pedigrees
- Work with the first 36 elements of the periodic table
- Create electron configurations
- Diagram covalent and ionic bonds
- Understand the concept of acid and base
- Distinguish biotic and abiotic factors in an ecosystem
- Understand the major cycles in the ecosystem

Science 6

The Sixth Grade Science Curriculum is a full-year course presenting selected topics from the field of Physics. Major topics include kinematics, dynamics, waves, electricity, and the atomic nucleus. Students participate in laboratory activities, classroom discussions, and reflections.

Completion of the course enables the students to understand the following concepts and skills.

- Possess a solid understanding of velocity, acceleration, and projectile motion
- Recite and apply Newton's Laws
- Understand characteristics and calculations of collisions
- Identify and describe sound and light waves
- Analyze the atomic nucleus and reactions within

Science 7

The focus of the Seventh Grade is animal structure and function. Starting with a review of life functions and the scientific method students begin working with compound light microscopes studying cells, organs, and organ systems with a strong focus on human anatomy. Completion of the course enables the students to understand the following concepts and skills.

- Recognize the different organelles in plant and animal cells
- Understand the process of transportation, both active and passive
- Examine the organs of the skeletal, muscular, digestive, circulatory, respiratory, nervous, excretory, and reproductive systems
- Research topics of current interest, including ecology and infectious diseases
- Present research to groups for discussion

Science 8

Earth Science at Saint Gregory's is a high school level course in the earth, atmospheric, and space sciences. The course is based on the material outlined in the New York State Physical Setting: Earth Science curriculum. Students demonstrate their knowledge through written tests, laboratory reports, and classroom discussion. Laboratory and field work, including a three day/two night field experience at the beginning of the school year, are considered to be a fundamental part of the course. Students are prepared for the NYS Regents exam in earth science. Completion of the course enables the students to understand the following concepts and skills.

- Complete a series of narrative lab reports
- Understand the contemporary significance of astronomy, cosmology, plate tectonics, continental drift, and climate change
- Develop an awareness of our current understanding of the effects of human activity on the earth's environment
- Use computers to analyze and present lab data
- Use computerized spreadsheets to analyze and present data

Social Studies Curriculum

History 5

The Fifth Grade History Curriculum looks closely at the world's earliest ancient civilizations including China, Middle East, Southwest Asia, Mesoamerica, Africa, and Europe. The students investigate how various groups of people developed into societies and advanced civilizations. Common threads among different ancient cultures are examined. Completion of the course enables the students to understand the following concepts and skills.

- Understand how early humans struggled for basic needs that led to the development of technology and community

- Explain the role of agriculture and geography as it led to the first societies
- Examine societal developments such as coined money, written language, aqueducts and other technologies of ancient civilizations
- Understand that civilizations relied on water sources for life
- Research ways the Silk Road brought cultures closer together through trade and new technologies
- Study ancient religions and their effects on cultural development
- Understand Greek legends and myths and their historical, religious, and psychological bases
- Understand the Greek civilization's influence on all other civilizations
- Explain how democracy first began and its effects on later cultures

History 6

The primary goal of Sixth Grade History Curriculum is to establish an understanding of the progression of Western European Civilization. Students study political and cultural developments in Asia, Africa, and the Americas affected by European influence. Students connect the historical content of the course with pertinent current events. Completion of the course enables the students to understand the following concepts and skills.

- Understand the European transition from the Middle Ages to the Renaissance
- Detail the Democratic revolutions and their influence on the rest of the world
- Examine the Industrial Age and how new inventions and innovations changed cultures and heightened conflicts among competing countries and social classes
- Understand market, command, and traditional economies of the world
- Understand how imperialism and nationalism led to isolated and worldwide conflicts
- Study the Bolshevik Revolution and the Great Depression
- Explore the 20th century World Wars and how they affected cultures
- Examine the Cold War
- Study current socioeconomic conditions throughout the Middle East, South America, Russia and their effects on the United States

History 7

The primary objective of Seventh Grade History Curriculum is to build a geopolitical understanding of our national origins as Americans. Current events are integrated into the curriculum. Completion of the course enables the students to understand the following concepts and skills.

- Identify geographical locations, including major cities, capitals, and important landmarks throughout the United States
- Develop an understanding of the Native American cultures
- Explain how and why the first Europeans came to the Americas
- Explain how the European settlements affected the lives of the Native Americans
- Trace the development of the American culture and its quest for independence and democracy

- Tell how the first U.S. government operated and describe the formation and function of the Constitution
- Understand the development of sectionalism in the United States and how that led to the Civil War
- Study key battles, individuals, and politics behind the Civil War
- Describe the characteristics of the Reconstruction

History 8

The primary goal of the Eighth Grade History Course is to build a thorough understanding of the United States government today, beginning with the post-Civil War era. Appropriate activities are integrated in order to connect yesterday's history to the events of today. Students also explore cross-curricular activities such as research papers in conjunction with the English department. Completion of the course enables the students to understand the following concepts and skills.

- Understand the Reconstruction
- Identify the politics and important individuals behind the Reconstruction
- Study the Compromise of 1877 and the effect it had on African Americans
- Explain how Westward Expansion and the railroads changed the nation
- Examine American Imperialism and the Spanish-American War
- Review the Progressive Era and how regulations on big business, emergence of labor unions, women suffrage and child labor laws came to be
- Study the effects of major wars and their affects on the cultures involved
- Study the Great Depression and the New Deal
- Understand the Cold War world and the politics of a new nuclear age
- Examine the 1960's and the Civil Right Era

Foreign Language Curriculum

The Foreign Language Curriculum in Upper School focuses on the four main components of language: reading, writing, listening, and speaking. Language is most efficiently and effectively learned when the student can be motivated to use it to communicate ideas and to express feelings, attitudes, and needs. Only when the student is able to communicate in Spanish within the broad context of everyday life, be it in connection with travel, study, a career, or interpersonal relationships, has the real aim of learning the language been fulfilled. Throughout the program, the principal goal is to supply the students with adequate opportunities for the communicative use of Spanish in realistic and personalized situations or activities. Grammar and culture are taught within the context of these communicative activities in order to form a cohesive unit of study.

Spanish 5

The Fifth Grade Course provides a continuation of the work begun in the lower school, with an additional emphasis on written Spanish. Students learn through games, hands-on activities, performing short skits, using whiteboards and practice sheets, listening to CDs, and studying from the book and workbook *¿Cómo te va?* Completion of the course enables the students to understand the following concepts and skills.

- State the weather
- Ask and tell time
- Conjugate regular –ar verbs and the verb ser
- Give the day, date, weather, and season
- Ask and respond to requests for one’s name, geographic origin, and nationality
- Identify members of the family using the verb tener (*to have*)
- Identify the rooms of a house

Spanish 6

Sixth Grade builds on concepts previously taught in Fifth Grade. Students learn through games, hands-on activities, writing and performing short skits, using whiteboards, practice sheets, listening to CDs, and studying the book and workbook *Buen Viaje*. Completion of the course enables the students to understand the following concepts and skills.

- Identify, describe, and shop for school supplies and clothing
- Talk about going to school and school activities
- Identify and order food and beverages at a café
- Describe yourself, your family, home, and ages of people
- Present tense of the verb ser, -ar, -er, and –ir verbs (regular and some irregular)
- Write and speak using correct sentence agreement (articles, adjectives, nouns, subjects, and verbs)

Spanish 7

Seventh Grade builds on concepts previously taught in fifth and sixth grades. Students learn through games, hands-on activities, writing and performing short skits, using whiteboards, practice sheets, listening to CDs, and studying the book and workbook *Buen Viaje*. Completion of the course enables the students to understand the following concepts and skills.

- Discuss team sports and other physical activities
- Explain a minor illness to a doctor and have a prescription filled at a pharmacy
- Describe summer and winter weather, activities and sports

- Discuss movies, museums, theater, and cultural events
- Describe expressions related to air travel
- Discuss past actions and events using the preterite tense (-ar, -er, -ir verbs with some irregulars)
- Conjugate the following verbs: stem changing, present progressive, irregulars in the yo form
- Differentiate between ser vs. estar (*to be*) and saber vs. conocer (*to know*)

Spanish 8

Eighth Grade builds on concepts previously taught in the other Upper School grades. Students learn through games, hands-on activities, writing and performing short skits, using whiteboards, practice sheets, listening to CDs, and studying the book and workbook *Buen Viaje*. In addition, student prepared to take the New York State Second Language Proficiency Examination. Completion of the course enables the students to understand the following concepts and skills.

- Describe your daily routine and personal grooming habits using reflexive verbs
- Use expressions related to train travel
- Order food or a beverage at a restaurant
- Identify eating utensils, dishes, and more foods
- Learn irregulars in the preterite (past) tense
- Learn more present tense irregulars

Latin Curriculum

The goals of the Latin Program are to encourage students to become involved first-hand with the classics in their original language and the derived Romance languages, to develop the students' language skills, and to enhance their historical and cultural awareness. The formal study of Latin allows the students to see the evolution of the modern Romance languages French and Spanish. The nature of these languages can be addressed in the changes in the grammar and vocabulary from the highly structured language of Latin to the Romance languages. The development of language skills comes from the study of vocabulary and word derivation. English vocabulary study emphasizes Latin prefixes, roots, suffixes, and word families in addition to word derivations. Improved writing skills grow from the development of these language skills. Students develop an understanding of the social and political history of the ancient Romans through the study of such topics as the daily life of the different classes of Romans, the gradual development of Rome from village to republic to empire, the political consequences of this growth, and Roman religion and mythology.

Latin 7

The Seventh Grade Latin Course is an introductory course that is roughly equivalent to the first half of a Latin I high school course. The main objective of the course is to develop students' vocabulary and grammar skills so they can comprehend basic Latin with confidence. Using *Ecce Romani I* students start by reading and translating the most basic sentence structures. Each chapter introduces the students to new forms and grammatical structures that can be used to expand the meaning of sentences. Each chapter also introduces new vocabulary. Repetition in the readings and the study of English derivatives helps students to grasp and command the introduced Latin vocabulary. The text also introduces early Roman history, from the mythological voyage of Aeneas through the seven kings of early Rome. Students also prepare for and take part in the Introductory Level of the National Latin Exam. Completion of the course enables the students to understand the following concepts and skills.

Grammar and Forms

- Learn the basic elements of a Latin sentence, including subjects, verbs, predicates, and direct objects
- Recognize adjectives, adverbs, prepositional phrases, and possessive nouns so that students are able to read and translate more complex sentences
- Learn the active forms of present and imperfect tense verbs, the infinitive, and the imperative
- Understand the concept of gender in nouns and adjectives and learn the agreement of nouns and adjectives in gender, number, and case
- Recognize five of the six cases of nouns across three declensions

Vocabulary

- Memorize a wide variety of Latin vocabulary, especially the more common words including: nouns referring to family members, occupations, and outdoor settings, verbs such as to be, to do, to want, and to be able, and prepositions
- Learn conversational Latin such as greetings, common questions, and commands

History and Culture

- Read condensed and simplified versions of the stories of Aeneas and Romulus and Remus in Latin, which are supplemented by expanded English versions
- Learn about the religion of the Romans, primarily the Olympian gods and goddesses
- Follow the daily life and travels of a Roman senatorial family living in A.D. 80

Latin 8

The Eighth Grade Course is a completion of the Latin I Course begun in the seventh grade. The grammar and vocabulary in the readings becomes more varied and complex, and the grammar and vocabulary already learned are continually reinforced in the readings through repetition. The students continue to learn English derivatives, and learn the prefixes and suffixes used to create many of the derivatives. The students begin to read brief passages of Roman authors in the original Latin, including examples by Ovid, Horace, and Pliny the Younger. The course also traces the evolution of Rome from city-state to empire. The students participate in the Latin I

level of the National Latin Exam. Completion of the course enables the students to understand the following concepts and skills.

Grammar and Forms

- Learn more advanced grammatical concepts such as the indirect object, substantive adjectives, and personal and demonstrative pronouns
- Understand the active forms and use of the future, perfect, pluperfect, and future perfect tenses of verbs
- Cover the final case of Latin nouns and the forms of all six cases in the fourth and fifth declensions

Vocabulary

- Memorize a wide variety of common Latin words
- Learn the original meaning and use of Latin phrases and abbreviations in modern English such as: e.g., N.B., modus operandi, quid pro quo, sine qua non, et cetera

History and Culture

- Trace the history of Rome, moving from the legendary into the historical period
- Consider the social and political effects of Rome's conquests, including the growing division of classes and the assimilation of Greek and other cultures
- Follow the Roman family's journey to and arrival in Rome

Religion Curriculum

Religion 5

In the Fifth Grade Religion Curriculum emphasis is placed on a deeper understanding of Catholic beliefs and traditions. The core of the curriculum is the study of the Sacraments, focusing on a philosophical understanding rather than a practical preparation to receive them. The text used is the *We Believe* series from Sadlier Publishing. Completion of the course enables the students to understand the following concepts and skills.

- Explore what it means to be a Christian, and how we strengthen our Baptismal commitment through Confirmation
- Discuss the parts of the Mass and the Eucharist as a sacrificial meal
- Learn the importance of forgiveness and caring for the poor and sick
- Discuss Marriage as a celebration of family and love
- Plan and lead a monthly Mass

Religion 6

The Sixth Grade Religion Curriculum is designed to introduce students to the Old Testament. The class explores the stories of the Old Testament, relating them to events in the students' lives. These discussions help them see the connection that people have with the faith of their ancestors. The text used is the *We Believe* series from Sadlier Publishing, in addition to the *Good News Bible* from the American Bible Society to read the actual translations of the stories. Completion of the course enables the students to understand the following concepts and skills.

- Know the major events of the Old Testament
- Gain an understanding of development of God's relationship with humans
- Become aware of the major individuals of the Old Testament and their role in Salvation History
- Understand how other religions have incorporated some of the same themes in their literature and traditions
- Understand that the Old Testament was developed over a long period of time by multiple authors working from both written and oral accounts
- Plan and lead a monthly Mass

Religion 7

The Seventh Grade Religion Curriculum is a study of the New Testament. Emphasis is placed on understanding the purpose and message intended by the author(s) of the various writings. Significant consideration is given to the historical development of the texts and the literary genres employed by the authors, as well as the socio-political-religious environment of first-century Palestine. The fundamental theme develops an understanding of Jesus as the ultimate revelation of God to man. Completion of the course enables the students to understand the following concepts and skills.

- Discuss the main liturgical seasons, Passover, and appropriate current events
- Develop an understanding of first-century Palestinian society, and how the political, social, and religious mores of that era influenced the authors
- Develop an increased appreciation for the teachings of Judaism, and how they are related to Christianity
- Understand the major liturgical seasons
- Plan and lead a monthly Mass

Religion 8

The focus of the Eighth Grade Religion Curriculum is a comparative analysis of major world religions. The religions studied in the course are Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Buddhism, and Hinduism. The text used is *World Religions* by Brandon Toporov and Father Luke Buckles. Each religion is examined independently through its origins, writings, beliefs, rituals and traditions. Each section is concluded with a project that allows the student to express his knowledge concerning the topic. Projects can take the forms of speeches, papers, debates, PowerPoint presentations, music videos, interviews, etc. The course concludes by looking at the

religions as they fit in the modern world. Students are asked to compare and contrast the religions. The course is supplemented with guest speakers who represent the various religions being discussed. Completion of the course enables the students to understand the following concepts and skills.

- Have a better understanding of the religious beliefs that exist in today's diverse world
- Examine their own religious beliefs and see how they compare to that of their friends, family, neighbors, etc.
- Exercise public speaking skills to make oral presentations to their classmates to persuade them to see their point of view on various topics
- Be able to write papers that demonstrate their knowledge of assigned readings using proper grammar and spelling in a concise and quick format
- Be able to author position papers exercising proper grammar and spelling to explain their opinions on open-ended essay questions
- Work independently or in groups on research projects
- Understand how to research various writing assignments using technology and how to properly document in their writing ideas and quotes taken from other sources
- Plan to schedule and complete long range projects
- Plan and lead a monthly Mass

Computer Science Curriculum

Computer 5

Transitioning to the Upper School, Fifth Grade students will continue to build upon Lower School skills while learning new skills. Each student will use a laptop through Eighth Grade. Many projects complement the Fifth Grade Academic Program. Completion of the course enables the students to understand the following concepts and skills.

- Use proper keyboarding skills are stressed
- Use word processing, basic skills and advanced features
- Research the Internet including:
 - researching classroom related subjects
 - bookmarking sites
 - taking notes
- Create *PowerPoint* presentations for class assignments using advanced features
- Create a simple web-page using HTML, graphics, text and links to other pages or sites
- Learn new computer vocabulary

Computer Science 6 and 7

Computer Science in Sixth and Seventh Grades is a two-year, half-time course designed to introduce students to computer programming, deepen their understanding of computing in

general, and enhance their problem-solving abilities. The course is currently taught using the C++ programming language. The text, *An Introduction to Computer Programming Using C++*, was written specifically for this course. It should be noted that the main thrust of the course is the logic underlying computer programming rather than instruction in a specific computer language. Completion of the course enables the students to understand the following concepts and skills.

- Develop proficiency in the process of writing, editing, compiling, debugging, and running programs in the C++ language
- Develop proficiency in using the GNU/Linux operating system to support their work
- Input and output data from and to the computer console; output will be presented in a logical, lucidly-formatted manner
- Understand and be able to employ variables of numerical and character data types
- Implement iteration in programs
- Use functions with both global and local variables to design and organize programs in a logically-structured manner
- Understand the digital nature of data, particularly as exemplified in character encoding such as the ASCII code
- Implement branching structures
- Develop some familiarity with recursion
- Develop programs which entail the simulation of random events

Art Curriculum

The Upper School Art Curriculum is designed to give students art experiences that develop imagination and an appreciation for art and the world around us. Using a variety of art materials, the projects promote mastery of skills. Students express themselves visually through art elements and design principles. Long-term projects allow Upper School students to delve more deeply into a variety of themes. Cross-curricular projects provide connections between art and other subject areas. One field trip per grade in the Upper School is planned each year focusing on those connections. Students keep portfolios to reflect their progress. Student artwork is displayed throughout the art room, the school display boards, and in the Kopp Wing. On Grandparents' Day, student work is celebrated in a major art show.

Art 5

The goal of the Fifth Grade Art Curriculum is to make the transition to more independence in the Upper School. Students will create more involved pieces of art using brainstorming, sketching and production. Completion of the course enables the students to understand the following concepts and skills.

- Use art elements including line, shape, color, space, and texture
- Use design principles including symmetry, balance, scale, proportion, unity, variety, and pattern
- Use materials such as colored pencils, various painting media, plaster cloth, wire, and cardboard

- Create drawings based on reflection, logo design, human figures, portrait, architecture, geometric designs, and one-point perspective
- Use processes related to printmaking, tempera resist, relief sculpture, and tessellations
- Complete interdisciplinary projects

Art 6

The goals of Sixth Grade Art Curriculum are to develop creative thinking skills, build self-expression, and take on more challenging work. The process of creating all two- and three-dimensional art in the sixth grade begins with drawing. Students create artwork with an emphasis on good craftsmanship. Completion of the course enables the students to understand the following concepts and skills.

- Use art elements in projects such as one-point perspective line drawing, color wheel, complementary color design, neutral color painting, texture and geometric design
- Understand and use design principles such as asymmetrical balance, proportions of the human face and human figures in action, unity, variety, emphasis, movement
- Use a variety of art materials such as markers, colored pencils, variety of painting media, textured paper, plaster cloth, wire, and collage
- Develop ideas for artwork through brainstorming and supplementary resources
- Use processes related to printmaking, plaster fresco, and sculpture
- Complete interdisciplinary projects

Art 7

The goals of the Seventh Grade Art Curriculum are to further develop creative thinking skills and to create independent work. The process of creating all two- and three-dimensional art in the seventh grade begins with drawing ideas in a personal sketchbook. Students develop proficiency in art skills with emphasis on good craftsmanship. Completion of the course enables the students to understand the following concepts and skills.

- Use art elements in projects such as one and two-point perspective drawing, drawing still life from observation, shading techniques in mandala design, gouged line used in linocut, and silhouetted shape
- Use design principles such as balance, contrast, proportions, texture, unity, variety, emphasis, and movement
- Use materials including colored pencils, variety of painting media, linocut, plaster cloth, wire, collage, and papier maché
- Develop ideas for artwork through sketching, brainstorming and outside research
- Create artwork based on famous art
- Understand the process related to more advanced printmaking and sculpture
- Complete interdisciplinary projects

Art 8

The purpose of the Eighth Grade Art Curriculum is to expand methodical and critical thinking skills, generate ideas for original work, and explore myriad themes in art. Drawing continues to

be a priority and an important first step in all projects. Completion of the course enables the students to understand the following concepts and skills.

- Use art elements such as two-point perspective drawing, drawing from observation, line used in linocut, gridded portrait, and black and white designs
- Use design principles such as balance, proportions of the human face, texture, unity, variety, emphasis, and movement
- Use materials such as colored pencils, acrylic paint, tape, linocut, plaster cloth, wire, collage, scratchboard, contrast paper, and black ink
- Create artwork such as portrait sculpture, stippled drawing, and mixed media piece
- Understand the processes related to reduction printmaking, hard-edge painting, ink drawing, and sculpture
- Complete interdisciplinary projects
- Design individual eighth grade yearbook page

Music Curriculum

The Upper School Music Curriculum is an extension of the Lower School Music Program. Students continue to gain an appreciation for music through active participation in class and in performance. Students develop an understanding of music theory through exposure to a wide variety of musical genres and historical periods. The students come to understand the role music played throughout history and continues to play in our lives today. Through performance, students begin to establish a lifetime commitment to music for personal benefit and ultimately for the benefit of others. Each grade is responsible for preparing and performing at a monthly Mass. Combined performances with the Lower School include Mass, the Christmas Program and the Grandparents' Day Concert. The Boys' Choir provides additional opportunities to learn and to perform more challenging material. Completion of the course enables the students to understand the following concepts and skills.

Music 5

- Review the fingering for up to one octave on the soprano recorder using correct tone and breath control
- Practice reading notes and rhythms simultaneously following the signs and symbols that appear in musical scores
- Learn to play new pieces of recorder repertoire with an increasing degree of difficulty and with multiple parts
- Listen to a varied repertoire of music by "classical" composers beginning with Gregorian Chant and continuing in the music of Mozart and Haydn
- Observe how music developed in these eras and study the role of the musician through the ages
- Learn a varied repertoire of sacred and secular vocal music
- Use both pitched and unpitched instruments to accompany pieces of music
- Prepare music for monthly Masses and other events

Music 6

- Listen to a varied repertoire of music by “classical” composers beginning with the music of Mozart and Haydn through contemporary 20th century classical music
- Observe how music developed in these eras and study the role of the musician through the ages
- Identify important historical events and the impact of these events on the music of the time
- Learn a varied repertoire of sacred and secular vocal music
- Use both pitched and unpitched instruments to accompany pieces of music
- Prepare music for monthly Masses and other events

Music 7

- Listen to a varied repertoire of Jazz beginning from the early 1900’s through Jazz Rock Fusion
- Observe diverse cultural forces that contributed to the creation of Jazz in the United States
- Observe how music developed in these eras and study the role of the musician through the ages
- Identify important historical events and the impact of these events on the music of the time
- Learn a varied repertoire of sacred and secular vocal music
- Use both pitched and unpitched instruments to accompany pieces of music
- Review the basics of note and rhythm reading and begin playing the bells
- Prepare music for monthly Masses and other events

Music 8

- Listen to a varied repertoire of Rock and Roll beginning from the 1950’s through current day music
- Observe diverse musical styles that contributed to the creation of rock in the United States
- Observe how music developed in these eras and study the role of the musician through the ages
- Identify important historical events and the impact of these events on the music of the time
- Learn a varied repertoire of sacred and secular vocal music
- Use both pitched and unpitched instruments to accompany pieces of music
- Review the basics of note and rhythm reading and learn a varied repertoire of bell music
- Prepare music for monthly Masses and other events

Physical Education Curriculum

Throughout the Upper School, more emphasis is placed on specialized skills and sport activities. Students learn and improve their skills while participating in cooperative lead-up games and activities. The ultimate goal of these activities is participation in regulated sports. Experiences include a wide variety of sports, games, and activities such as interscholastic competitive teams, intramural sports, and games held in classes. The primary goal is to develop physically educated individuals through a program of developmentally appropriate activities, concepts, and skills.

Physical Education 5

The Fifth Grade Physical Education Curriculum represents a gradual transition from the concept approach to a more formal sport skills program. Students are introduced to and assessed in a variety of sports units which include soccer, basketball, baseball, pickle ball, flag football, and physical fitness. Completion of the course enables the students to understand the following concepts and skills.

- Identify proper warm-up, conditioning, cool-down techniques and reasons for using them
- Participate in activities designed to improve muscular strength and endurance, cardiovascular fitness and flexibility
- Apply life skills such as goal setting and positive group interaction to physical activities such as flag football and soccer

Physical Education 6

The Sixth Grade Curriculum emphasizes cooperation, teamwork, conflict resolution, and mutual respect. Completion of the course enables the students to understand the following concepts and skills.

- Develop distance and accuracy in punting, kicking, and throwing
- Demonstrate goal-tending skills
- Participate a regular basis in physical activities that maintain or improve physical fitness

Physical Education 7

The Seventh Grade Curriculum provides students with a well rounded experience in individual and team sports. Completion of the course enables the students to understand the following concepts and skills.

- Perform a variety of throws, passes, and shots after faking a motion
- Pass an object to a moving partner with accuracy and distance
- Identify the benefits of each component of physical fitness such as cardio respiratory fitness

Physical Education 8

A variety of life sports and activities are introduced with the intent of fostering a lifelong participation in physical activity. Increased responsibilities are placed on students for self-refereeing and group organization. Completion of the course enables the students to understand the following concepts and skills.

- Throw, pass, or shoot to a partner or a target while being defended
- Shoot an object at a target for distance and accuracy
- Perform movement skills in sequence