



Excellent Minds. Exceptional Hearts.

St. James School Kindergarten Curriculum Overview

Language Arts	<i>Scott-Foresman.</i> The Language Arts curriculum encompasses listening, speaking, reading and writing skills. The ultimate goal of Kindergarten reading instruction is for each student to develop reading readiness ability. The lessons presented include: recognizing capital and lowercase letters; initial and ending consonant sounds; short vowel sounds; rhymes; identification of alphabet sequence in oral and printed form; understand the meaning of nouns and action verbs; understand singular and plural nouns; reading beginning literacy books; printing capital and lowercase letters; making predictions about a story ending; recalling and retelling a story that has been read to them; identifying beginning, middle and end of stories that have been read to them; reading three letter words using all vowels and consonants; following oral directions; knowing colors and color words; printing first and last name using correct case; printing all capital and lowercase letters; identifying punctuation – period, exclamation point and question mark; beginning to write 2-3 short sentences about an idea accompanied by a complimentary drawing.
Math	<i>Houghton Mifflin.</i> The students have opportunities to familiarize themselves with math concepts through “hands-on” discovery, use of manipulatives, worksheet review, group work and direct teaching strategies. The concepts that are introduced include sorting and classifying by color, size and shape; identifying, describing, extending and creating simple patterns; understanding relationships between numbers and quantities 1-30; recognizing and writing numbers 1-30; graphing objects to 20 and displaying data using pictures, tables and pictographs; measurement, weight and capacity; recognizing penny, dime, nickel and quarter and their values; recognizing and classifying basic geometric shapes; recognizing equal parts and simple fractions; understanding hour and half hour; measuring objects with cubes, paper clips, etc.; understanding addition and subtraction problems from 1-20; ordinal numbers 1-10; counting to 100 by 2’s, 5’s, and 10’s; introduction of top, middle, bottom, in front of, behind, over, under, on, left, right, inside, outside, same, different.
Religion	<i>I Am Special.</i> The lessons follow the liturgical calendar of the Catholic Church. Through religious lessons the students will learn the importance of respecting others; express knowledge of God; show reverence for prayer and liturgy; recite the Angel of God, Our Father, Grace and the Hail Mary prayers; recognize the different parts of Mass; observe the Stations of the Cross; read and hear bible stories; gain an appreciation of God’s gifts to us; learn about the Blessed Mother and observe her birthday; learn about the seasons of the liturgical year.
Science	The science lessons provided for the Kindergarten student involve observation of the natural environment, examination of daily environmental changes, “hands-on” approaches and group discussion. Concepts covered in science include daily observation and charting of weather, seasonal comparisons; polar bears and penguins and their habitats – Arctic and Antarctic zones; different types of spiders; apple varieties; the life cycle of butterflies; the function and importance of teeth; magnets and magnetic force; the Rain Forest; compare and discuss living and nonliving things.
Social Studies	The Social Studies lessons introduce the students to their community and the customs and traits of their country as well as the people of other nations. Lessons introduced include community workers and their roles; famous women and famous Black Americans; Pilgrims and the First Thanksgiving; George Washington and Abraham Lincoln; Christopher Columbus; the American flag; the United States and Pennsylvania; the difference between a neighborhood and a city; difference between the city and the country; view and learn about the globe; recognize maps; yearly holidays; other countries with different cultures and customs.
Spanish	Children will learn basic Spanish vocabulary through activities that involve “total physical response” - that is through acting it out using music, puppets, games, and flashcards. Words and phrases include greetings and introductions, colors, numbers, classroom items, feelings, days of week, body parts, clothing, weather and family members. Spanish prayers taught at this level include the Sign of the Cross and the Hail Mary. Respect for other cultures is incorporated through teaching customs native to other Spanish speaking countries.



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St. James School First Grade Curriculum Overview

Language Arts	<p><i>Scott Foresman.</i> This comprehensive program incorporates reading, writing, phonics, grammar, and oral language skills. Students are given many opportunities to read within the classroom, focusing on phonemic awareness, fluency and reading comprehension. Students are encouraged to read at their own level and are challenged accordingly. Reading skills focused upon include: fluency, comprehension, recognizing context clues, understanding cause & effect, predicting, identifying story elements such as the main idea, plot and setting, recognizing the author's purpose, comparing & contrasting, drawing conclusions, classifying, identifying realism & fantasy, recognizing theme, and story sequencing. Students learn to recognize a variety of sight words throughout the year and are encouraged to read often with their families so as to help build their confidence in their reading abilities. Phonemic awareness skills are enhanced to help aid reading fluency. Phonemic awareness skills focused upon include: consonant and vowel sounds, vowel patterns, plurals, consonant blends and digraphs, contractions, r-controlled vowels, and vowel diphthongs. Phonics skills are taught in context of stories read and many opportunities are given for students to practice phonics skills. Students are taught basic writing and grammar skills and are encouraged to use their creativity to develop their own sentences and stories. Topics studied include: rules for writing simple sentences, identifying subjects and predicates, word order in sentences, writing questions, nouns, special titles, verbs, adjectives, exclamations, commands, pronouns, and adding plural endings. Students are given an opportunity to engage in a variety of writing activities including: writing a story about themselves, writing a description, writing a simple "how to" report, writing a summary, and writing a letter. Writing is practiced daily in composition books and various writing samples are assessed throughout the year. Spelling words coincide with phonics skills and sight words taught throughout the year. Students learn to spell words following vowel patterns, plural words, words with various consonant blends, color words, number words, animal words, place words, and high-frequency words. Spelling games and activities help to enforce spelling words taught each week and students are assessed weekly.</p> <p><i>Handwriting Writing Our Catholic Faith.</i> The handwriting workbook focuses on printing uppercase and lowercase letters of the manuscript alphabet while teaching students about the Catholic faith. Correct positioning is taught and students are given practice in writing copied and original sentences. Handwriting exercise also help to enforce spelling, grammar, mechanics and vocabulary skills.</p>
Math	<p><i>Houghton Mifflin.</i> Number Concepts 0-20, Addition and Subtraction 0-20, Addition and Subtraction of 2 Digit Numbers, Graphing and Collecting Data, Plane and Solid Figures, Spatial Sense, Patterns, Fractions, Probability, Place value to 100, Order and Compare numbers to 100, Number Patterns, Time, Calendar, Money, Length, Weight, Capacity, Temperature, Problem Solving with each concept.</p>
Religion	<p><i>Blest are We and Our Heavenly Father (Faith and Life Series).</i> The students learn about their faith through prayer and participation in the liturgy as well as through daily catechesis. Students are introduced to basic truths of the Catholic faith including: the Holy Trinity, the sacraments, the Blessed Mother, the saints, the angels, and the life, death & resurrection of Christ. Students are also taught basic Catholic prayers and stories from the Bible are read often. A development in virtue is encouraged as well as the development of a personal and loving relationship with Christ.</p>
Science	<p><i>Harcourt Science.</i> The students engage in studying the world around them, A variety of hands-on activities and art projects are incorporated with the presentation of concrete scientific information. Topics covered include: the five senses, plants, animals & insects, biomes, fossils and rocks, dinosaurs, natural resources, weather & temperature, the seasons, planets & space, investigating matter, the human body, and nutrition and the food pyramid. Topics are presented as themes throughout the year.</p>
Social Studies	<p>A variety of supplemental workbooks are used to teach Social Studies themes, which are presented as a seasonal study. Topics covered include: families & communities, basic needs, community helpers & safety, Columbus & early exploration, Native Americans, Thanksgiving & early settlers, understanding past, present & future, Christmas around the world, famous African Americans, United States presidents, our state & country, our world (the seven continents), transportation, understanding signs & symbols, and reading timelines. Map skills are taught and practiced throughout the year.</p>
Spanish	<p><i>Espanol Para Ti, Level 1.</i> On this level, lessons focus on reinforcing and expanding vocabulary and learning expressions that are essential for everyday communication. Goals include students being able to respond to simple questions and commands. Cultural awareness is incorporated by learning about and celebrating customs of other Spanish speaking countries. Spanish prayers recited throughout the year include the Hail Mary and Glory Be. New concepts such as numbers 1-50, fruits, months, verbs and clothing are introduced.</p>



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St. James School Second Grade Curriculum Overview

Language Arts	<p><i>Scott Foresman.</i> The goal is the development and encouragement of fluent readers, articulate writers and speakers, and discerning listeners and viewers. Students participate daily in reading for enjoyment, writing, discussion, research and study skills, vocabulary, and genres and literary craft. The author and illustrator's craft and style are introduced through book reports. Students apply what they learn from texts to their lives and to the lives of others through themes. Reading instruction includes phonemic awareness, phonics, and spelling. Proficient readers learn to interact with all three features so that they can "make sense" of their reading, recognize when they don't, and use strategies to get back on the meaning track. In Grammar, the students learn the use of correct punctuation, capital letters, parts of speech, writing in complete sentences, the writing process, and creative writing. Students identify antonyms, synonyms, homonyms, suffixes, prefixes, similes, metaphors, onomatopoeias, personification. Students use rhymes and summarize. In Spelling, students work on short and long vowel sounds, words with consonant clusters, double consonants, words spelled with k or ck, th, or wh, words that end with er, ed, ing, s, es, vowel sounds in cow, moon, book, compound words, contractions, and understanding standardized test-taking techniques. In Phonics, the system contains beginning and double consonants. The course includes short, long, R-controlled, silent, and double vowels. Instruction of schwa sounds, CVC spelling, diagraphs, word families, word clusters, initial and final blends.</p> <p><i>Writing Our Catholic Faith.</i> In handwriting, the students review printing uppercase and lowercase letters a-z, on ruled: 3/8" Manuscript and 1/4" Manuscript. Practice is given with cursive positioning, cursive lowercase and uppercase lettering using words of our faith.</p>
Math	<p><i>Houghton Mifflin.</i> Number Concepts 0-50, Addition and Subtraction Problems using Regrouping and 3 Digits, Graphing and Collecting Data, Probability, Place Value to Ten Thousands, Number Patterns, Plane and Solid Figures, Fractions, Money and Change, Time and Calendar, Length, Weight, Temperature, Problem Solving with each new concept.</p>
Religion	<p><i>Blest Are We.</i> The guiding philosophy is in full accord with the General Directory for Catechesis and embraces its goals for the renewal of parish life and full participation of every Catholic in the grace-filled life of the Church. Each chapter explores the theme from the perspective of one of the four pillars of the Catechism of the Catholic Church, and every unit follows this same organization. This structure assures that students: learn the Catholic faith, celebrate it in worship, connect it to their everyday life, and learn to pray. The students learn about our beliefs, God's forgiveness, the Word of God, celebrating the gift of the Eucharist, Reconciliation, First Holy Communion, the order of the Mass, and feast days.</p>
Science	<p><i>Harcourt Science, DASH Science.</i> The Science program includes: life science; how plants, animals, and people grow and change; habitats for plants and animals; Earth science (Earth's resources, Earth long ago, and Earth's weather and solar system); physical science; observing and measuring matter and changes in matter, forces and motion, and hearing sound. DASH science engages students in observing, categorizing, and generalizing about the natural world - weather, plants, animals, and astronomy.</p>
Social Studies	<p><i>Scott Foresman</i> Students develop map skills, discuss people and places, how people celebrate, earning and spending (economics), how people get along (government) and communities around the world.</p>
Spanish	<p><i>Espanol Para Ti, Level 2.</i> Students will understand and recite basic vocabulary and word structure that are essential for everyday communication. There is a continued emphasis on listening and speaking skills. In addition to a review of language from previous years, new vocabulary is introduced including rooms of a school, and how to ask and answer questions about age, seasons and weather, colors, dates and months. The concept of Total Physical Response is incorporated into the program as a continuation of activities in the form of music, games, videos, flashcards, and puppets that reinforce each lesson. Prayers recited throughout the year include: The Hail Mary, Glory Be and The Our Father. Cultural awareness and customs are an additional part of the language development.</p>



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St. James School Third Grade Curriculum Overview

Language Arts	<p><i>Scott Foresman</i> Students develop the skills of comprehension, reading fluency written and oral communication and phonics. The students will also complete six book reports. They will read dedicated books as well as choosing books they are interested in. Developing a love of reading is a major goal in third grade. The teacher reads daily to the class. The books are chosen from the Newbury and Caldecott award winning book as well as general third grade interest books.</p> <p><i>Silver, Burdett and Ginn English.</i> Students study writing, grammar usage, and dictionary and thesaurus skills. Sentence formation, parts of speech, capitalization, and punctuation are stressed across the curriculum. The students participate in Writers workshop to develop writing skills and to become more comfortable with the writing process.</p> <p><i>Scott Foresman Spelling.</i> The spelling program targets words students use and misspell, encourages independent learning, builds vocabulary and helps everyone become a better speller.</p> <p><i>Writing Our Catholic Faith.</i> Third grade begins the year reviewing manuscript and moves into cursive. This is accomplished with daily practice.</p>
Math	<p><i>Houghton Mifflin.</i> -Place Value to Hundred Thousands, Compare Order of Numbers and Rounding 3 Digit Numbers, Counting Coins and Bills and giving Change, Graphing and Analyzing, Probability, Multiplying 0-12 Tables, Division, Time and Elapsed Time, Temperature, Custom Measuring, Metric System, Plane and Solid Figures, Transformations, Symmetry, Congruence, Perimeter, Area, Volume, Ordering and Comparing Fractions, Decimals, Multiplying and Dividing by 1 Digit, Problem Solving with each new concept.</p>
Religion	<p><i>Blest Are We</i> other sources include: – <i>Faith and Life Series 3, The New American Bible</i></p> <p>Religious Education in the 3rd grade is devoted to studying the Marks of the Church in relation to how we practice our faith through celebration of Sacraments, prayer, service to others, understanding scripture, being faithful to our commitments and Mary’s role in being a model for us to follow Christ. We honor Mary by saying the Rosary especially during October and May as well as participate in the May Crowning. The Liturgical Feasts and Seasons are incorporated into the curriculum with prayer meditations, activities and devotions on a regular basis. Children attend Mass weekly and Eucharistic Adoration on the First Friday of the month.</p>
Science	<p><i>Harcourt Science, DASH Science.</i> The Science program includes: Life Science - How plants and animals grow and types of animals, Where living things are found and how living things depend on one another; Earth Science - Rocks, minerals, fossils; Forces that shape the land - soils, earth’s resources; The water cycle - observing weather, earth and its place in the solar system; Physical Science - Properties and changes in matter, heat, light, forces and motion. DASH science studies engage students in observing, categorizing, and generalizing about the natural world- weather, plants, animals, and astronomy.</p>
Social Studies	<p><i>Silver, Burdette and Ginn.</i> Students study several themes: Geography and Communities, Movable Communities, Communities Yesterday and Today (Native Americans, Pilgrims, Pioneers), People and Citizenship (Government at work). Maps skills are included in each unit</p>
Spanish	<p><i>Espanol Para Ti, Level 3.</i>– Children continue to build basic vocabulary and word structures that are essential for daily communication. Conversational skills are practiced through simple questions and commands. Students will be able to discuss cultural traditions in other Spanish speaking countries. At this level, the program expands from listening and speaking skills to include Spanish Alphabet, and exploration of how different sounds are spelled. Concepts studied this year are numbers 1-100, school personnel, foods, animals, community buildings, parts of a house, clothing, and shapes. Total Physical Response continues to be an essential aspect of reinforcement.</p>



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St. James School Fourth Grade Curriculum Overview

Language Arts	<p><i>Scott Foresman</i>. This is a comprehensive program for developing skills in reading, comprehension, written and oral communication, grammar, usage, and spelling. The reading series consists of five literary selections of five related texts. Each selection teaches a study skill, such as sequence, author's opinion, visualizing, generalizing, paraphrasing, graphic sources, flashbacks, and more. The selections also teach a phonetic skill, vocabulary, and writing skill. Throughout the selections the genres include fiction, nonfiction, narrative nonfiction, historical nonfiction, biography, drama, folk tale, and tall tale. The reading curriculum is not only limited to this reading series, but to a variety of reader's theater plays, silent reading time, and book reports on their choice of book. This spelling component focuses on developing the students' spelling skills with emphasis on spelling rules or the use of specific phonics keys. English grammar for the fourth grade focuses on developing the students' skills in written and oral communication. This is accomplished primarily by studying examples in the text of various writing techniques and then imitating those techniques while creating original paragraphs and stories. Students grow in experience and confidence in oral communication through short oral presentations on various topics of interest. Students also study the grammatical structure of the sentence in greater depth, examining the five major parts of speech, proper usage of the parts of speech, proper sentence structure, and the correct use of capitalization and punctuation.</p> <p><i>Writing Our Catholic Faith</i>. In handwriting, the students improve the overall appearance of their cursive writing by practicing spacing, neatness, slant, smooth, and rhythmic letter formation and letter connections. In addition, the lessons reinforce the curriculum of our religious formation program.</p>
Math	<p><i>Houghton Mifflin Math Series</i>. This is a basal math program containing NCTM Standards in the content areas of: Numbers and Operations, Algebra, Geometry, Measurement, Data Analysis and Probability. Emphasis is on skill building problem solving, math communication, reasoning and concept mastery at each grade level to obtain mathematical proficiency. As each student progresses in grade level, the problem solving and skill mastery levels are further developed.</p>
Religion	<p><i>Blest Are We</i>, other sources include: <i>Faith and Life Series 4</i>, <i>The New American Bible</i>. The Ten Commandments and the Beatitudes are the main focus of study during the 4th grade year of religious education. Students examine the call to respond to God in obedience and by living according to His Word. In addition, the <i>Our Father</i> is studied in depth and related to the Gospel message. Students research saints, plan Mass, attend Eucharistic Adoration the First Friday of each month, pray the Rosary and learn and practice meditative prayer. The Liturgical Feasts and Seasons continue to be incorporated into the curriculum as an integral part of faith formation.</p>
Science	<p><i>Harcourt School Science</i>. The focus is on providing students with learning experiences that relate science to their everyday world through a variety of hands-on experiments, coupled with activities and wealth of knowledge provided by the text. The students study six units: A World of Living Things, Looking at Ecosystems (Life Science), Earth's Surface, Patterns on Earth and In Space (Earth Science), Matter and Energy, Forces and Motion (Physical Science).</p>
Social Studies	<p><i>Silver Burdett Ginn, The World and Its People, Pennsylvania Yesterday and Today</i>. The emphasis at this level is two-fold. One focus is on the history of Pennsylvania. Students are introduced to major events, dates, and people of this state, as well as the beliefs, ideas, and achievements that helped to shape Pennsylvania. The topics include: Pennsylvania's Land and Climate, Regions of Pennsylvania, First People, Early Settlers, Problems with Great Britain, Nineteenth Century. In addition, the students will analyze how Pennsylvania of the past compares and contrasts to the Pennsylvania of today. In addition, general social studies concepts are addressed including the economy, travel, history and food of the regions of the United States of America. Not only is the focus on the specific regions, but this also includes comparing and contrasting the regions with other parts of the world. Important skills include reading numerous kinds of maps, the meaning, different kinds, and laws of communities, and the diverse geography of the communities. Some more skills are writing an outline, creating timelines, reading tables and graphs, and debating facts and opinions. A lesson on citizenship is included in each chapter.</p>
Spanish	<p><i>Viva el Espanol System A, McGraw Hill</i>. This year's emphasis is placed on basic vocabulary, common phrases, numbers 1-100, the calendar, body parts, school, weather, people, and feelings. Hispanic cultural events are highlighted throughout the year. Basic prayers are said in Spanish.</p>



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St. James School Fifth Grade Curriculum Overview

Language Arts	<p><i>Scott Foresman.</i> Students continue to develop skills in reading, comprehension, written and oral communication, grammar, usage, and spelling. The aim is to have students read fluently, clearly, and with understanding. The literature is divided into themes. There are book reports in different formats throughout the year, and independent reading is encouraged. The spelling component focuses on the development of spelling skills. Weekly lessons cover 25 words and consist of workbook activities to help students identify spelling patterns and use words in context.</p> <p><i>Silver Burdett Ginn, World of Language.</i> The English course is designed to include the major areas of language arts – grammar and correct usage, sentence structure, dictionary and thesaurus usage, library and research skills, writing skills, and speaking and listening skills.</p> <p><i>Writing Our Catholic Faith.</i> In handwriting, the students improve the overall appearance of their cursive writing by practicing spacing, neatness, slant, smooth, and rhythmic letter formation and letter connections. In addition, the lessons reinforce the curriculum of our religious formation program.</p>
Math	<p><i>Houghton Mifflin Math Series.</i> This is a basal math program containing NCTM Standards in the content areas of: Numbers and Operations, Algebra, Geometry, Measurement, Data Analysis and Probability. Emphasis is on skill building problem solving, math communication, reasoning and concept mastery at each grade level to obtain mathematical proficiency. As each student progresses in grade level, the problem solving and skill mastery levels are further developed.</p>
Religion	<p><i>Blest Are We</i>, other sources include: - <i>Faith and Life Series 5, The Catholic Youth Bible.</i> The focus in Fifth Grade is the study of the Seven Sacraments. Students examine how we are united in faith through Christ and the Church, God's gift of Grace, and The Apostle's Creed. Discussion emphasizes choices we make in this life and our desire to have everlasting happiness with the Blessed Trinity in heaven. Meditative prayer, weekly attendance at Mass, Eucharistic Adoration, study of Saints, and Liturgical Feasts and Seasons are essential aspects of faith formation.</p>
Science	<p><i>Harcourt Brace Science Anytime.</i> Students use critical thinking, scientific reasoning, and science process skills to investigate plant and animal systems, matter and energy, the solar system, and geology. Experiments involve cells, the solar system, body systems, and matter. Each student is required to do a science project, individually or paired up with another student. The goal is to learn the scientific process as well as how to research a problem that they would like to solve.</p>
Social Studies	<p><i>Our United States, Silver Burdett Ginn.</i> This study includes a comprehensive overview of United States history from Native Americans to the 1950's. Emphasis is placed on map and globe skills. Projects are assigned each grading period and attention is given to states and capitals. Current events are also introduced. Appropriate literature stories are discussed which correlate to the historical period that is being studied.</p>
Spanish	<p><i>Viva el Espanol System B.</i> The focuses this year include expanding vocabulary, using more sentences and commands, foods, sports, rooms, and household terms. Emphasis is placed on asking and answering questions in complete sentences. Cultural events dealing with Hispanic countries are celebrated throughout the year.</p>



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St. James School Sixth Grade Curriculum Overview

Language Arts	<p>The 6th grade year focuses on a review of the basics in grammar and writing with the goal of incorporating and successfully using these skills in writing and in speaking. Students practice and refine their writing of narrative, descriptive, and expository paragraphs. To further improve their writing, students study and use new vocabulary words each week. Additionally, short stories, poetry, novels, and plays are read and discussed. Book reports are also written throughout the year.</p> <p><i>Scott Foresman.</i> The spelling component focuses on the development of spelling skills. Weekly lessons cover 25 words and consist of workbook activities to help students identify spelling patterns and use words in context.</p> <p><i>Writing Our Catholic Faith.</i> In handwriting, the students improve the overall appearance of their cursive writing by practicing spacing, neatness, slant, smooth, and rhythmic letter formation and letter connections. In addition, the lessons reinforce the curriculum of our religious formation program.</p>
Math	<p><i>Houghton Mifflin Math.</i> This is a basal math program containing NCTM Standards in the content areas of: Numbers and Operations, Algebra, Geometry, Measurement, Data Analysis and Probability. Emphasis is on skill building, problem solving, math communication, reasoning and concept mastery at each grade level to obtain mathematical proficiency. As each student progresses in grade level, the problem solving and skill mastery levels are further developed.</p> <p><i>McDougal Littell - Passport to Algebra and Geometry</i> This course focuses on Middle School Math Concepts with a gradual approach to underlying principles of Algebra and Geometry. Emphasis is on a wide use of charts, graphs, and models with applications to real life, which bridges the gap between the concrete to the abstract.</p>
Religion	<p><i>Blest Are We</i>, other sources include – <i>Faith and Life Series 6, The Catholic Youth Bible.</i> Sixth Grade religion is dedicated to the study of the Old Testament in the History and revelation of God’s Word, and His covenant with His people. This is a particularly critical year of faith formation as students are entering into young adulthood. With this in mind, guided discussions of faith, conscience and making good choices, and a growing relationship with Christ are constantly nurtured and encouraged. Liturgical Feasts and Seasons are an essential aspect of learning faith. Students attend weekly Mass, Eucharistic Adoration on the First Friday of the month, pray the Rosary, participate in meditative prayer and study and research the saints.</p>
Science	<p><i>Harcourt Brace Science Anytime.</i> Students conduct experiments and do hands-on activities to explore Earth and space sciences. Topics include weather, earthquakes, ocean life, plants, and endangered species. Experiments focus on plants, ocean life, and energy. Each student is required to do a science project, individually or paired up with another student. The goal is to learn the scientific process as well as how to research a problem that they would like to solve.</p>
Social Studies	<p><i>The World, Scott Foresman.</i> The focus for the year includes ancient cultures from Mesopotamia, Egypt, China, India, Africa, and the Americas. The Byzantine and Asian empires and medieval Europe are explored. Historic movements such as the Renaissance, Industrial Revolution, and colonization are emphasized. Each grading period students do a project relating to a certain culture. Current events are also done throughout the year.</p>
Spanish	<p><i>Converso Mucho Viva el Espanol.</i> The study during sixth grade includes more comprehensive vocabulary, translating dialogues, the use of present tense verbs, and oral comprehension. Parts of speech, telling time, and the use of possessive pronouns are emphasized. Hispanic culture is highlighted in addition to geographical studies of Spain and Mexico.</p>



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St. James School Seventh Grade Curriculum Overview

Language Arts	<p>The 7th grade year refines the already acquired basic skills, and students should demonstrate these skills in their work, building on them as the year progresses. Students strengthen their writing skills and improve their style by composing and using a varied sentence structure through deliberate use of phrases and clauses in paragraph writing. In literature, students read and discuss short stories, poems, novels, and plays, learning the literary terminology for each genre. Reading list beyond the text: <i>A Separate Peace</i>, <i>Dragonwings</i></p> <p><i>Vocabulary Workshop</i>. Students study over 300 vocabulary words, including spelling, meaning, synonyms, antonyms, analogies, and usage.</p> <p><i>Writing Our Catholic Faith</i>. In handwriting, the students improve the overall appearance of their cursive writing by practicing spacing, neatness, slant, smooth, and rhythmic letter formation and letter connections. In addition, the lessons reinforce the curriculum of our religious formation program.</p>
Math	<p><i>McDougal Littell - Passport to Algebra and Geometry</i>. This course focuses on Middle School Math Concepts with a gradual approach to underlying principles of Algebra and Geometry. Emphasis is on a wide use of charts, graphs, and models with applications to real life, which bridges the gap between the concrete and the abstract.</p> <p><i>McDougal Littell – Algebra Structure and Method, Book 1</i>. Skills are carefully developed, practiced and applied at A,B, and C levels of difficulty. Topics covered include: solving equations; addition, subtraction, multiplication, and factoring of polynomials; adding and subtracting fractions and applying them in ratios, proportions, percent, and word problems. Functions are introduced (linear and quadratic) and solved by graphing, substitution, and addition or subtraction. Inequalities are also solved and graphed in one and two variables.</p>
Religion	<p><i>Living Our Faith</i>, other sources include: <i>The Catholic Youth Bible</i>, <i>The Catholic Faith Handbook</i>, <i>Faith and Life Series 7</i>. This course is devoted to understanding the mission of Christ and His Church; particularly in Jesus sharing in our human experiences while remaining God and Jesus as the fullest revelation of God, His Father. Students seek ways to understand the need for Grace in their lives and how they receive it. The Cardinal and Theological Virtues are part of the curriculum and are incorporated into discussions on Morality in today's society. Prayer, service to others, attendance at weekly Mass, Eucharistic Adoration, meditative prayer, and celebration of Liturgical Feasts and Seasons are essential components to faith formation.</p>
Science	<p><i>Holt Science & Technology – Life Science</i>. Topics covered include the cell and its parts, animals, evolution, and the environment. Students do a variety of hands-on activities including dissections while studying body systems. These include dissection of earthworms, grasshoppers, crayfish and starfish as well as virtual dissections. Each student is required to do a science project in compliance with Pennsylvania Junior Academy of Science (PJAS) guidelines. Participation in the annual PJAS competition is encouraged.</p>
Social Studies	<p><i>World Geography, Prentice Hall</i>. A study of physical and human geography is emphasized. Cartography and its relationship to economy is highlighted with each area. The focus entails the United States, Canada, Latin America, Europe, Northern Eurasia, Asia, and the Pacific world. Current event folders are done monthly on local, state, national, and international topics. Each nine week grading period includes a project relating to an area of study.</p>
Spanish	<p><i>Voces y Vistas</i>. The first half of the text is covered this year. More detailed conversations and translations are introduced along with the conjugation of regular and irregular verbs, Position of adjectives, use of pronouns, and negative sentences are used with more adverbs and prepositional phrases. Students do oral readings and projects throughout the year. Cultural knowledge and geography of Hispanic countries is stressed.</p>



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St. James School Eighth Grade Curriculum Overview

Language Arts	<p>The 8th grade year continues to build on and refine the skills already acquired. This year, students write multi-paragraph compositions with writing assignments often generated by the literature materials they study. This material includes short stories, poems, novels, essays, and plays. To further enhance writing, students study and use new vocabulary words each week. In addition, students learn the fundamentals of the research process with the writing of a research paper in conjunction with their history class. Reading list beyond the text: <i>Romeo and Juliet</i>, <i>The Pearl</i></p> <p><i>Vocabulary Workshop</i>. Students study over 300 vocabulary words, including spelling, meaning, synonyms, antonyms, analogies, and usage.</p> <p><i>Writing Our Catholic Faith</i>- In handwriting, the students improve the overall appearance of their cursive writing by practicing spacing, neatness, slant, smooth, and rhythmic letter formation and letter connections. In addition, the lessons reinforce the curriculum of our religious formation program.</p>
Math	<p><i>McDougal Littell -Heath - Algebra 1 'An Integrated Approach.'</i> This contains NCTM Standards in the content areas of: Metric and Coordinate Geometry, Functions, Statistics, Data Analysis, Mathematical modeling of Real Life Applications, Communicating about Algebra using Visual Models and Logical Reasoning, and Graphing Calculator Technology.</p> <p><i>Geometry - Chicago School of Mathematics an Integrated Approach.</i> Integrates Geometry with Algebra, Functions and Discrete Math. Four dimensions of understanding are emphasized: Skill in drawing, visualizing, and following algorithms; Understanding of properties, mathematical relationships and proofs; Using geometric ideas in real situations; and Representing geometric concepts with coordinates, networks, and other diagrams.</p>
Religion	<p><i>Living Our Faith</i>, other sources include: <i>The Catholic Youth Bible</i>, <i>The Catholic Faith Handbook</i>, <i>Faith and Life Series 7</i>. The emphasis is on Church history – the story of the Church from the events of the Old Testament to the role of the Church in today’s society. This includes: a foundation in the lives of the apostles; persecution by those who do not understand or who are threatened by Jesus’ message; leadership in matters of faith and culture; challenges to the Church’s beliefs and practices; prayerful review and reflection of the Church’s message; evangelization of the gospel message throughout the world. Also covered is preliminary preparation for the sacrament of Confirmation, which is celebrated at St. James parish in the fall of freshman year.</p>
Science	<p><i>Glencoe Physical Science</i>. Students develop a basic knowledge of physics and chemistry. Coursework includes hands-on activities and demonstrations to observe science at work. Topics include atoms and elements, motion, electricity, gravity, matter and its phases, chemical reactions, and work and machines. Experiments include viscosity, speed, acceleration, momentum, energy, work, power, and specific heat. Each student is required to do a science project in compliance with Pennsylvania Junior Academy of Science (PJAS) guidelines. Participation in the annual PJAS competition is encouraged.</p>
Social Studies	<p><i>The American Nation, Prentice Hall</i>. The year focuses on American history from the first Americans to the Cold War Era. Each chapter relates present day events to earlier times in history. The civics review includes analyzing the Constitution and a study of the US Presidents. Current event folders are done monthly highlighting local, state, national, and international articles. Each grading period includes a project correlating with events being studied. A term paper is written on an historical topic and is also used as a cross curriculum assignment in English class.</p>
Spanish	<p><i>Voces y Vistas</i>. The second half of the text is used this year. More complex paragraphs, regular and irregular verbs, the use of direct and indirect objects and clauses are stressed. Students write dialogues, poems, and paragraphs in Spanish. Eighth graders celebrate Our Lady of Guadalupe by participating in a play. Other cultural holidays are also celebrated. Projects are done each grading period. A cultural newspaper is prepared by students integrating Spanish and computer classes. Students successfully completing this course have tested out of Spanish I in local high schools.</p>



Excellent Minds. Exceptional Hearts.

St. James School Curriculum Overview – Special Subjects

Art	<p>The Goal of the Art Department is to build broad awareness, technical knowledge and skills in the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Art Terminology• Basic skills in Drawing, Painting, Sculpting, Printmaking and general material handling• Basic understanding of Value, Shade and Light• Creative Expression• Elements of Shape• Knowledge of Art History through current day• Perspective through Architectural Study• Proportions• Theory of Art related to all curriculum• Theory of the Chromatic Circle <p>Within all grade levels the students will gain the ability to observe and be inspired by the world around from within themselves. As the students progress in grade level their knowledge base will broaden through advanced study in familiar Medias as well as more challenging media and Art History.</p>
Computer Grades K-3	<p>Grades K-3 Topics addressed include: Basic Keyboard Skills, Computer Parts Identification, Kidpix, Online Basic Skills activities—<i>Mrs. Cannon's Computer Lab</i>, Introduction to Microsoft Paint, Introduction to Microsoft Word, Cyber safety. Basic Keyboarding skills continue throughout the year. <i>Mrs. Cannon's Computer Lab</i> reinforces language arts and math skills via online activities.</p> <p>Grades 4-5 Students are assessed at the beginning and the end of the year to measure progress. Topics addressed include: Development of Keyboard Skills with <i>Jumpstart Typing</i> and <i>Dance Mat Typing</i>, Computer Parts Identification, Online Basic Skills activities, Combining Microsoft Word and Paint, Using Broderbund's <i>THE PRINT SHOP</i>, Cyber safety. Keyboarding practice continues throughout the year. Students are graded on the quantity and quality of their work, accountability and effort.</p> <p>Grades 6-8 Students are assessed at the beginning and the end of the year to measure progress. Instruction is individualized for development of skills necessary to use Microsoft Office, typing practice and creative application of these skills. Instruction also includes Broderbund's <i>THE PRINT SHOP</i> as well as units on Cyber safety. Because computer classes in these grades are individualized, the students rotate through the Microsoft Office applications in this order: Word, Excel, Powerpoint, and Publisher. When they finish Unit One of these series, they proceed to Unit Two in the same order. Students are graded on the quantity and quality of their work, accountability and effort.</p>
Health	<p>Students are taught according to the National Standards in Health Education, with expectations set according to grade level. The goals of the class are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Students will comprehend concepts related to health promotion and disease prevention,▪ Students will identify characteristics of valid health information and health-promoting products and services.▪ Students will demonstrate the ability to locate resources from home, school and community that provide valid health information.▪ Students will demonstrate the ability to practice health-enhancing behaviors and reduce health risks.▪ Students will analyze the influence of culture, media, technology, and other factors on health.▪ Students will demonstrate the ability to use interpersonal communication skills to enhance health.▪ Students will demonstrate the ability to use goal-setting and decision-making skills to enhance health.▪ Students will demonstrate the ability to advocate for personal, family, and community health.



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St. James School Curriculum Overview – Special Subjects

Music	<p>The goal of the music program is to offer students the opportunity to study and appreciate music through the following media:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Singing alone and with others, a varied repertoire of music. (K-8)▪ Performing alone and with others a varied repertoire of music using recorders (3-4), voices during Christmas musicals/dramas (K-8), spring performances (5-8) and cantoring for school Masses. (3-8)▪ Learning to read music through an understanding of musical notation and the mechanics of music. (K-8)▪ Developing an appreciation of music through the study of composers and their musical styles through various periods of music. (3-8)▪ Listening to and analyzing various forms of music and knowledge of the instruments of an orchestra. (K-8)▪ Performing and improvising music, using instruments the students study in private lessons situations. (4-8) <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Music is the movement of sound to reach the soul for the education of its virtue. (Plato)</i></p>
Physical Education	<p>Physical education helps students learn to work with partners and groups, share equipment, take turns, and solve problems, as they develop physical coordination. Students are taught according to the National Standards in Physical Education, with expectations set according to grade level. The goals of the class are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Students demonstrate competency in many movement forms and proficiency in a few movement forms.▪ Students apply movement concepts and principles to the learning and development of motor skills.▪ Students exhibit a physically active lifestyle.▪ Students achieve and maintain a health-enhancing level of physical fitness.▪ Students demonstrate responsible personal and social behavior in physical activity settings.▪ Students demonstrate understanding and respect for differences among people in physical activity settings.▪ Students understand that physical activity provides opportunities for enjoyment, challenge, self-expression, and social interaction. <p>Individual fitness activities include: social development through teamwork and cooperative games; sport skills through drills and team play; playground theory and skills through training in games that can be used at recess; dance and movement; relays.</p>