



Grade Eight Curriculum 2015-2016

Religion

Text: Faith First Church and Sacraments by RCL (2007). As people of faith, students will continue to grow in their understanding of the Church and the Sacraments. As people of faith, students will learn how to accept and apply their responsibility to live their faith daily, to practice worship and prayer and accept their call to service by spreading the Good News and helping others in their community.

Text: Faith First Jesus in the New Testament by RCL (2007). Using the Four Gospels, St. Paul's Letters and the Book of Revelation, students will read, learn, analyze and apply Jesus Christ's message.

Text: Confirmed in the Spirit by Loyola Press (2014). To prepare for the Sacrament of Confirmation, students will study the ritual, pray and reflect, read scripture, do journal writing, develop a saint project, and perform required service hours.

Others: Columban Mission Education Program (Journey with Jesus) and Child Lures Prevention Program

Literature

Text: Enjoying Literature by Glencoe/McGraw Hill (1991). Through a variety of literary genres, including poetry, fiction, drama, non-fiction, and short stories, we will work on comparing and contrasting themes, synthesis, and making connections to world topics. At least four novels will be read throughout the year.

Vocabulary in Action by Loyola Press (2010). Using the wordskills workbook, weekly assignments will be completed to build spelling and vocabulary usage.

English

Text: Language Arts: McGraw Hill (2001). The practice of writing with a purpose will be emphasized, i.e. journaling, description, expository research, narration, persuasive writing. Rules of language will be highlighted with daily oral language assignments. Projects will involve the writing and presentation of letters, speeches, interviews, and research papers. Co-operative learning, and project based, hands on experiences with group activities, discussion and sharing of information are emphasized. Internet and library research are encouraged. Write to Learn (web-based writing program) helps students improve their writing skills as they work individually, in school, or at home. Scholastic Scope magazines allow students to follow current events at their level, and complete common core-related activities. Glencoe Speech text is used on a weekly basis to practice speaking and listening skills.

American History

Text: The American Journey by Glencoe McGraw Hill (2003). Awareness of our cultural differences and global connections gives us a better understanding of ourselves and others. Learning about history helps explain the political, social, religious and economic changes that have influenced the way we think and act. Students will focus on the Spanish American War through to World War II. Students study the Holocaust and analyze events leading up to the Holocaust through a timeline study. Primary sources are used focusing on Holocaust survivors. Students work on "mock trials" and do critical think questions on U.S. Supreme Court cases.

Text: A Study & Workbook for Better Government by Mid-America Publishers (2013). This course explains the different factors that influenced our nation's history by explaining the political, economic, and social changes and events. What we learn about our past helps us to understand the USA and her citizens today. Students analyze the purpose, principles, and practices of the U.S. Constitution and government. As a requirement by the State of Illinois, eighth grade students must successfully pass the US Constitution Test which includes the following topics: Declaration of Independence, U.S. Constitution, Illinois Constitution and U.S. Flag.



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Science

Text: SEPUP: ISSUES and Physical Science by Lab-Aids, Inc. (2012). This series explores the area of Physical Science. Students will be using process skills to connect contemporary social issues relating to physical science and technology. Topics to be covered will be chemistry of materials, water, energy, and force and motion. This is an activity-based series that compels students to use higher order thinking to analyze and solve problems.

Mathematics

Text: Mathematics Common Core Course 3 Prentice Hall (Pearson Learning Solutions 2013). Students engage in formal study of algebraic expressions and linear equations. They write and use linear equations, linear functions, and systems of linear equations. Students choose efficient and generalizable methods to solve linear equations in one variable, applying properties of operations and of equality. They solve systems of two linear equations in two variables and relate the systems to pairs of lines in the plane. Students begin their study of functions in Grade 8. They explain the concept and uses of functions and describe functions in different representations (graphic, tabular, algebraic). Further, they analyze functions to describe how elements of the function are shown in each representation. Students' study of geometry formalizes concepts of congruence and similarity through the exploration of transformations. They explore the behavior of shapes under translations, rotations, reflections, dilations, and relate these behaviors to concepts of congruence and similarity. Students explore angle relationships in shapes (triangles) and on parallel lines cut by a transversal. Students are able to explain the Pythagorean Theorem and its converse, and why it holds. They apply the Pythagorean Theorem to solve problems. Students complete their study of volume by finding the volumes of cones, cylinders, and spheres.

Other: Stock Market Program provided by Big Shoulders Fund

Specials: Physical Education, Art, Music, Spanish and Computers