

St. Mary Parish School

Parents' Guide to Eighth Grade

This school year, your child will

Traits Exhibited by Many Twelve to Fifteen Year Olds

All children develop differently but you may notice the following traits as your child attends Sixth, Seventh, or Eighth Grade.

- Have a strong drive for conformity with own age group
- Have intense feelings and emotions
- Are influenced greatly by popular adults and teenage girls
- Have rapidly changing interests and ambitions
- Have a long interest span and increasing capacity for self-discipline
- Prefer competition with outside groups over competition with friends
- Have an idealism about the world at large
- Have concern with their personal appearance, self-consciousness and inhibition
- May begin to mature physically
- Boys and girls can work together on projects better than they can socialize

Middle School Teachers:

Angie Gemignani: Lit 6/7 Eng 6
Jude Kosmider: Lit/Eng 7—8
Becky Bronecki: Math 6—7—8
Mary Wackman: Religion 6—7—8
Veronica Groubert: Science 6-7-8
Joy Wallschlaeger: Social Studies 6—7—8
Ann Fowler: Music
Barb Moulton: Phy Ed
Kristine Kuelthau: Spanish
Becki Kram: Technology
Sherie Drees: Art

Language Arts

- Use oral and written language to convey appropriate message
- Listen when others are speaking
- Contribute ideas to discussions
- Develop note-taking skills
- Refine study skills
- Analyze text in terms of various genre components (short story, novel, poetry, non-fiction, etc)

- Make predictions about a variety of texts
- Read books for information and enjoyment with emphasis on classics
- Orally summarize fiction and non-fiction after reading
- Apply Bloom's taxonomy of higher thinking skills
- Project-based learning (poetry project, research project, etc.)
- Present oral reports and speeches/eight minute original based on researched topic
- Apply and refine knowledge of parts of speech and parts of the sentence in writing
- Use writing process to plan and create narrative, descriptive, persuasive, and expository writings
- Understand the importance of word choice in conveying ideas and in relating to an audience
- Learn to formulate a well-developed thesis statement
- Incorporate verbal and appositive phrases into the development of paragraphs
- Write well-formatted, grammatically accurate five-paragraph expository and or persuasive essays
- Learn to write essay exams
- Incorporate 6 + 1 Traits of good writing
- Increase written and spoken vocabulary
- Recognize that words have different contextual meanings
- Spell most words correctly
- Use computers to research, organize, and communicate information

Mathematics/Pre-Algebra/Algebra

- Compare data to generate, test, confirm or deny hypothesis and check validity
- Make appropriate graph or data display
- Use statistical measures of mean, mode, median, range, quartile, and extremes
- Determine sample space probability of an event
- Use problem solving techniques, including writing an equation
- Add, subtract, multiply, divide, solve equations and solve inequalities using positive and negative integers, fractions and decimals
- Graph linear equations and inequalities on a coordinate graph
- Determine slope of a line
- Understand prime numbers, absolute value, opposites, and exponents

- Understand scientific notation and square root
- Understand and use commutative, associative, distributive, and identity properties
- Explain in writing mathematical processes and reasoning
- Use and understand ratio, proportion, and percent
- Understand and use geometric formulas for Pythagorean theorem, perimeter/circumference, area, surface area, and volume
- Classify and understand the properties of polygons
- Classify and understand the relationships of angles, lines and rays
- Use a compass and protractor
- Understand the geometric concepts of similarity and congruency
- Understand metric and customary measurements
- Convert from one unit to another in the same system of measurement
- Estimate reasonable measurements
- Solve multi-step equations
- Solve equations with variables on both sides
- Graph and solve systems of equations and inequalities
- Graph and solve absolute value equations and inequalities
- Solve equations using slope intercept form
- Write, graph and solve non-linear systems
- Solve and factor quadratic equations

Physical Education

- Use a variety of basic motor movements in rugby, frisbee, basketball, soccer, softball, volleyball, weight-training, challenge team-building, and badminton
- Apply rules of rugby, frisbee, basketball, soccer, softball, volleyball, weight-training, challenge team-building, and badminton
- Demonstrate eye-hand coordination

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- Understand and display sportsmanship
- Use feedback to improve performance
- Manage personal health, wellness, and fitness
- Use decision-making skills for personal and family-related health
- Demonstrate healthy ways to express needs, wants and feelings

- Be able to set goals
- Understand the social contributions of physical activity (respect, cooperation, teamwork)
- Demonstrate skills in cooperative activities
- Demonstrate aerobic conditioning
- Engage in activities that develop flexibility, muscular strength and endurance
- Participate in the Personal Best Fitness testing program
- Apply safety and warm-up procedures
- Demonstrate skills in dance
- Demonstrate skills in jump rope and juggling routines

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Religion

- Connect the creedal beliefs of the church to life experiences
- Recognize and review the major periods in the first and second Testaments
- Describe the roots of the church in Authority, Marks of the Church, Development of the Early Church, and the Writings of Paul
- Learn the contributions of the saints and holy people in recreating the world as a place of peace and justice
- Review the Eucharist and Reconciliation, Sacraments and RCIA as important times in one's faith life
- View the community as integral in responding to our call to be Catholic Christians
- Connect the seasons of nature with seasons of the Church year
- Describe experiences of conscience and right and wrong
- Identify moral choices as the expression of a Catholic Christian
- Associates social, economic, and political choices with Christian morality
- Recognize collective sin in various circumstances. Begin to integrate skills of justice and peacemaking in their lives
- Recognize that the values of our Catholic faith as often counter-cultural to events in their lives
- Believe that inclusion and not exclusion is the key to peaceful living
- Reconnect with the previously learned concepts involving scripture
- Discuss the challenges that puberty brings and how to integrate that into the life of a Christian young person

Science

- Understand how technology is used in daily life and in people's careers
- Understand the forms of energy and energy conservation
- Understand that scientific knowledge is always growing
- Learn about famous scientists
- Learn about atomic structure
- Learn about the Periodic Table
- Understand gravity and motion
- Understand electricity
- Plan and conduct science experiments and communicate results
- Understand light and sound
- Understand concepts of motion (speed, velocity, acceleration, momentum, friction)
- Understand the metric system
- Create tables and graphs to record and communicate scientific data

Social Studies

- Understand that people are alike and different in many ways
- Understand the historical reasons for creation of the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, and the Bill of Rights
- Understand important events and people in U.S. Territory days
- Understand the concept of checks and balances in the three branches of government
- Understand the separation of powers in federal, state, and local governments
- Understand the voting process, majority rule, and minority rights
- Understand the two party system
- Understand the causes of and the results of the Civil Wars, World War I, and World War II
- Understand how settlement spread from east to west
- Know ways that people solve common problems by cooperating and working in groups

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- Use maps and globes to locate national and international sites
- Understands current events

Technology

- Using spreadsheets and data bases relevant to classroom assignments
- Choosing charts, tables, or graphs, to best represent data

- Conducting on-line research and evaluating the information found
- Using word processing, and desktop publishing for classroom assignments and projects
- Using a variety of technological tools to develop projects in content areas

Art

- Use a variety of materials purposefully and safely
- Understand color, texture, shape, balance, mood, composition, and line as elements of art
- Understand and apply mathematical principles to art (proportion, perspective, scale, geometry, pattern, repetition, measurement)
- Create art from different points of view
- Create art from non-traditional materials
- Appreciate the connection between art and culture
- Express self through art media
- Reflect on works of art in the world today and in history

Spanish

- Interpretive Communication
- Interpersonal Communication
- Presentational Communication
- Understands, explains, and compares cultural traditions

Music

- Focus on the study of *American Popular Music* (late 1800's to the present)
- Understand how music contributes to culture today and in history
- Listen to, study, and appreciate a variety of musical styles
- Analyze and discuss recorded musical performances using music vocabulary
- Study American Roots music and understand its relationship to today's styles
- Explore, research, and give a presentation on a chosen popular music style