CURRICULUM HIGHLIGHTS FOR JUNIOR HIGH:

	6th Grade	7th Grade	8th Grade
Curriculum Highlights	In Reading, Junior High students read from a variety of genres to motivate them to develop a lifelong love of reading. In Language arts, students learn and demonstrate the different writing styles and continue to refine their use of grammar and various steps of the writing process. Science concepts include ecosystems, matter and energy, simple machines, and the early stages of planning, designing, and conducting their own scientific investigation. An introduction to the main historical concepts related to the Empires of the Ancient World is a main focus in Social Studies.	Students apply a wide range of strategies to comprehend, interpret, evaluate, and appreciate diverse texts in reading. They adjust usage of spoken and written language to communicate appropriately in different settings. In Math, students demonstrate an understanding of scientific notations, variables and patterns, probability and data, ratios and proportions, rational number and linear functions, absolute values, and advance problem solving techniques. The science learning targets provide opportunities for students to continue to develop their ability to plan, design, and conduct scientific investigations in life and physical sciences. Social studies topics further develop students' understanding of government and	Students prepare for the sacrament of Confirmation through religion lessons along with a variety of activities including: participate in prayer services, class retreats, and service opportunities all while using the Chosen Series. In Language Arts, students read a variety of classic and contemporary literature, continue to demonstrate mastery of the traits of writing, and deliver speeches, and other oral presentations

		history of US in the 19th century.	
Middle School	6-8th Grade students are held to higher expectations of responsibility and accountability for academic performance and Catholic values-based behavior, along with parental and institutional support. Integrated Technology—6-8th Grade students at St. Joseph Catholic participate in an enhanced technology curriculum. Students receive and use personal Chromebooks for daily classroom instruction. Students and teachers utilize Google Classroom throughout the entire curriculum, including content and delivery, collaborative learning, independent research projects, teacher-student communication, assessments, and overall student literacy. In 6-8th grade, there are many opportunities for students to participate in various academic competitions such as Quiz Bowl, Diocesan Science Fair, and the Diocesan Spelling Bee. St. Joseph School is proud of their exceptional track record at many of these academic competitions. Middle School religious studies require students to participate in an in-depth review of the Ten Commandments with an application to how they affect one's morality, develop insights as to why all of life is worthy of reverence, explain how God calls us to act in a loving way toward one another using knowledge of the Beatitudes and Catholic Social Teachings, and explore virtues and works of mercy as a method of living the model Jesus gave us.		
Religion	Bible Focuses: • Old Testament • Creation • Exodus • God's Covenant • Commandments/Beatitudes • Abraham • Judges • Jacob • Kings • Joseph • Prophets • Moses • Wisdom Books • David • New Testament	A variety of teacher resources and student materials are utilized. 7th and 8th grades work from the Chosen Series (published by Ascension). This series focuses on: • The Beatitudes • Confirmation (formation begins in 7th grade) • Friendship with Jesus • Jesus' life and His word • Fruits of the Holy Spirit • Jesus and His Apostles • Parables • Miracles	

	• Gospel Message/Good News • Comparisons of Old Testament figures and teachings to Jesus and His teachings • The Beginning of the Church • The Niti Letters Liturgical Themes • Ordinary Time • Advent • Lent • Pentecost • Christmas • Easter Marks of the Church • Christian Mission • Sacraments Prayer Rituals/Forms of Prayer • Rosary/Mysteries • Our Father • Hail Mary • Glory be • Hail Holy Queen • Apostles Creed • Stations of the Cross • Reconciliation • People of Faith/ Communion of Saints • Catholic Social Teachings	• Walking with Jeus in a vocation: matrimony and Holy Orders • The Rosary • Scripture Studies • Eucharist and the Liturgy • Jesus in the Gospels • Jesus' Compassion: Reconciliation and Anointing of the Sick • The Catholic Church: A Timeline of People and Events Various forms of Evaluation include: • Quizzes • Group Projects • Mass participation and active participation in other forms of prayer • Tests • Memorization of prayer Other Expectations: • Students will work cooperatively in groups formed within their homeroom and between the two classes. • Students will participate in activities with their PK and K "buddies" during the school year. • Students will lead K-8 Prayer Groups • Students will be proactive in regard to their own faith formation and will responsibly commit to service within their

			school, parish, and community.
Social Studies	• Early Civilizations • Mesopotamia • Egypt • India • China • Greece • Rome • Middle Ages • Reformation • Renaissance and Exploration • Current Events—CNN 10	Map Skills will include use of political and physical science maps as well as specialty maps. Students will be held responsible for the identification of countries and capitals as well as specific physical features in the study of: • Latin America • Europe (Western & Eastern) • Asia and the Pacific • Africa The text also practices reading skills in every section including: • Setting a purpose for reading • Comparison and contrast • Cause and effect • Previewing the lesson • Making predictions	American Government • Federal Constitution • Missouri Constitution American History • French and Indian War • American Revolution • War of 1812 • Mexican American War • Civil War • Reconstruction • Immigration • Imperialism • Spanish-American War • World War I • The Great Depression • World War II • Cold War • Civil Rights Geography • States and Capitals • Bodies of water throughout the world Objectives: • Make inferences about historical events and eras using historical maps and other historical sources

		We will continue using a variety of note-taking skills. At the beginning of each section, the text suggests an appropriate method for that section., They will include: • A variety of graphic organizers (web, Venn diagrams, charts, and tables) • Timelines • Outlines	• Identify the differences between historical fact and interpretation • Understand how different groups competed for power within the colonies and how that competition led to the development of political institutions during the early national period • Understand how and why the colonies fought for their independence and how the colonists' ideas are reflected in the Declaration of Independence and the United States Constitution • Understand ways in which the US developed as a world Political power • Understand economic

			motivations that attracted Europeans and others to the Americas, 1500-1750. • Understand relationships among the American economy and slavery, immigration, industrialization, labor and urbanization, 1700-present. • Understand how economic developments and government policies after 1865 affected the country's economic institutions including corporations, bands, and organized labor. • Understand the impact of urbanization and suburbanization, 1850present, on the environment.
Science	Life Science • Scientific Method and measurement	Life Science: • Human nutrition	Life Science: • Human biology and health

	• Abiotic/biotic factors in an environment Earth Science • Earth processes • Atmospheric systems • Erosion • Plate tectonics • Topographic maps Science, Technology, & Society • Recognize a design problem • Identify important contributions to science and technology Expectations of science students: • Develop organizational skills • Identify and use the steps of scientific method • Responsibly use tools and equipment to accurately measure and record data • Practice a variety of note-taking skills	• Plant and animal cells: structures, functions, processes, and energy • Genetics—the science of heredity • Classification of living things • Viruses and monerans • Protists and Fungi • Invertebrate Dissection—Earthworms Physical Science: • Motion • Forces • Work and Machines Science Practices, Technology & Society • Scientific Method, measurement, and process skills • Infectious diseases • Accepted science practices • Technological design Student	• Healthy body systems • Bones, muscles, and skin • Digestion • Circulation • Respiration and Excretion • Nervous system • Endocrine system and reproduction • Fighting disease • Vertebrate dissection Physical Science: • Introduction to Matter • Changes in Matter • Elements and the Periodic Table • Chemical Reactions • Atoms and Bonding • Acids, Bases, and Solutions Science Practices, Technology & Society • Scientific Method, Measurement, and Process Skills • Science Fair Project • Interactions of Society,

	• Work collaboratively and cooperatively with fellow students during group assignments, labs, and activities	Evaluation and Assessment: • Class participation and daily work • Homework • Quizzes and tests • Individual and cooperative group projects • Research projects	Technology, and Morality • Technological Design Student Evaluation & Assessment • Class participation and daily work • Homework • Quizzes and Tests • Individual and Cooperative Group projects • Research Projects
Reading and Literature	A diverse selection of literature and nonfiction will be used to enhance student development of higher level comprehension and inferential thinking. Skills will develop and improve as students are presented with the following focus: • Evaluating fact, opinion, and bias • Identifying myths and fables • Analyzing style and purpose	A combined 7-8th grade Reading Class was created to help students prepare for mixing classes high school will bring. Literature: A diverse selection of literature will be used to enhance student development of higher-level comprehension and inferential thinking. Skills will develop and improve as students are presented with the following focus: • Evaluating fact, opinion, and bias • Identifying myths and fables • Analyzing style and purpose • Understanding elements of plot • Understanding the author's purpose in various literary forms • Identifying characteristics of fantasy and legends • Applying word analysis and vocabulary skills • Students will apply acquired skills to one or two novel studies.	

	• Understanding elements of plot
	• Understanding the author's purpose in various literary forms
	• Applying word analysis and vocabulary skills
	• Using textual evidence to support ideas.
	• Researching to increase understanding of fiction and nonfiction readings.
	Independent Reading:
	• Students are expected to always bring an independent reading book with them to class.
	• Independent reading at home on a regular basis is always homework for this class.
	Language Arts:
	• Basic parts of speech,
		Reading:
		• Read selections in different genres that develop understanding of fiction, non-fiction, and poetry
		• Learn a variety of readings.
		• Strategies for comprehension including prediction, visualization, connection, questioning, clarifying, and evaluating.
		• Recognizing and discussing literary elements:
		  • Plot
		  • Theme
		  • Characterization
		  • Conflict
		  • Setting
		• Study vocabulary through reading
		• Respond to independent reading through regular book reports
		• Students are expected to always bring an independent reading book with them to class. Independent reading at home on a regular basis is always required homework for this class.
		
		Language Arts:
		• Parts of Speech, grammar, phrases, clauses
		• Continue to refine writing and research skills, including documenting sources in MLA format.
		• Annotation of texts to support analysis using textual evidence
		• Complex sentence structure and type of sentences
		• Five types of writing
		• Proficiency in the three major types of writing (narrative, expository, and persuasive)
		• Five paragraph essays
		• Three-page research paper
		• Oral presentation

	grammar, punctuation • Vocabulary • Basic diagramming • Paragraphing • Introduction to five paragraph essays • Research paper • Oral skills	All students are required to retain all written work in their writing folder. This will remain in the classroom. Please contact the teacher is you would like to review your student's work.	