**8th grade Standards Overview**

In their last year of middle school, 8th graders immerse themselves in preparation for high school by practicing and strengthening skills they learned in earlier years of middle school while also learning new (and often more complex) skills. In many ways, 8th grade is a year of transition, as students are expected to have mastered the ways of middle school and begin becoming “high-schoolers.” Specifically, 8th graders are expected to be independent thinkers and workers analyzing and explaining what they learn in both their writing and orally. 8th grade is also a time of celebration and excitement for many students as they anticipate high school.

During your child's 8th grade year, they will be working to master the following concepts:

**Religion**

**\*\*\***For a comprehensive listing of Diocesan Standards, please visit: [www.dioceseoflansing.org/education/catholic-school-curriculum](http://www.dioceseoflansing.org/education/catholic-school-curriculum)

**Profession of Faith**

* Revelation: God makes himself known and invites us into a relationship with Him
* Man's response to God: I believe.... We believe...
* God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit, and Mary Mother of God
* I believe in the Holy Catholic Church; the community of believers
* Saints

**Celebration of Christian Mystery**

* The Paschal Mystery: Passion, Life, death, resurrection and ascension of the Jesus
* Understand sacraments, liturgy, and prayer
* Understand sacramentals as sacred signs which include blessings, the rosary, holy water, and other blessed objects.

**Life in Christ**

* Made in the image of God - Participate in Christian service activities appropriate to student’s age.
* Freedom of Choice -  morality, ethics, values, and a correct conscience
* Virtues - theological and moral (cardinal)
* Sin - venial, mortal, and social sin; temptation and reconciliation
* The human community -  Identify as norms for Christian behavior:  Ten Commandments
* Social Life and Social Justice

**Christian Prayer**

* Prayer in Scripture, Prayer Forms, and Inspiration for Prayer
* Psalms
* Blessing and Adoration
* Petition and Intercession
* Contrition - Express sorrow for sin and express determination to sin no more.
* The Tradition of Prayer and the role of the Holy Spirit in Prayer
* Liturgical -  liturgical and prayer services, cycles and seasons of the liturgical year, and  major feasts of the Lord and major Marian feasts
* Places Favorable for Prayer and  Personal Prayer

**ELA**

**Subject area overview**

In 8th grade, students continue to practice many of the skills they learned in earlier grades, specifically paying attention to details like text evidence, language, and cross-text comparisons in different genres of text. However, 8th graders push their analyses of texts further as they examine the details and writing structure and assess how those elements affect the text. Students understand the importance of good reading skills throughout life.

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**Reading: Literature/ Informational Text**

* Evaluates the evidence in texts to determine the strongest supports of an idea and analysis.
* Determines the main idea or theme of a text using evidence from the text to support it.
* Provides an objective summary of a text.
* Understands, summarizes, and tracks the progress of the main idea of a text, using evidence from the text.
* Analyzes how elements such as specific dialogue, events, or word usage impact the characters, the decisions they make, and other events and actions in the text.
* Understands the use of language in a text, including figurative language, analogies, and allusions to other texts.
* Compares and contrasts the different structures of texts including the structures of paragraphs and sentences.
* Analyzes the difference between characters’ points of view and how these differences affect the text.
* Analyzes the pros and cons of using different forms of text and media to present a topic or idea.
* Compares a text to a film or play version of a text, paying specific attention to the way in which the film or play veers from the text.
* Analyzes how a modern text builds on or uses themes from other historical or older texts such as myths or the Bible.
* Analyzes texts that include conflicting information on the same topic and decipher when those are due to conflicting facts or interpretations.
* Identify Christian philosophy and values in literature.
* Practices a variety of vocabulary skills, including using the context in which a word is found to determine the meaning of words, recognizing roots of words, and using digital and physical reference materials (dictionaries, thesauruses, and glossaries).
* Understand how to choose appropriate literature for reading independently.
* Develop a personal preference for a specific genre by reading different genres through independent reading and whole group reading.

**Subject area overview for Writing**

In the 8th grade, students continue to practice and refine many of the writing skills they learned in 7th grade while also learning some additional complex writing skills. Given that refining one’s writing can take time and practice, students are not expected to cover a great deal of new skills. However, they do learn some new techniques and skills that enhance their writing and enable them to become better writers.

* Writes arguments that present clear reasons and relevant evidence and include:
	+ Introductions
	+ Acknowledgements of opposing claims
	+ Logical and orderly presentation of reasons and evidence
	+ Support of the claims through the use of evidence from credible sources
	+ A concluding sentence or paragraph that supports the argument made
	+ A formal tone and style.
* Writes structured and well-organized opinion, research, and informative pieces that:
	+ Use supporting claims and evidence based on credible texts and resources including the *Bible*
	+ Provide an introduction that includes an explanation of what follows
	+ Develop topics through the use of facts, details, quotations, and our Catholic faith
	+ Include transitions that connect concepts, events, and paragraphs
	+ Include a conclusion that supports the presented idea(s)
	+ Maintain a formal “essay type” style
* Writes well-structured narratives (both true and fiction) that include:
	+ A narrator, characters, and a point of view
	+ Descriptive detail and sensory language to describe characters, settings, and experiences
	+ Dialogue, pacing, reflection, and details and descriptions of characters, setting, and experiences
	+ Thought-out word choice
	+ A clear structure with a logical order and flow, as shown through the use of transition words and phrases and a logical sequence
	+ A conclusion that is connected to and builds on the narrative.
* Plans, revises, and edits writing, specifically with guidance from teachers and peers, focusing specifically on trying new approaches and making sure the writing has a purpose and appeals to its audience.
* Uses technology and the Internet to produce and publish writing, work with others, and cite sources.
* Uses both print and digital resources to conduct research, focusing on using appropriate search terms and reliable sources.
* Uses quotes and a standard format for citation.
* Uses research to analyze and make inferences.

**Subject area overview for Language**

In middle school language instruction is used to help enhance the complexity of student writing. Grammar, usage and mechanics are taught in order to help the students create increasingly complex text within different genres of writing.  8th graders continue to refine and begin mastering grammatical skills previously taught to them while incorporating new skills and techniques that they learn and apply to their writing.

**Language**

* Understands simple, compound and complex sentence structures in order to vary sentence style and structure, and to remedy fragments and run-on sentences within a piece of writing.
* Uses punctuation correctly in a sentence including the various uses of commas and end punctuation.
* Uses the parts of speech correctly and with increasing complexity: nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, prepositions, pronouns, conjunctions and interjections.
* Uses adjectives, adverbs and prepositional phrases to elaborate sentences.

**Math**

In 8th grade, students are introduced to and focus on several new mathematical concepts including: linear equations, functions, polynomials, factoring and inequalities. In particular, students solve equations to equip them with skills that may be practically useful and to understand the importance of math in the future.

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**Numbers and Operations**

•        Find and approximate non-perfect square roots and cube roots

•        Identify the difference between rational and irrational numbers

•        Apply the rules of integer exponent

•        Perform operations with numbers expressed in scientific notation

**Geometry**

•        Understand and use Pythagorean Theorem

•        Calculate distance between two points

•        Find area and volume of complex figures

•        Apply geometric formulas in problem solving including regular pyramids

**Algebraic Reasoning**

•        Solve multi-step equations and inequalities using rational numbers

•        Identify and represent linear functions using equations

•        Graph linear and quadratic functions

•        Graph and calculate equations using Slope-Intercept (y=mx+b) and

     Standard Form (Ax+By=C)

•        Operate and factor polynomials

•        Solve and graph simultaneous linear equations in Slope-Intercept and

Standard Form

**Data, Probability, and Statistics**

**•**Create and interpret scatter plots

**Mathematical Practices**

**PROBLEM SOLVING**

**•**Make sense of problems and persevere in solving them while understanding the meaning of quantities involved

**REASONING AND PROOF**

**•**Attend to precision and accuracy of calculations and proved answers using various types of reasoning.

**COMMUNICATION**

•        Clearly communicate mathematical thinking using math vocabulary orally in writing.

**CONNECTIONS**

•        Understand how mathematical ideas interconnect, build on one another, and relate to real-world and faith contexts.

**REPRESENTATION**

**•**    Use representations to model mathematical ideas

**Subject area overview for Science**

 In middle school, students continue to deepen their knowledge and skills in the life and Earth sciences. There is a specific focus on explaining and understanding real-life events and processes in relation to the concepts and topics learned. 8th graders also focus on applying scientific methods and/or the engineering design process as described below in order to deepen their understanding and work like actual scientists.

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* Applies the scientific method or engineering design process in order to practice like a scientist
	+ Questions, observes, and researches.
	+ Develops a hypothesis (based on observations and research).
	+ Make predictions.
	+ Develop and use models.
	+ Plans investigations and experiments.
	+ Conducts experiments and follows multi-step processes and instructions in order to conduct experiments.
	+ Uses measurement and mathematical computations while working with data.
	+ Analyzes and interprets data.
	+ Develops a conclusion.
	+ Compares the results of an experiment to what is written about the topic in a text.
* Develops and presents explanations and designs solutions for processes and practices used and results obtained.
* Engage in argument from evidence.
* Obtain, evaluate and communicate information.
* Determines the main ideas of a scientific text and cites specific evidence to support ideas and claims about scientific texts.
* Learns topic-specific science vocabulary.
* Analyzes relevant charts, diagrams, and graphs about a scientific topic.
* Biological Evolution
* Earth Systems
* Earth and Human Activity

**Follow NGSS disciplinary core ideas**<https://www.nextgenscience.org/sites/default/files/AllDCI.pdf>

**Social Studies**

**Subject area overview for Social Studies:**

Eighth grade students continue their study of United States History from the writing of the Constitution through Reconstruction. Geographic, civics/government, and economics content is integrated within the historical context.

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