

Seventh Grade

- **Language Arts –**

English 7: Seventh grade English covers the process of writing, grammar, mechanics, sentence and paragraph structure, and spelling. Students journal on given topics and daily language exercises encourage the skills of editing and revising. Writing assignments give students the opportunity to apply the process of writing in a meaningful way. Students are able to pre-write, edit and revise as well as apply learned grammar techniques. Writing assignments are integrated with the seventh grade reading curriculum.

Daily Vocabulary - 7

Students write the definition for the “word of the day” and keep a file of these words. This is a fun way to enrich vocabulary skills. The words are those that students will find useful in their reading, writing and speaking.

Literature 7

Grades 7 Literature/Reading consists of three main components. These are:

- A – Assigned reading from trade books

Students participate in literature circles in which cooperative, collaborative learning is fostered along with independent reading. Novels may include:

Treasure Island
Diary of Anne Frank
Where the Red Fern Grows
Adventures of Tom Sawyer
The Call of the Wild

- B – Reader’s Workshop – Silent sustained reading

Students choose a school appropriate book. Combined with the reading, students write literature letters which describe the plot, include opinions, and explain how they relate personally. Students also set reading goals. Teacher-student individual conferencing is a part of the assessment process.

- C – Journaling

- **Math** – Students in seventh grade participate in one of two math classes based on their skill level.
- Math 7 is a continuation of Math 6. The topics are intended to prepare the student for Pre-Algebra classes. Topics and areas covered are:
 - Numbers and numeration
 - Addition and subtraction of numbers and fractions
 - Multiplication and division of numbers and fractions
 - Expressions, equations and inequalities
 - Probability, statistics and graphing
 - Integers
 - Number theory
 - Measurement
 - Geometry
 - Percent, ratios, and proportions
 - Consumer mathematics
 - Perimeter, area and volume

- Pre-Algebra

The Pre-Algebra classes focus on basic equation solving and working with variables. Through problem-solving and cumulative skill practice, students learn the following:

- Solving equations and inequalities
 - Factors and fractions
 - Integers
 - Rational numbers
 - Ratio, proportion and percent
 - Functions and graphing
 - Statistics and probability
 - Polynomials
 - Applying algebra to geometry
 - Area and volume
- **Religion** - The seventh grade class explores the topics of morality and the creed. Students are invited to learn the truth of Christianity, and to begin to understand how to apply their values to issues facing them in the world today. Students read and discuss such issues as authentic happiness, true love, and the dynamic teachings of our Catholic faith. Through practicing various prayer forms, service projects and sharing, our hope is that students will be strengthened socially, morally and spiritually.

Steps to Respect education continues to help children solve the problem of bullying. The program teaches students what to do about bullying and how to ask adults for help. This program teaches prosocial skills – empathy, problem solving and emotion management – that help children succeed both socially and academically.

- **Science** – The curriculum for seventh grade is Life Science. Major units cover the following: cell structure, life processes, moneran, protist, fungi, plant and animal kingdoms and human anatomy.

**Each middle school grade level begins the year working on the Scientific Method. At each level, hands on labs are conducted to increase student understanding of the concepts covered in each unit. Quarterly projects are designed for each grade level to enhance student creativity and thinking skills.

- **Social Studies** – Seventh grade Social Studies centers on the culture of Canada and Latin America. Latin America includes Middle America, Mexico, Panama, Cuba, Puerto Rico, and South America-Europe, Africa, Asia Pacific Ring of Fire. The first two chapters are to review map and globe skills. Each unit is organized in chronological order. Students study the history of the country, along with culture and lifestyles, from the explorers to the present day. Students write a summary/opinion paragraph on a current news event and locate that country on a world map.
- **Art** - Students will review and build on the foundations of art theory, the elements of art (line, shape, color, texture, form, value, space) and applying that knowledge to projects and activities. Color production will continue to include the intermediate colors and other combinations. Seventh graders will continue to also explore all of the principles of design (balance, pattern, contrast, rhythm, unity, movement and emphasis) but with projects which emphasize the more complex concepts of form, value and space and reflect cultures some of which are Japanese, Chinese, Polish, Native American, Tibetan and American.
- **Physical Education** - The Middle School level teaches specific skills for individual and team sports (soccer, football, volleyball, bowling, basketball, floor hockey, tumbling, dance, jump rope, fitness, track & field, tennis and softball). Offense and defense strategies are learned along with developing and maintaining cardio respiratory endurance, muscular strength, flexibility and body composition.
- **Music** - The middle school students have the opportunity to select the type of music class in which they would like to participate. The music class choices are:
 - Music Theory
 - Chorus
 - Instrumental
- **Music Theory** - Students will review all notes, rests, musical signs, and musical symbols previously learned and expand upon them. They will study how to and practice making scales and chords. They will review musical instruments and what family they belong to. They will write reviews of different music they hear and write their own melodies. They will learn and write about different composers and the musical era the composers belonged to. They will listen to and compare music of different cultures and times. They learn the layout and formation of the standard orchestra and discuss the role of the conductor. They will study jazz music and improvisation. They will study the musical history of the Church and plan music for their school masses.

- **Chorus** - Students will sing a variety of songs. The class is primarily participation based. They will sing for every school Mass, so a lot of hymns and psalms will be learned. They will sing at both concerts, Christmas and Spring. They will work on singing rounds and two-part harmonies, eventually leading to three-part harmonies. Music reading will also be stressed. Students will review notes, rests, musical symbols, and the letters for both the treble and bass staves. They will learn about dynamics, articulation, and tempo.
- **Concert Band** - The Band Program is open to students in Grades 4-8. Students may join band for the first time at any of the above grade levels; it is not necessary for students to start in 4th Grade in order to participate.

The Concert Band is open to all students in Grades 5-8 and those 4th Grade students who have achieved adequate preparation through lessons and Fourth Grade Band. Students have the choice of learning one of the following instruments: flute, clarinet, alto saxophone, trumpet, French horn, trombone, baritone, or percussion. Band students will learn to read music in the clef necessary for their chosen instrument. They will learn to play that instrument individually and as part of a group. Students are continually challenged to learn new rhythms, notes, and to reach new levels of expressiveness. Emphasis is placed on teamwork. Students are expected to play as a band, rather than as a random grouping of instruments that are all playing the same music at the same time. The Concert Band plays two concerts, Christmas and Spring, and when the opportunity is available, at the Band Festival held annually at Notre Dame Academy. Students are also given opportunities to participate in Honors Bands and Solo and Ensemble.

- **Spanish** - This year, your son or daughter will be starting the text book. Your seventh grader already has a good vocabulary base and is able to write some describing sentences. This year, we'll be expanding on that by describing ourselves and others, places around us, and our classes. We'll be covering –ar and –er verbs in the present tense, definite and indefinite articles (a and the) in singular and plural forms, geography, nationality, time, clothing, sizes, shopping ☺, and transportation. Seventh grade will be a super-exciting year and your student will be able to effectively communicate with a Native Spanish Speaker by next summer.
- **Technology** – Technology for the kids at Lourdes is part of the daily curriculum in the classrooms and computer lab with a variety of activities, lessons and software programs. All classrooms have personal computers for use in small group and individual activities. The computer lab is used for large group instruction, research and independent study. The lab is reserved by classroom teachers as required by their lesson plans.

Keyboarding occurs during the 1st semester with emphasis on technique, accuracy and building speed. Testing of student keyboarding skills and word processing knowledge is performed with guidelines provided by the area high schools to determine which classes (key boarding or word processing) to enroll in high school. Upon completion of the student testing, the results are provided to the families to assist in class registration at high school. A review of Microsoft Word, Powerpoint and Excel is performed. Internet terminology, history, safety, net etiquette, and search techniques are discussed and exercised. The students have access to the computers in the classroom or the computer lab during study halls or during class periods with teacher direction.