



**CREATE. IMAGINE. INVENT.**

# **Middle School Academic Guide**

## **2025-2026**

PO Box 4000  
2280 Watertower Rd  
Collegeville, MN 56321-4000 USA

320.363.3315  
800.525.7737  
[sjproffice@sjprep.net](mailto:sjproffice@sjprep.net)

# Table of Contents

## General Information

3	Welcome to Saint John's Prep
3	School Portals
3	Using the SJP Academic Guide
3	Daily Schedule
3	Curriculum
4	6 <sup>th</sup> Grade Mathematics Placement
4	Grading Scale
4	Schedule Changes
4	Study Periods
4	Progress Reports
4	Incompletes
4	Head of School – Principal Lists
4	Study Periods

## Curriculum Departments and Course Overviews

5	English
6	Fine Arts – Music
7	Fine Arts - Visual
8	Electives ( <i>7<sup>th</sup> &amp; 8<sup>th</sup> grades only</i> )
9	Health and Wellness
9	Interim
10	Mathematics
11	Science
12	Social Studies
13	Theology
14	World Languages Exploratory Program ( <i>6<sup>th</sup> grade only</i> )
14	World Languages – Chinese
15	World Languages – German
15	World Languages - Spanish

---

# General Information

## Welcome to Saint John's Prep

Learning is about more than academics. It's about self-reflection, connection and purpose. Our globally diverse community, rooted in Catholic Benedictine values, offers students an experience that prepares them for the future—as agents of leadership, learning and service.

We take learning seriously at Saint John's Prep. Our outstanding faculty and staff challenge our students to reach beyond the familiar to try something new, to create, imagine or invent. We engage our students not only as they are but in relation to all that they can become.

SJP provides a school environment for all students to feel safe and supported, respected and valued, and to chase their dreams. In short, SJP is a special place, and we are excited to have you join us!

## School Portals

Saint John's Preparatory School utilizes two (2) school portals: Connect2Prep and Schoology. Parents and students will receive log in information when official enrollment has been established.

- **Connect2Prep**  
This portal is the school's "file cabinet" of student information. Students and parents will have access to view attendance, class schedules, progress reports (report cards), calendar, unofficial transcripts and general student data, i.e., name, date of birth, status.
- **Schoology**  
For day-to-day class information including assignments, on-line discussions, quizzes and tests. This portal is also the general method of school announcements for classes, activities and athletics.

## Using the SJP Academic Guide

Within the SJP Academic Guide, courses are listed by academic department, and each department is listed in alphabetical order. Critical information is listed to each course, and a course description is also provided.

## Daily Schedule

The Prep School operates on an eight-period rotating schedule. All eight (8) periods rotate in an eight-day cycle. Class periods are 65 minutes each, allowing for in-depth instruction, lab work, and assessments.

8:00 AM START - 65 MINUTES/8 DAY CYCLE									
DAY	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	Minutes
8:00 - 9:05	PERIOD 1	PERIOD 6	PERIOD 3	PERIOD 8	PERIOD 5	PERIOD 2	PERIOD 7	PERIOD 4	65
9:10 - 9:35	COMMUNITY TIME								25
9:40 - 10:45	PERIOD 2	PERIOD 7	PERIOD 4	PERIOD 1	PERIOD 6	PERIOD 3	PERIOD 8	PERIOD 5	65
10:50 - 11:55	PERIOD 3	PERIOD 8	PERIOD 5	PERIOD 2	PERIOD 7	PERIOD 4	PERIOD 1	PERIOD 6	65
12:00 - 12:50	COMMON LUNCH								50
12:55 - 2:00	PERIOD 4	PERIOD 1	PERIOD 6	PERIOD 3	PERIOD 8	PERIOD 5	PERIOD 2	PERIOD 7	65
2:05 - 3:10	PERIOD 5	PERIOD 2	PERIOD 7	PERIOD 4	PERIOD 1	PERIOD 6	PERIOD 3	PERIOD 8	65

"Z" day will be a modified class period day to accommodate community masses and special events that required additional community time.

## Curriculum

### Sixth Grade:

Students will attend Language Arts, Writing Workshop, Social Studies, Mathematics, Science, World Language Exploration and Music courses five (5) times during the eight-day cycle.

Health and Physical Education, Art and World Language Exploration courses will meet on alternating days within the eight-day cycle.

### Seventh and Eighth Grade:

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

#### Academic Year: 2025-2026

North America, Latin America and Africa (Cycle I)

#### Academic Year: 2026-2027

Europe, Asia and Australia & Oceania (Cycle II)

All 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students will attend English, Social Studies, Mathematics, Science, a World Language and Music courses that meet five (5) times during the eight-day cycle.

Theology, Physical Education, Art and Electives meet on alternating days during the eight-day cycle.



## 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Math Placement Process

The following is the process for incoming 6<sup>th</sup> grade students for their mathematics placement.

- a. All incoming 6<sup>th</sup> grade students will take a mathematics placement test.
- b. After the placement test has been reviewed, anyone identified for Algebra placement will be scheduled into that class. All other 6<sup>th</sup> graders will be distributed between two (2) classes of mathematics. Students will be evenly distributed low, middle, and high math ability (based on the test scores) between the two (2) classes.
- c. During the first two (2) weeks of school, students will be assessed for their mathematic abilities. After two (2) weeks, it will be determined if the students are placed in Middle School Mathematics or Pre-Algebra. Students will then have their final math placement.

## Grade Scale

Saint John's Preparatory School uses the following grading scale for classes:

Grade	Unweighted
A	4.000
A-	3.667
B+	3.333
B	3.000
B-	2.667
C+	2.333
C	2.000
C-	1.667
D+	1.333
D	1.000
D-	0.667
F	0.000
S/U	0.000

## Schedule Changes

The following are the justifiable reasons accepted for schedule changes. In addition, schedule changes will only be approved if the destination course/section has seats available.

To address

- A computer error
- A course section size imbalance
- Schedule conflicts
- Staff recommended course level adjustment

Schedule changes will not occur due to concerns including, but not limited to:

- Preference for a different teacher
- Preference for a different class period
- Preference to be in a course with friends

## Study Periods

Study time will be in conjunction with music classes. Each class period is 65 minutes. Music classes will not utilize the full 65 minutes so the balance will be available for study time.

## Progress Reports

Progress Reports (report cards) are posted to Connect2Prep (student and parent portal) twice per semester. Progress reports are not retained within a student's permanent academic record. Only grades submitted at the end of each semester are recorded on their permanent record (transcript). Progress Report grades are reflective of the student's progress within the course to date.

## Incompletes

All incomplete (INC) final semester grades must be made up within ten (10) weekdays, not including holidays, starting the day after the last class day of the semester. If work has not been submitted by the tenth day the INC grade will become a failing grade for the course and semester. In unique and rare circumstances, such as cases of emergency, illness or other special reasons, more time may be provided by the school's principal.

## Head of School – Principal Honor Lists

### - Head of School's Honor List

At the end of each semester, a list of those students who have achieved a weighted semester GPA of 3.50 or higher for the team are recognized on the Headmaster's Honor List.

### - Principal's Honor List

A similar list of those students who have achieved a weighted semester GPA of 3.00 to 3.499 are recognized on the Principal's Honor List.

# English

## ENG 060: Language Arts

<b>Grades:</b> 6	<b>Meets:</b> 5 of 8 cycle days
<b>Length:</b> Full Year	<b>Offered:</b> 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

<b>Grades:</b> 6	<b>Meets:</b> 5 of 8 cycle days
<b>Length:</b> Full Year	<b>Offered:</b> 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.

The two-year 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade English curriculum was created with two goals in mind:

- 1) Introduce students to the wide variety of subjects encompassed in English.
- 2) Teach students fundamental critical reading, writing, and thinking skills.

## ENG 070: English I

<b>Grades:</b> 7, 8	<b>Meets:</b> 5 of 8 cycle days
<b>Curriculum Cycle:</b> Cycle I (2025-2026)	
<b>Length:</b> Full Year	<b>Offered:</b> Full Year

This year-long course teaches students fundamental literary analysis skills through a careful reading of a variety of texts, such as (but not limited to) S.E. Hinton's *The Outsiders*, Sandra Cisneros's *The House on Mango Street*, *Solito*, *All American Boys* and myth/folklore from around the world. Additionally, students will be introduced to film studies, paying particular attention to the art of film. Writing projects will include literary analyses, a short film, and a small secondary research project.

## ENG 080: English II

<b>Grades:</b> 7, 8	<b>Meets:</b> 5 of 8 cycle days
<b>Curriculum Cycle:</b> Cycle II (2026-2027)	
<b>Length:</b> Full Year	<b>Offered:</b> Full Year

This year-long course introduces students to different writing genres while also honing their critical reading and thinking skills by closely examining diverse texts. Students will explore a range of writing projects, including (but not limited to) websites, profiles, children's picture books, and newspaper articles. We will also closely study and read texts such as graphic novels, Shakespearean plays, Holocaust memoirs, children's picture books, and watershed media and print journalism articles. There is also a research and presentation component, as students learn basic primary research skills and will give a poster presentation on their primary research findings.



# Fine Arts - Music

## MUS 070: Middle School Band

<b>Grades:</b> 6, 7, 8	<b>Meets:</b> 5 of 8 cycle days
<b>Length:</b> Full Year	<b>Offered:</b> 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.

## ENG 071: Middle School Choir

<b>Grades:</b> 6, 7, 8	<b>Meets:</b> 5 of 8 cycle days
<b>Length:</b> Full Year	<b>Offered:</b> 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

<b>Grades:</b> 6, 7, 8	<b>Meets:</b> 5 of 8 cycle days
<b>Length:</b> Full Year	<b>Offered:</b> 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 – Visual

## ART 060: Art

<b>Grades:</b> 6	<b>Meets:</b> Alternating Days
<b>Length:</b> Full Year	<b>Offered:</b> 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

<b>Grades:</b> 7, 8	<b>Meets:</b> Alternating Days
<b>Curriculum Cycle:</b> Cycle I (2025-2026)	
<b>Length:</b> Full Year	<b>Offered:</b> 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

<b>Grades:</b> 7, 8	<b>Meets:</b> Alternating Days
<b>Curriculum Cycle:</b> Cycle II (2026-2027)	
<b>Length:</b> Full Year	<b>Offered:</b> 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.



# Electives

**Note:** Electives are offered to 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students.

## Fall 2025 Offerings

### MSEL 092: Cooking and Crafts

<b>Grades:</b> 7, 8	<b>Meets:</b> Alternating Days
<b>Length:</b> Semester	<b>Offered:</b> Semester I (Fall 2025)

Have fun learning how to prepare quick breakfasts, lunches, and after-school snacks! Enjoy making over 10+ recipes in this life skills elective class. All skill levels are welcome, from beginners to students who have spent time in the kitchen. In addition to cooking, we will also be crafting along the way – we will be creating things from North America, Latin America, and Africa.

### MSEL 094: Global Music

<b>Grades:</b> 7, 8	<b>Meets:</b> Alternating Days
<b>Length:</b> Semester	<b>Offered:</b> Semester I (Fall 2025)

Musical expression is present in the cultural expression of human beings across time and place. In this sense, music connects deeply to the human experience and reveals aspects of what it means to be human. In this class, students will explore sounds from around the world as they study the ways in which music is shaped by, and reciprocally shapes, culture, history, and social change. Through listening activities, discussions, research projects, and hands-on experiences students will gain an appreciation of the rich variety of global music, and the ways in which it connects us to each other

### MSEL 072: Outdoor Skills

<b>Grades:</b> 7, 8	<b>Meets:</b> 2 of 8 cycle days
<b>Curriculum Cycle:</b>	
<b>Length:</b> Semester	<b>Offered:</b> Semester I (Fall 2023)

The course gives students the opportunity to develop skills that will help them to enjoy the great outdoors. Skills such as canoeing, fishing, fire building, orienteering and shelter building are explored and practiced right here on the beautiful Saint John's campus.

**NOTE:** Outdoor Skills may be taken one semester or both semesters.

## Spring 2026 Offerings

### MSEL 073: Game Strategies

<b>Grades:</b> 7, 8	<b>Meets:</b> Alternating Days
<b>Length:</b> Semester	<b>Offered:</b> Semester II (Spring 2026)

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 072: Outdoor Skills

<b>Grades:</b> 7, 8	<b>Meets:</b> 2 of 8 cycle days
<b>Curriculum Cycle:</b>	
<b>Length:</b> Semester	<b>Offered:</b> Semester I (Fall 2023)

The course gives students the opportunity to develop skills that will help them to enjoy the great outdoors. Skills such as canoeing, fishing, fire building, orienteering and shelter building are explored and practiced right here on the beautiful Saint John's campus.

**NOTE:** Outdoor Skills may be taken one semester or both semesters.

### MSEL 082: STEM

<b>Grades:</b> 7, 8	<b>Meets:</b> Alternating Days
<b>Length:</b> Semester	<b>Offered:</b> Semester II (Spring 2026)

This is a project-based course in which students will dive into topics related to science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. Students will develop basic competencies in coding. Students will have access to robots, and a vinyl cutter that will allow them to put their designs into production. Students will also keep an engineering log and develop practices for documenting their ideas, designs, and data. Our regional focus this year will cover North America, Latin America, and Africa.



# Health and Wellness

## HPE 060: Health and Physical Education

<b>Grades:</b> 6	<b>Meets:</b> Alternating Days
<b>Length:</b> Full Year	<b>Offered:</b> 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.

Health only section of Health and PE with the approval of the Athletic Director. Participation in these activities will be tracked through HPE III.

## HPE 070: Physical Education I

<b>Grades:</b> 7, 8	<b>Meets:</b> Alternating Days
<b>Curriculum Cycle:</b> Cycle I (2025-2026)	
<b>Length:</b> Full Year	<b>Offered:</b> 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

<b>Grades:</b> 7, 8	<b>Meets:</b> Alternating Days
<b>Curriculum Cycle:</b> Cycle II (2026-2027)	
<b>Length:</b> Full Year	<b>Offered:</b> 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.

# Interim

This is a unique four-day program to Saint John's Prep in which students engage in targeted learning experiences offered by faculty and staff of the school. The content of Interim courses may include field trips, off-campus study, topical subjects, hands-on experiences, and many other forms which may not be available in a typical classroom format. This program is scheduled usually the last week of January or first week of February of each academic year.

**NOTE:** There may be a fee for specific activities. This information will be included when the options are announced in December-January of each year.



# Mathematics

## MATH 063: Middle School Math

<b>Grades:</b> 6	<b>Meets:</b> 5 of 8 cycle days
<b>Length:</b> Full Year	<b>Offered:</b> Full Year

The Middle School 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 6<sup>th</sup> 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.

## MATH 070: Pre-Algebra

<b>Grades:</b> 6, 7, 8	<b>Meets:</b> 5 of 8 cycle days
<b>Length:</b> Full Year	<b>Offered:</b> 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.

## MATH 080: Algebra I

<b>Grades:</b> 7, 8	<b>Meets:</b> 5 of 8 cycle days
<b>Length:</b> Full Year	<b>Offered:</b> 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

<b>Grades:</b> 7, 8	<b>Meets:</b> 5 of 8 cycle days
<b>Length:</b> Full Year	<b>Offered:</b> 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.



# Science

## SCI 060: Science

<b>Grades:</b> 6	<b>Meets:</b> 5 of 8 cycle days
<b>Length:</b> Full Year	<b>Offered:</b> Full Year

The sixth-grade curriculum primarily studies earth science, and some physical and life science with a focus on the natural world that surrounds Prep. Topics covered included: Scientific method, engineering/STEAM, biomes of Minnesota, tree identification, phenology, biomimicry, nature journaling, climate change, glaciation, and invasive species. Students will participate in numerous hands on field trip experiences with Saint. John's Outdoor University, participate in various lab experiences, and develop critical thinking skills.

## SCI 070: Physical Science I

<b>Grades:</b> 7, 8	<b>Meets:</b> 5 of 8 cycle days
<b>Curriculum Cycle:</b> Cycle I (2025-2026)	
<b>Length:</b> Full Year	<b>Offered:</b> 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: Life and Environmental Science II

<b>Grades:</b> 7, 8	<b>Meets:</b> 5 of 8 cycle days
<b>Curriculum Cycle:</b> Cycle II (2026-2027)	
<b>Length:</b> Full Year	<b>Offered:</b> 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

## HIST 060: Social Studies

<b>Grades:</b> 6	<b>Meets:</b> 5 of 8 cycle days
<b>Length:</b> Full Year	<b>Offered:</b> 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

<b>Grades:</b> 7, 8	<b>Meets:</b> 5 of 8 cycle days
<b>Curriculum Cycle:</b> Cycle I (2025-2026)	
<b>Length:</b> Full Year	<b>Offered:</b> 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

<b>Grades:</b> 7, 8	<b>Meets:</b> 5 of 8 cycle days
<b>Curriculum Cycle:</b> Cycle II (2026-2027)	
<b>Length:</b> Full Year	<b>Offered:</b> 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

## THEO 060: Benedictine Life

<b>Grades:</b> 6	<b>Meets:</b> Alternating Days
<b>Length:</b> Full Year	<b>Offered:</b> Full Year

The sixth-grade theology class explores the eight Benedictine Values used at Prep and the Catholic Benedictine Tradition. Students will learn about some of the seasons and traditions in the Catholic faith, such as Advent and Lent. In addition, the various traditions and practices of Saint John's Prep will be introduced to help students understand and become part of the community.

## THEO 070: Exploring Faith Traditions I

<b>Grades:</b> 7, 8	<b>Meets:</b> Alternating Days
<b>Curriculum Cycle:</b> Cycle I (2025-2026)	
<b>Length:</b> Full Year	<b>Offered:</b> Full Year

The focus of the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade theology curriculum is threefold: 1) provide students the opportunity to learn about the Catholic Benedictine faith tradition, the eight Benedictine values used at Prep, and develop their own spirituality; 2) provide students the opportunity to learn about religions practiced in the various regions of the world they are studying in Social Studies and English; and 3) provide students the necessary knowledge base in theology and philosophy needed to succeed in upper school theology courses.

## THEO 080: Exploring Faith Traditions II

<b>Grades:</b> 7, 8	<b>Meets:</b> Alternating Days
<b>Curriculum Cycle:</b> Cycle II (2026-2027)	
<b>Length:</b> Full Year	<b>Offered:</b> Full Year

The focus of the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade theology curriculum is threefold: 1) provide students the opportunity to learn about the Catholic Benedictine faith tradition, the eight Benedictine values used at Prep, and develop their own spirituality; 2) provide students the opportunity to learn about religions practiced in the various regions of the world they are studying in Social Studies and English; and 3) provide students the necessary knowledge base in theology and philosophy needed to succeed in upper school theology courses.

# World Languages

## WLAN 060: World Language Exploration

<b>Grades:</b> 6	<b>Meets:</b> 5 of 8 cycle days
<b>Length:</b> Full Year	<b>Offered:</b> 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.

# Chinese

## CHIN 101: Chinese I

<b>Grades:</b> 7, 8	<b>Meets:</b> 5 of 8 cycle days
<b>Length:</b> Full Year	<b>Offered:</b> 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

<b>Grades:</b> 7, 8	<b>Meets:</b> 5 of 8 cycle days
<b>Length:</b> Full Year	<b>Offered:</b> 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

<b>Grades:</b> 6, 7, 8	<b>Meets:</b> 5 of 8 cycle days
<b>Length:</b> Full Year	<b>Offered:</b> 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.



# World Languages

## German

### GERM 101: German I

<b>Grades:</b> 7, 8	<b>Meets:</b> 5 of 8 cycle days
<b>Length:</b> Full Year	<b>Offered:</b> 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

<b>Grades:</b> 7, 8	<b>Meets:</b> 5 of 8 cycle days
<b>Length:</b> Full Year	<b>Offered:</b> 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.

# World Languages

## Spanish

### SPAN 101: Spanish I

<b>Grades:</b> 7, 8	<b>Meets:</b> 5 of 8 cycle days
<b>Length:</b> Full Year	<b>Offered:</b> 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

<b>Grades:</b> 7, 8	<b>Meets:</b> 5 of 8 cycle days
<b>Length:</b> Full Year	<b>Offered:</b> Full Year

In this course you will review and continue the study of grammar and vocabulary, together with additional training in listening comprehension, speaking, reading, and writing in Spanish. You will use the vocabulary and grammar base you already have so that you can carry on a basic conversation on topics you know and have practiced. During this course you will also be asked to read about a familiar topic and write about it in Spanish. Some themes we will learn about are school and school schedules, the bathroom and morning routines, celebrations, doctors' offices, and technology.

### SPAN 360: Spanish Language and Cultural Heritage

<b>Grades:</b> 6, 7, 8	<b>Meets:</b> 5 of 8 cycle days
<b>Length:</b> Full Year	<b>Offered:</b> Full Year

This course is designed for 6, 7 and 8 grade students who have attended a Spanish Immersion school or speak Spanish at home. The course will be conducted completely in Spanish. The content will include Spanish Language Arts and is a combination of literature, culture, and language. We will explore history, geography, science, sports, cooking and crafts through literature (short stories, newspaper articles, novels, theatre), TV and radio programs and podcasts. We will also work on the language skills (writing, speaking, listening, and reading). 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, oral presentations, and participation. This course does require a placement test to be admitted.

