

# Curriculum Guide

## Saint Mary School - Buffalo Grove

2026-2027



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# Welcome to Saint Mary School!

Since 1855, Saint Mary School has been providing outstanding academics, great faith formation, and an incredible community to the children of the Northwest suburbs. We continue that tradition of excellence today.

This curriculum guide is intended to give an overview of what a student at Saint Mary will learn from Preschool through 8th grade in all content areas. The entire goal of our academic programming is to give students the skills and dispositions to be highly prepared for success in high school.

At Saint Mary School, we take pride in our academic excellence. The whole reason we exist is to prepare our students' minds for the world, and their souls for heaven. I hope you will join this tradition of excellence.

Together, we will do great things!

John Fuja  
Principal, Saint Mary School



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# Root Beliefs and Mission

## Saint Mary School Root Beliefs

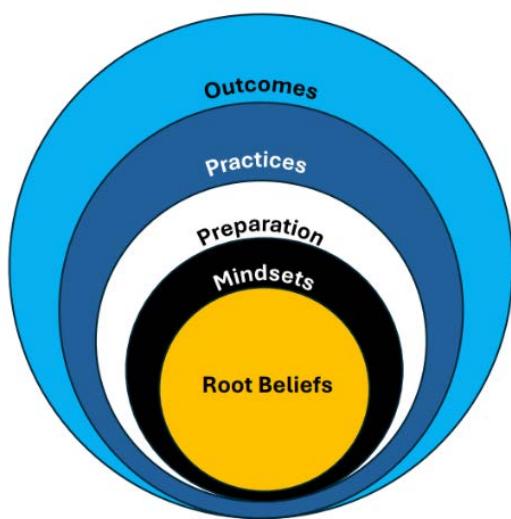
- We believe God is in all things
- We believe we are better together
- We believe everyone is a lifelong learner
- We believe mistakes are opportunities
- We believe excellence is intentional

## Saint Mary School Mission Statement

Saint Mary School is a community where children learn to see God in all things, develop their faith in the Gospel virtues of Jesus Christ and demonstrate the highest levels of academic achievement and service through Jesus.

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## Vision for Teaching at Saint Mary



### Mindsets

#### Saint Mary School Teachers

- Intentionally connect with their students and deeply care for them
- Are passionate about teaching and learning
- Possess a growth mindset and believe that everyone can achieve excellence

### Preparation

#### Saint Mary School Teachers

- Communicate clear expectations, and hold themselves and their students accountable to those expectations
- Plan meaningful learning that applies beyond the classroom
- Collaborate with other educators to improve each other's teaching

### Practices

#### Saint Mary School Teachers

- Challenge and support all students to meet high expectations.
- Adapt teaching to provide all students multiple ways and multiple opportunities to demonstrate mastery.
- Model cognitive processes and procedural steps for students.

# Portrait of a Saint Mary Graduate

Saint Mary School graduates possess the foundational skills necessary to succeed in high school.



## Academically prepared

- Possess foundational academic skills
- Work hard
- Think critically
- Organize themselves
- Solve complex and novel problems
- Value learning
- Seek the truth

## Socially-Emotionally Intelligent

- Prioritize their well-being
- Demonstrate empathy
- Persevere through challenges
- Possess a growth mindset
- Act responsibly
- Collaborate
- Communicate effectively

## Virtuous

- Recognize God's presence in their lives
- Strive to grow in their relationship with God
- Serve others
- Treat others and themselves with kindness and respect
- Trust others and are worthy of trust
- Act with integrity and live morally
- Lead by example

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## Academic Overview

Saint Mary School is committed to meeting each student where they are at, and providing them the appropriate level of challenge and support needed to grow, learn, and succeed no matter their starting point. We accomplish this through differentiated instruction, and systematic collaboration among our teachers. On a weekly basis, our teachers meet with teachers from other grade levels to analyze student work, identify gaps in learning, and plan instruction to close those gaps in learning. This Professional Learning Community (PLC) Model was pioneered by educators at Stevenson High School and has been identified as a highly effective educational practice.

Saint Mary is dedicated to developing well-rounded students. In addition to excellent instruction in Language Arts, Math, Religion, Science and Social Studies, all Preschool through 8th Grade students take Art, Music, Physical Education; Robotics, Coding, and Emerging Technology; and Spanish classes each week. Our Preschool through 5th Grade students also get the chance to go to the Library once per week. These Specials classes expose our students to a variety of rich learning experiences and help them explore academic interests beyond the core curriculum.

To meet the needs of individual learners, we also offer push-in and pull-out support, small group interventions, differentiated technology (eg. IXL, iReady), Middle School leveled math, and a Student Services Team (Counselor, Resource Teacher and Math Interventionist.)

Saint Mary Students graduate prepared with the knowledge and skills to succeed in high school as they navigate a complex and ever-changing world. The ability to educate the whole child- academically, socially, emotionally, physically, and spiritually- is key to providing them this foundation. At Saint Mary School, we are preparing our students' minds for the world, and their souls for Heaven.

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## Curriculum Standards

Saint Mary School follows the Archdiocese of Chicago Elementary Learning Standards. These standards are aligned with the Illinois Learning Standards, the Common Core State Standards, and the Next Generation Science Standards. Click on this link to access the [standards](#).

# Standardized Testing- iReady

Each year, all kindergarten through 8th grade students attending a Chicago Archdiocesan school are required to take the iReady assessment in math and reading. The purpose of this assessment is to identify current levels of student mastery in the concepts tested, as well as measure student growth over the course of the year. The goal is for every student to attain grade-level mastery by the time the spring iReady diagnostic is given, and also to achieve their expected growth target.

The test is adaptive, meaning that if a student responds to a question correctly, the following question is more challenging, whereas if they respond incorrectly, the following question is more basic. The diagnostic is given three times over the course of the year: the fall, the winter, and the spring. The fall diagnostic establishes an “Annual Typical Growth” target for each student. This is a benchmark for how much each student’s score is expected to grow over the course of the school year. **Saint Mary teachers have established the goal that 100% of students will meet their growth target in reading and math each year.**

The iReady diagnostic is developed by Curriculum Associates, the publisher of our *Ready Common Core Reading Instruction*, *Ready Writing*, and *Magnetic Reading* textbooks in kindergarten through 5th grade. The textbooks align with iReady and iReady lessons are integrated into the Reading curriculum. Based on students’ performance on the diagnostic, personalized practice is assigned to each student. Saint Mary educators have access to the digital Teacher Toolbox that provides additional resources to differentiate instruction up or down for specific units and specific skills to meet each student where they are, and provide them the appropriate level of challenge and support to make sure all students are continuing to learn and grow.



# Student Services Team

Saint Mary School is committed to meeting the needs of all of our students. We aim to meet each child where they are at, and give them the appropriate level of challenge and support to help them all grow and achieve academically.

In order to accomplish this goal, Saint Mary has a Student Services Team to help support students in their learning and social-emotional growth. The team is comprised of a Resource Teacher, a Math Interventionist, and a School Counselor. The Student Services Team meets regularly to review student progress, identify students in need of additional support, and coordinate a support plan with the students' teachers.

Students who have gone through a formal academic evaluation or have received a medical diagnosis may qualify for an Individual Catholic Support Plan or Catholic Medical Plan. These plans identify the diagnoses that impact a student's learning and outline accommodations or modifications that will be put in place to support that student's learning. Saint Mary School also partners with District 102 to offer Speech and Language Services to students who qualify.



# Grading Scales

## Preschool-2nd Grade

Students in Preschool-2nd Grade are assessed on their skill development in each core content area, but do not receive a grade for Specials Classes (Art, Music, Physical Education, Robotics/Coding/Emerging Technologies, and Spanish.)

Each skill is assessed using the following scale:

Beginning (B)	The first level where a child is starting to show some aspects of the benchmark.
Developing (D)	The second level where a child is beginning to show more understanding of related skills.
Proficient (P)	The third level where a child is demonstrating the benchmark as it is written.

## 3rd Grade-4th Grade

Students in 3rd Grade and 4th Grade receive letter grades for Language Arts, Math, Religion, Science, and Social Studies, and receive a Pass/Fail grade for their Specials Classes (Art, Music, Physical Education, Robotics/Coding/Emerging Technologies, and Spanish.) Students are assessed in each core subject area using the following scale:

A+ (100-99)	C+ (84-83)
A (98-95)	C (82-79)
A- (94-93)	C- (78-77)
B+(92-91)	D+ (76-75)
B (90-87)	D (74-71)
B- (86-85)	D- (70-69)
	F (68 and below)

## 5th Grade-8th Grade

Students in 5th Grade-8th Grade receive a letter grade in all core classes, and all Specials classes. The same grading scale is used as in 3rd and 4th grade.

# Professional Practices

Saint Mary School teachers engage in a variety of professional practices that lead to more effective instruction, and higher levels of student growth and achievement. The following section details some of these practices.

## Professional Learning Community (PLC) Data Meetings

Through participating in PLC Meetings, our teachers are living out the Saint Mary Root Beliefs that *excellence is intentional* and that *we are better together*. Each week, our teachers meet with their grade band PLC teams (Preschool, Kindergarten-2nd Grade, 3rd Grade-5th Grade, and Middle School.) During these meetings, the teachers collaboratively develop student assessments and plan instruction that is tied to the Archdiocesan Curriculum Standards, as well as analyze student assessment data. They use this data to identify areas of mastery and gaps in learning for individual students, groups of students, and the whole class. This information then helps teachers plan what content and skills they will focus on next with their students, and how they will effectively teach the necessary content and skills.

This professional development structure is a practice that was pioneered by Stevenson High School that the Archdiocese is encouraging schools to adopt. Over the years, we have noticed the positive impact it has had on the quality of instruction and assessment, as well as on student growth and achievement.



## Peer Observations

Peer observations embody the Saint Mary Root Belief that *everyone is a lifelong learner*. Each month, Saint Mary teachers must observe a colleague, and meet to provide feedback and share takeaways that they plan to implement in their own instruction. Throughout the year, teachers will observe other educators across all grade bands. Peer observations have a positive impact on fostering a culture of learning, and a positive impact on instructional practices. These observations allow Saint Mary educators to learn from the other highly skilled teachers who are providing incredible learning experiences to their students in our own building.

## Observations and Collaboration With Other Schools

Saint Mary has hosted educators from other schools to highlight impactful instructional practices that we are putting into practice. Additionally, Saint Mary teachers and administrators have had the opportunity to visit other public schools and Catholic schools to observe highly effective instructional practices they are implementing, and to learn from the teachers at those schools. During Archdiocesan-Wide Professional Development Days, our teachers have had the opportunity to meet with teachers from other area Catholic schools who teach the same grade level or content area. During these collaborations, the teachers have the opportunity to discuss their curriculum, collaborate to solve challenges, and share effective practices that have led to higher levels of learning for their students.



## Articulation Meetings with Area High Schools

Saint Mary School's Middle School and Spanish teachers regularly participate in articulation meetings with Carmel Catholic High School, Saint Viator High School, and Stevenson High School. Our teachers have the opportunity to meet with teachers and administrators at these high schools to ensure our curriculum is appropriately aligned to prepare our students for success in high school. Saint Mary teachers receive feedback on how well our students are doing at these high schools. Additionally, our teachers are able to observe classes to more fully understand what our students will be expected to do once they reach high school.

During the fall and winter, our Middle School teachers work closely with the high schools our students will be attending. They make recommendations for placement, and at times meet with department chairs to make sure our students are placed correctly, and that they continue to be challenged appropriately in high school.

# Learning Community Overviews

## Preschool Learning Community



The Saint Mary Preschool Program develops each child spiritually, physically, academically, socially and emotionally through thematic units that balance structured lessons and free play. Preschool students have the opportunity to participate in Art, Library, Music, Physical Education, Robotics/Coding/Emerging Technology, and Spanish classes each week. Students build foundational math and reading skills that foster confidence with mathematical thinking, and develop students into successful readers and deep thinkers. Our Preschool Program lays the foundation for life-long learning and success.

Flexible schedules are available, including full-day, half-day, three days per week, and five days per week to best meet the individual needs of all our families and preschool students.

*Children who are three or four years of age by September 1st are eligible to enroll.*

## Preschool Curriculum Overview

### Literacy

Curricular Resources: Heggerty Phonemic Awareness, Jolly Phonics, Scholastic

In this preschool literacy curriculum, children are immersed in a rich language and print environment that supports the development of listening, speaking, vocabulary, early reading and writing skills based on the Science of Reading. They engage daily in stories and conversation, where teachers and peers model and scaffold rich language, ask questions, and encourage children to express ideas and reflect on their thinking. Children also gradually build alphabet knowledge and phonological awareness: they learn to recognize and name letters, hear and distinguish sounds in words (for example initial, final sounds, rhyming), and play with language (rhymes, alliteration, syllables). These foundational skills prepare students for decoding and writing.



Units of Study: All About Me, Apples, Farms, Fall, Community Helpers and Fire Safety, Halloween, Thanksgiving, Christmas, Winter, Polar Animals, Hibernation, Dental Health and Heart Health, Valentine's Day, Space, Spring, Plants, Insects and Butterflies.

## Math

Curricular Resources: IXL, Scholastic

In preschool mathematics, children build foundational skills in number sense, shapes, patterns, measurement, and spatial reasoning through playful, hands-on exploration. They count objects and connect those quantities to written numerals, explore adding and taking away in concrete ways, and begin to compare groups (for example, more/less). They also learn to recognize and describe basic two-dimensional shapes, use language of position (such as beside, above, behind), sort and classify objects by attributes (like color or size), create and extend simple patterns, and compare objects using non-standard measurement (for example, “longer than,” “heavier than”). These mathematical experiences are embedded in everyday routines and play so children develop confidence, curiosity, mathematical language, and a strong readiness for more formal math learning. Centers-based learning and manipulatives form an integral part of the preschool math program.

Units of Study: All About Me, Apples, Farms, Fall, Community Helpers and Fire Safety, Halloween, Thanksgiving, Christmas, Winter, Dental Health and Heart Health, Valentine’s Day, Space, Spring, Plants, Insects and Butterflies

## Motor Development

Motor development plays a foundational role in helping children explore their world through movement and gain confidence in using their bodies. During this developmental period, children develop both gross motor skills—such as running, jumping, climbing, pedaling a tricycle, balancing—and fine motor skills—such as manipulating small objects, using scissors, stringing beads, and beginning to draw or write.



## Religion

Curricular Resources: *Children's Bible*

In the preschool years, religious education focuses on helping children develop a sense of belonging to a loving and caring God, understanding their value as part of a faith community, and exploring basic religious stories and practices in developmentally appropriate ways. Children are introduced to foundational concepts, such as God as creator of the world, Jesus’s love and example, and the presence of the Holy Spirit and community in Christian life. Story-telling, song, prayer, movement, drama and art are used to help children reflect on themes such as creation, family, friendship, kindness, forgiveness and gratitude. Regular times for prayer, or “God-time,” including morning prayer time, simple mealtime prayers, end-of-day prayers, and the monthly Preschool Prayer Service help children recognize that talking with God is part of everyday life.

Units of Study: Creation, Thanksgiving, Advent/Christmas, Lent, Easter, Virtues, the Saints, Bible Stories (Noah’s Ark, Moses and the Red Sea, David and Goliath, Jonah and the Whale)

# Kindergarten-2nd Grade Learning Community

Students in kindergarten through 2nd grade develop reading and writing skills, and solidify their foundational math skills while developing critical thinking, creativity, and social skills. In Religion class, students learn about God's love, moral decision making, and giving thanks to God for our blessings as they prepare to make the sacraments of Reconciliation and First Communion in 2nd grade. A supportive and nurturing learning environment helps students' spiritual, academic, social, emotional, and physical development. Teachers use an array of instructional strategies and differentiate their instruction to meet the needs of all learners.

## Kindergarten Curriculum Overview

### Language Arts

Curricular Resources: UFLI Foundations, *Ready Common Core Reading*, iReady, IXL

Students in kindergarten continue to build upon the foundational reading and writing skills that were introduced in preschool. The students will learn to put together and take apart sounds to create words in their writing and decode words when reading. They will also begin to read simple sentences and stories with decodable words. Students will also work on developing their comprehension skills in literature and informational texts.

#### Units of Study:

Phonics: Alphabet, Alphabet Review and Longer Words, Digraphs, VCe, Reading Longer Words

Reading: Key Ideas and Details in Literature, Key Ideas and Details in Informational Text, Craft and Structure in Literature, Craft and Structure in Informational Text, Integration of Knowledge and Ideas in Literature, Integration of Knowledge and Ideas in Informational Text

### Math

Curricular Resources: *enVision Mathematics*, iReady, IXL

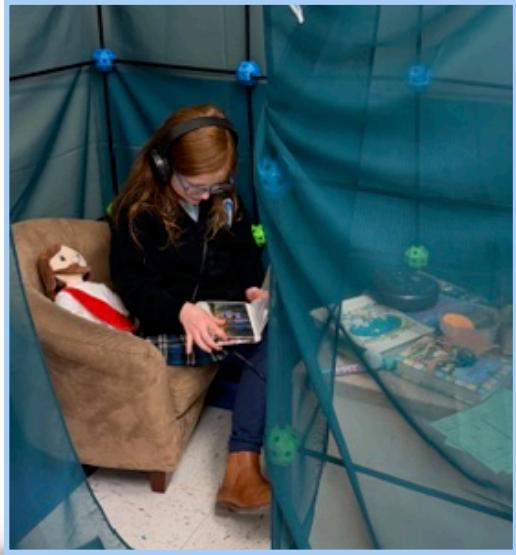
Students in Kindergarten will continue to build upon the math skills that were introduced in Preschool. They will develop number sense with numbers from 0-100, and will also develop their addition and subtraction skills. Students will be able to apply strategies to add and subtract up to 20, and will be able to add and subtract with numbers up to 5 fluently.



Units: Numbers 0 to 5, Compare Numbers 0 to 5, Numbers 6 to 10, Compare Numbers 0 to 10, Classify and Count Data, Understand Addition, Understand Subtraction, More Addition and Subtraction, Count Numbers to 20, Compose and Decompose Numbers 11 to 19, Count Numbers to 100, Identify and Describe Shapes, Describe and Compare Measurable Attributes

## Religion

Curricular Resources: Sadlier *We Believe*



Students in Kindergarten will develop their faith in God. They will gain a deeper understanding of the creation story, and how God created the entire universe, and created each and every one of us out of love. They will learn about the Church calendar and liturgical seasons and will develop a deeper understanding of Christmas and Easter. They will also learn more about how Jesus asks all of us to live. In kindergarten, students begin to participate in weekly Mass with the rest of the school community.

Units: God Gives Us Many Gifts, God Is Our Creator, Jesus Shows Us God's Love, Jesus Wants Us to Share God's Love

## Science

Curricular Resources: Insect Lore Live Caterpillars, Scholastic *Let's Find Out*, various informational texts

Students in kindergarten will learn about plants and animals. They will learn about the life cycles of plants and animals with hands-on activities. Several of the informational texts in the *Ready Common Core Reading* textbook cover content related to scientific topics studied in kindergarten.

Units: Butterfly Life Cycle, Plant Life Cycle

## Social Studies

Resources: Scholastic *Let's Find Out*, various informational texts

Students in Kindergarten will begin to learn about community and how to be responsible citizens. Students will also learn about different holidays and celebrations. Students will begin to learn about historical figures in the United States. Several of the informational texts in the *Ready Common Core Reading* textbook cover content related to social studies topics studied in kindergarten.

## 1st Grade Curriculum Overview

### Language Arts

Curricular Resources: UFLI Foundations, *Ready Common Core Reading*, iReady, IXL

In 1st grade, students embark on the next critical phase of literacy development. They build on foundational skills learned in kindergarten and transition into becoming more independent, purposeful readers, writers, listeners, and speakers. The language arts curriculum encourages growth in reading both literary and informational texts, writing for real-purpose audiences, and engaging in collaborative talk about texts and ideas—all while deepening vocabulary, language conventions, and connections with faith and community. By the end of first grade, students should be readers who decode and comprehend grade-level texts with increasing independence; writers who express ideas and information clearly; and communicators who actively engage in collaborating, speaking, and listening with purpose, while also deepening their language knowledge and expanding their vocabulary.



#### Units of Study:

**Phonics:** Alphabet Review and Longer Words, Digraphs, VCe Words, Reading Longer Words, Ending Spelling Patterns, R-Controlled Vowels, Long Vowel Teams, Other Vowel Teams, Diphthongs, Silent Letters, Suffixes and Prefixes, Suffix Spelling Changes

**Reading:** Key Ideas and Details in Literature, Key Ideas and Details in Informational Text, Craft and Structure in Literature, Craft and Structure in Informational Text, Integration of Knowledge and Ideas in Literature, Integration of Knowledge and Ideas in Informational Text, Foundations of Reading, Writing and Composition, Speaking, Listening and Collaboration, Language, Vocabulary & Conventions

## Math

Curricular Resources: *enVision Mathematics*, iReady, IXL

In 1st grade, students deepen their mathematical thinking, build fluency with number relationships, understand core concepts of addition and subtraction, and begin exploring place value, measurement, data, and geometry. Students apply strategies to add and subtract numbers up to 20 and can add and subtract numbers up to 10 fluently. The program emphasizes problem-based learning combined with visual models and manipulatives, supporting students to not only perform procedures but also understand the underlying mathematics.

Units of Study: Understand Addition and Subtraction, Fluently Add and Subtract Within 10, Addition Facts to 20: Use Strategies, Subtraction Facts to 20: Use Strategies, Work with Addition and Subtraction Equations, Represent and Interpret Data, Extend the Counting Sequence, Understand Place Value, Compare Two-Digit Numbers, Use Models and Strategies to Add Tens and Ones, Use Models and Strategies to Subtract Tens, Measure Lengths, Time and Money, Reason with Shapes and Their Attributes, Equal Shares of Circles and Rectangles

## Religion

Curricular Resources: *Sadlier We Believe*, *The Catholic Children's Bible*

In 1st grade, students deepen their understanding of Jesus as both God and man as the second person of the Holy Trinity. Students learn that Jesus reveals to us the fullness of God's love and his plan for salvation, and we are called to follow Jesus's teachings and example to grow closer to God. First graders discover that Jesus established the Church in order to aid us in our salvation, and in order to allow humans to take part in the work of God. Students learn that it is through personal prayer, the sacraments, the communal celebration of the Mass, and the way we love others and care for God's creation that we most fully live out our faith and draw closer to God. In the Fall of 1st grade, students receive their own copy of *The Catholic Children's Bible* that will be used through 5th grade.



Units of Study: Jesus Teaches Us About God's Love, We Are Followers of Jesus, We Belong to the Church, We Celebrate and Live our Faith

## Science

Curricular Resources: Pearson *Elevate Science*

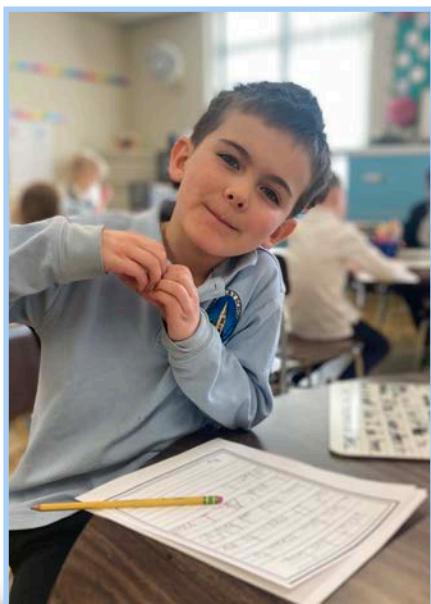
First grade science introduces students to elements of scientific inquiry: asking questions, experimenting, and solving problems. Students develop a foundational understanding of life science, physical science, earth science and astronomy, and how all of these sciences are related. Several of the informational texts in the *Ready Common Core Reading* textbook cover content related to science topics studied in 1st grade.



Units of Study: Sound, Light, Sky and Earth, Weather and Seasons, Living Things, Parents and Offspring

## Social Studies

Curricular Resources: Houghton Mifflin *Social Studies: School and Family*



First graders are introduced to the concepts of community and citizenship, and the responsibilities individuals have to their communities—whether the community is a family, a school, or a country. Colonial America, family life in the past, and school life in the past are studied, as well as economics, geography, holidays, and the United States government. Several of the informational texts in the *Ready Common Core Reading* textbook cover content related to social studies topics studied in 1st grade.

Units of Study: Family, Citizenship, Leaders and Rules, Laws, The First Americans, Family Life Past and Present, Going to School Long Ago, Geography, Economics, Weather, Our Country, Government and Leaders, Symbols of Our Country, Holidays

## 2nd Grade Curriculum Overview

### Language Arts

Curricular Resources: *UFLI Foundations*, *Ready Common Core Reading*, *Ready Writing*, iReady, IXL

In 2nd grade, students grow into confident, thoughtful readers and writers. The *UFLI Foundations* program solidifies students' mastery of phonics, teaching them the skills to apply phonics rules to decode while reading, and encode while writing. Through the *Ready Common Core Reading* program, students learn to read with understanding, think deeply about what they read, and communicate clearly in both speech and writing. Students develop their handwriting skills, including introducing the use of cursive. Instruction is balanced among phonics, vocabulary, fluency, reading comprehension, and writing, helping students become lifelong learners and effective communicators guided by faith and values.



Units of Study: Phonics: Alphabet Review and Short Vowels, FLSZ Spelling Rule (ff, ll, ss, zz) + Nasalized A (am, an), Vowel-Consonant-e (VCe) patterns + Open/Closed syllables, Digraphs (sh, th, ch, etc.), Long Vowel Teams (ai/ay, ee/ea, oa/ow, ie/igh), R-Controlled Vowels (ar/or, er/ir/ur, w + or), Prefixes and Suffixes, Suffix Spelling Changes, Low Frequency Spellings, and Additional Affixes



Reading: Key Ideas and Details in Informational Text, Key Ideas and Details in Literature, Craft and Structure in Informational Text, Craft and Structure in Literature, Integration of Knowledge and Ideas in Informational Text, Integration of Knowledge and Ideas in Literature

Spelling: Multisyllabic Words, Compound Words, Review and Extension of Spelling Patterns

### Math

Curricular Resources: *enVision Mathematics*, iReady, IXL

Saint Mary 2nd graders develop strong math foundations through the *enVision Mathematics* program. Each unit helps students think critically, solve problems, and make connections to real life. Students in 2nd grade deepen their understanding of place value, add and subtract numbers up to 100 fluently, and use strategies to add and subtract numbers up to 1,000. Throughout the year, they will strengthen their ability to add groups with the same number of objects to develop the conceptual base necessary to understand multiplication and division. Students develop skills related to telling time, counting money, understanding data, and measuring.

Units of Study: Numbers and Patterns to 1,000, Understanding Addition and Subtraction, Addition Strategies, Subtraction Strategies, Working with Time and Money, Understanding Data, Length in Customary and Metric Units, Addition and Subtraction to 1,000, Foundations of Multiplication and Division, Geometry and Fractions

## Religion

Curricular Resources: *Sadlier We Believe, The Catholic Children's Bible*

Second graders continue to grow in faith, learning how Jesus shares God's love and life with all of us. Students deepen their understanding of the sacraments, Catholic teachings, and how to live as followers of Jesus. Each unit combines Scripture, prayer, stories of the saints, and opportunities to reflect on personal faith. Students also prepare for their sacramental year, which includes making their First Reconciliation and First Communion.



Units of Study: Jesus Christ is With Us Always, Jesus Calls Us to Penance and Reconciliation, Jesus Gives Himself in the Eucharist, We Live Our Catholic Faith

## Science

Curricular Resources: Pearson *Elevate Science*

Second graders explore the world around them through observation, experiments, and hands-on investigations. They learn to think like scientists, asking questions, collecting data, and explaining what they discover about the natural world. Several of the informational texts in the *Ready Common Core Reading* textbook cover content related to science topics studied in 2nd grade.

Units of Study: Properties of Matter, Changing Matter, Earth's Water and Land, Earth's Processes, Plants and Animals, Habitats

## Social Studies

Curricular Resources: Pearson *myWorld Social Studies*

Second graders learn about communities, geography, history, and how people work together. Through stories, activities, and projects, students explore their roles as responsible citizens and gain a deeper understanding of the world around them. Several of the informational texts in the *Ready Common Core Reading* textbook cover content related to social studies topics studied in 2nd grade.

Units of Study: My Community, My Country; Working to Meet Our Needs, The World Around Us, Celebrating Our Traditions, Our Nation Past and Present

## 3rd Grade-4th Grade Learning Community

Students continue building reading and writing fluency, and apply foundational math skills acquired in previous grades to more complex concepts. Writing becomes more advanced as they write research papers and use evidence to support their ideas. Students further develop their independence and academic behaviors as they prepare for middle school.

### 3rd Grade Curriculum Overview

#### Language Arts

Curricular Resources: *Magnetic Reading, Ready Writing, iReady, IXL*



Third grade focuses on multiple standards and develops several skills at a time. Students continue to build upon prior knowledge and skills, and deepen connections to transfer these skills to higher-level applications. Students read a variety of genres as they build their reading and comprehension skills for deeper understanding. Students will continue to

increase their reading and language skills through: analyzing story structure, and using text evidence and logical reasoning to formulate well thought-out responses. They build on their language and writing skills to develop well-written paragraphs with introductions, bodies, and conclusions with appropriate transitional word usage. Students further develop their handwriting skills, including solidifying their use of cursive. Students integrate writing across subject areas, and make relevant, real-life connections through their writing.

#### Units of Study:

*Reading*: Solving Problems, Ocean Survival, Making a Difference, Changes in the West, Wild Weather, Artful Ideas

*Writing*: Writing to Inform, Writing in Response to Literature, Writing an Opinion, Writing a Narrative



#### Math

Curricular Resources: *enVision Mathematics, iReady, IXL*

Third graders continually build their foundational math skills and see how these skills interconnect and relate. Third graders develop their knowledge of multiplication and division, understand the relationship between these operations, and develop the ability to multiply and divide up to 100 fluently. Students add and subtract numbers up to 1,000 fluently, learn to solve two-step word problems using all four operations, and develop an understanding of fractions as numbers. In geometry, third grade students apply multiplication and addition to calculate

area and perimeter, as well as identify attributes of two-dimensional shapes. Students work towards more complex problem solving, critical thinking, and the application and transfer of their mathematical skills. Students will develop multiple strategies and math processes to logically reason and problem solve.

Units of Study: Understand Multiplication and Division of Whole Numbers, Connect Area to Multiplication and Addition, Represent and Interpret Data, Use Strategies and Properties to Add and Subtract, Use Operations with Whole Numbers to Solve Problems, Understand Fractions as Numbers, Fraction Equivalence and Comparison, Solve Time, Capacity, and Mass Problems; Attributes of Two-Dimensional Shapes, Solve Perimeter Problems

## Religion

Curricular Resources: Sadlier *We Believe*, *The Catholic Children's Bible*

Third grade students build a loving relationship with God and deepen their faith with the goal of becoming well-rounded individuals who base their decisions and actions on Jesus's teachings. The virtues that the school community highlights each month are focused on in class. Students develop their relationship with God through prayer, and expand their understanding of Jesus as the cornerstone of the Catholic faith, and the gifts that God gives us. Students prepare for and participate in all-school Masses as they dive more deeply into the Church's Liturgical Seasons. Connections are made with Religion across other content areas, and students tie what they learn in Religion to their own lives.

Unit of Study: Jesus Gives Us the Church, Jesus Teaches Us About God's Love, Christ Will Come Again, Liturgical Seasons (Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, Ordinary Time), We Learn about the Early Church, The Church Has Four Marks, The Church Prays (Rosary, Stations of the Cross, The Beatitudes)

## Science

Curricular Resources: Savvas *Elevated Science*

Third grade builds students' understanding of the Scientific Method: inquiring, creating their hypothesis, testing their hypothesis, making observations, collecting and recording data, and drawing conclusions. Students study life, earth, and physical sciences, applying their knowledge to hands-on projects and STEM; reinforcing their critical thinking, application, and transfer of knowledge to relevant and real-life situations. Several of the informational texts in the Magnetic Reading textbook cover content related to science topics studied in 3rd grade.



Units of Study: Life Science, Earth Science, the Physical Sciences (force, kinetic/potential energy inertia etc.), Bridge Design and Building, Rubber Band Cars, Animal Classification-adaptation, environment, vertebrates/invertebrates, STEM

## Social Studies

Curricular Resources: Houghton Mifflin *Social Studies: Communities*

Third grade social studies generally focuses on exploring the concepts of communities— local and global— through geography, history, civics, and economics. Students will understand how people, cultures, environments, and governments interact and shape societies, building from familiar local settings to broader world perspectives, and connecting past events to present-day events and life. Students will also develop critical thinking, grow as problem solvers, and become informed citizens.

Units of Study: Citizenship, Laws and Rules, Rights and Responsibilities, Geography, Map Skills, Family Traditions, Cultures, and Costumes, Government Services, Government Branches

## 4th Grade Curriculum Overview

### Language Arts

Curricular Resources: *Magnetic Reading, Ready Writing, iReady, IXL*

The 4th grade language arts curriculum emphasizes reading, writing, speaking, listening, and language development. Students read both literary and informational texts, analyze themes and key details, and use evidence to support their ideas. Writing instruction focuses on narrative, informative, and opinion pieces through a workshop model that includes planning, revising, and publishing. Grammar, spelling, and vocabulary are integrated into daily lessons, while speaking and listening activities promote collaboration and clear communication. Faith and Catholic values are woven throughout, encouraging students to reflect on character, community, and service through literacy. All students participate in differentiated Book Clubs where they will increase comprehension skills through content.



Units of Study

Reading: Facing Challenges, Technology, Exploring, Traditions, Sports, Humans and Energy

Writing: Opinion: Speech, Informative: Article, Analyze Literature: Essay, Informative: Blog Post, Narrative: Historical Fiction, Opinion: Editorial

Novel Studies: Mr. Popper's Penguins, Percy Jackson, Because of Winn Dixie, The Best Christmas Pageant Ever, The One and Only Ivan, Bud Not Buddy, Wonder

## Math

Curricular Resources: *enVision Mathematics*, iReady, IXL

The 4th Grade math curriculum emphasizes deep understanding of place value, multi-digit operations, and fractions. Students build fluency in addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division using whole numbers, and extend their understanding of factors, multiples, and patterns. They explore fraction equivalence, addition and subtraction of fractions, and the relationship between fractions and decimals. Geometry and measurement concepts, including area, perimeter, angles, and line symmetry, are also introduced. The program integrates problem-solving, reasoning, and real-world applications within a faith-based learning environment that encourages perseverance and integrity in mathematical thinking.

Units of Study: Place Value and Rounding, Addition and Subtraction, Multiplication and Division, Fractions, Measurement and Data, Algebra, Geometry

## Religion

Curricular Resources: *Sadlier We Believe*, *The Catholic Children's Bible*



The 4th grade religion curriculum focuses on deepening students' understanding of their Catholic faith through Scripture, prayer, and the study of the Ten Commandments and Beatitudes. Students learn about God's covenant, Jesus's teachings, and how to live as disciples through acts of love, service, and moral decision-making. The curriculum emphasizes participation in the sacraments, especially the Eucharist and Reconciliation, as central to spiritual growth. Students also explore the lives of saints and the importance

of living out Catholic values in daily life. Overall, the program fosters a strong sense of faith, community, and responsibility to serve others as followers of Christ.

Units of Study: Sacred Scripture and Tradition: Who is God?, Catholic Creed: What is the Church?, Catholic Prayer, Liturgy and Sacramental Life: How do we worship God?, Christian Living: How does God want us to live?, Living Discipleship: How do we journey towards God in Faith and Service? Religious Diversity and Christian Unity: how do we live well with others?

## Science

Curricular Resources: Pearson *Elevate Science*

The 4th grade science curriculum encourages curiosity about God's creation through hands-on exploration and inquiry. Students study life, earth, and physical sciences, focusing on topics such as ecosystems, energy, weather, the water cycle, and the properties of matter. They learn to apply the scientific method—asking questions, conducting experiments, analyzing data, and drawing conclusions. The curriculum integrates faith by fostering appreciation and stewardship of the natural world as part of God's design. Through observation and investigation, students develop critical thinking, collaboration, and problem-solving skills grounded in respect for creation. Several of the informational texts in the *Magnetic Reading* textbook cover content related to science topics studied in 4th grade.



Units of Study: Life Science, Physical Science, Earth and Space Science

## Social Studies

The 4th Grade Social Studies curriculum focuses on understanding communities, citizenship, and the development of the United States with an emphasis on Illinois history and geography. Students explore the relationship between people, government, economics, and the environment while learning about the nation's regions, symbols, and democratic values. The curriculum promotes civic responsibility, respect for diversity, and appreciation for cultural heritage. Map skills, research, and critical thinking are integrated through the use of primary sources and project-based learning. Rooted in Catholic values, students are encouraged to apply lessons of justice, service, and stewardship in their roles as active, faith-filled citizens. Several of the informational texts in the *Magnetic Reading* textbook cover content related to social studies topics studied in 4th grade.

Units of Study: Introduction to Social Studies, National and State Government, Illinois and US History, Geography, Civics, Economics

## Middle School Learning Community (5th-8th Grades)

Middle school is designed to equip students with the content knowledge, academic skills, and behaviors necessary to succeed in high school. Teachers on the middle school team specialize in different content areas, and students change classes throughout the day. Our 5th through 8th grade students are incorporated in the middle school model. This allows these students to receive instruction from teachers who specialize in their content areas, and creates a bridge to high school earlier on in their academic careers. The four years of middle school give students additional practice with the organization skills and study habits that will set them up for success in middle school and high school, while still providing them with the social and emotional support of having Homeroom and Academic Support Period with the same community of classmates and teacher each day.

In math and language arts, teachers provide differentiated instruction in order to meet students at their current level and provide them the challenge and support they need to grow and achieve grade-level mastery. Our middle school teachers participate in articulation meetings with local high schools to ensure our curriculum prepares students for high school, no matter where they attend. Our students go on to thrive at many area high schools after graduation, including Buffalo Grove High School, Carmel Catholic High School, Loyola Academy, Saint Viator High School, Stevenson High School, and Wheeling High School.

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### 5th Grade Curriculum Overview

#### Language Arts

Curricular Resources: *Magnetic Reading*, *Ready Writing*, iReady, IXL

The 5th grade language arts curriculum helps students become confident readers, writers and communicators. Using *Magnetic Reading* and *Ready Writing*, students build comprehension, vocabulary and writing skills through grade-level texts and personalized instruction. They learn to analyze literature and informational texts, write clearly for different purposes, and correctly apply grammar and conventions. This program prepares students for middle school by strengthening their ability to think critically, read independently and express written ideas effectively.

Units of Study:

Reading: Overcoming Obstacles, Art in America, Earth's Water, Survival, Underground Railroad, Communication

Writing: Writing an Opinion: Letter to the Editor, Writing to Inform: Article, Writing a Narrative: Legend, Writing to Analyze: Essay, Writing to Inform: Book Chapter, Writing an Opinion: Speech

Novel Studies: *Shiloh*, *Holes*, *Number the Stars*, *Esperanza Rising*, *Save Me A Seat*, *Bridge to Terabithia*

## Math

Curricular Resources: *enVision Mathematics*, iReady, IXL hands on math manipulatives



The 5th grade math curriculum helps students build a strong foundation in mathematical understanding and problem solving. Students develop critical thinking and reasoning skills as they explain and apply different strategies to solve problems. Hands-on manipulatives and visual representations of concepts are used to deepen students' conceptual understanding of the content. This program prepares students for 6th grade math by solidifying their understanding of place value, strengthening their fluency with the four operations—including with multi-digit whole numbers, decimals, and fractions—, developing their understanding of volume, and building their ability to convert units of measurement within the same measurement system.

Units of Study: Place Value and Decimal Concepts, Add and Subtract Decimals; Fluently Multiply Multi-Digit Whole Numbers; Use Models and Strategies to Divide Whole Numbers; Add and Subtract Fractions with Unlike Denominators; Multiply Fractions and Mixed Numbers; Divide Fractions; Understand Volume Concepts; Convert Measurement and Solve Problems; Represent and Interpret Data; Geometry and Coordinate Plane

## Religion

Curricular Resources: *Sadlier We Believe: We Meet Jesus in the Sacraments*, *The Catholic Children's Bible*

The 5th grade religion curriculum helps students grow in their faith, their knowledge of Catholic teachings, and their understanding of God's plan. Students learn about the role of the Church in their lives. Students participate in prayers and devotions aligned to the time of the liturgical year. This program prepares students for 6th grade by fostering a strong foundation in Catholic beliefs, prayer and service to others.

Units of Study: Jesus Christ Shares His Life with Us, Confirmation and Eucharist Complete Our Initiation, The Sacraments of Healing Restore Us, We Love and Serve as Jesus Did

## Science

Curricular Resources: Savvas *Elevate Science*

The 5th grade science program helps students explore the world around them through hands-on experiments, discussions, investigations, interactive notebooks and diagrams, videos and demonstrations, and collaborative projects. This format allows students to make real-world connections and work as scientists as they engage in the Scientific Method— inquiring, creating hypothesis, testing hypothesis, making observations, collecting and recording data, and drawing conclusions— and learning how science explains everyday phenomena.



Units of Study: Properties of Matter, Changes in Matter, Earth's Systems, Earth's Water, Scientific Method, Measurement, Plants, Forces, Solar System, Sound, Energy

## Social Studies

Curricular Resources: *Social Studies Alive! America's Past* by TCI

The 5th grade social studies curriculum helps students learn about U.S. history from the first peoples through modern times. The curriculum Provides active, student-centered learning experiences through inquiry questions, primary sources, research, and writing.

Units of Study: Geography/Map skills, Native Americans and Their Land, European Exploration and Colonization, Colonial Life and the Growing Nation, Revolution and the Foundations of the U.S. Government, Expansion, Division, and Modern Times

## 6th Grade Curriculum Overview

### Language Arts

Curricular Resources: *Tuck Everlasting* by Natalie Babbitt, *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens, Greek myths, short stories, *Hatchet* by Gary Paulsen, Sadlier *Vocabulary Workshop Level C*, iReady, IXL

The 6th grade Language Arts program integrates reading, writing, listening, and



speaking to build strong communication and critical thinking skills. Students read and comprehend a variety of fiction and nonfiction texts, analyzing themes, characters, and text structures. Writing is closely connected to reading, allowing students to apply what they learn from texts to their own writing. They also study how authors organize and develop ideas to strengthen their ability to write for different audiences and purposes.

Units of Study: *Tuck Everlasting*, *A Christmas Carol*, Greek Mythology, Short Stories, *Hatchet*

## Language Arts Foundations

Curricular Resources: McGraw Hill *Reading Mastery*, *Reading Mastery Literary Anthology*, *Reading Mastery Reading Workbook*



Language Arts Foundations is designed to support students in developing foundational reading and writing skills in order to achieve grade-level proficiency. The course provides systematic, direct instruction that increases students' reading fluency, improves their reading comprehension, expands their vocabulary, and supports them in producing well-organized and effective writing.

Units of Study: Decoding, Vocabulary, Reading Literature, Reading Informational Text, Writing

## Math

Curricular Resources: *enVision Mathematics 2.0 Common Core*, *enVision Mathematics 2.0 Common Core: Additional Practice Workbook*, iReady, IXL

The 6th grade math curriculum focuses on helping students build a strong foundation in number sense, algebraic thinking, and problem-solving. Students explore fractions, decimals, ratios, and percent, learning to compare, convert, and operate with them in real-world contexts.

They also begin working with integers, rational numbers, and the coordinate plane, preparing students for pre-algebra.

Geometry and data topics include area, surface area, volume, and statistical reasoning. Throughout the program, students use visual models, interactive practice, and reasoning strategies to deepen their understanding, and explain their mathematical thinking.

Units of Study: Decimal Numbers and Fractions; Integers and Rational Numbers; Factors, Multiples, and Exponents; Represent and Solve Algebraic Equations and Inequalities; Understand and Use Ratios and Rates; Understand and Use Percent; Solve Area, Surface Area, and Volume Problems; Display, Describe and Summarize Data

## Religion

Curricular Resources: *Connect: Bringing Faith to Life* by St. Mary's Press, *The Catholic Youth Bible* by St. Mary's Press, [Look to Him and Be Radiant](#) online resource

The 6th grade religion curriculum focuses on the four pillars of the Catholic faith: The Creed, Liturgy and Sacraments, Morality and Justice, and Prayer. Active engagement with the Bible happens throughout the lessons. Students in 6th grade receive a personal copy of *The Catholic Youth Bible* at the Fall Bible Mass.

Units of Study: Revelation, Scripture, and Tradition; The Trinity; Creation and The Human Person; Jesus Teaches and Heals; Life, Death, and Resurrection of Jesus; The Gospels; Grace and Gifts of the Holy Spirit; Liturgy as the Church's Public Prayer; Christ's Presence in the Sacraments; Living the Moral Life and Making Moral Decisions; Ways to Pray; Saints



## Science

Sixth Grade Earth Science introduces students to the fundamental principles that explain how Earth and its systems function. Through hands-on investigations and critical thinking, students explore several different topics. This foundational knowledge builds inquiry and analytical skills that prepare students for deeper study of life and physical sciences in higher grades.

Units of Study: CER (Claim, Evidence, Reasoning), Scientific Method, Measurement and Metric System, Earth's spheres, Rocks and minerals, Energy, Waves

## Social Studies

Curricular Resources: *History Alive! The United States Through Modern Times* by TCI, *Civics Alive! Foundations and Functions* by TCI, [icivics.org](http://icivics.org), American Battlefield Trust, [mission-us.org](http://mission-us.org), News Literacy Project, *The Week, Jr.*

The 6th grade social studies curriculum cultivates critical thinking, inquiry, and research skills through the disciplinary concepts of civics, economics, geography, history, and current events. Themes analyzed throughout the units of study are patterns of population, uses and abuses of power, exchange and trade, cultural identity, technology and environment, and moral codes.

Units of Study: Foundations of Government, U.S. Constitution, IL Constitution, Early Republic, American Expansion, Civil War, Industry and Immigration

## 7th Grade Curriculum Overview

### Language Arts

Curricular Resources: *The Giver* by Lois Lowry, *And Then There Were None* by Agatha Christie, *Hoot* by Karl Haisien, *Animal Farm* by George Orwell, Sadlier Vocabulary Workshop Level B

The 7th grade language arts program integrates reading, writing, listening, and speaking to build strong communication and critical thinking skills. Students read and comprehend a variety of fiction and nonfiction texts, analyzing themes, characters, and text structures. Writing is closely connected to reading, allowing students to apply what they learn from texts to their own writing. They also study how authors organize and develop ideas to strengthen their ability to write for different audiences and purposes. Literacy skills are further developed and applied across other content areas, including science and social studies.

Units of Study: *The Giver*, *And Then There Were None*, Poetry, *Hoot*, *Animal Farm*

### Math: Pre-Algebra

Curricular Resources: *enVision Mathematics 2.0* by Pearson Education, iReady, IXL

This course is an Accelerated Pre-Algebra course. Students will study content that is organized into units based on groups of related standards. After successfully completing this course students will have a solid foundation for future math courses. The curriculum used in this course uses project-based examples and visual strategies to emphasize conceptual understanding, procedural skills, and real-world problem-solving. This pre-algebra course is standards-based for content and practice and complies with Archdiocese of Chicago Curriculum Standards.



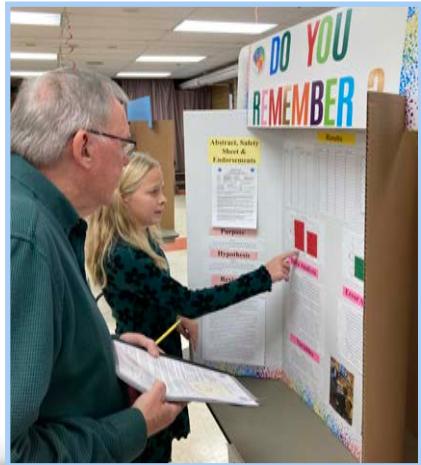
Units of Study: Integers and Rational Numbers, Real Numbers, Proportions, Percents, Expressions, Equations, Linear Equations, Sampling Populations, Probability, Solving Problems Involving Geometry, Congruence and Similarity, Surface Area and Volume.

## Religion

Curricular Resources: *Connect: Bringing Faith to Life* by St. Mary's Press, *Chosen, Your Journey to Confirmation* by Ascension Press, and *The Bible*.

The 7th grade religion curriculum focuses on six domains: Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition, The Creed, Prayer, Liturgy & Sacramental Life, Christian Living, Living Discipleship, and Religious Diversity and Christian Unity. Active engagement with the Bible helps connect the lessons to Holy Scripture.

Units of Study: Old Testament and Covenants, the Prophets, Liturgy and the Sacraments, Morality and Justice, Confirmation preparation and prayer.



## Science

Seventh Grade Life Science focuses on understanding living organisms and the processes that sustain life. Students explore topics through hands-on labs and investigations that strengthen scientific inquiry skills. This course builds a strong foundation in biological concepts and prepares students for advanced studies in physical science at the next grade level.



Units of Study: Science Fair, Classification of Living Things, Cell Structure and Function, Genetics, Embryology and Incubation, Human Body Systems

## Social Studies

Curricular Resources: *History Alive! The United States Through Modern Times* by TCI, [icivics.org](http://icivics.org), American Battlefield Trust, [mission-us.org](http://mission-us.org), News Literacy Project, *The Week, Jr.*

The 7th grade social studies curriculum cultivates critical thinking, inquiry, and research skills through the disciplinary concepts of civics, economics, geography, history, and current events. Themes analyzed throughout the units of study are patterns of population, uses and abuses of power, exchange and trade, cultural identity, technology and environment, and moral codes.

Units of Study: Progressive Era, World War I, Great Depression, World War II, Cold War, Civil Rights Movement, The Seventies, Second Golden Age, Post-Cold War and Dot.com, The 2000s

## 8th Grade Curriculum Overview

### Language Arts

Curricular Resources: *The Outsiders* by S.E. Hinton, *Night* by Elie Wiesel, *Romeo and Juliet* by Shakespeare, *Fahrenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury, Sadlier Vocabulary Workshop Level C

The 8th grade language arts program integrates reading, writing, listening, and speaking skills across all areas of study. Students read and analyze both fiction and nonfiction, making connections to other texts and personal experiences. Writing is closely linked to reading, allowing students to apply literary techniques such as character and plot development in their own work. Through studying informational texts, students learn to organize and structure their writing effectively to inform and engage diverse audiences. Literacy skills are also reinforced in other subjects, including science and social studies.

Units of Study: *The Outsiders*, *Night*, Reading and Writing Poetry, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Fahrenheit 451*



### Math: Algebra 1

Curricular Resources: Pearson Education *Algebra 1 Common Core*, iReady, IXL

This course content has been developed to cover High School Standards for Mathematical Content and Standards for Mathematical Practice. Students will complete problems, and practice exercises that are designed to develop logical and mathematical reasoning; explore and develop concepts and ideas, then practice them along with procedural skills; and learn how to apply math to real world applications. This class will prepare students to succeed in Algebra I or Geometry as freshmen in High School.

Units of Study: Equations, Inequalities, Functions, Linear Functions, Systems of Equations and Inequalities, Exponents and Exponential Functions, Polynomials and Factoring, Quadratic Functions and Equations, Radical Expressions and Equations, Rational Expressions and Functions, Data Analysis and Probability.

### Religion

Curricular Resources: *Connect: Bringing Faith to Life* by St. Mary's Press, *Chosen*, *Your Journey to Confirmation* by Ascension Press, *Overcoming Obstacles* by The Community for Education Foundation, and The Bible.

The 8th grade religion curriculum focuses on six domains: Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition, The Creed, Prayer, Liturgy & Sacramental Life, Christian Living, Living Discipleship, and Religious Diversity and Christian Unity. Active engagement with the Bible helps connect the lessons to Holy Scripture.



Units of Study: Understanding God's Existence through Sacred Scripture, Sacred Tradition and Intellectual Reasoning; The Acts of the Apostles, The Liturgical Seasons, The Holy Trinity, Confirmation Preparation, and Prayer.

## Science

Eighth Grade Physical Science introduces students to the fundamental principles of chemistry and physics that explain how matter and energy interact in the natural world through hands-on experiments and data analysis. This course builds critical thinking and problem-solving skills that prepare students for high school chemistry and physics.

Units of Study: Science Fair, Physical and Chemical Properties of Matter, Atoms, Periodic Table, Bonding Elements, Balancing Equations, Newton's Laws of Motion, Forces, Electricity

## Social Studies

Curricular Resources: *History Alive! The Ancient World* by TCI, [icivics.org](http://icivics.org), News Literacy Project, *The Week, Jr.*



The 8th grade social studies curriculum cultivates critical thinking, inquiry, and research skills through the disciplinary concepts of civics, economics, geography, history, and current events. The concepts of change, continuity, and context are analyzed throughout the units of study.

Units of Study: Foundations of History, Rise of Civilization, Ancient Egypt and Middle East, Ancient India, Ancient China, Ancient Greece, Ancient Rome, Individual Research on an Ancient Civilization

## Specials

Our Specials classes at Saint Mary School allow students to build their intellect, develop their social-emotional skills, grow physically, and deepen their faith beyond the core curriculum. Specials classes are an integral part of developing the whole child as they explore the fine arts, physical education, language and literacy, and technology. All students in Preschool through 8th Grade have each Specials class at least once per week.

### Art



Curricular Resources: Various art books and resources from art galleries and museums.

Learning about art history and different art movements from preschool to 8th grade helps students develop problem solving skills, and recognition of different types of art. During art class students develop different artistic skills through the use of a variety of materials, tools, and techniques. Students work both individually and as a group on different types of art projects. Preschool and early elementary students learn how to recognize various shapes

and colors. Upper elementary and middle school students learn about different artists and the styles that those artists are known for. They also learn how to compare, contrast and recognize different types of art. Students apply what they learn to create works of art inspired by the works of famous artists, as well as their own original works of art.

Units of Study: Elements of Art (line, shape, color, texture, space, and form) and Principles of Art.

### Library

Library is designed for develop a love for reading in our students by allowing them to explore books and engage in independent reading for fun. Students in Preschool through 5th Grade have a scheduled time to visit the library each week. Preschool students engage in story-time as a whole class and get to explore books independently, while Kindergarten through 5th Grade students have a planned activity, and time to check out books and read for enjoyment. Students in 6th-8th grades are able to come to the library during Academic Support Period and check books out to read for enjoyment over the course of the week.



## Music



Students are introduced to principles of music and music theory and build upon their understanding of these concepts from year to year. Students learn about the connection between music, movement, and emotions by analyzing how different musical elements evoke different feelings in the listener. Students explore instruments, with older students learning how to play the keyboard and ukulele. Singing is incorporated across grade levels, including songs for different holidays, and songs sung at the weekly Saint Mary School Masses.

Units of Study: Percussion, Choral Singing, Keyboards (grades 3-8), Reading music, Ukulele (grades 3-8), Music Genres, Music Theory, Musical Theatre, Music and Movement, Instrument Families

## Physical Education

Curricular Resources: *Ready to Use PE Activities* books, *PE Teacher's Pre-Sport Skill* book, *Sport Steps to Success* books, PE Central Website, OPEN Phys Ed Website, IAPHERD, PhysEDgames website, [thePESpecialist.com](http://thePESpecialist.com), Shape America website

By participating in Physical Education, students will develop essential physical, mental, and social skills that lay the foundation for

a healthy and successful life. Students will participate in team games, fitness activities, as well as learn basic anatomy and health.

Physical education class will help to instill a desire to live a healthy life.



Units of Study: football, basketball, hockey, volleyball, pickle ball, kickball, team handball, softball, jump rope, fitness, team games, locomotor skills and dance

## Spanish

Curricular Resources: *Risas y sonrisas*, *¡Qué bien!*, *¡Avancemos! 1a*, *¡Avancemos! 1b*

Learning Spanish from preschool to 8th grade helps students develop strong communication skills and cultural awareness from an early age. This class focuses on increasing students' communicative proficiency, vocabulary, and knowledge of cultures in Spanish-speaking countries. This class prepares students for future academic and career opportunities in an increasingly global society. This course prepares students to take Accelerated Spanish II Honors or an equivalent course as a freshman in high school.

Units of Study: Numbers 0-1000, Weather, Classroom Instructions, Greetings & Salutations, Introductions, Likes & Dislikes, Describe self & others, Daily Schedules, Time, Present tense -AR/-ER/-IR verbs, Ser vs. Estar, Tener, Stem-Changing Verbs, Foods, Planning Parties, Chores, Sports & Health



## Robotics, Coding, and Emerging Technologies

Curricular Resources: VEX Robotics, LEGO Education, Snap Circuits, and Let's Go Code!



Robotics, Coding, and Emerging Technologies introduces students to the principles of building, structure and design; coding, electricity, robotics, and emerging technologies. Students will engage in hands-on learning experiences and project-based learning as they

apply the concepts they learn to think critically, problem solve, and collaborate to tackle a variety of builds and challenges. This course will allow students to explore the technologies that are shaping our world today and prepare them to use these tools—and those that are still to come—responsibly and for the greater good in the future.

Units of Study: Coding, Electricity, Emerging Technologies; Building, Structure, Design (Preschool-2nd grades); Robotics (3rd-8th grades)

