



EIGHTH GRADE CURRICULUM

IN EIGHTH GRADE MATH the students will:

- know that there are numbers that are not rational and approximate them by rational numbers
- know and apply the properties of integer exponents to generate equivalent numerical expressions
- formulate and reason with expressions and equations, including modeling linear equations and systems of linear equations
- define, evaluate and compare functions
- understand congruence and similarity using physical models, transparencies or geometry software
- learn to verify experimentally the properties of rotations, reflections and translations
- construct and interpret scatter plots for bivariate measurement data to investigate patterns of association between two quantities

IN EIGHTH GRADE READING/LANGUAGE ARTS the students will:

- examine various genres of literature
- identify and evaluate a variety of themes in literature
- analyze plot, conflict, setting, mood, and characterization in imaginative literature
- master the writing process for book reports and research papers
- expand their vocabulary and perfect their ability to employ correct grammar
- apply the stylistic techniques taught in the Excellence in Writing Program to their own writing

IN EIGHTH GRADE SCIENCE the students will:

- explore the engineering design process through STEM
- study the formation of geological structures: mountains, valleys, rivers
- analyze models of the Earth's surface: topographic maps, computer satellite maps
- study heredity using Punnett squares and pedigrees
- research the geological time scale: fossils, relative age dating, radioactive dating
- explore forces, motion and energy: gravity, electricity, magnetism

IN EIGHTH GRADE SOCIAL STUDIES the students will study the following topics:

- study US history from colonization by European powers to Reconstruction following the Civil War
- study the Constitution in depth, write and propose a mock bill, and mock trial
- comparison studies of presidents over the history of the nation
- case studies of major Supreme Court cases such as *Dred Scott v. Sanford*, *Plessy v. Ferguson*, *Marbury v. Madison*, etc.
- examine causes and effects of the following conflicts: War of 1812, Spanish-American War, and the American Civil War

IN EIGHTH GRADE RELIGION, the students prepare for Confirmation through:

- a study of the general purpose of sacraments
- a study of the Holy Spirit and His gifts
- a study of the Sacrament of Confirmation
- a study of the Church as a divine institution
- a study of Church History
- research on possible Confirmation saints
- participation in several retreats

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Eighth Grade Leadership Opportunities

Leading multi-age households
Mentoring a second grade student
Leading the Christmas pageant
Leading prayer gatherings
Stations of the Cross
May crowning
Rosary procession

Eighth Grade Highlights

Joint Religion-English apologetics
Lectio Divina, vocal prayer, the rosary,
Monthly adoration and confession
High school entrance test prep