

Grade 8 curriculum update
1st Quarter

- Religion: The 8th grade course of studies focuses on a greater understanding for the Catechism of the Church. We begin the year learning the Apostles Creed and “break it down” into its parts as main topics for understanding our faith. Please look at their new textbooks with them, as that gives you a great idea of what our year will encompass. There are regular homework assignments and quizzes to accompany lessons.

The students will also be expected to learn the Acts of Faith, Hope and Love, all of which are in the back of their book.

We will say the Rosary as a class, on a regular basis, and they will be expected to know the order of prayers and the Luminous and Joyful mysteries, as well as what each one references, and the effects of each.

- Social Studies: We begin the year with a brief overview of European exploration, followed by more detailed British settlements (Lost Colony, Jamestown). From there, we will look at conflict with the Native Americans, as well as the growth of the 13 colonies. They will have regular map assignments, and a paper to write. Please watch assignment notebooks!
- Science: The focus for the year is the physical sciences, beginning with force and motion. The students learn and reinforce concepts in data gathering and presentation, followed by studying speed, velocity and acceleration. Through demonstrations and application, they will gain an appropriate understanding of gravitation and frictional impact on forces.
- Health: *Current Health* is the resource I have chosen as an up-to-date periodical for the 8th grade. It covers a broad range of topics concerning these young people, today. We focus more specifically on some of those topics in response to our curriculum guide. However, I encourage you to look through the magazine should there be specific topics of interest or concern to you, in order to provide an opening for discussion with your son or daughter.
- Language Arts: (Taught by Miss Byrnes) The eighth graders have a variety of textbooks and learning sources. They have a spelling unit each week, with textbook pages to complete and a test each Friday. They have a vocabulary chapter to complete, each week, a vocabulary chapter test several times each quarter, and a three-chapter review test, each quarter. A grammar textbook is used to review previously taught concepts and introduce new ones. A literature textbook provides practice in comprehension as well as other reading skills. Eighth graders have a half-hour library period each week. During that time, they may look for a book to check out, read the book, and take an AR Test. Students are expected to earn at least 20 AR points each quarter.

- As always, I welcome any resources you may wish to share or send in, that relate to any of the curriculum topics we are covering as a class. The most reliable method for contacting me is through e-mail (kmcmahon@ceducation.org) but I will gladly return phone calls to the school at the earliest opportunity, or respond to any notes via kidmail.