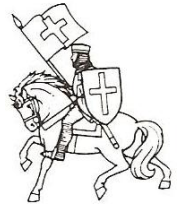


Taunton Catholic Middle School

61 Summer Street
Taunton, Massachusetts 02780



Academic Overview

Grade 8

2012-2013

The Grade 8 curriculum is based on the Common Core Standards, the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks, as well as recently required National Standards in English Language Arts, Mathematics and Social Studies. Technology is integrated throughout the curriculum, as well as through daily use of Moodle in all courses.

RELIGION: Emphasizes the Church itself as the authentic teacher of the Ways of Christ and the manner in which we are to live a moral life in the world. Within a deeper framework of moral decision-making, students explore the Creed in greater detail and what it means to live a life of virtue. Students also study Church History.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS: Builds on the seventh grade foundation, while moving on to more complex forms of grammar. Grammar instruction is incorporated into reading, writing, listening and speaking skills. Students continue their participation in a writing portfolio program (Collins Educational.org). The Reading Program is designed for those students who opt not to take a foreign language. This course strengthens reading skills in areas such as comprehension, literary elements, vocabulary, written response and oral reading. This course enhances an appreciation for personal reading through novels, short stories, classic literature and the newspaper. Students and staff alike participate in a One Book One School Program where everyone reads the same selected book and complete a set of online activities.

MATH: Algebra 1: Introduces an Algebra 1 course. Pre-Algebra: Explores a series of interesting, connected problems with embedded ideas. Students develop an understanding of the connections among mathematics, abstract mathematical ideas, problem solving strategies and ways of thinking.

SCIENCE: Investigates the Life Sciences. The year begins with the study of cells and use of the microscope to examine the smallest living organism as well as a unit on genetics. The second half of the year focuses on Human Biology and Health, exploring the skeletal, digestive, circulatory, respiratory, nervous and reproductive systems. Classes are taught with a combination of lecture and laboratory experiments, a hands-on approach that allows students to experience proper technique for lab safety and procedures. Students also participate in the school science fair to help them learn the process of research and the scientific method.

SOCIAL STUDIES: Incorporates the relationship of cause and effect in the study of United States History, beginning with the forming of the Constitution. Topics include major wars, the forming of political parties, the influence of technology, the development of U.S. laws, amendments, and the leaders in American society. Students are immersed in a multi-learning style approach to the curriculum that utilizes learning concepts and skills to interpret the historical significance of the events that have taken

place in United States history. These events shaped our democracy and continue to evolve with the needs of its citizens. Two optional field trips are offered to students and their parents that enhance and extend the curriculum, one trip to New York City and another trip to Washington, D.C.

FRENCH I: Students may choose a full year French course, emphasizing vocabulary, grammar and conversation along with culture of French speaking countries. This course follows standards for learning world languages.

LATIN I: Students may choose a full year Latin course, emphasizing vocabulary and grammar along with Roman Culture and classical mythology. This course follows standards for classical language learning in communication and culture. Students may test into Latin II course for high school.

SPANISH I: Eighth grade students may choose a full year Spanish course. It meets all year and uses two textbooks to complete a Spanish I course. Chapters are thematic and include grammar and vocabulary. Cultural aspects of the Spanish speaking world are also explored. Students who choose this class may have the option of taking an accelerated Spanish I class or Spanish II in ninth grade.

TECHNOLOGY: Emphasizing advanced skills in creating Word documents, power point and researching skills through the Internet. This course meets for two classes per week, for one trimester, as a Specials course

HEALTH: Presents resources that will assist students in achieving and maintaining total health. Students will be encouraged to make wise lifestyle choices that can enhance their enjoyment and quality of life. Grade 8 Topics: Fitness, Nutrition, Disease Prevention, and Community/Public Health. Health classes assist adolescents develop healthy attitudes and Christian values.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION: Takes advantage of the warmer weather, in spring and fall, with PE outside using the fundamentals and strategies of various sports. Those sports include kickball, wiffle ball, soccer, and football. During the winter months, class moves inside to review rules and regulations of volleyball, wiffle ball, and basketball, which are discussed and put into play. Occasionally other games are put into play at the request of students.

MUSIC: Enhances knowledge of liturgical music, enabling students to participate more fully in the celebration of Mass. This course also includes learning to read music through the use of recorders on a more advanced level using the “F” and “G” scale.

ART: Introduces various media and techniques including appliqué, watercolor, sketches, poster and business sign graphic arts.

CAREER EDUCATION: Explores various aspects of the world of work and career choice including personality traits, interests and values. This course utilizes surveys, inventories, and Internet resources and meets for one hour per week, for one quarter, as an exploratory course.

COMMUNITY SERVICE: Provides opportunities for interaction with residents and clients at Marian Manor Nursing Home and Bethany House Adult Day Health Center. This course meets for one hour per week, for one trimester, as an exploratory course.

ESSENTIAL WRITING SKILLS: Emphasizes such commonly used skills as notetaking, summarizing and paraphrasing. A focus is placed on reading and writing skills used in a variety of content areas.