

St. Louise de Marillac Catholic School

2016-2017 Course Descriptions

5th and 6th Grade English

5th Grade:

Fifth Grade English Language Arts is designed to meet the needs of all learning abilities, as tiered activities are integrated in differentiated instruction. In fifth grade, students focus on grammatical concepts, such as capitalization, punctuation, and both independent and peer editing skills. Beyond the grammatical concepts, students focus on increasing sentence variation and length throughout their writing. Students explore informational, persuasive, descriptive, and poetry writing, as well as, oral presentations in each of these genres. They are engaged in technological project-based learning to display their knowledge. This approach requires them to work closely with their peers. All content in fifth grade English is aligned to both Diocesan and Pennsylvania State Standards.

6th Grade:

Sixth Grade English Language Arts is designed to meet the needs of all learning abilities, as tiered activities are integrated in order to differentiate instruction. In sixth grade, students focus on grammatical concepts, in which they are required to apply to their writing. This includes improving sentence fluency, sentence expansion, and word choice. Students explore informational, persuasive, descriptive, and poetry writing, as well as, oral presentations in each of these genres. Students are exposed to technology that will enhance both their writing skills, as well as, their speaking and listening skills. Students participate in higher-level questioning, discussions, and activities, in which they are encouraged and required to work closely with their peers. All content in sixth grade English is aligned to both Diocesan and Pennsylvania State Standards.

5th and 6th Grade Reading

5th Grade:

Our fifth grade reading curriculum is aligned with the Diocesan and Pennsylvania State Standards. Fifth grade is a novels-based curriculum that empowers students to achieve high expectations in reading, writing, and critical foundational skills that afford access to complex texts. Focus is placed on using sequencing, summarizing, and comparing and contrasting. Students use novels to deepen their understanding of text by analyzing and applying literary terms during writing and class discussions. In 5th grade reading, students use hands-on activities to enhance their ability to characterize, make inferences, solve analogies, and make personal connections with the text. All novels chosen are both age and ability appropriate.

Students participate in the Accelerated Reader program, which stresses choice of genre and the students' responsibility for taking a computerized, multiple choice tests for each book read.

6th Grade:

6th grade reading follows the Diocesan and Pennsylvania State Standards encouraging students to apply higher-order thinking skills. Students read, understand, and respond to informational text with emphasis on comprehension, making connections among ideas and between texts with focus on textual evidence. Students will practice these reading competencies with the following units: Where the Red Fern Grows, Number the Stars, The Westing Game, Wonders book series, Trophies book series, a poetry unit, and a Literature Circle unit.

Students will be supported with differentiated instruction as an instructional technique that is used to reach students with different learning styles while enhancing their reading skills. Students will be asked to analyze how the structure of a text contributes to the development of theme, setting, and plot through various graphic organizers, writing prompts, and think-pair-share activities. The students will also determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in grade level reading and content, including interpretation of figurative language in context through vocabulary and spelling assessments.

Students participate in the Accelerated Reader program, which stresses choice of genre and the students' responsibility for taking a computerized, multiple choice tests for each book read. Weekly reading logs are used to track their progress on their independent reading book which can be used as part of the Accelerated Reader program.

5th & 6th Math

Our diocesan curriculum, which is aligned with Pennsylvania State Standards for math, is a spiraling curriculum. With a spiraling curriculum, topics presented in earlier grades are reintroduced, reinforced, and then taken to the next conceptual level. This allows mathematical concepts and understanding to become more firmly rooted in the mind of the student. Students not only learn a process but understand why a process solves the problem and when to apply that process to a situation or problem.

5th Math *Harcourt School Publishers Math-Grade 5*

8 Units (Whole Numbers; Decimals; Data & Graphing; Number Theory & Fraction Concepts; Fraction Operations; Ratios, Percents, & Probability; Geometry & Algebra; Measurement)

6th Math *Harcourt School Publishers Math-Grade 6*

8 Units (Whole Numbers & Decimals; Number Theory, Fraction Concepts & Operations; Statistics & Graphing; Algebra: Integers and Rational Numbers; Algebra: Expressions, Equations, Patterns, and Graphing; Geometry & Spatial Reasoning; Measurement; Ratio, Proportion, Percent & Probability)

5th and 6th Grade Religion

5th Grade:

Sadlier We Believe- 'We Meet Jesus in the Sacraments'

In fifth grade, the students will analyze and apply the Sacraments of Healing through four units. Students will connect lessons in the Bible with their daily lives while enhancing their knowledge of the Catholic teachings.

1. Jesus Christ Shares His Life with Us
2. Confirmation and Eucharist Complete Our Initiation
3. The Sacraments of Healing Restore Us
4. We Love and Serve As Jesus Did

6th Grade:

Sadlier We Believe – 'We Are God's People'

In sixth grade the students will learn about the Old Testament and the covenant that God made with his people. We explore all of the stories from the Old Testament in the Bible and the roots of our Catholic Faith.

1. Forming the Covenant
2. Building the Covenant Nation
3. Redefining the Covenant People
4. The Covenant Fulfilled in Jesus)

5th and 6th Grade Science

Our fifth grade science curriculum is aligned with the Diocesan and Pennsylvania State Standards. Students in grades 5 and 6 use Pearson Interactive Science. Interactive Science will ignite students' natural interest in science and help to create life-long critical thinkers. Science Interactive textbooks are more than typical science books. These write-in books have several key features such as interactivities, science inquiries, online content and complete coverage of science content. Each chapter approaches the lesson using the five E's: Engage, Explain, Explore, Elaborate and Evaluate. Fifth and Sixth grade science students use our Science Lab for hands-on experiments continually throughout the year. Interactive Science features a complete online digital course where students can interact online with active art simulations, directed virtual labs, and get extra help.

5th Grade: Life, Earth and Physical Science

6th Grade: Earth Surface, Ecology and the Environment

5th and 6th Social Studies

5th Grade Social Studies Our Nation by Macmillan/McGraw-Hill

Our 5th grade curriculum is aligned with the Diocesan and Pennsylvania State Standards for Social Studies. Students in 5th grade Social Studies study early American history, from the earliest native cultures in North America through the beginnings of America as a nation. Through a combination of technology integrated lessons and collaborative projects, students apply skills learned across the curriculum to their understanding of American history. Students will also become fluent in map reading and sequencing events in a timeline. As the year progresses, students will also begin to use current events to relate common themes studied in historical events to our modern world.

6th Grade Social Studies Our World by Macmillan/McGraw-Hill

Our 6th grade curriculum is aligned with the Diocesan and Pennsylvania State Standards for Social Studies. Students in 6th grade Social Studies will study Ancient World history. This course examines several cultures including the Egypt, India, Greece, Rome, and Medieval times. Through a combination of technology integrated lessons, project-based learning, and collaborative activities, students' journey back in time to understand how influences from the ancient world continue to be evident in our world today. Students will also continue to work toward fluency in map reading and sequencing events in a timeline. As the year progresses, students will also frequently use current events to relate common themes studied in historical events to our modern world.

Computer Technology Course Description K-8

Through the use of technology integrated across the curriculum, students will develop skills needed to become 21st Century life-long learners. Activities and lessons focused on communication, collaboration, creativity, critical thinking, and problem solving will prepare students to be future-ready.

During the year students will focus on basic computer skills and responsible computer use. Students will develop a basic understanding of Internet safety, evaluating websites, ethical computer use, keyboarding, opening and closing files, basics of Google Apps for Education, accessing and saving files locally and to their Google Drive, copying and pasting files or text, understanding copyright laws, searching the Internet, and finding and citing images, video, and audio from the internet for school projects. This course will cover basic and intermediate skills and shortcuts as well as keyboarding practice and drill with Type to Learn, Typing Web, Typing Club and other online programs. Students will use the Microsoft Office Suite on the desktop computers and Microsoft 360 on portable devices which is available through Edmodo - an online course management system. Students will be introduced to the use of digital cameras, photo editing, video production, audio recording and editing, computer programming and coding, Virtual Reality, robotics, circuits, and numerous apps for learning and productivity on the school devices in the lab and classrooms.

Art

Students participate in Art one time per week. Art work consists of 2D and 3D works. We explore many different techniques. Students study art history, multiple genres, color theory, sketching, painting, printmaking, metal, plaster, chalk pastels, oil pastels, fabric and clay.

Students in grades 5, 6, 7 and 8 concentrate on the Elements of Art and the Principles of Design. The Elements of Art are the ingredients to all Art or the building blocks of Art. The Elements of Art are: Line, Space, Value, Form, Texture, Color and Shape. The Principles of Design organize the Elements of Art. The Principles of Design are: Unity, Contrast, Movement, Pattern, Emphasis, Rhythm and Balance.

Physical Education

The aim of the physical education program at St. Louise de Marillac School is to develop and improve students' personal fitness and motor skills by providing developmentally appropriate activities through purposeful, creative and enjoyable instruction. By incorporating challenging yet achievable tasks, the students will attain positive attitudes about physical activity and movement. The President's Challenge, a program of the President's Council on Fitness, Sports, and Nutrition, will form the "backbone" of the STL physical education program. The Council seeks to expand the availability of quality information regarding physical activity, sports, and good nutrition and to empower Americans of all ages, backgrounds, and abilities to adopt a healthy lifestyle through: regular physical activity, participation in sports, and healthy eating.

ALL students (grades 5,6, 7, 8 boys and girls) MUST change into proper attire for each physical education class:

- Clean, modest shorts (no shorter than mid thigh)/sweat/work- out (long) pants
- Clean, modest (no inappropriate logo/print) T-shirts preferably short sleeved (no sleeveless or "crop" tops)
- Tennis shoes/socks (student will not be able to participate without proper footwear)

5th and 6th Grade Library

Students in 5th and 6th grade will spend 40 minutes one time per week with Mrs. Klein, our certified school librarian. Our St. Louise Library features an online library catalog; a wide variety of books and 20 Kindles for student use. The curriculum focuses on research skills, bibliography skills, reference materials in conjunction with school projects (heritage date, 6th grade social studies). Students are able to take Accelerated Reader quizzes during library class. Students also have the opportunity to participate in several literature enrichment projects:

5th grade highlights include: book cover designing project, Reader's Theater Script writing and performance

6th grade highlights include: Book Buddies (monthly visit to Kindergarten to share books 1 on 1 with Kindergarten) and current events awareness

5th and 6th Grade Spanish

- Students will begin to use the introductory book in our junior high book series, ¿Como te va?, Intro
- Students will build on some basic Spanish vocabulary & will learn how to conjugate present tense verbs.
- Students will learn some facts and culture about most of the Spanish speaking countries.

All 6th, 7th & 8th graders are invited to join KIVA club in the fall & Spanish club in the spring. KIVA club is a service based club where students learn about people around the world and their hopes to build a business to help provide for themselves and their families. We meet once a week during lunch and students research and lend to a small business owner. Spanish Club is also a service based club where students are assisting with our school's fundraiser for the Diocese's mission in Chimbote, Peru. We meet once a week during lunch.

**We are looking for incoming 7th & 8th grade families to host a student from Madrid, Spain for 2 weeks.

Music 5-8

The music general music program at St. Louise de Marillac School is grounded in the National Standards for Arts Education. Throughout the school lessons include singing, composition, improvisation, musical movement, games, playing instruments, listening to performances, learning about historical and cultural contexts, and responding thoughtfully and appropriately to music.

Grades 5-8 see an increase in the academic expectations in music class with short quizzes, classwork, and projects in addition to the participatory singing and playing activities used in the younger grades. Students in grades 6-8 are responsible for keeping an organized music journal with entries added each class.

Band

Students in grades 4-8 also have the opportunity to join the STL Band. Students can choose to learn flute, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, trombone, or percussion instruments. Pull-out lessons occur during the school day, and students perform at concerts in the winter and spring. Students in grades 6-8 have the opportunity to audition for and perform with Diocesan Honors ensembles in the spring.