7th Grade

HOME OF THE WOLVES

Pope Saint John Paul II Catholic Academy

CURRICULUM

Religion

The religion program focuses on spiritual formation. Through reciting daily prayer, planning and assisting in liturgy and other forms of worship, engaging in dialogue with our priest, and participating in various service projects, students build a strong foundation in their faith. Catholic values are discussed and integrated not only in religion classes, but throughout the entire curricula. In seventh grade, the focus is on:

- The life of Jesus and His impact on our lives and faith
- The Holy Trinity and how God is revealed to us
- The Church as a community of faith
- Beginning formation for the sacrament of Confirmation

Language Arts / Reading

Students experience literature in the form of nonfiction, fiction, poetry, folktales, fantasies, and plays. Reading comprehension and fluency develops and improves as students are presented with the following skills:

- Making inferences using textual evidence as support
- Identifying the theme or central idea of text and how it develops
- Analyzing how plot, characterization, setting, point of view, and conflict interact
- Identifying the purpose and effect of various forms of figurative language
- Applying word analysis and vocabulary skills
- Analyzing the structure, style, and purpose
- Analyzing character conflict and how the author develops the characters' view point
- Comparing and contrasting various texts on topic

Writing

Students use writing to convey meaning, applying classroom instruction in grammar, spelling, mechanics and process. Students will:

- Write in multiple forms including persuasive, expository, and narrative formats
- Write well developed essays appropriate for the purpose
- Use the writing process including pre-writing, revising, and editing
- Properly evaluate a cite sources

Speech and Communication

Students will listen for understanding, following directions, and respond appropriately to the speaker. Students will use acquired language and vocabulary to express opinions. Students will:

- Participate in small and large group discussions
- Analyze the speaker's main idea, purpose and argument
- Express ideas clearly using appropriate presentation skills
- Incorporate visuals into presentations when appropriate

Technology

Students will learn:

- Use content-related tools, software, and simulations to support learning and research
- Apply productivity /multimedia tools and peripherals to support personal productivity, group collaboration and learning throughout curriculum
- Demonstrate the test editing features of a word processing document
- Demonstrate the special formatting features of a word processing program
- Plot and use different types of charts and graphs
- Use power point to create projects and assignments
- Construct a simple spreadsheet

MOTOR SKILL DEVELOPMENT

Students in our junior high experience physical education through:
Movement- combinations and sequences in locomotor /non-locomotor manipulative skills, team, individual and lifetime sports and activities
Physical Fitness- exercises, effects of physical movement on the body, assessment and goal setting
Team Building-Cooperative sports and activities, leadership skills
Communication and Decision Making- Verbal and nonverbal skills, making wise choices, conflict resolution with respect
Health in conjunction with science and religion classes

MUSIC

Instruction revolves around concepts involving both vocal and instrumental music including:
Tempo, articulation, expression, beat/meter, rhythm, pitch, melody, harmony, performance and counter melodies

Students will also investigate the foundation of American music and musical theater.

Math

Students acquire a knowledge of mathematics and the ability to apply math skills through implementation.

Students will:

- Analyze proportional relationships and use them to solve real-world and mathematical problems
- Apply and extend previous understanding of operations with fractions to add, subtract, multiply and divide fractions
- Use properties of operations to generate equivalent equations
- Solve real-life and mathematical problems using numerical and algebraic expressions and equations
- Draw, construct, and describe geometrical figures and describe the relationship between them
- Solve real-life and mathematical problems involving angle measure, area, surface area, and volume
- Use random sampling to draw inferences about population
- Draw informal comparative inferences about two populations
- Investigate chance processes and develop, use, and evaluate probability models

My idea of education is to unsettle the minds of the young and inflame their intellects.

Robert Maynard Hutchins

Social Studies

The social studies curriculum prepares students for informed participation in tomorrows America. This comprehensive social studies program presents a mixture of history, geography, economics, citizenship and culture. Seventh grade students will explore themes that focus on:

- Exploration through 1877
- Economic Systems
- Global issues
- Political systems and Catholic teachings
- Key individuals in U.S. History
- Significant groups of people in U.S. history
- The U.S. as a world power

The mandatory Illinois State and/or U.S. Constitution Test may be administered during grade 7.

Science

Hands on and interactive science will help students develop skills for a lifetime of science exploration including;

- Explain the physical history and processes of planet Earth
- Identify and determine how cellular life processes are accomplished
- Describe the role of DNA in genetics and apply the principles or genetics to human inheritance
- Interpret data from graphs and tables
- Discuss the current policies and ethics related to science and technology
- Identify, explain, and discuss in a written scientific research paper a problem, develop a hypothesis to test a possible solution (Science Fair)

Additional academic and social opportunities:

*Drop Everything and Read

*Brain Gym

*Art

*Unit Collaborative Studies

*Piano lessons / Band

*School Choir

*Extracurricular Sports

*Special Occasion projects

*Enrichment Days

*Vacation Bible School

*Summer activities

*Service projects

*All School Spelling Bee

*Catholic Schools Week activities

*Drama

*Family Mass

*Home and School Social activities

*Altar Serving Ministry