

St. Valentine School Curriculum Highlights

Grade 8

Students entering Grade 8 will be expected to:

- Students will continue to develop more independent organizational skills.
- They will acquire acceptable social skills; grow in self-confidence and responsibility.
- Participate fully in class discussion and activities.
- Leadership roles in the school community are encouraged.
- Follow the St. Valentine Student Code of Conduct.
- Be responsible for and accountable for their school work and their actions.
- Students will keep a homework planner updated daily.

Parents and teachers will guide the students in this ongoing process. A class website updated weekly will facilitate this process.

RELIGION

In Grade 8, students will study Church history and will focus on the following:

- The Marks of the Church from the Beginning
- The Growth of Christendom
- Faith Expressed in the Early Church
- Reforming the Church

They will also follow a course of study in Faith Formation Benchmarks which will include:

- Catholic Social Teaching
- Peace and justice
- Discipleship
- Nicene Creed
- Weekly school mass readings
- School wide Faith Formation topics which follow a four year cycle of:
 - The Mass
 - The Saints
 - Old Testament
 - New Testament

In addition, Grade 8 students will be prepared for the reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation. Students will focus on:

- Gathering as Church
- Proclaiming God's Word
- Renewing Baptismal Promises
- Laying on of the Hands
- Anointing with Chrism
- Gifts of the Holy Spirit

Students will also participate in the preparation of school liturgies and various prayer services.

LITERATURE

Students in grade 8 will analyze literary elements through participation in literature circles and whole group discussion. Literary elements will include:

- Theme
- Setting
- Mood
- Point of View
- Dialogue
- Plot
- Conflict
- Irony
- Symbolism
- Suspense
- Foreshadowing
- Imagery

Literature genres will include:

- Fiction
- Historical fiction
- Memoirs
- Drama
- Informational Texts

Study will be comprised of literature circle discussions, written responses, and oral presentations. Students will also work to meet an Accelerated Reader goal each marking period.

WRITING/GRAMMAR

Writing course curriculum for grade 8 students will include writing the following:

- Narratives
- Informational Pieces
 - Compare and Contrast
 - Cause and Effect
- Research Paper
- Poetry
- Argumentative Essays
- Cross-curriculum papers and essays
- Oral presentations

Grammar lessons will focus on:

- Parts of Speech
- Capitalization
- Punctuation
- Editing/Revising

SCIENCE

Science for students in grade 8 builds on the process skills introduced in grade 7. Students develop their ability to work in a laboratory setting, using basic instrumentation, scientific methodology and a hands-on approach to problem solving.

Students will be exploring Physical Science in grade 8. Scientific concepts to be stressed in grade 8 will include but not be limited to:

- Motion and Energy
- Forces
- Forces in Fluids
- Work, Machines, and Energy
- Electricity
- Magnetism
- Properties of Matter
- Atoms, Elements, Compounds, and Mixtures,
- The Periodic Table
- Chemical Bonding
- Chemical Reactions and Equations

Students will also participate in The Future City Engineering Competition which integrates science, mathematics, language arts, and social studies benchmarks.

HEALTH

Studies in this area for Grade 8 will give students information and opportunities to build life-long health habits. They will include:

- Think First Stay Safe program
- Weekly editions of Current Health

HISTORY

Students in grade 8 will study U.S. History. Units will include:

- The Beginnings of American History
 - Colonies Take Root
- Forming a New Nation
 - The American Revolution
 - Creating the Constitution
- The New Republic
 - The Birth of Political Parties
 - George Washington's Presidency
 - The Era of Thomas Jefferson
 - The Age of Jackson
- The Nation Expands and Changes
 - Age of Reform
 - Western Expansion
- Civil War and Reunion
 - The Civil War
 - Reconstruction and the New South

Students will also be expected to research and present current events.

MATHEMATICS

Students in grade 8 will study:

- Number patterns
- Operations in Algebra
- Solve one, two, and multi-step equations
- Proportional reasoning and statistics
- Linear functions and graphing
- Inequalities and absolute value
- Systems of equations and inequalities
- Exponents and exponential functions
- Polynomials and factoring
- Quadratic functions

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Students in the Middle school will participate in the following sports and activities throughout the school year:

- Physical fitness testing
- Soccer
- Football
- Team handball
- Basketball
- Volleyball
- Bowling
- Floor hockey
- Wellness programs
- Game skills
- Hoops for hoops

LIBRARY

Students in Grade 8 will:

- Work on collaborative projects between teachers and the librarian
- Research information
- Participate in special events

Grade 8 students will have Art, Computer, and Physical Education once during the course of each week. Grade 8 will have Spanish class daily. Grade 8 will participate in 2-4 field trips that correlate with their studies.