

# St. Margaret Catholic School

---

## 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Curriculum

### LITERATURE – Holt, Rinehart, and Winston

The students identify, maintain, analyze and apply all reading skills through the use of all literary forms and various genres. Research skills are stressed as well as basic skills such as main idea and context clues. Students will use close reading and text-dependent questions in order to improve comprehension skills as well as interpreting the purpose of the genre piece read. Annotation skills are taught to enhance reading experience. SMCS uses Accelerated Reader and STAR Reading to motivate students to read and monitor their success.

### ENGLISH – Holt, Rinehart, and Winston

- Grammar skills through implantation, analysis, and application
- Parts of speech
- Language mechanics
- Creative composition through journaling, reports, and essays
- Spelling
- Writing modes such as argumentative, expository, and narrative with emphasis on persuasive/argumentative

### ELA

This is a combination of literature/grammar class in which students must meet specific criteria in order to enroll. Enrollment is determined by standardized test scores, STAR assessment, and teacher recommendation. ELA is taught with High School English I as a foundation and modeled after St. Louis Catholic High School's English I class.

### SPANISH

Students that qualify for ELA will also qualify for a full year of Spanish. Students will work toward a possible foreign language credit for high school. Students will be required to take a placement test administered by Calcasieu Parish.

### MATH – McGraw Hill (Course 3)/ALEKS

Pre-Algebra and Algebra are offered to 8<sup>th</sup> grade students. The students chosen to be in Algebra are chosen based on GPA and standardized test guidelines. Pre-Algebra follows the state-approved guidelines. Algebra studies include:

- variables & expressions
- properties
- rational numbers
- square roots
- solving equations
- geometry
- ALEKS
  - Added dimension to Math program for pre-algebra class
  - Provides adaptive, personalized learning and assessment to target knowledge gaps
  - Delivers focused instruction
  - Allows the teacher to differentiate instruction to support and challenge each student's unique learning needs
- ratio and percent
- probability and odds
- graphing linear equations
- polynomials
- factoring & exploring rational expression
- slope
- solving & graphing inequalities

## SOCIAL STUDIES – Clairmont Press – Louisiana History

- Cultural groups
- Native Americans in Louisiana
- French rule
- Spanish Louisiana
- Statehood
- Antebellum Era
- Civil War
- Reconstruction
- Huey P. Long & Longism
- Louisiana Government structure
- Map Skills
- Natural resources
- SMCS Louisiana Week & Character Day
- Annual trip to Rockefeller Refuge & curriculum based guest speakers

## SCIENCE – Pearson Interactive Science – Earth Science

- Science Fair Participation
- Chemistry & Periodic Table
- Scientific Method
- N.E.E.D.
- Energy & its forces
- Lab Safety
- Students attend the Chemistry Expo at McNeese
- Weather & Natural Environment
- Energy Expo
- STEM will be incorporated
- Rocks & Minerals

## RELIGION

The theme entails the history of the Church – its founding, birth in the Holy Spirit, the marks of one, true Church, the Fathers and Doctors of the Church, the saints, and the role of the religious and laity up to the present

Part 1: The Church; Christ's plan for the Church's structure and its necessary attributes, the Church's teaching authority, the martyrs, fathers, saints, Mary of the early Church

Part 2: The Christian in the World; Religious and laity, Holy Orders, Marriage, and family life; call to holiness

Part 3: The Last Things; Death, Judgment, and the end of the world

## ENRICHMENT

Junior High students rotate enrichment classes of Computer, Book Study, Spanish, and Art every quarter. Students attend these classes daily for a 50-minute period during that quarter. Students attend PE 3x/week and Library 1x/week all year long.

## TECHNOLOGY

An ActivBoard Interactive Whiteboard/Promethean Board with a document camera is located in each of the junior high grade level classrooms and is implemented into instruction and learning. Student computers are available in the classroom as well as the Library and Computer Lab. Students have access to iPads and a mobile laptop lab to enhance instruction, research, and academic learning.