

## ***SIXTH GRADE CORE CURRICULUM***

**Western Hemisphere** – In this course, students will learn to read maps and identify the 5 themes of geography. They will also learn the history, culture, geography and political divisions of Canada, Mexico, and Latin America.

**Science** – Students will explore units in the following areas: matter, energy, Earth processes, and environmental science.

**Writing** – Utilizing the book *The Write Source*, students will learn the six traits of writing and apply them to the key forms of writing: descriptive, narrative, expository, argument, response to literature, creative, and research writing. A variety of activities for building mechanics (including spelling), usage, and grammar skills are integrated in every unit. Writing is incorporated across the curriculum.

**Literature** – Reading instruction at the 6<sup>th</sup> grade level is literature-based. Units will be structured around a variety of novels. Individual work, literature discussion groups and large group activities will all be integrated in the study of each novel. Related nonfiction reading will accompany the reading of fiction novels whenever possible.

In addition to the assigned reading, students will be expected to do independent reading at school and at home. Reading Log, where students record information about their independent reading, will be graded on a weekly basis. This will be averaged into the literature grade.

**Math** – The Big Ideas Math series is used in the middle school math classes. Units include number sense and operations, statistics and graphing, fraction concepts and operations, algebra, geometry, and measurement. Advanced math classes will be provided as deemed necessary.

**Religion** – The major theme throughout the 6<sup>th</sup> grade Religion curriculum is God's relationship with his people throughout history. The units include: Forming the Covenant, Building the Covenant Nation, Redefining the Covenant People, and The Fulfillment of the Covenant.

**Family Life** is an important part of the 6<sup>th</sup> grade Religion program. It reinforces the importance and sacredness of the family. The material is organized in themes of God's gifts of family, self, life, love, and community. The sixth grade supplement to the sexuality theme is about pregnancy and childbirth.

- In addition to the above core courses, all students will have classes in Physical Education, Art, and Spanish.
- Each student will also choose between Band and Computer Technology.



## ***SEVENTH GRADE CORE CURRICULUM***

**Eastern Hemisphere** – In this course, students will learn the history, culture, and geography of Europe, Asia, Africa and Australia. Text instruction will be supplemented with various medias, such as documentaries and current event articles. Technology implementation and peer cooperation are essential.

**Science** – Students will explore units in the following areas: cells, waves, matter, and weather.

**Language Arts** – Writing and Literature are highly integrated at this level. Utilizing a variety of literature and primary source reading, students will be involved in both group and independent activities that are designed to deepen appreciation and understanding of literature in its many forms. In addition to the assigned reading, students will be expected to do independent reading at school and at home. Reading Log, where students record information about their independent reading, will be graded on a weekly basis. This will be averaged into the literature grade. Utilizing the seventh grade level of *The Write Source* series, students will continue improving their understanding and application of the six traits of writing and apply them to the key forms of writing: descriptive, narrative, expository, argument response to literature, creative, and research writing. In addition, speaking and writing to learn are emphasized, and a variety of activities for improving mechanics, usage, and grammar skills are integrated in every unit.

**Math** – The Big Ideas Math series is continued in the seventh grade. Students will study algebraic reasoning, integers, fractions, patterns and functions, proportions, percents, data manipulation, geometry, probability, and solving equations. An Advanced Math course is provided as deemed necessary.

**Religion** – The major themes throughout the 7<sup>th</sup> grade Religion curriculum are review of the sacraments and church history.

**Family Life** is an important part of the 7<sup>th</sup> grade Religion program. It reinforces the importance and sacredness of the family. The material is organized in themes of God's gifts of family, self, life, love, and community.



## ***EIGHTH GRADE CORE CURRICULUM***

**American History** – In this course, students will learn the history of our nation from colonial empowerment to 1920. Various projects and multimedia resources will be used throughout the school year.

**Science** – Students will explore units in the following areas: Forces and Motion, Electricity and Magnetism, Astronomy, and Cells and Heredity.

**Language Arts** – At the eighth grade level, students will study classic as well as contemporary works of literature and poetry. In addition to novels, plays, essays, and poetry, the short story will be taught as a writing form. Students will continue to hone their writing skills, applying the six traits of writing in a variety of writing forms. In addition to the assigned reading, students will be expected to do independent reading at school and at home. Reading Log, where students record information about their independent reading, will be graded on a weekly basis. This will be averaged into the literature grade.

**Math** - Students will solve simple and complex equations and inequalities, work with integers, analyze data, explore geometry, apply percents, experiment with probability, graph linear and non-linear equations, and manipulate polynomials. High School Algebra is offered to accelerated students.

**Religion** – The major themes throughout the 8<sup>th</sup> grade Religion curriculum are Morality, the New Testament and the Creed. Emphasis will be placed on reflection and personalization of faith. Every morning starts with prayer and the day ends with prayer. Students will recite bible verses of the New Testament and journal on passage meanings throughout the year. Study of the catechesis also supplements instruction. Students also provide service to the school through extra responsibilities.

**Family Life** is an important part of the 8<sup>th</sup> grade Religion program. It reinforces the importance and sacredness of the family. The material is organized in themes of God's gifts of family, self, life, love, and community.

## *Choice of Electives*

- **Life Skills**

The purpose of Life Skills is to prepare students for independent living. Students will explore character development concepts such as etiquette and conflict resolution through student dramatizations. They will also learn and practice practical housekeeping skills, like cooking, cleaning, sewing, and interior decorating. Students will participate in a survival skills course at the Chippewa Nature Center and learn basic first aid. Students will investigate different career paths, and appropriate goal setting. Resume writing, interview skills, work ethic and professional dress will be practiced. Additionally, a variety of guest speakers will be invited and interviewed. Students will also learn about basic economics, develop a personal budget and track expenses.

- **Band 1st & 2nd year**

Judyth Peterson, our band instructor, is a well-respected teacher in the Midland area. She has been the percussion instructor at Midland High School since 1983. She also has been managing director of the Midland Symphony Orchestra at Midland Center for the Arts. Ms. Peterson is very enthusiastic and has worked hard in the past to bring about the Saint Brigid Knight Band. Ms. Peterson will work with the 5th-6th grade band instructor to bring about joint concerts. These are well rehearsed and very entertaining performances. Ms. Peterson is the author of the Saint Brigid Victory song. To support our band program, there is an additional fee of \$50 per month.

- **Spanish I or II**

These courses are provided for students to continue learning Spanish for our diverse world. The purpose of these courses is to understand, speak, read, and write in Spanish. Various methods of media will be utilized including: a text, CDs, computer activities, and videos. There will be a minimum of three cultural fiesta experiences incorporated in the year.

- **Healthy Habits**

(may select first OR second semester)

During this course students will learn how to relate exercise and nutrition to their overall well-being. The following lifetime sports will be explored and experienced: biking, running, hiking, Pilates and yoga. Throughout the semester, students will learn about nutrition, sleep, and handling stress.

- **Public speaking**

In our public speaking class you will speak about yourself, your ideals, your faith, current events, and other topics. We study a mass media unit in which you will explore and create advertising. We structure a unit around the seven principles of Catholic social teaching. We also discern our spirituality by crafting a retreat for the class. We welcome guest speakers who help us realize the power of the spoken word.

*Public speaking is a required course for students to take during their 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> grade year at Saint Brigid School.*

- **Creative Writing**

This class will help you experience many different writing styles. You may create a children's book, which will then be read to the younger St. Brigid students. We explore allegory, poetry, paradox, and other forms of fiction. You may assume a different persona in your writing, but ultimately, you will find your own voice.

- **Drama**

Drama class gives you the opportunity to write and perform your own plays, study well-known works, and perform for other schools and grades. We write and perform a play for the SPRED group at Blessed Sacrament each spring. We host and emcee the St. Brigid talent show. This year we hope to write and film our own silent movie. The world, indeed, is our stage.

- **Physical Education**

This class will provide students with the knowledge, skills, fitness and attitudes needed to lead a healthy lifestyle. Students will have the opportunity to demonstrate competence in selected motor skills, apply cognitive concepts in making wise lifestyle choices, and exhibit appropriate personal/social character traits while participating in physical activity. This course will engage students in curriculum choices that prepare them for a wide variety of lifetime choices. All students from all skill levels and abilities will be included in activities to build students' confidence and competence in physical abilities. Students will be kept involved in purposeful activity for a majority of the class period.

- **Technology**

Mrs. Greminger will work individually with each student to move them ahead in the field of technology. Students will learn about and experiment with the areas of filming and design in addition to using business applications.

- **Math Lab**

Math Lab is an elective for those students needing to spend more time working on math topics. It is designed to address skill gaps students may have, and the curriculum complements the core mathematics classes. Specific topics covered will depend on the needs of the students. In addition to intervention, advanced students may sign up for math lab as an opportunity to have more one-on-one time working on higher level topics. Students must have teacher approval to sign up for Math Lab.