

## Grade 8 Curriculum Standards:

### RELIGION

#### Theme

Our faith calls us to examine and appreciate church history and our role within the church community now and in the future.

#### Focus

- To learn about the history of the Church
- To understand one's role in the church's community
- To recognize that all people are called to further the kingdom by living the good News of the Gospel

### LANGUAGE ARTS

*Your child will learn to:*

#### Reading

- Determine the meaning of specialized vocabulary and to understand the precise meaning of grade level-appropriate words
- Read and understand grade-level-appropriate material
- Read, analyze, and understand a wide variety of literary genres, and read/listen to analyze others' points of view
- Read a good representation of grade-level-appropriate narrative and expository text e.g., classic and contemporary literature, magazines, newspapers, online information).
- Read and respond to historically or culturally significant works of literature that reflect and enhance their studies of history and social science
- Describe and connect the essential ideas, arguments, and perspectives of the text by using their knowledge of text structure, organization, and purpose
- Compare the original text to a summary to determine whether the summary accurately captures the main ideas, includes critical details, and conveys the underlying meaning
- Clarify ideas and connect them to other literary works
- Determine the adequacy of evidence for an author's conclusion

#### Writing/Spelling

- Write clear, coherent, and focused essays, exhibiting awareness of the audience and purpose.
- Write essays that contain formal introductions, supporting evidence, and conclusions.

- Write narrative, expository, persuasive, and descriptive texts of at least 500 to 700 words in each genre.
- Write with a command of standard English conventions appropriate to this grade level.
- Plan and conduct multiple-step information searches by using a variety of sources
- Achieve an effective balance between researched information and original ideas
- Publish written work in a variety of forms
- Write with increased grammatical knowledge and demonstrate usage
- Use revision and editing process
- Identify and use correct punctuation and capitalization

#### Listening/Speaking

- Demonstrate a command of standard American English and organizational and delivery strategies
- Deliver focused and coherent presentations that convey ideas clearly and related to the background and interest of the audience
- Evaluate content of oral communications
- Deliver well-organized formal presentations employing traditional rhetorical strategies (e.g., narration, exposition, persuasion, description)
- Focus attention on a speaker, listening actively for purpose and meaning
- Demonstrate respect for the ideas and opinions of others

### MATHEMATICS

*Your child will learn to:*

#### Number Sense

- Differentiate between rational and irrational numbers
- Calculate percent of increase and decrease of quantity
- Solve problems that involve consumer math
- Solve problems with negative integers
- Multiply and divide expressions involving exponents with a common base
- Define the absolute value of a number
- Simplify expressions before solving equations and inequalities in one variable

#### Algebra and Functions

- Simplify expressions before solving equations and inequalities in one variable
- Solve multistep equations and inequalities with one or more operations; justify each step
- Interpret and work with positive and negative integers
- Graph and interpret linear and basic non-linear functions

- Solve two-step linear equations and inequalities in one variable over the rational numbers
- Work with linear equations
- Verify that a point lies on a line

#### Measurement and Geometry

- Use coordinate graphs to plot simple figures
- Know the Pythagorean Theorem
- Solve problems with perimeter surface area and volume
- Utilize the metric system
- Demonstrate an understanding of congruent geometric figures and concepts

#### Statistics, Data Analysis, and Probability

- Use various forms of display for data sets, including a stem and leaf plot, box-and-whisker plot, and a histogram
- Estimate the probability of simple and compound events using a series of trials
- Understand central tendency problems

#### Mathematical Reasoning

- Analyze problems by identifying relationships, discriminating relevant from irrelevant information, identifying missing information, sequencing and prioritizing information and observing patterns
- Use estimation to verify the accuracy of calculated results

**Note: An Algebra class is available for those students who meet the entrance criteria**

### SOCIAL STUDIES

*Your child will learn to:*

- Analyze philosophies of the Declaration of Independence emphasizing individual rights
- Analyze how the American Revolution affected other countries, especially France
- Discuss the significance of the Magna Carta, English bill of rights, Mayflower Compact
- Enumerate the powers of government set forth in the Constitution and liberties ensured by the Bill of Rights
- Describe the principles of federalism, separation of powers, checks and balances, and ways in which the Constitution protects individual rights
- Understand how the conflicts between Jefferson and Hamilton resulted in two parties
- Describe the basic law-making process and how the constitution provides for citizens to participate in and monitor the government
- Understand the political and economic causes and consequences of the War of 1812

- Know the changing boundaries of the U.S and the influence of the Monroe Doctrine
- Describe the development of the agrarian economy in the South; discuss the significance of cotton and the cotton gin
- Trace the origins and development of slavery; its effects on black Americans and on the south's political, social, religious, economic, and cultural development
- Discuss the election of A. Jackson in 1828, and the importance of Jacksonian democracy
- Describe the purpose, challenges, and economic incentives associated with westward expansion, including the concept of Manifest Destiny
- Compare the conflicting interpretations of state and federal authority
- Trace the boundaries constituting the North and the South, the differences between the two regions, and the differences between agrarians and industrialists
- Discuss Abraham Lincoln's presidency and his significant writings and speeches and their relationship to the Declaration of Independence
- Describe critical development and events in the Civil War: battles, technology, surrender
- Discuss Reconstruction and the transformation of the American economy

### SCIENCE

*Your child will learn that:*

- The velocity of an object is the rate of change of its position
- Unbalanced forces causes changes in velocity
- Elements have distinct properties and atomic structure, and that all matter is composed of one or more of the elements in the periodic table
- The structure and composition of the universe can be learned from the study of stars and galaxies and their evolution
- Chemical reactions are processes in which atoms are rearranged into different combinations of molecules
- Principals of chemistry underlie the functioning of biological systems
- The organization of the periodic table is based on the properties of the elements and reflects the structure of atoms
- All objects experience a buoyant force when immersed in a fluid
- Scientific progress is made by asking meaningful questions and conducting careful investigations