

Incarnate Word Parish School

Curriculum Summary Grade 7



August 2011

MISSION STATEMENT: With Jesus as our model, we, the educational community of Incarnate Word School, share a common purpose and faith journey through our commitment to live and teach the Gospel message. We strive to provide a learning environment which recognizes, encourages, and supports the unique and diverse gifts of each member. Guided by the Holy Spirit, we endeavor to form life-long learners who live and witness to Gospel values, so that each can make a positive difference in our parish, Church, country and world toward the building of God's kingdom.

Religion

The seventh grade religion curriculum is divided into four blocks: liturgy and worship of the Catholic faith, prayer and sacraments, the New Testament through Jesus and His disciples, and respect for life. The students will study Catholic symbols and rituals, memorize the characteristics and meaning of liturgy, the seven sacraments, and the liturgical year. The students will understand the meaning of and need for prayer and traditions in the Christian life. The students will identify that Jesus calls His followers to live lives of compassion, care, and concern for all human beings, especially those in need. The students will celebrate and study the Liturgical Seasons. The students will understand their sexuality in the light of God's call to holiness.

Language Arts - Literature

In seventh grade, students explore fiction, nonfiction, biography, autobiography, mystery, a variety of poetry types, historical fiction, science fiction, and short stories, and essays in a meaningful and enjoyable manner. When speaking and writing about literature, point of view, events vs. non-events in the plot, setting, characterization, imagery, figurative language and theme will play central focus. Students study vocabulary in context. Students spend one quarter studying poetry, poets and writing their own poems. Students choose their own independent reading based on assigned goals such as a particular genre or author study (Avi & O.Henry) suggested by the teacher. Weekly reflections are written on what they read. It is through this class that students will notice literature can be relevant to their own lives and concerns.

Language Arts - English

The students will identify and apply the eight parts of speech and syntax. Special emphasis is given to diagramming, learning the various verb forms, and subject/verb agreement. Phrases, clauses, and complex sentences further develop the students' writing skills. Correct capitalization and punctuation, as well as solid spelling and powerful vocabulary are expected in all writing. Research skills such as note cards, outline/rough draft, and how to write a bibliography are taught in the process of writing a research paper. Good discussion techniques are taught and practiced in class.

Math

In seventh grade math, students will extend their understandings of addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division, together with their properties, to attain fluency with rational numbers. Using their understandings of proportionality, students will examine the fraction/decimal/percent relationship which will be used to solve problems involving percents. Using variables to describe unknown quantities will be introduced along with strategies for solving linear equations with one variable. Students will develop and understand formulas for areas and volumes of geometric shapes. Theoretical and experimental probability will be explored, as well as data analysis. Strategies for solving problems will be emphasized throughout the year. A trip to Jr. Achievement's Finance Park is planned for the second semester. During this day, students can see the connection between what they are experiencing in the classroom with a real life simulation.

Grade 7

Social Studies

American history from the founding of the Republic to the Civil War is the content of seventh grade social studies. The students will study the growth of our nation while incorporating the skills of understanding cause and effect, interpreting maps, reading a graph/table/timeline, analyzing newspaper editorials and cartoons, forecasting events, recognizing sources of information, and comparing points of view. Special emphasis is given to studying the Constitution of the United States. The students will appreciate the cultural differences in our nation, and strive to be well informed and involved citizens. The students will use critical thinking skills in writing responses to essay questions for tests, and incorporate technology skills in presenting projects.

Science

The middle school science curriculum at Incarnate Word is designed to stimulate student curiosity in natural phenomena. Students are encouraged to delve into finding out how things happen. Long-term understanding of basic ideas will be reinforced through reading, activities, experiments, and discussions. The seventh graders will be focusing on force, motion, and work, heat, electricity and magnetism, energy transformations, objects and their motion in the solar system, along with weather and climate. Higher-level thinking will be cultivated in this course. Tests, quizzes, projects, and lab activities will require students to apply and analyze the basic knowledge they acquire through reading and discussion.

Art

Students will start the year reviewing one-point perspective and advance to two-point perspective and even three-point perspective. They will have a focus on 3-D art using materials, such as, wire, foil, plaster, and clay. With the projects, students will utilize design, pattern, and space.

Technology

The students will continue learning new skills in the suite of Microsoft Office products. Internet safety and security issues will continue to be addressed. The students will use a variety of software programs to enhance and supplement what is being taught in the regular classroom.

Music

Students will sing Broadway music alone and in a group. They will listen to and analyze contemporary popular music, using the elements of music with teacher direction. Students will demonstrate understanding of musical theater genre and technical theater production skills. They will demonstrate these skills with teacher direction in a musical theater performance. Students will play Acoustic Guitar at the Beginner Level.

Physical Education

The students will identify the importance of good health when participating in P.E. activities. The students will demonstrate skills appropriate to their individual ability and age. The students will demonstrate the need for rules, fair play, and controlled play during class. The students will demonstrate an appropriate use of equipment developed through safety skills and rules. The students will demonstrate knowledge of good nutrition to make smart choices from every food groups. The students will identify the balance between healthy eating and physical activity.

Spanish

Spanish will be taught using Syntalk's *Speaking Spanish Confidently* and the *Syntalk* level D workbook. The *Syntalk* method is designed to boost the student's verbal proficiency, and emerging fluency in learning Spanish. The students will identify pronouns, conjugate verbs, practice expressions and questions, and demonstrate correct pronunciations. The students will continue to study Spanish culture, recite prayers, and practice speaking Spanish orally.