

St. Margaret Catholic School

8th Grade Curriculum

LITERATURE – Elements of Literature - Holt

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 – Elements of Language - Holt

- 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 earn a Carnegie unit for this class. Students will use the Somos curriculum supplemented by Senor Wooley which corresponds to the St. Louis Catholic High School curriculum.

MATH – Glencoe Math

Pre-Algebra and Algebra are offered to 8th 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

- Science Fair Participation
- Chemistry & Periodic Table
- Scientific Method
- N.E.E.D.
- Energy & its forces
- Lab Safety
- 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

6th-8th all participate in Lectio Divina (meditating with scripture)

ENRICHMENT

Junior High students rotate enrichment classes of Computer, Writing, 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.

OPEN ENRICHMENT

- **Drama** **Life Skills** **Road Trip USA** **STEM** **Coding** **Career Explorations**

Students attend open enrichment for 30 minutes on Fridays for the entire year. Students are given choices and must select their top 3. Each student will be placed in one of their top 3 choices for that year.

TECHNOLOGY

Each classroom is equipped with a Promethean ActivBoard and AV station for instruction and learning. The students have access to computers within their classrooms as well a mobile lab with laptops and Chrome Books to help enhance the instruction within the classroom. Teachers and students have access to portable iPads and a computer lab housed in our library. Use of Chrome Books and Google Classroom is used widely among junior high students.