

Eighth Grade



“Getting students excited about math and teaching them new concepts is a daily occurrence in my classroom. What really brings joy to my heart is helping students make wise decisions based on their faith and encouraging them to put God’s Word into practice every day of their lives.”

Mrs. Diane Schumann, teacher

RELIGION/CONFIRMATION

The growth of each student in his or her faith is of primary concern to us at St. Paul. Confirmation class provides our youth with an opportunity to reflect on their years of Christian learning, and challenges them to apply that learning to mature topics in Christian discipleship. While the class leads youth to the actual Rite of Confirmation, students from all Christian denominations are encouraged by the confirmation of the Holy Spirit’s work in their lives.

WASHINGTON D.C. TRIP

The 8th grade travels to Washington DC for an annual class trip. This five-day excursion includes visits to various national landmarks including:

- ◆ Presidential Monuments and Capitol
- ◆ War Memorials and Arlington Cemetery
- ◆ White House and National Cathedral
- ◆ Smithsonian Museums
- ◆ The Museum of the Bible
- ◆ Flight 93 Memorial
- ◆ Mount Vernon

TECHNOLOGY

The computer curriculum is **Learning with Computers** by **Thompson-Southwestern**. National Education Technology Standards (NETS) are met. The culminating project incorporates their class trip to D.C. Course work includes:

- ◆ Microsoft Excel ◆ Microsoft Publisher ◆ Microsoft Word
- ◆ Internet Safety ◆ Web research

SOCIAL STUDIES

Eighth grade social studies covers United States history and geography. We focus on the time following the Civil War through current history.

LANGUAGE ARTS

In 8th grade, our literature, vocabulary, writing, and English grammar studies are being taught in a block schedule to allow for integrating the content and skills within subjects. The foundation for reading instruction is based on comprehension strategies which are directly taught, modeled, practiced and assessed through novel units. The novel units are supplemented with related short stories, poetry, and nonfiction texts that build connections to the time period, events presented, or experiences of the characters, enabling students to better understand the perspectives of others. Vocabulary instruction includes the study of Greek and Latin roots, units from the **Sadlier Achieve Series**, and application in both writing and reading, extending into other content areas as well. Both writing and grammar skills spiral throughout the year, building one another in order to create products that not only demonstrate specific skills, but also reflect development in thought and expression.

MATH

We teach **Saxon Math**. Eighth grade students are either placed in Algebra or Pre-Algebra, based on grades received in previous math classes and results from MAP testing. Main areas of focus are:

- ◆ Algebraic thinking ◆ Geometry concepts
- ◆ Incremental development ◆ Cumulative assessment

SCIENCE

The science curriculum, written by **Savvas**, is called **Elevate Science**. Areas of study include:

- ◆ Solids, Liquids & Gasses ◆ Matter
- ◆ Electricity & Magnetism ◆ Energy
- ◆ Chemical Reactions ◆ Forces and Motion

ART

Students receive instruction in a variety of art mediums and styles. These styles are learned by studying past and present day artists. A sketch book is used help the students plan and sketch their projects.

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