

## St. Louise de Marillac Catholic School

### 2018-2019 Course Descriptions

#### 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade English

The goal of the English program at St. Louise de Marillac School is to help students build 21st century skills to become better writers, problem solvers, speakers, team players, planners, and researchers in all facets of communication. In the classroom setting, students experience the digital environment through Google Docs and Edmodo.

Students learn the importance of identifying the topic, purpose, and audience of each writing assignment prior to developing a thesis statement and organizational structure. The revision and editing process is practiced throughout the year both online and through peer evaluation and writing groups. The Six Traits of Writing program (Ideas, Organization, Voice, Word Choice, Sentence Fluency, Conventions, and Presentation) is used as a means to guide students through the writing process. This program provides the students with a common “language” of writing in order to develop dialogue for peer evaluation and editing.

In 7th grade, students begin the year with a letter of introduction to the teacher followed by a brief biography. In the month of November, students write a first draft of a novel based on the National Novel Writing Month guidelines. The Criterion Writing program is also used as a tool for revising and editing various forms of writing.

The 8th grade program builds upon the previous year and focuses on literary analysis and research writing based on the Modern Language Association guidelines. Criterion Writing is also used to enhance the revising and editing process. In addition, 8th graders are given the opportunity to prepare a project proposal at the end of the year to develop a community event at a local venue.

Students are encouraged to enter various writing contests throughout the year especially the Do the Write Thing Challenge. This contest examines the impact of violence and gives students a voice to express their ideas to combat this growing problem. Students also enter the Take a Shot contest which is media based and incorporates storyboarding and script writing. In addition, students also learn the fine points of using audio and video equipment to give life to the written word.

#### 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Science

The seventh grade science curriculum uses the Glencoe Physical Science textbook. During the seventh grade year the students will focus on the following topics with laboratory experiments used to enhance and exemplify the concepts taught in class:

The Scientific Method: Students will list the steps of the scientific method, analyze data and construct graphs, and name and use common laboratory equipment properly.

The Metric System: Students will apply the metric system, in class and the lab, being able to convert between units.

Chemistry: Students will define the properties of matter, construct an atom’s structure and be able to calculate the number of protons, neutrons, and electrons for each atom on the Periodic Table. They will also be able to identify and distinguish between physical and chemical properties. Students be able to show

how atoms form covalent and ionic bonds thereby allowing them to read, write, and balance chemical equations.

The eighth grade science curriculum uses the Glencoe Life Science textbook. During the eighth grade year the students will focus on the following topics with laboratory experiments used to enhance and exemplify the concepts taught in class:

**The Scientific Method:** Students review the steps of the scientific method, analyze data and construct graphs, and name and use common laboratory equipment properly. Students will apply the metric system, in class and the lab, being able to convert between units.

**Cell Structure and Function:** Students will learn to recognize thirteen organelles and be able to give the function of each. This will be accomplished by the use of diagrams, videos, and laboratory experiments. Each student will learn to use a compound light microscope.

**Genetics:** Students will be able to explain the how traits are passed on from generation to generation, in addition to make Punnett Squares to illustrate the ways alleles can combine in genetic crosses. Students will be able to explain the Human Genome Project and label a diagram of DNA.

**Zoology:** Students will study ten phyla of organisms being able to give examples of both Phylum and Class. During seven dissections, the eighth grade student will be able to identify major organs giving the function of each.

### **7th and 8th Grade Math**

As our students enter 7<sup>th</sup> grade, we divide the class into 3 groups. Our goal is to group students of comparable ability and potential. With every math student, there is a period of accelerated growth where we see a jump in understanding, effort, self – discipline and achievement. Because this growth can happen for different students at different times, our groupings are flexible from year to year. Our 4<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade math teachers collaborate to determine student placement. Our objective for every student in every group is to advance that child’s growth as a student and his/her ability in math so that he/she knows success in high school from day one.

Our groupings are defined below:

	<b>Group 1</b>	<b>Group 2</b>	<b>Group 3</b>
<b>7<sup>th</sup> Grade</b>	Pre-Algebra Algebra 1 Part 1	Pre-Algebra	Pre-Algebra
<b>8<sup>th</sup> Grade</b>	Algebra 1 Part 2 Intro to Geometry	Algebra 1	Algebra 1 Part 1
<b>9<sup>th</sup> Grade Considerations</b>	Honors Geometry <i>OR</i> Geometry	Honors Geometry <i>OR</i> Geometry <i>OR</i> Algebra 1	Algebra 1

<b>Keystone Exam Recommendation</b>	Exam Recommended	Exam Recommended by Mr. Martin	Exam NOT Recommended
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Our Group 1 is for our most accelerated students. The design of the course is to give the child, for whom mathematics has been easy, experience in content and workload that challenges and grows his/her abilities. Students in this group are required to work the most difficult exercises each night for homework. This grouping is intended to prepare each child for excellence in any Honors–level study in Geometry or Algebra II in Grade 9. Every Group 1 student is encouraged to take the Keystone Examination for Algebra I in May of his Grade 8.

Our Group 2 is for students working and achieving at or modestly above grade - level. The design of the course is to give concentrated practice in all Algebra I skills through sets of exercises that are tailored in number and difficulty to the computational abilities of students. Students of more advanced abilities are encouraged to work a more rigorous problem set and problem solving, designed and supervised by their teacher. The study is intended to prepare each child for success in Geometry or Algebra II in Grade 9. Every Group 2 student earning a grade of C or better is prepared to pass the Keystone Examination for Algebra I in May of his Grade 8. Students not performing well in Algebra 1 in 8<sup>th</sup> grade, may benefit greatly from an additional year of Algebra 1 in 9<sup>th</sup> grade, as Algebra 1 is a foundational pre-requisite for every high school mathematics course and a major component of every standardized test.

Our Group 3 is for students who would benefit from on-level and remedial instruction in multiple, basic math skills. The curriculum for that group in Grade 7 is deliberate, extended treatment and practice of all Pre – Algebra skills with emphasis on number sets, number sense and computation. Students in this Group 3 who meet or surpass grade–level expectations at the end of Grade 7 are invited to jump to our Group 2 at the start of Grade 8. In Grade 8, our Group 3 study Algebra I (Part 1 of 2): Writing, solving and graphing linear equations and inequalities. This study incorporates continued review and practice of Pre – Algebra skills as assessments recommend. The study is intended to prepare each child for success in a full year’s study of Algebra I in Grade 9. Because a full course in Algebra I is not taught to our Group 3 students, our recommendation is that those students do not take the Keystone Examination for Algebra I until May of their Grade 9.

Assistance from the math teacher is available to every student every day at lunch time and four days a week after school. By our math curriculum, we guide each child in our charge from a world of asking, “How do you do it?” to a habit of asking, “Which way would be best?”

### **7th and 8th Grade Reading**

In seventh grade students are required to deepen their reading skills, study skills and critical thinking ability. Students will experience the Holt anthology, “Elements of Literature” to introduce the different types of prose. Students read short stories, autobiographies, biographies, novels, plays, essays, folk tales and poems. Stories written by O. Henry, Rudyard Kipling, Clifton Davis, Ernest Hemmingway, and poems by Emily Dickinson, Langston Hughes, Alfred Noyes, Lewis Carroll and Shel Silverstein, will be used throughout the year. In addition to these literary pieces, students will also read various novels such as; *The Giver*, by Lois Lowry, *Wonder* by R.J. Palacio, *Fever* by Laurie Halse Anderson, *Stepping on the Cracks* by Mary Downing Hahn, and *The Outsiders* S.E. Hinton.

During eighth grade, students are asked to employ higher-level thinking skills, such as application, analysis, and evaluation moving quickly through complicated skills. They will be expected to practice

various forms of writing including the development of the thesis statement and the five-paragraph essay in relation to what they are reading in class. Tiered activities will be available to meet various learning styles and instruction will be differentiated. Throughout the course, students read a variety of literary genres. We read three different novels, one of which is *To Kill A Mockingbird*. The other two novels vary depending on the books from the English Festival that are assigned each year. We also do a short story unit and a non-fiction unit. In addition, students participate in an independent reading program, Accelerated Reader, which stresses choice of genre and the student's responsibility for taking a multiple choice, computerized test for each book read.

### **7th and 8th Grade Social Studies**

In 7<sup>th</sup> grade, we use Pearson "World Geography Eastern Hemisphere" for the first semester. This course will begin with an introduction to Geography and continue studying Europe, Africa, Asia and the Pacific. Students will have access to videos, audio, and interactive activities online. The second semester 7th grade will be using Pearson "American History my World Interactive. This course takes us from the early explorers of Europe in the 1720's, through the Civil War. We explore our nation from colonies to statehood, from the Revolutionary War to the Civil War. Using social studies books and projects, students are required to synthesize and analyze information. We also study our government with the Declaration of Independence to the Constitution and our amendments. We learn how our government works and work our way through the election process. Students will learn about current events and geography as a part of classroom discussions and competitions, such as the National Geographic GeoBee Challenge.

In 8<sup>th</sup> grade, we use Pearson, "America History my World Interactive." Students will begin learning about our country during the Civil War and continue through World War I, the Great Depression, War World II, the Holocaust, Cold War, Civil Rights, Korean and Vietnam War and the Space Race. We will be completing many interactive activities online with this Pearson Social Studies series. Our goal in eighth grade is to prepare students for high school Social Studies coursework. Students are required to complete group and individual projects throughout the year to enhance and enrich their learning. They talk about current events and during the election year will complete a unit on how our election process works.

### **7th and 8th Grade Religion**

Throughout the course, students utilize the textbook We Live Our Faith Volume 1 (7th grade) and Volume 2 (8th grade). The goal is to have students develop a deeper and more meaningful understanding of their Catholic Faith. We examine in detail the Seven Sacraments, the liturgical calendar, and stories from the Bible. In eighth grade we do a Confirmation unit in preparation for their Confirmation in the fall of their 9th grade year. Students complete a research paper on their Confirmation Saint, and are required to create a "Spoon Saint" representing the Saint that they have chosen. In both 7th and 8th grade we work through the Olweus anti-bullying program, and in 8th grade student's class work is supplemented with the Decision Points program as well as the Apologetics course that Jason Zych and Mrs. Ingold teach to the students together in preparation for their oral exams with our parish priests.

### **Computer Technology Course Description K-8**

Through the use of technology integrated across the curriculum, students will develop skills needed to become 21st Century lifelong 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.

### **Middle School 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**

P. E. classes in grade 5-8 will prove to be an integral phase of each student's physical and social development. 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. Your child's locomotor movement, manipulative skills, personal behavior, and fitness level will be monitored and assessed throughout the school year. 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)

## **7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Spanish**

7th grade:

- Students will now have Spanish 3 days/week.
- Students will be using the next book in our book series ¿Como te va?, B.
- Students will continue to build on vocabulary & will be taught grammar which is equivalent with that which is taught at high school level Spanish 1.
- Students will learn all aspects of conjugating regular and irregular verbs in the present tense.
- The culture & customs of Argentina will be studied.

8th grade:

- Students continue with Spanish 3 days/week.
- Students will be using ¿Como te va?,A.
- Students are continuing to build upon vocabulary & grammar already learned.
- Students will be continuing at a high school level Spanish 1 & a fair amount of high school Spanish 2.
- The culture & customs of Spain will be studied.

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 of Pittsburgh'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.

## **Exploratory Latin/Classics Course Grades 7 & 8**

Students will develop an awareness and appreciation for all aspects of ancient Roman civilization, including its culture, daily life, dress, ancient coins, art, history, language, architecture, and mythology. The class meets in the computer lab and the grades are incorporated into the computer grade, so there is a strong technology component to this course. Students will use numerous websites, games, drills, flashcards, and online sources for interactive study. Students also use their Google Apps for Education accounts for project work. The main focus of the course is etymology to build vocabulary for SAT Prep. 7th Grade will use the text *Minimus: Starting out in Latin* by Barbara Bell with its online activities and in 8th grade students will explore materials from the Cambridge Latin Course online components. The 8th grade performs skits which are recorded using the iPads in the lab and they create commercials for products based on myths or gods and goddesses.

Interested students also have the option to participate as docents in the Our Schools' Ancient Coin Museum exhibit and be part of the Latin and Ancient Coins Club. Students have the option to take the National Etymology Exam in the fall and the National Mythology Exam in the spring. Both exams are sponsored by the American Classical League.

### **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, class work, 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.