

Eighth Grade



“Getting students excited about math and teaching them new concepts is what makes this math teacher happy. What brings even more 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
- ◆ Embassy Row

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

As our literature, vocabulary, writing, and English grammar studies are taught in a block schedule, students are allowed to make the connections among each of those facets. Our literature instruction is based on a readers’ workshop model -- Units of Study -- where specific reading strategies are taught, modeled, and practiced in student-selected literature. This is balanced with whole-class novels, selected from both classics and recently-published works, in order to address varied themes as well as clearly connect responding to writing. Vocabulary, writing, and English grammar are instructed through mentor texts, giving students exposure to the concepts in published literature, allowing for practice, and developing in their own writing.

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 **Holt McDougal**, is called **Science Fusion**. Areas of study include:

- ◆ Physics ◆ Atom models
- ◆ Chemistry ◆ Rube Goldberg Machines

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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