

- **6th Grade Curriculum**

Sixth grade students will attend Language Arts, Social Studies, Mathematics and Science courses every day. Theology, Art, Physical Education, Writing Workshop, World Language Exploration and Music courses meet on an alternating day schedule

- **7th and 8th Grade Curriculum**

The curriculum for 7th and 8th grades is taught on an academic cycle based on the geographic areas being studied:

Academic Year: 2022-2023

Europe, Asia and Australia & Oceania (Cycle II)

Academic Year: 2023-2024

North America, Latin America and Africa (Cycle I)

All 7th and 8th grade students will attend English, Social Studies, Mathematics, Science, and a World Language course every day. Theology, Art, Physical Education, Music, Electives, and study periods meet on an alternating day schedule.

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English Department

ENG 060: Language Arts

Grades: 6

Length: Full year

There are three main components to sixth grade language arts: vocabulary, reading, and writing. Students read a wide variety of books, either with the whole class or in literature circles. Most books are related to a topic being covered in another subject area. Students will respond to their reading through a variety of creative writing responses. Students spend time learning to write well-crafted paragraphs. They also will practice writing five paragraph themes throughout the year. Students will read poetry and craft their own collection of poems. In addition, sixth grade students will complete Sadlier's Achieve Level A vocabulary program

ENG 061: Writing Workshop

Grades: 6

Length: Full year

Sixth grade writing workshop gives students the opportunity to further develop their writing voice and technique. Students will craft pieces in the narrative, informative, and persuasive styles of writing. The course also includes the study and practice of writing creative works, such as short stories and poetry. Students will explore the writing process as they craft their initial ideas into final pieces of writing.

ENG 070: English I

Grades: 7, 8

Length: Full year

Our area of study in English this year is North America, Latin America, and Africa centered around the theme of identity. We will read authors from the regions of the world we are studying, and each unit will include many opportunities in reading, writing, oral presentation and discussion, research, individual work, and group activities. As an entire middle school, we will read S.E. Hinton's novel *The Outsiders*. The remainder of the year will include a variety of titles students choose in a book club format or independent reading. In addition, there will be opportunities to read and study shorts stories, nonfiction works and poetry.

ENG 080: English II

Grades: 7, 8

Length: Full year

The area of study in English during Cycle II is Europe, Asia, and Australia and the South Pacific. Each of these major units will take approximately 1/3 of the year (about 12 weeks). We will read authors from the regions of the world we are studying. Each unit will include many opportunities in reading, writing, oral presentation and discussion, research, individual work, and group activities. Among some of the titles we may read as a whole-class book, book groups, or as independent reading are *Heroes, Gods and Monsters of the Greek Myths* by Bernard Evslin, *Night* by Elie Wiesel, *Hiroshima* by John Hersey, and *The Good Earth* by Pearl S. Buck. There are several other novels, nonfiction works, poetry, and short stories students may read as well.

Fine Arts Department: Music

MUS 070: Middle School Band

Grades: 6, 7, 8
Length: Full year

This class is designed to develop the potential of the beginning/intermediate instrument player in proper performance and rehearsal techniques and to nurture their potential through the rehearsal and performance of quality band literature appropriate to the level of their development. It is also designed to prepare the musician for performance at a high level of quality. Musical, historical, and theoretical concepts are discussed and applied. In addition to the large group rehearsal, all students will improve upon their individual instrumental performance skills through independent or small group lessons. These lessons will be scheduled during each grading period and will take place during the school day. All band students will be required to purchase their own lesson book according to ability level. This class is open to students of all ability levels, including those who have never played a band instrument. Beginning band lesson instruction will be given after the student has selected an instrument to play. This musical instrument selection process can take place at school as directed by the music instructor.

MUS 071: Middle School Choir

Grades: 6, 7, 8
Length: Full year

This course is designed to develop the potential of the beginning/intermediate singer in proper performance and rehearsal techniques and to nurture their potential through the rehearsal and performance of quality literature. It is also designed to prepare the musician for performance at a high level of quality. The choir performs music from a variety of time periods and genres. Students will study basic music theory as well as learn solfege sight singing.

MUS 072: Middle School Orchestra

Grades: 6, 7, 8
Length: Full year

This class is designed to develop the potential of the beginning/intermediate string player in proper performance and rehearsal techniques and to nurture their potential through the rehearsal and performance of quality string orchestra literature appropriate to the level of their development. It is also designed to prepare the musician for performance at a high level of quality. Musical, historical, and theoretical concepts are discussed and applied. In addition to the large group rehearsal, all students will improve upon their individual instrumental performance skills through independent or small group lessons. These lessons will be scheduled during each grading period and will take place during the school day. All String Students will be required to purchase their own lesson book according to ability level. This class is open to students of all ability levels, including those who have never played a string instrument. Beginning string lesson instruction will be given after the student has selected an instrument to play. This musical instrument selection process can take place at school as directed by the music instructor.

Fine Arts Department: Visual Arts

ART 060: Art

Grades: 6
Length: Full year

This course has three main objectives. The first objective is to develop foundational skills in composition and design using the elements and principles of art. The second objective is to increase media specific skills in drawing, painting, photography, video, sculpture, computer graphics, calligraphy, and illustration. The third objective is to incorporate subject matter from other fifth and sixth grade classes in the themes of the art class, giving students an opportunity to build on knowledge and develop expression.

ART 070: Art I

Grades: 7, 8
Length: Full year

This course follows the other courses around the world. Students look at art from different cultures for its history, sense of beauty and cultural significance. They will work in many mediums and develop art skills through projects based on the culture we are studying.

ART 080: Art II

Grades: 7, 8
Length: Full year

This course follows the other courses around the world. Students look at art from different cultures for its history, sense of beauty and cultural significance. They will work in many mediums and develop art skills through projects based on the culture we are studying.

Health and Wellness Department

HPE 060: Health and Physical Education

Grades: 6

Length: Full Year

Sixth grade students build fitness levels and specific sport skills through a variety of physical education units throughout the school year. In addition to the class activities, basic nutrition topics are introduced and discussed. This course will be scheduled every other day for the full year.

HPE 070: Physical Education I

Grades: 7, 8

Length: Full year

This class is intended to improve personal fitness as well as individual skills in a variety of areas. Most activities will tie in with the world units that the rest of the middle school curriculum focuses on.

HPE 080: Physical Education II

Grades: 7, 8

Length: Full year

This class is intended to improve personal fitness as well as individual skills in a variety of areas. Most activities will tie in with the world units that the rest of the middle school curriculum focuses on.

Mathematics Department

MATH 063: Sixth Grade Math

Grades: 6

Length: Full year

The 6th grade math curriculum is designed to prepare students for pre-algebra via active engagement, content, and the process of mathematics. The curriculum reinforces mathematical concepts while integrating new skills that are essential for all students to be successful. Students will increase mathematical knowledge and understanding with a focus on problem solving, real world applications, and cooperative learning.

The outcomes and objectives of 6th Grade Math include:

- Numbers Sense and Place Value- Develop a sense of pattern that emerges with place values. Understandings of a digit and the places to the left and to the right to decimal numbers.
- Addition and Subtraction of Fractions and Decimals- Understanding of addition and subtraction only being possible when operating with like units to the context of fractions and decimals. Computing equivalent fractions and place value of the decimal point.
- Multiplication and Division of Fractions and Decimals- Multiplication and division in the context of fractions while applying the understanding to new cases of those operations, including multiplication of a fraction by a fraction, dividing two whole numbers to acquire a fraction as an answer, and dividing a unit fraction by a whole number and vice versa. Develop an understanding of each operation with fractions to understand the context of place.
- Ratios, Proportions, and Percents- students will recognize and solve problems with ratios, unit rates, proportions and percents. Students will also use a scale to find dimensions for real-world images and maps.
- Patterns and the Coordinate Plane- Explore two numerical patterns and their relationship to one another along with the coordinate plane helps to visualize those patterns.
- Geometry, Measurement, and Spatial Reasoning: Incorporate geometric formulas for perimeter, circumference, area, and volume to solve real world scenario problems.
- Data Analysis and Probability: Develop understanding of statistical variability and solutions. Describe distributions. Understand ratio concepts and proportional relationships. The outcomes and objectives of Foundational Skills I include:

MATH 070: Pre-Algebra

Grades: 6, 7, 8

Length: Full year

The Pre-Algebra curriculum is structured mostly as a foundation for Algebra I with extensions into basic Geometry and Statistics. This course focuses on applying and building onto arithmetic skills previously learned to explore new and extending concepts. Students will practice engaging with the mathematical concepts through real-world applications, and their direct interactions will include productive questioning, active explorations, and collaborative learning experiences. The concepts and skills taught throughout the academic year include:

- Applying an understanding of integers to solve basic operations
- Classifying and analyzing rational and real numbers
- Solving one- and two-step equations and inequalities
- Constructing values in scientific notation by applying knowledge of exponents
- Displaying, summarizing, collecting, and analyzing data
- Identifying points, lines, planes, angles, and polygons
- Calculating perimeter, area (including surface area), and volume of two- and three-dimensional figures
- Analyzing ratios, rates, proportions, and scale drawings/models
- Relating and translating decimals, fractions, and percents
- Writing and graphing linear equations

This is the mathematical course that some sixth and most seventh grade students will initially be enrolled in when entering SJP.

Mathematics Department - continued

MATH 080: Algebra I

Grades: 7, 8

Length: Full year

The student is introduced to the basic structure of algebra and develops problem solving techniques. The topics are basic properties of real numbers; linear equalities and inequalities; an introduction to functions, relations, and graphs; systems of linear equalities and inequalities; polynomials and rational expressions; irrational numbers and radicals; quadratic equations and functions.

MATH 090: Geometry

Grades: 7, 8

Length: Full year

The course is a balance of geometric theory and application. The students practice problem solving and writing proofs. Topics treated are: points, lines, planes, and angles; definitions and logic (if-then statements, direct and indirect reasoning); triangle congruence; polygons; similarity; coordinate geometry; trigonometry; vectors; reflections, transformations and congruence; measurement formulas; three-dimensional figures; surface areas and volumes; applications of the properties of circles; fractal geometry; and non-Euclidean geometries.

7th & 8th Grade Electives (*Fall 2022*)

MSEL 070: Art and Nature

Grades: 7, 8

Length: Fall

Are you looking for an opportunity to explore your creativity and learn more about the artistic elements in nature? This course will build upon the foundational skills you learn in Art II. With nature as the focus of this course, students will work in many mediums and further develop their creative side.

MSEL 073: Game Strategies

Grades: 7, 8

Length: Fall

Learning the proper rules and strategies to common board and card games is important for social interaction. Proper player interaction and etiquette are stressed during play. Students will learn how knowledge of math, percentages and probability affect the outcome of games. Students will study how to adjust strategies based on logical outcomes when presented with different game scenarios. Each game unit will consist of one to three introductory classes with an emphasis on rules, proper game etiquette and history of the game. This will be followed by two to four classes spent developing skills and strategies by playing the game and ending with one class for a rules and game scenario test. Each student will also complete a presentation or write a report on a famous player or event related to each of the games played in class.

MSEL 074: Ancient Technology

Grades: 7, 8

Length: Fall

This elective covers technology going back to our pre-human ancestors of over one million years ago through the medieval period of approximately 1200 A.D. We will do both academic study and hands-on projects covering stone tools, the control of fire and early weapon systems.

MSEL 080: Middle School Theatre Art

Grades: 7, 8

Length: Fall

If drama is in your DNA then Mr. Anderson can direct you to your destination. In this class, students will be introduced to the basic concepts of theatre. Students will focus on building confidence both on and off stage as we explore both technical and performance techniques. These techniques will inspire creativity and imagination. Through theatre games and activities students will learn to become more confident in their theatre vocabulary and presentational skills. Students will be able to showcase their skills in individual and group performances

MSEL 089: Speech and Storytelling

Grades: 7, 8

Length: Fall

Becoming confident when presenting in front of an audience is a skill that many consider essential to successful communication. Speech students will be studying the form and function of formal speeches. Rhetorical devices, organization and structure will be analyzed within famous speeches. Students will present demonstration, informational and persuasive speeches. Storytelling will include developing dramatic delivery, script writing and use of humor. Students may develop their own stories or interpret others. The culminating activity will be performances for school groups.

Note: Spring 2023 elective options will be available December 2022

Science Department

SCI 060: Science

Grades: 6

Length: Full year

The sixth-grade curriculum primarily studies earth science, and some physical and life science. Topics covered included: Scientific method, engineering/STEAM, simple machines, biomes of Minnesota, tree identification, branches of science, monster storms, water, climate change, weathering and erosion, glaciation, plate tectonics, planting/gardening, and tornadoes. Students will participate in various hands on field trip experiences with St. John's Outdoor University, participate in various lab experience, and develop critical thinking skills.

SCI 070: Physical Science I

Grades: 7, 8

Length: Full year

The focus of middle school's science for Cycle I is physical science. We will be exploring the characteristic properties of matter such as density, boiling point, freezing point, and solubility. We will learn to distinguish between mixtures, compounds and elements and find ways to separate various types of mixtures. We will see how the behavior of matter is governed by physical laws, such as the Law of Conservation of Mass and the Law of Constant Proportions. The year will culminate with the almighty Sludge Test!

SCI 080: Earth Science II

Grades: 7, 8

Length: Full year

The focus of middle school science for Cycle II is environmental and life science. We will be exploring the interrelationships between organisms and their environment. We will be studying the cell, tissues, organs, and organ systems. The passing of physical traits from parent to offspring will be studied, as well as the evolution of life on earth.

Social Studies Department

HIST 060: Social Studies

Grades: 6
Length: Full year

Sixth grade social studies centers on the exploration of Minnesota history. Students will concentrate on the study of Minnesota's land formation through the early 1900s. There will be many opportunities for students participate in inquiry-based research projects and investigations. Along with the language arts curriculum, students will delve into the study of Minnesota history through the reading of novels, including Dakota and Ojibwe stories. Throughout this course students will explore art, maps, resources, and traditions that make Minnesota the state that it is today. Students will also showcase their learning through a variety of individual and collaborative projects for each unit of study.

HIST 070: Social Studies I

Grades: 7, 8
Length: Full year

This course focuses on the culture, history and geography of North America, Latin America and Africa. Each continental unit is taught for approximately one third of the school year and is divided into regional units for efficiency and ease of understanding. Each regional unit begins with a map project concentrating on the political and physical geography of the area. This is followed by collaborative projects, collegial activities and individual assignments concentrating on the natural history, human history, music, religions, food, cultures, and current events of the region. Each continental unit contains one long-term individual project which allows students a chance to delve more deeply into a subject of individual interest related to that part of the world. These individual projects are presented in a variety of ways including speeches, musical performances, and presentations using visual aids, two- and three-dimensional displays, and research papers.

HIST 080: Social Studies II

Grades: 7, 8
Length: Full year

This course focuses on the culture, history and geography of Europe, Asia and Australia & Oceania. Each continental unit is taught for approximately one third of the school year and is divided into regional units for efficiency and ease of understanding. Each regional unit begins with a map project concentrating on the political and physical geography of the area. This is followed by collaborative projects, collegial activities and individual assignments concentrating on the natural history, human history, music, religions, food, cultures, and current events of the region. Each continental unit contains one long-term individual project which allows students a chance to delve more deeply into a subject of individual interest related to that part of the world. These individual projects are presented in a variety of ways including speeches, musical performances, and presentations using visual aids, two- and three-dimensional displays, and research papers.

Theology Department

THEO 060: Theology

Grades: 6

Length: Full year

The sixth-grade theology class explores various parts of the values in sections of the bible and the Benedictine Values. Students will learn about some of the seasons and traditions in the Catholic faith, such as Advent and Lent. Students also practice mindfulness meditations and engage in discussions about taking care of one's well-being.

THEO 070: Theology I

Grades: 7, 8

Length: Full year

The focus of the middle school Theology curriculum is three-fold: provide students the opportunity to learn about the Catholic faith tradition, Benedictine values, and discover their own spirituality; provide students the opportunity to learn about religions practiced in the various regions of the world they are studying in Social Studies and English; provide students the necessary knowledge base needed to succeed in upper school theology courses.

THEO 080: Theology II

Grades: 7, 8

Length: Full year

The focus of the middle school Theology curriculum is three-fold: provide students the opportunity to learn about the Catholic faith tradition, Benedictine values, and discover their own spirituality; provide students the opportunity to learn about religions practiced in the various regions of the world they are studying in Social Studies and English; provide students the necessary knowledge base needed to succeed in upper school theology courses.

World Language Department

WLAN 060: World Language Exploration

Grades: 6

Length: Full year

The main objective of Language Exploration Course is to give sixth grade students exposure to all three languages offered at Saint John's Prep: Chinese, German and Spanish. This course will give students an introduction to these languages and no prior knowledge is required. We will spend approximately 12 weeks exploring each culture and the students will be learning the basic Spanish, German and Chinese grammar via online resources.

CHIN 101: Chinese I

Grades: 7 - 12

Length: Full year

This course is for students to learn Mandarin Chinese at a basic level. Students will learn to listen, speak, read, and write in Chinese Pinyin and character. We will learn eight units throughout the academic school year, which will include the Introduction (Pinyin and writing system) and seven lessons. The assessment for reading, writing, listening, and speaking will include unit tests, weekly vocabulary quizzes, and one language project. Each unit will last about one month. Students will also explore culture through songs, poems and TV programs.

CHIN 151: Chinese II

Grades: 7 - 12

Length: Full year

This course in elementary Chinese is designed for students who have completed Chinese I or its equivalent. Throughout the academic school year, we will finish the rest three units of Level 1 Part 1 in the first semester and progress through 4 units of Level 1 Part 2 in the second semester. Unit tests and weekly vocabulary quizzes will be used as part of the assessment for reading, writing, listening, and speaking. Students will complete two language related projects which will also be part of the assessment. Students will continue explore culture through poems, songs, and current events

CHIN 360: Chinese Language and Cultural Heritage

Grades: 6 - 12

Length: Full year

This class is designed for students from the Chinese immersion programs, and is designed to continue advancing their overall listening, speaking, reading and writing skills. They will practice all these skills individually, and in group and pair work, through vocabulary exercises, listening, speaking, reading and writing exercises and tasks, as well as through grammar review. At the end of this class, they should have reached a level between HSK 3 and 4.

GERM 101: German I

Grades: 7 - 12

Length: Full year

This course is designed as an introduction to German language and culture. No prior knowledge of German is assumed or expected. Throughout the year, we will progress through eight units. Each unit will last about one month and will conclude with a comprehensive and a vocabulary test. The tests will assess vocabulary, grammar, reading comprehension, listening comprehension, writing, and speaking. On occasion, quizzes will be used to assess specific topics. In addition to German language, there will be a strong emphasis on German-speaking culture.

GERM 151: German II

Grades: 7 - 12

Length: Full year

This course is designed as an intermediate course in German language and culture which expands upon what was learned in German I. Throughout the year, we will progress through eight units. Each unit will last about one month and will conclude with a comprehensive and a vocabulary test. The tests will assess vocabulary, grammar, reading comprehension, listening comprehension, writing, and speaking. On occasion, quizzes will be used to assess specific topics. In addition to German language, there will be a strong emphasis on German-speaking culture.

SPAN 101: Spanish I

Grades: 7 - 12

Length: Full year

This course is designed to give students an introduction to the Spanish language and culture. We will explore the basic elements of the language through grammar drills, reading, listening, speaking (pronunciation) and writing. Different resources, such as language apps, YouTube, online radio and tv, Netflix, etc., will be used to help students develop basic conversational language skills used in everyday life.

SPAN 151: Spanish II

Grades: 7 - 12

Length: Full year

Review and continued study of grammar and vocabulary, together with additional training in understanding, speaking, reading and writing. Refinement of grammar skills and vocabulary to the intermediate level. Practice in carrying on meaningful conversation in realistic situations.

SPAN 360: Spanish Language and Cultural Heritage

Grades: 6 - 12

Length: Full year

This course is designed for 6, 7 and 8 grade students who have attended Spanish Immersion school or speak Spanish at home. The course will be conducted completely in Spanish. The content will include a combination of literature, culture, and language. We will explore current events, history, geography, theology, science, sports, cooking and crafts through literature (short stories, newspaper articles, novels, theatre), TV and radio programs, podcast and guest speakers. We will also work on the language skills (writing, speaking, listening and reading), and some grammar units will include: ser vs estar, preterit vs imperfect, subjunctive present and past, if clauses, direct and indirect speech, accent marks, expressions, vocabulary, formal and informal registers. The students will be assessed in a variety of methods, including homework, project-based learning, grammar exercises, reading comprehension activities and tests, listening comprehension activities and tests, written assessments in various formats, and participation.

As of 4/13/22