

Religion

The Religion Curriculum focuses on the theme of *the living story and mission of the Roman Catholic Church*. The design of the curriculum will:

- Lead students to a greater knowledge of the origins and purpose of the church.
- Provide students with the history of the church from the post apostolic era to the present.
- Examine the mission of the church.
- Explore the meaning of the mystery of the church in the modern world.

Computer Technology

The Technology Curriculum is designed to ensure that the student has mastered the appropriate beginning and intermediate computer knowledge and skills to accomplish tasks assigned in and outside the classroom. Learning and usage of skills is integrated into the classroom curriculum and instruction is taught in the lab.

Physical Education

The Physical Education Curriculum at St. Patrick School is designed to focus on the growth of each individual to reach his/her fullest potential. Through a variety of activities in the gymnasium and outdoors, the children will grow physically, cognitively, and socially. The objectives of our grade 8 curriculum include the following:

- Sports skills, team concepts, rules, and safety.
- Decision making.
- Principles of training and conditioning.
- Demonstration of responsible conduct.
- Beginning game strategies.

Art

The Art Curriculum is one centered around self-expression. Students solve many artistic *problems* through creative critical thinking. They use a variety of drawing and sculptural materials including colored pencils, oil pastels and charcoal, papier-mache, plaster and clay. Students begin to examine the inter- and intrapersonal ramifications of visual expression and self-reflection. Students understand how to translate their thoughts and feelings into the visual language through the use of symbols, theme, and attention to craftsmanship.

Students also learn about the artwork of many cultures in the world, with a focus on ancient societies. Through a concentration on design work, the student will hone drafting skills, resulting in familiarity with geometric shape, rhythm in pattern, delineation of space, and visual depth. The curriculum encourages students to take risks, overcome fear of judgment, and to take ownership of their personal expression.

Music

The Music Curriculum focuses on the following standards:

- Students will sing a varied repertoire of music alone and with others.
- Students will improvise melodies, variations, and accompaniments.
- Students will listen to, analyze, and describe music.
- Students will understand music in relation to history and culture.
- Students will be able to evaluate music and music performances.
- Students will read and notate music.
- Students will compose and arrange music within specific guidelines.
- Students will understand relationships between music, the other arts and disciplines outside the arts.

French

The French curriculum will stress growth and mastery in the following:

- Recognize and pronounce previously learned vocabulary words and new categories to include: travel, ordering in a restaurant and asking directions.
- Engage in longer conversations using growing vocabulary in basic phrases and idiomatic expressions.
- Using prepositional phrases in conversation and writing.
- Use direct and indirect objects.
- Read paragraphs and conversations and answer comprehension questions.
- Organize sentences into a sequenced paragraph.
- Read a passage from a piece of literature in French.
- Explore French-Canadian history and culture.

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Grade 8 Teacher Team

St. Patrick School
Pelham, NH

... A community of faith
in which worship and social
concern are integrated in the
total experience for students,
their parents, and members of
the faculty.

Welcome to
Grade 8



St. Patrick School Curriculum
reflects the requirements outlined by
the Diocese of Manchester, NH

English/Language Arts

All grade 8 students will work toward mastery in the following areas:

Language

- Use appropriate techniques for oral presentation.
- Present an organized oral presentation and use or create a scoring guide to assess the oral presentation.
- Identify word meanings using context clues, a knowledge of Latin and Greek roots/ prefixes/suffixes, and dictionaries and thesauruses.
- Use standard mechanics and usage correctly.
- Begin to recognize phrases from clauses; identify simple, compound, and complex sentences; understand pronouns and their references.
- Read aloud grade-appropriate narrative and expository text with understanding, fluency, accuracy, timing, voice and expression.

Literature

- Interpret mood, tone, detail, a character's traits, emotions, and motivation in a text.
- Relate a literary work to information about its setting or literary period.
- Identify the characteristics of poetry, fiction, non-fiction, short story, and drama; focus area: European Myths.
- Identify theme (stated or implied) of a story and distinguish theme from topic.
- Write a story using elements of plot, character, setting, conflict and main idea.
- Analyze elements of poetry including metaphor, simile, personification, onomatopoeia, alliteration, repetition, stanza, and form.
- Identify and analyze theme structure, and elements of a dramatic work (act, scene, cast, stage directions).
- Write poems, using poetic techniques, figurative language (similes, personification, etc.), and graphic elements.

Composition

- Write research reports using quotations, footnotes, bibliography, works cited, and parenthetical citations.
- Write multi-paragraph compositions with clear topic development, logical organization, effective use of detail, correct mechanics, appropriate word choice, and usage.
- Use varying chronological order (flashbacks, reverse order, etc.) in a story or composition.
- Begin to introduce a thesis statement (point writer will prove), transitional sentences to link paragraphs, documented quotations and a bibliography.
- Use a rubric to assess work and to make changes.

Math

All grade 8 students will work toward mastery in the following areas:

Number Sense and Operations

- Review exponential and scientific notation e.g. $2^3=2*2*2$ and $3.2 \times 10^3= 3200$.
- Master integer, decimal, fraction, and percent computation.

Patterns, Relations, and Algebra

- Extend solving equations to include linear, exponential, and other non-linear relationships.
- Extend the use of graphic calculator technology to solve problems in graph, table, and equation form.
- Identify and use slope of a line as a rate of change and recognize varying rates of change.
- Identify roles of variables with an equation, e.g. $y= mx+b$ expressing y as a function of x with parameters m (slope) and b (y -intercept).
- Introduce rules for variables, to include combining like terms, distribution, commutativity, powers, and roots.
- Introduce terms factorial ($5!=5*4*3*2*1$) and function.
- Introduce inequalities in one variable in algebraic and graphic form.

Geometry

- Demonstrate an understanding and apply formulas and procedures for determining measures in three dimensions (surface, area, volume).
- Recognize and draw two-dimensional representations of three-dimensional objects, e.g. nets, projections and perspective drawings.
- Demonstrate the use of the Pythagorean theorem to solve problems.
- Extend investigation of geometric symmetries on the coordinate plane. Use combinations of reflection, rotations, and translation to create symmetrical designs.

Data Analysis, Statistics, and Probability

- Identify and apply ways to collect, organize, and evaluate data.
- Use tree diagrams, organized lists, basic combinatorics, and area models to compute probabilities and quantities.

Measurement

- Review formulas and procedures for determining measures in one and two dimensions (distance, perimeter, area, circumference).

Also integrated into the Math program is a study of the Stock Market that culminates in analysis/recommendation presentations utilizing *PowerPoint* by each student.

Social Studies

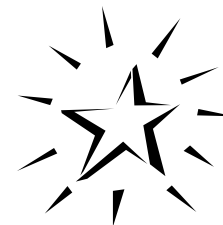
All grade 8 students will work toward mastery in the following areas:

American History

- Investigate the early North American peoples until 1625.
- Study the settlement curve of the Colonial American society, from the arrival of the early English through 1770.
- Explore the progress of the colonists along their road to independence, initiating with the building of Colonial unity and culminating with the highlights of the American Revolution.
- Observe the development of the New Republic from 1789-1825.
- Recognize the important features of the Jacksonian Era, the impact of the Westward Movement, the changing economy of the North and South, and the Social Reforms of this time period (1820-1860).
- Study (in detail) the impact of the Civil War and the Reconstruction period, highlighting the impact on Modern American social, economic and political thinking.
- Examine and discuss the Declaration of Independence, Constitution, and Bill of Rights.

The novels that are required readings for this area of the curriculum are:

The Witch of Blackbird Pond
My Brother Sam Is Dead
Across Five Aprils
Joanna or Lyddie



Science

All grade 8 students will work toward mastery in the following areas of science:

Earth Science

- Explore the common physical features and landforms of the Earth's surface and the importance of plate movement in the evolution of the Earth's surface.
- Investigate plate movement that results in the formation and deformation of Earth's surface through Earth-shaping processes such as volcanoes, earthquakes, etc.
- Differentiate among radiation, conduction, and convection as important mechanisms of heat transfer in the Earth's system.
- Investigate the processes of weathering, erosion, deposition, and rock formation.
- Observe and recognize the features that support theories of Earth's evolution through geologic time.
- Recognize that gravity plays a major role in the formation of our solar system.
- Review astronomical concepts including lunar phases, revolution, rotation, eclipses, galaxies, etc.

Physical Science

- Differentiate and explore the relationships among mass, weight, volume, and density using a variety of measurement tools (including graduated cylinders, triple beam balance, etc.).
- Describe changes in states of matter (solid, liquid, gas).
- Observe how mass is conserved in a closed system.
- Differentiate among atoms, molecules, elements, mixtures, pure substances and compounds.
- Explore and differentiate between physical and chemical properties and changes.
- Explain when an object is in motion and its position relative to a reference point.
- List different forms of energy and how they relate to work.
- Compare and contrast different groups of the periodic table, and recognize the importance of characteristic properties to identify substances.