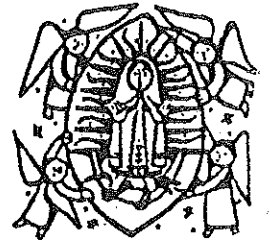




EIGHTH GRADE CURRICULUM HIGHLIGHTS



RELIGION

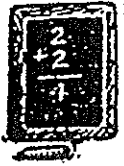
Using Scripture, Tradition, Church history, and morality, we will explore what it means to live as a Catholic Christian. We will continue to explore what role Jesus has in our lives through prayer, reflection, discussion, role playing, composition, art, and music. We will witness to and actualize our baptismal commitment to service to the St. Pius X community and to our larger world. We will encounter Christian heroes through all ages and explore what it means to put one's faith into action. We will integrate Catholic values of the month into our discussions, art, and compositions. We will investigate forms of spirituality as aids to growth in our relationship with God and with God's People. We will review developmental biology and physiology, relationships, marriage, pregnancy and birth, child development, and human sexuality within the context of Catholic teaching. We will have outside speakers to help us grow in responsible Christian living.



LANGUAGE ARTS (LITERATURE, GRAMMAR, VOCABULARY, LISTENING, SPEAKING, COMPOSITION, SPELLING, EDITING/PROOFREADING, HANDWRITING)

We will read for critical analysis, using the Prentice Hall literature series, assigned novels, DVDs/videos, and CDs/tapes. We will apply comprehension skills in research across the curriculum, in literary analysis, and in reading for enjoyment. You will have the opportunity to respond to literature in a variety of ways. We will discuss and write about literary elements and stylistic devices. We will build vocabulary skills using the Sadlier series. We will experience various kinds of writing: compositions, essays, poetry, and other creative writing. The focus will be on Claim-Data-Warrant and on application of expository writing across the curriculum. We will review the steps of the writing process and apply rubrics to evaluate the qualities of good writing. There will be times for listening, for giving oral presentations, and for presenting dramatic readings. The spelling program will use the Concept Spelling™ method; if you score 100% on the pretest, you will be exempt from that week's test. Basic standards of neatness will be emphasized. Work may be handwritten or done on your computer. All work must be proofread for neatness and accuracy; you will have to redo messy or error-filled work. All work will be done in ink and in cursive with the exception of math, rough drafts, or puzzles, or unless I have so directed.





MATH AND SCIENCE

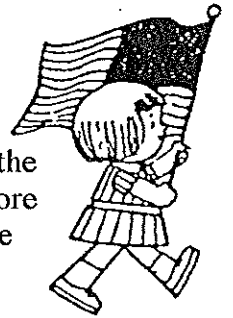
Under the direction of Mrs. Montgomery, you will follow diocesan guidelines and explore the worlds of math and science. You will review math operations and formulas leading to further exploration of algebraic and geometric concepts. No calculators are allowed on the ITBS or HSPT, so you will learn to show your work (SYW).

In Science, you will focus on physical science: the properties, laws, structures, and changes of matter, the laws of motion and energy, and atomic and chemical structure. Mrs. Montgomery will lead you through the specific guidelines for the Science Fair project.



SOCIAL STUDIES

As we study United States history and geography, we will learn about the “discovery”, settlement, and establishment of the United States. We will explore the Constitutional principles of our government and social justice. We will use graphic organizers, note taking skills, research and sources citation, primary sources, and mnemonic devices to facilitate our learning.



STUDY SKILLS

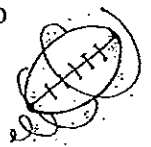
In order to “study smarter, not harder”, we will employ a variety of techniques such as Multiple Intelligences (MI) approaches, mnemonics, graphic organizers and other visuals to assist us with memory skills, test-taking skills, and for our preparation for the High School Placement Test (HSPT). These study skills will be built into all areas of the curriculum.



COMPUTER

Formal instruction in computers is held once a week under the direction of Ms. Randol. She will provide as separate handout listing her expectations, requirements, and topics/assignments to be covered.

In addition, our classroom, our library, and the computer lab have computers to assist us in utilizing technology in our learning process. Feel free to use yours at home as well for your homework, notes, and projects.

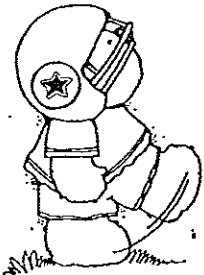


PE

PE will be held two days a week, Tuesdays and Thursdays, under the direction of Mr. Gonzalez. Please be ready to participate, since your grade is based largely upon effort and good attitude.

MUSIC AND CHOIR

Under the direction of Ms. Abrigo, we will experience various types of instrumental and vocal music; we will learn some music theory, history, composers, and their musical styles. We will participate in the liturgy through music. Those who enjoy singing can join the choir. Practice is held Tuesdays after school.





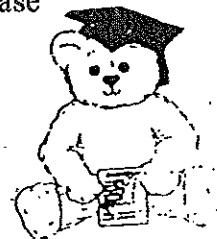
ART

We will work to develop and enjoy our spatial and kinesthetic intelligences using a variety of media, themes, and projects. We will incorporate seasonal themes and subject areas into art. Mrs. Patacsil, Mr. Skinner, and I will share the responsibility of teaching art. Participation and completion of projects are essential.

SERVICE HOURS

All students are required to give 25 hours of volunteer service to others (Grade 6—5 hours, Grades 7 & 8—10 hours each year). There are many opportunities to be of service at school or at home or in the community. Your completed hours must be documented and submitted by the end of April in order for you to participate in graduation activities and to receive a diploma.

Students participating in Student Council, yearbook staff, or Peace Patrol will receive service credit. Altar servers and cantors receive 1 hour's credit for each Mass. Kindergarten Helpers receive 1 hour for each week of service. Please consult me if you have any questions about the acceptability of your chosen activities for service hours credit. Please note that your service cannot be your regularly assigned chores at home.



CJSF

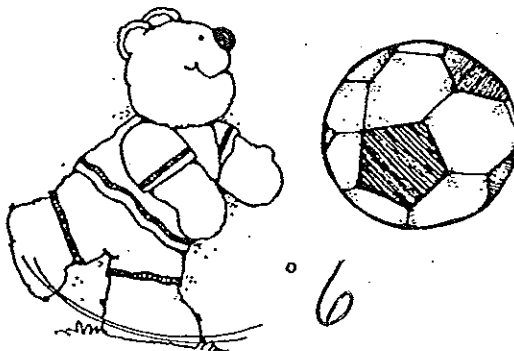
Please consult the larger Parent Handbook or me for the specific requirements to merit a gold seal on your diploma and a gold cord at graduation.

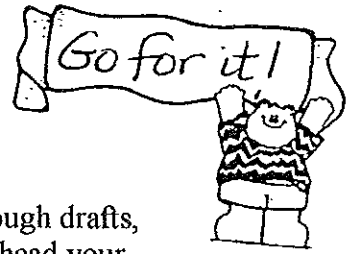
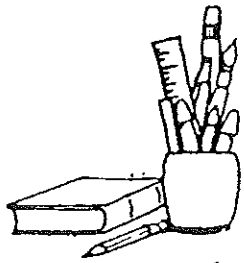
ACADEMIC DECATHLON

St. Pius X offers an academic enrichment and competition team for the academically able and dedicated. Students train in a variety of disciplines for the team as well as for individual events. The specific requirements and practice times will be sent out later in the year; the Decathlon is held the first Saturday of March each year. Students who participate will work both during and after school with their coaches.

AFTER SCHOOL HOMEWORK CENTER AND TUTORING

If you would like more help with your class work/homework, or if you have to make up a test because you were absent or had a poor score (Mrs. R's tests only), you may take advantage of after school tutoring or homework center. They are held Mondays through Thursdays from 3:00-3:45 P.M. in Grades 7 and 8. Additional math tutoring is available with Ms. Francois on Mondays in the library from 3:00-3:45 P.M.





GENERAL GUIDELINES AND PROCEDURES

Work must be neatly written in blue or black ink, except for math, rough drafts, and puzzles. Messy work will not be graded until it is recopied. Be sure to head your paper with your name, the subject, the page number/assignment, the date, and your cubby number.

Answers must be written in complete sentences unless you have been told otherwise. Be sure to follow directions the first time, or you will need to do the work again.

Work must be handed in on time to receive full credit. If your work is not ready on time, you will receive a homework slip and a demerit. You need to return both the finished work and the slip with your parent/guardian's signature on it. Work that is not made up within two weeks will receive an F; all late work will not receive full credit.

All books must be covered and must be cared for properly. Please do not use tape or contact paper on the endpapers of the books. Your books will be inventoried in September and in June; any losses; damage will be handled on an individual basis.

Please have all your supplies daily; have your materials ready for the different sections of the learning day. If you do not have your supplies with you, you will receive a homework slip and a demerit.

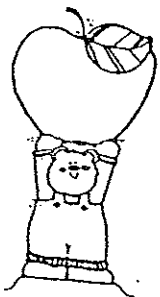
Directions are important and need to be followed. You may have to do your assignment again if you fail to follow the directions. Listen, read, and work with care.

Graded papers will be sent home on Mondays. Having your parent/guardian sign the work is part of the assigned homework; failure to return signed papers within two days will result in a homework slip. Once we are fully online with the grades, all grades will be posted within a timely manner. Please do NOT remove any slips with a request for a signature from the graded papers; I will return the assignment or test to you so that you can redo it.

Students should keep their work in binders or folders. You will need to keep your signed papers at home after the folder has been logged in for the week. You will need to provide evidence across the curriculum to show how you meet the Schoolwide Learning Expectations (SLEs) at the end of 8th grade. Students should clean out binders and folders periodically.

A few extra copies of all handouts are kept for your access. It is your responsibility to acquire a replacement from the shelf or to remind me to recopy a paper for you. Please try to avoid making this replacement a habit.

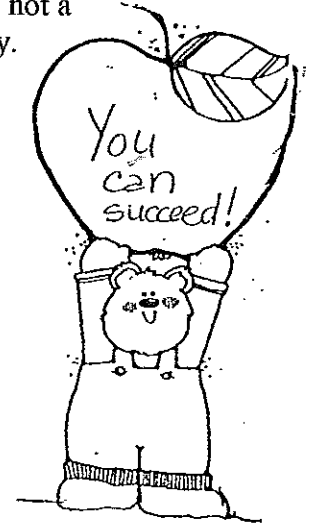
If you are ill, your homework and books will be sent to Homework Alley in the office by 2 P.M. I will send home the entire day's work, not just the homework. You can also check the assignments on the school web site. All work missed must be made up within two weeks.



Fridays are test days for Vocabulary, Spelling, and Math every week. Your Religion tests are usually on Fridays; Social Studies and Language tests will be announced and scheduled as we are ready. Please avoid unnecessary appointments on Fridays. Make-up tests (due to *absence* or a *score of D or F only* for the first three quarters of 8th grade) will be given after school. It is your responsibility to schedule this exam time within two weeks of your absence or the return of the low test. I will be happy to help any student who is having difficulty with a particular subject or assignment after school; I may request that you stay after school for additional help. This is not a punishment; I cannot always give you the attention you need during the day.

The diocesan grading policy is as follows:

A	93-100
A-	90-92
B+	87-89
B	83-86
B-	80-82
C+	77-79
C	73-76
C-	70-72
D+	67-69
D	63-66
D-	60-62
F	59 and below



*Grades of D or F in the subject which I teach may be made up by retaking a test or by redoing an assignment; both grades will be average together. This option is available only for the two weeks following the return of the paper, and only for the first three quarters of the year for 8th graders. Studying for tests is a must. Don't depend on a retake as the source for "raising" your grade. As a rule, I do not assign extra credit work. I will occasionally grade on a curve, if need be.

Since we have all received different talents and abilities, we may have differing assignments. The rate at which one person can complete an assignment and the use of time during class will be different; therefore, one person may have more homework to complete than another. The program will be modified according to the needs of the individual student. Please see me if you have any questions about this policy.

Students are encouraged to participate in the SPX sports programs, Student Council, yearbook, choir, altar serving, and Academic Decathlon as well as in programs outside of school such as music, dance, or club sports. I believe that you can do schoolwork and extracurricular activities too. Please remember your responsibility as a student and maintain your eligibility by keeping a C average and good conduct.

