



Curriculum Guide

Overview
2021-2022

Curriculum Review Process -Valley Catholic Middle School

Valley Catholic Middle School's curriculum is reviewed and updated on a yearly basis with an in-depth study of individual subjects occurring at least every three years, as determined by the Archdiocese of Portland. In addition, Valley Catholic Middle School's staff and administration review curriculum as follows:

Middle School Curriculum Review Committees

Departments

Departments are based on the subject (math, fine arts, etc.) and all Valley Catholic teachers attend department meetings. These meetings happen at least quarterly. If a teacher has classes in more than one subject area (math and religion, for example), then the teacher attends both department meetings (split time between the two meetings).

Middle School Staff/Program

There are thirty staff members, plus the principal and counselors, identified as the middle school core staff. These teachers specialize in the needs of middle school students, from day-to-day classroom procedures to school environment (social, extra-curricular, transitional/age-appropriate adjustments, etc.) Middle School core meetings address everything from middle school-specific curriculum to individual student needs.

Tools for Review of the Middle School Program

Middle School Test Results

Summative standardized tests are administered to our current sixth, seventh, and eighth grade students. The results are compared with those of students in other Catholic schools as well as to the national average.

High School Placement Tests

STS High School Placement Test Results are reviewed for our current eighth grade students. The results are compared to students throughout the Archdiocese who have applied as freshmen to a Catholic high school (This includes public and private school applicants). Note: All local Catholic high schools give the same entrance test to all freshman applicants.

Tools for Review of the Middle School Program

High School Performance Results

The review process includes, but is not limited to the following feedback:

- PSAT and SAT scores of Valley Catholic Middle School (VCMS) alumni
- AP (advanced placement) test scores for VCMS alumni
- High school GPAs
- College acceptances and placement for VCMS alumni (as well as honors and awards received)
- Personal check-in at feeder high schools (admission directors, department heads, teachers) to see how VCMS alumni perform in general

Other

Content Review and Textbook Adoption Cycle Valley Catholic Middle school staff members review each core content area annually. This review process is a key component in Valley Catholic's textbook adoption cycle so that as the state and Archdiocese make changes, VCMS can address the changes in our textbook adoptions.

Trends in Education and Department Meetings Curriculum updates and educational trends are considered on a yearly basis within department meetings. This information is used to review, adjust, or confirm our current curriculum. Updates to the VCMS Curriculum Guide go into effect the following school year.

Annual Review of Other Programs Each year, Valley Catholic Middle School reviews the programs of leading middle schools in the greater Portland area as well as new approaches in education. Through these reviews, the staff gains insight and evaluates whether the current middle school program could benefit from those changes. These reviews validate Valley Catholic Middle School's unique educational opportunities and approach while allowing the staff members to remain current on other trends in education. The reviews serve to explain why Valley Catholic may or may not choose to follow those trends.

Regular Student and Parent Feedback Quarterly student surveys provide vital information about student perceptions, peer-to-peer interactions, the effectiveness of cross-curricular skill development within each grade level. Students and parents are also surveyed after significant projects or events in an effort to continually improve signature projects.

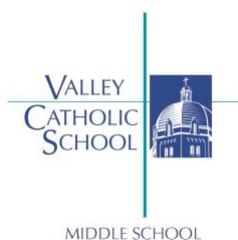


Table of Contents

2021-2022

Department	6 th Grade	7 th Grade	8 th Grade
English	English Speech	English Speech	English Speech
Math	Grade-Level Math Honors Math Advanced: Pre-Algebra	Pre-Algebra Honors: Pre-Algebra Advanced: Algebra	Algebra Honors: Algebra Advanced: Geometry
Multidisciplinary STEM Projects	STEM Outdoor School Mars Project	STEM Future City Business Project	Capstone
Performing Arts	MS Band MS Choir MS Drama MS Orchestra	MS Band MS Choir MS Drama MS Orchestra	MS Band MS Choir MS Drama MS Orchestra
Physical Education	PE	PE	PE
Religion	Old Testament	Life of Christ	Church History
Science	Earth Science	Physical Science	Life Science
Social Studies	World History	World History	American Studies
Visual Arts (Curriculum Guide for visuals arts is currently under review)	N/A	Introduction to Art Advanced Art	Introduction to Art Advanced Art
World Languages	N/A	Middle School Spanish	Spanish I



Sixth Grade English

English Department

2021-22

Required Texts – Grade Level (G)

Voyages in English Loyola Press

The Giver by Lois Lowry

Merci Suarez Changes Gears by Meg Medina

Dragonwings by Laurence Yep

The Dark is Rising by Susan Cooper

Required Texts – Honors (H)

Voyages in English, Loyola Press

The Giver by Lois Lowry

Esperanza Rising by Pam Muñoz Ryan

Chains by Laurie Halse Anderson

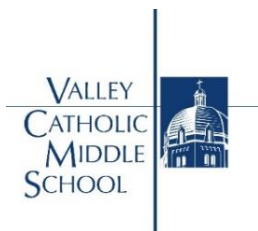
The Hobbit by J.R.R. Tolkien

Course Description

In 6th grade English, students read and comprehend complex literary and informational texts independently and proficiently. They connect themes across genres and develop social responsibility through reading and writing. They develop the use of language to describe, entertain, inform, analyze, persuade, and express feelings in writing. Students express ideas with clarity and coherence in writing and oral communication. In addition, students build a larger vocabulary by looking closely at context clues in writing. They develop public speaking skills through in class presentations

Class Scope and Sequence:

Literature: <i>The Giver</i>	Writing
Themes: memory, conformity vs individualism free will, meaning of love Literary elements: characterization, symbolism, Utopia/Dystopia	Writing Type: Argumentative analysis Grammar/Vocab: Greek & Latin Roots, Parts of Speech, focus on nouns
Literature: <i>Merci Suarez Changes Gears (G)</i> / <i>Esperanza Rising (H)</i>	Writing
Themes: understanding and overcoming our prejudices, different points of view, personal growth Literary elements: setting, conflict, point of view, plot structure, figurative language	Writing Type: Narrative Grammar/Vocab: Greek & Latin Roots, pronouns, adjectives
Literature: <i>Dragonwings (G)</i> , <i>Chains (H)</i>	Writing
Themes: power structures, oppression vs opportunity, family relationships Literary elements: point of view, conflict, setting, narrative style	Writing Type: Research/Informative Explanatory Grammar/Vocab: Greek & Latin Roots, Verbs, Adverbs
Literature: <i>The Shadow Spinner (G)</i> / <i>The Hobbit (H)</i>	Writing
Themes: the making of a hero, greed/power corrupts, the road to self-discovery, the power of words/stories Literary elements: a hero's journey, setting, characterization, conflict, narrative structure	Writing Type: Argumentative analysis Grammar/Vocab: Greek & Latin Roots, Sentences, Conjunction, Punctuation, Capitalization



Seventh Grade English

English Department

2021-22

Required Texts – Grade Level (G)

Voyages in English, Loyola Press
The Outsiders by S.E. Hinton
Inside Out and Back Again by Thanhha Lai
The Pearl by John Steinbeck
The Dark is Rising by Susan Cooper

Required Texts – Honors (H)

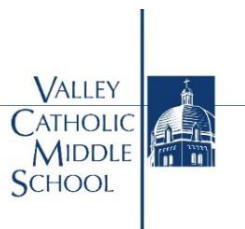
Voyages in English, Loyola Press
The Outsiders by S.E. Hinton
Brown Girl Dreaming by Jacqueline Woodson
Animal Farm by George Orwell
A Wizard of Earthsea by Ursula LeGuin

Course Description:

In 7th grade English, students continue to build upon the skills acquired in 6th grade English. They master the use of language to narrate, describe, analyze, explain, argue, persuade, inform, entertain and express feelings in writing and orally. Students express ideas with clarity and coherence in writing and oral communication. They continue to develop public speaking skills through in class presentations. In literature, students compare texts, connect themes across genres, and develop social responsibility through reading, writing, and reflecting on important time-periods in history.

Class Scope and Sequence:

Literature: <i>The Outsiders</i>	Writing
Themes: Sources of happiness, conformity vs individualism, personal identity, friendship Literary elements: Characterization, Dynamic/Static, Allusion, Slang, Setting	Writing Type: Argumentative analysis Grammar/Vocab: Greek & Latin Roots, Parts of Speech, focus on nouns
Literature: <i>Inside Out and Back Again (G)</i> / <i>Brown Girl Dreaming (H)</i>	Writing
Themes: racism, family, identity Literary elements: narrative style and structure, poetic elements, theme	Writing Type: Narrative/Poetry Grammar/Vocab: Greek & Latin Roots, adjectives, pronouns
Literature: <i>The Pearl (G)</i> , <i>Animal Farm (H)</i>	Writing
Themes: greed and corruption, class structure Literary elements: Symbolism, allegory, author's style	Writing Type: Research Grammar/Vocab: Greek & Latin Roots, verbs, verbals
Literature: <i>The Dark is Rising (G)</i> / <i>A Wizard of Earthsea (H)</i>	Writing
Themes: The power of names/language, greed/power corrupts, the road to self-discovery, redemption & destiny Literary elements: a hero's journey, motifs of fantasy genre, setting, characterization, symbolism	Writing Type: Argumentative analysis Grammar/Vocab: Greek & Latin Roots, adverbs, prepositions



Eighth Grade English

English Department

2021-22

Required Texts – Grade Level (G)

Voyages in English Loyola Press
To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee
Treasure Island by Robert Louis Stevenson
Farewell to Manzanar by Jeanne Wakatsuki
 Houston and James D. Houston
Uglies by Scott Westerfeld

Required Texts – Honors (H)

Voyages in English Loyola Press
To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee
Lord of the Flies by William Golding
Night by Elie Wiesel
The House of the Scorpion by Nancy Farmer

Course Description

In 8th grade English, students continue to build upon the skills acquired in 6th and 7th grade English. They maintain the use of appropriate vocabulary as well as develop a larger, more diverse vocabulary. Students use correct grammar with appropriate and varied sentence structure. They master the use of language to narrate, describe, analyze, explain, argue, persuade, inform, entertain and express feelings in writing and orally. Students express ideas with clarity and coherence in writing and oral communication. They continue to develop public speaking skills through in class presentations. In literature, students compare texts, connect themes across genres, and develop social responsibility through reading, writing, and reflecting on important time-periods in history.

Class Scope and Sequence:

Literature: <i>To Kill a Mockingbird</i>	Writing
Themes: Gender and race prejudice, Empathy, Justice, Social change, Circle of Obligation Literary elements: characterization, symbolism, setting, narrative structure	Writing Type: Argumentative analysis Grammar/Vocab: Greek & Latin Roots, Parts of Speech, focus on nouns
Literature: <i>Treasure Island (G) / Lord of the Flies (H)</i>	Writing
Themes: Greed, Deception, Duty, Human nature, power structures Literary elements: Plot structure, conflict, theme, point of view, character development, symbolism	Writing Type: Argumentative analysis Grammar/Vocab: Greek & Latin Roots, adjectives, pronouns
Literature: <i>Farewell to Manzanar (G), Night (H)</i>	Writing
Themes: hope, family relationships, growth through conflict Literary elements: Point of View, conflict, author's style	Writing Type: Narrative Grammar/Vocab: Greek & Latin Roots, verb, verbals
Literature: <i>Uglies (G) / The House of the Scorpion (H)</i>	Writing
Themes: dignity of life, greed/power corrupts, the road to self-discovery, identity Literary elements: Symbolism, characterization, theme	Writing Type: Research (Capstone) Grammar/Vocab: Greek & Latin Roots, adverb, prepositions



Speech – All Grades

English Department

2021-22

Required textbooks: None

Course Description:

Speech skills are taught within the English classes, small group practice sessions, as well as through integration within the other academic subjects. Students learn the basic elements for giving presentations that are delivered across the curriculum.

Picking a Speech

- Humorous Speech
- Serious Speech
- Original Composition

Tips for Giving Speeches

- Body Language
- Hands
- Posture
- Feet
- Eye Contact

Elocution

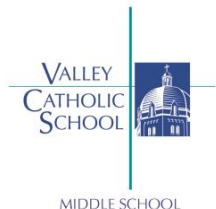
- Finding a Piece
- Memorization Techniques
- Delivery
- Interpretation of Author's Meaning

Extemporaneous

- Sample the Content
- Author's Purpose
- Use of Language Cues
- Technique
- Focus
- Cadence

Impromptu

- Use of Topic
- Developing the Speech
- First Line Prompts
- Topics as Metaphors
- Compare/Contrast points
- Perspectives
- Use of Humor



6th Advanced Pre-Algebra

Math Department

2021-22

Required Textbook:

Big Ideas Math Modeling Real Life (7th Advanced) by Ron Larson

Course Description:

In this course, students explore the language of algebra, geometry, and other areas of mathematics in verbal, graphical, and symbolic form. Skills and concepts are tied to applications that are part of the students' real world or to connections with other mathematics topics. There is a strong emphasis on efficient problem solving. Students learn to analyze a new problem and discover different ways to solve it. Problem solving activities and applications encourage the students to model patterns and relationships with variables and functions and to construct, draw, measure, and classify geometric figures. This course gives extensive practice and review of concepts, computational skills, solving equations, and problem-solving strategies necessary for a strong mathematical foundation.

Class Scope and Sequence:

Equations and Inequalities

- Using Inverse Operations
- One-Step and Multi-Step Equations and Inequalities
- Writing Expressions, Inequalities, and Equations

Probability

- Developing and Applying Models
- Compound Events
- Theoretical and Experimental

Investigations in Geometry

- Circles
- Composite Figures
- Angle Measures
- Polygons
- Interior and Exterior Angles
- Area, Surface Area, and Volume
- Parallel Lines and Transversals

Exponents

- Write and Evaluate Expressions
- Equivalent Expressions with Product and Quotient of Powers
- Zero and Negative Exponents
- Perform Operations with Scientific Notation

Transformations

- Translations, Reflections, Rotations, and Dilations
- Similar Figures

Real Number System

- Classify Real Numbers
- Find and Estimate Square Roots
- Apply the Pythagorean Theorem and its Converse
- Convert Between Fractions, Decimals, and Percentages

Statistics and Data Analysis

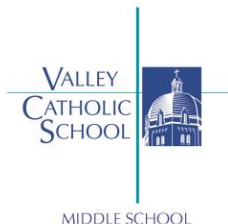
- Measures of Center and Variation
- Representation of Data
- Samples and Populations

Functions

- Understand and Use Functions
- Represent and Model Functions
- Differentiate Between Linear and Non-Linear Functions

Linear Equations

- Graphing Using Points, Slope-Intercept, or Standard Form
- Finding and Interpreting Slope
- Writing Linear Equations
- Solving Systems of Linear Equations



6th Grade-Level/Honors Math

Math Department

2021-22

Required Textbook:

Big Ideas Math Modeling Real Life (6th Advanced) by Ron Larson

Course Description:

This course gives extensive practice and review of concepts, computational skills and problem-solving strategies necessary for success in Pre-Algebra. In this course, students explore the language of algebra, geometry, and other areas of mathematics in verbal, graphical, and symbolic form. Skills and concepts are tied to applications that are part of the students' real world or to connections with other mathematics topics.

Class Scope and Sequence:

Tools for Problem Solving

- Order of Operations
- Variables and Expressions
- Powers and Exponents
- Solving Equations Mentally

Patterns and Number Sense

- Divisibility Patterns
- Prime Factorization
- Sequences
- Greatest Common Factor
- Least Common Multiple

Integers

- Comparing and Ordering Integers
- The Coordinate System
- Adding/Subtracting Integers
- Multiplying/Dividing Integers
- Solving Equations
- Integers as Exponents

Applications with Decimals

- Decimals: Comparing, Rounding and Estimating, Multiplying and Dividing
- Powers of Ten
- Scientific Notation

Applications with Fractions

- Mixed Numbers and Improper Fractions
- Simplifying Fractions
- Adding and Subtracting Fractions and Mixed Numbers
- Dividing Fractions and Mixed Numbers

Investigations in Geometry

- Angles
- Polygons
- Triangles and Quadrilaterals
- Area
- Surface Area and Volume

Statistics and Data Analysis

- Mean, Median, and Mode
- Stem-Leaf Plots
- Misleading Statistics

An Introduction to Algebra

- Using Inverse Operations
- Addition and Subtraction Equations
- Multiplication and Division Equations
- Writing Algebraic Expressions



7th Advanced Algebra

Math Department

2021-22

Required textbooks:

Elementary and Intermediate Algebra, Thomson/Brooks-Cole

Course Description:

This course covers all the material traditionally taught in a first-year algebra course, and introduces some of the concepts and computational skills usually seen in Algebra II. Some topics not covered in standard textbooks will be discussed. Students will also practice on competitive math exams. The course is designed for motivated students with high mathematical ability. The students will take Advanced Geometry their 8th grade year.

Class Scope and Sequence

Basics

- Numeric and algebraic expressions
- Properties of the four operations
- Operations on real numbers

Polynomials

- Operations on monomials and polynomials
- Zero/negative exponents
- Factoring general polynomials
- Long division of polynomials and synthetic division

Equations and Inequalities

- Solving linear equations
- Inequalities and compound inequalities
- Applied problems (interest, mixtures, rates, etc.)
- Problem solving practice

Rational Expressions

- Simplifying rational expressions
- Operations on rational expressions
- Equations with rational expressions

Coordinate Geometry

- Graphing linear equations
- Four forms of a linear equation
- Solving linear systems (graphing, substitution, elimination, Cramer's Rule)

Exponents and Radicals

- Simplifying and combining radicals
- Operations on radicals
- Radical Equations

Quadratic Equations and Inequalities

- Completing the square
- The quadratic formula
- Complex numbers
- Graphing quadratic equations



7th Pre-Algebra Grade Level/Honors

Math Department
2021-22

Required Textbook:

Big Ideas Math Modeling Real Life (7th Advanced) by Ron Larson

Course Description:

In this course, students explore the language of algebra, geometry, and other areas of mathematics in verbal, graphical, and symbolic form. Skills and concepts are tied to applications that are part of the students' real world or to connections with other mathematics topics. There is a strong emphasis on efficient problem solving. Students learn to analyze a new problem and discover different ways to solve it. Problem solving activities and applications will encourage the students to model patterns and relationships with variables and functions and to construct, draw, measure, and classify geometric figures. This course gives extensive practice and review of concepts, computational skills, solving equations, and problem-solving strategies necessary for a strong mathematical foundation.

Class Scope and Sequence:

Equations and Inequalities

- Using Inverse Operations
- One-Step and Multi-Step Equations and Inequalities
- Writing Expressions, Inequalities, and Equations

Probability

- Developing and Applying Models
- Compound Events
- Theoretical and Experimental

Investigations in Geometry

- Circles
- Composite Figures
- Angle Measures
- Polygons
- Interior and Exterior Angles
- Area, Surface Area, and Volume
- Parallel Lines and Transversals

Exponents

- Write and Evaluate Expressions
- Equivalent Expressions with Product and Quotient of Powers
- Zero and Negative Exponents
- Perform Operations with Scientific Notation

Transformations

- Translations, Reflections, Rotations, and Dilations
- Similar Figures

Real Number System

- Classify Real Numbers
- Find and Estimate Square Roots
- Apply the Pythagorean Theorem and its Converse
- Convert Between Fractions, Decimals, and Percentages

Statistics and Data Analysis

- Measures of Center and Variation
- Representation of Data
- Samples and Populations

Functions

- Understand and Use Functions
- Represent and Model Functions
- Differentiate Between Linear and Non-Linear Functions

Linear Equations

- Graphing Using Points, Slope-Intercept, or Standard Form
- Finding and Interpreting Slope
- Writing Linear Equations
- Solving Systems of Linear Equations



8th Grade-Level Algebra

Math Department

2021-22

Required Textbooks:

Big Ideas Math Algebra 1 by Ron Larson

Course Description:

This course introduces the material of first-year algebra with an emphasis on foundational math skills that will prepare them for high school math. Students who excel with the material of the course will be prepared to challenge Algebra I in high school. If mastery is not achieved, students should retake Algebra I as freshmen in high school.

Class Scope and Sequence:

Algebra Basics

- Expressions, equations, order of operations
- Properties of addition and multiplication
- Operations with integers and rational numbers

Powers and Roots

- Rules for operations with monomials
- Negative exponents
- Square roots and the Pythagorean Theorem

Solving Equations

- Single-step and multi-step equations
- Equations with absolute value
- Equations with variables on both sides

Solving Equations and Inequalities

- Single-step and multi-step inequalities
- Inequalities with variables on both sides

Polynomials

- Basic operations on polynomials
- Special products
- Factoring polynomials

Functions and Graphs

- Definition of function
- Graphing linear relations
- Writing linear equations in various forms

Quadratic Functions

- Graphing quadratic functions
- Radical expressions
- Solving quadratics by completing the square
- Solving quadratics by using the Quadratic Formula

Systems of Equations

- Graphing systems of linear equations
- Solving systems using substitution and elimination
- Solving systems of linear inequalities



8th Honors Algebra

Math Department

2021-22

Required textbooks:

Elementary and Intermediate Algebra, Thomson/Brooks-Cole

Course Description:

This course covers all the material traditionally taught in a first-year algebra course, and introduces some of the concepts and computational skills usually seen in Algebra II. Some topics not covered in standard textbooks will be discussed. Students will also practice on competitive math exams. The course is designed for motivated students with high mathematical ability. The students will take Advanced Geometry their 8th grade year.

Class Scope and Sequence:

Basics

- Numeric and algebraic expressions
- Properties of the four operations
- Operations on real numbers

Polynomials

- Operations on monomials and polynomials
- Zero/negative exponents
- Factoring general polynomials
- Long division of polynomials and synthetic division

Equations and Inequalities

- Solving linear equations
- Inequalities and compound inequalities
- Applied problems (interest, mixtures, rates, etc.)
- Problem solving practice

Rational Expressions

- Simplifying rational expressions
- Operations on rational expressions
- Equations with rational expressions

Coordinate Geometry

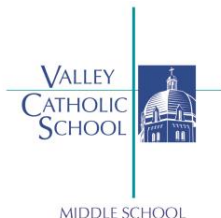
- Graphing linear equations
- Four forms of a linear equation
- Solving linear systems (graphing, substitution, elimination, Cramer's Rule)

Exponents and Radicals

- Simplifying and combining radicals
- Operations on radicals
- Radical Equations

Quadratic Equations and Inequalities

- Completing the square
- The quadratic formula
- Complex numbers
- Graphing quadratic equations



8th Advanced Geometry

Math Department

2021-22

Required Textbooks:

Glencoe/McGraw Hill Geometry (iPad)

Course Description:

This course covers all the material traditionally taught in a first-year Geometry course, and reinforces some of the concepts and computational skills usually seen in Algebra I. Some topics not covered in standard textbooks will be discussed. Students will also practice on competitive math exams. The course is designed for motivated students with exceptional mathematical ability. Extra topics include polynomials, systems of quadratic equations and logarithms. The students will typically take Algebra II their freshmen year of high school.

Class Scope and Sequence:

The Language of Geometry

- Language and symbols
- Segments, Midpoints and Distance
- Rays and Angles

Congruent Triangles

- Classifying Triangles and Testing for Congruent Triangles
- Angle Measure

Similarity

- Application of Proportion
- Similar Polygons
- Similar Triangles
- Proportional Parts

Polygon and Area

- Polygons and Polyhedra
- Areas and Polygons
- Area and Circumference of Circles
- Geometric Probability

Reasoning and Proof

- Logic
- Properties of Algebra
- Two-Column Proofs

Applying Congruent Triangles

- Right Triangles
- Inequalities of Triangles
- Triangle Inequality

Right Triangles and Trigonometry

- Geometric Mean
- Pythagorean Theorem
- Special Right Triangles
- Trigonometry
- Law of Sines and Cosines

Surface Area and Volume

- Prisms and Cylinders
- Pyramids and Cones

Parallels

- Parallels and Transversals
- Parallels in Proofs
- Slopes and Distances

Quadrilaterals

- Parallelograms
- Tests for Parallelograms
- Rectangles
- Squares and Rhombi
- Trapezoids

Circles

- Parts of Circles
- Angles, Arcs and Chords
- Inscribed Angles
- Tangents
- Special Segments

Coordinate Geometry

- Linear Equations
- Algebra and Statistics
- Coordinate Proof
- Vectors



Sixth Grade STEM

Multidisciplinary STEM Projects

2021-22

Class Description:

In 6th grade STEM, students develop a variety of tools to help them succeed academically and to help them transfer new skills into authentic life experiences. In STEM, students complete several projects aimed at building skills based in engineering and design philosophy. Projects consist of physical and digital projects designed to build critical thinking, communication, and problem solving skills. These projects include a Plastic Pollution Solution and a cross-curricular Mars Project in partnership with the Science and English departments.

Class Scope and Sequence:

Technology Skills

- Google Apps for Education
- Textbook use
- Study skills

Innovative Designer

- Learning new design programs to enhance project assignments
- Canva
- 3D Design in TinkerCAD
- Adobe Creative Cloud

Digital Citizenship

- Copyright and Fair Use
- Online Safety
- Personal information

Creative Communicator and Collaborator

- Digital media creation
- Public speaking skills
- Slideshows
- Project teamwork

Engineering Design

- Project-based Learning
- Engineering Design Process
- Brainstorming
- Developing Prototypes

Plastics Project

- Research skills
- Engineering Design Process
- Prototyping

Mars Project

- Online research skills
- Research writing
- Engineering Design Process
- Brainstorming
- Presentation Skills



Sixth Grade Mars Project

Multidisciplinary STEM Projects

2021-22

Project Description:

Students work with a team to develop solutions for barriers to human survival on Mars. Students work through the engineering and design process to create a brochure, poster, and promotional video of their design. After an in-class survey, each student is assigned a specific role in the group with responsibilities and deliverables. It is the responsibility of each student to complete their assigned pieces and work together with the students in their group to finish the project.

Goal: A team of (4) students will find solutions to barriers to human survival on Mars. They will apply these researched solutions in their choice of a design

Overarching Question: How can a _____ be designed on Mars? (Example: Ice-cream shop, football stadium)

Individual Project: Students will research barriers to human survival on Mars (oxygen, gravity, food and water, and (optional 4th) and write a research paper in their English class.

Project Scope and Sequence:

Writing

- 5-paragraph essay; intro; explanation of three barriers, conclusion
- Description of solutions/design for brochure

Research

- Layout of brochure and poster
- Solutions to barriers and how they can be applied to the design

Presentation

- Promotional video
- Final presentation
- Presentation Fair

Product

- Brochure that highlights solutions and design
- Poster to showcase design features
- Promotional video



Seventh Grade STEM

Multidisciplinary STEM Projects

2021-22

Class Description:

In 7th grade STEM, students focus on study skills to develop a variety of tools to succeed academically and be able to transfer new skills into the existing curriculum. Students engage in coursework to learn and practice transferable life skills. Students complete several projects aimed at developing their research skills, developing a business acumen through the Business Project and exposure to engineering and design through hands-on projects like Future City. Physical and digital projects designed to build critical thinking, communication, and problem-solving skills. These projects include this year's Future City project: Building a Sustainable City.

Scope and Sequence:

Digital Citizenship

- Copyright and Fair Use
- Online Safety
- Personal information

Technology Skills

- Google Apps for Education
- Adobe Creative Cloud
- Digital Citizenship

Public Speaking Skills

- Oral reading
- Eye contact, voice quality, body language

Design Skills

- Infographics
- Canva
- 3D Design with TinkerCAD
- 3D Modeling with Recycled Materials

Creative Communicator and Collaborator

- Digital media creation
- Public speaking skills
- Slideshows
- Project teamwork

Future City Project

- Research and Writing
- Engineering & Design
- City Model
- Presentation Skills

Business Project

- Research
- Hiring Process
- Product Design
- Writing Skills
- Presentation Skills



Seventh Grade Future City

Multidisciplinary STEM Projects

2021-22

Project Description:

Future City is a collaborative project for 7th grade students. Students work in groups of 4-8 students to design a city 100 years in the future that addresses a theme established by the Future City competition. Students must engineer solutions to identified problems within the established theme. In order to accomplish this, students learn traditional research skills about the provided theme and design a virtual city using SimCity software. This allows them to find out what infrastructure is needed for a stable and happy city to function.

A school competition at VCMS is held to decide which groups will represent VCMS at the Future City Regional Competition. Teams are chosen based on their performance in ALL of the deliverables for Future City. More information about the Future City project, including all resource materials, can be obtained from the Future City website: <https://futurecity.org/>.

Project Scope and Sequence:

SimCity

Resource Management
City Planning/ Infrastructure
Problem Solving
Presentation

City Essay

Written communication
Scientific/academic writing
Research Skills
Citations

City Model

Scale
Design
Planning
Simple Machines

City Presentation

Oral communication skills
Script writing and pacing
Visual aids
Question and answer skills

Engineering/Design

Scientific Research
Engineering Process
Future thinking
Complex problem solving

Research

Scientific Research
Presentation of research
Proper citations
Academic research skills



Seventh Grade Business Project

Multidisciplinary STEM Projects

2021-22

Project Description:

Individual Project: Students research an assigned company and write or film a creative project on the story of how that company started and grew into what it is today. The purpose of this assignment is for students to apply their skills in research, writing, technology, and study skills to plan, write, and produce a creative project on an assigned company.

Group Project: Students work with a team of students to develop a business plan and product that aligns to a specific industry. Each student completes an application and creates a resume to apply for an industry and role. After interviewing, each student is “hired” for a specific role with responsibilities and deliverables. It is the responsibility of each student to complete their assigned pieces and work together with the students in their group to build a business and product.

Project Scope and Sequence:

Writing

- Individual product storyboard and script
- Sales Pitch
- Business Plan components

Research

- Assigned start-up company for individual project
- Industry analysis for business plan

Presentation

- Final presentation
- Attendance at Beaverton Farmers Market

Product

- Final individual product on assigned company
- Commercial and Print Advertisement
- Company logo and website
- Final group product

Roles and Responsibilities:

Marketing Coordinator

Create marketing and advertising materials, supports all roles

Product Engineer

Design and create the product with the help of your group, supports all roles

Project Manager

Organizer, planner, sets deadlines, supports all roles

Business Director

Sales pitch, designs business structure, face of the business, supports all roles



Eighth Grade Capstone

Multidisciplinary STEM Projects

2021-22

Project Description:

The Valley Catholic Middle School (VCMS) Capstone is an intensive, year-end, cross-curricular project. In Capstone, students explore their interests and narrow their focus to one topic about which they are passionate. They design a project, conduct background research, and interview a professional in the field. During the final weeks of school, students create projects and share their learning through a website and oral presentation. Through Capstone, students refine academic skills learned over three years at VCMS—research, writing and presentation. Students learn time management and planning, self-advocacy and communication--skills that will benefit them in high school, college, and their professional lives. Students direct their own learning and advance their personal and academic growth.

Project Scope and Sequence:

Research and Writing

- Source Analysis
- Interview of an Expert
- Written Presentation of Evidence
- Conventions, Language and Style

Project

- Time Management
- Effort and Ethical Conduct
- Creativity and Originality
- Learning Stretch

Presentation

- Content and Organization
- Delivery
- Visual Component

Website

- Graphic Design
- Functionality and Accessibility
- Effective Communication of Student Work

Capstone promotes the values embodied in the VCMS Profile of a Graduate—openness to growth, intellectual curiosity, faith formation, compassionate leadership, global citizenship and striving for wellness of mind and body. Specifically, Capstone demonstrates:

- personal and academic growth as students take responsibility for their learning
- the ability to plan, manage, and complete a self-designed activity
- research skills, including the formulation of questions, evaluation of sources and accurate documentation
- Written, verbal and visual communication skills
- the ability to create a project that displays knowledge and skills acquired during Capstone



Band

Performing Arts

2021-22

Course Description:

The goals of this class are to build the playing fundamentals and musical skills of all members. Rehearsal time will be spent on music methods, theory, scales, rhythms, and learning each musician's instrument. 6th and 7th grade band will be learning and performing multiple concert pieces throughout the semester ending with a public performance in the Winter and spring. Difficult sections of Concert Band and Pep Band music are reviewed and rehearsed within class. The Pep Band supports the school's sports teams at home games. Opportunities are provided for public performance.

Class Scope and Sequence:

Unit One:

- Finding our first notes
- Proper care of our instruments
- Practice versus rehearsal.

Unit Two:

- Practice skills
- Sight-reading
- Building our musical literacy

Unit Three:

- Instrumental Technique
- Wind ensemble etiquette

Unit Four:

- Theory

Unit Five:

- Listening and Music appreciation.
- Musical History

Evaluation:

- Daily preparedness and participation
- In class behavior
- Weekly practice assignment
- Concert attendance



Choir

Performing Arts

2021-22

Course Description:

6th/7th Grade Choir focuses on fundamental musical, vocal, and ensemble skills, such as listening, singing in unison and harmony, and music literacy. The 8th Grade choir reinforces fundamental musical, vocal, and ensemble skills, while developing more advanced skills in music literacy, harmony singing, and sight-reading. Each middle school choir studies and performs a broad spectrum of music from various eras, genres, cultures, and styles. Students learn to use the voice as an instrument by learning healthy/proper vocal technique. Each choir group performs at least twice a year at Valley Catholic choir concerts. The 8th Choir may participate in middle school music festivals and other off-campus field trips.

Class Scope and Sequence:

Unit One:

- Healthy vocal production, good singing technique
- Unison singing and ensemble skills.

Unit Two:

- Basic music literacy: rhythmic and melodic notation, time signatures.
- Introduction to solfege
- Whole notes, half notes, quarter notes and rests.

Unit Three:

- Music appreciation through diverse repertoire
- Singing in languages other than English
- Unison and 2-part music
- Basic sight-reading

Unit Four:

- Listening and responding to music
- Applying solfege to sight-reading.
- 8th notes, 16th notes and rests.
- Expressive performing

Unit Five:

- Unison, 2-, and 3-Part Music
- Compound time signatures and triplets
- Intermediate sight-reading

Unit Six:

- Key signatures
- Minor scales
- Musical analysis

Unit Seven:

- Songwriting and improvisation.
- Chromatic melodies
- 4-Part music
- Advanced sight-reading

Evaluation:

- Daily work and class participation
- Music Theory and sight-reading work in class.
- Music Theory and sight-reading homework
- Concert attendance and participation
- Performance reflections



Drama

Performing Arts

2021-22

Course Description:

In this course, students are introduced to the basic concepts of theater arts. Students use various techniques to build trust and confidence, stimulate imagination, role-play, and movement. Students learn and use drama and theatre vocabulary, and develop acting skills through improvisations, scene work, and exercises. Students have the opportunity to exhibit and reinforce their skills through exercises, games, individual and group presentations, performances, and script and journal writing.

Class Scope and Sequence:

Ensemble Building

- Build trust within the group to help create a safe and trusting space for student performers

Improvisation

- Explore various literary plots through improvisation activities to inform story and character development.
- Group collaboration will lead to the culmination of the unit, in which students create a scene derived from a story told from a perspective different from the original narrative.

Monologues

- Score and perform a basic monologue

Performance Techniques

- Practice various techniques for using voice, body, movement, and space to tell a story to an audience.

Script writing

- Demonstrate an ability to create an original story with believable characters and dialogue by writing and revising an original scene

One-Act Play

- Students perform a one-act play



Orchestra

Performing Arts

2021-22

Course Description:

The students in this course learn orchestral techniques and in music fundamentals. The objectives include the spiritual, musical, aesthetic, cultural, and social growth of each individual through participation in this musical group as well as an increase in love and knowledge of music. Opportunities are provided for public performance.

Class Scope and Sequence:

Unit One:

- Scales and warm-ups

Unit Two:

- Sight-reading practice

Unit Three:

- Basic analysis

Unit Four:

- Music appreciation based on the literature performed, and, through required quarter reports on specified composers and current musical personalities, and on live or TV classical concerts

Unit Five:

- Ensemble playing taught through the selected literature, stressing expression, musicality, technical accuracy, and precision

Evaluation: Class performance, playing quizzes, and semester and final exams, written and playing



Sixth Grade PE

Physical Education
2021-22

Required Text

None

Course Description:

In 6th grade physical education, students are expected to engage in physical activity by participating in a variety of individual and team sports. The Valley Catholic Middle School physical education program is based upon the acquisition of knowledge and skills that are the foundation for engaging in physical activity. Our mission is to empower all students to sustain regular, lifelong, physical activity as a foundation for a healthy, productive and fulfilling life. Students will be exposed to the basic skills and rules of different games and sports. Students are expected to show a reasonable effort to learn and improve while participating in all activities. Sportsmanship and fair play will be exercised at all times.

Class Scope and Sequence:

Motor skill and movement pattern development

- Locomotor and non-locomotor movements, rhythmic movements, hand-eye coordination
- Introduction of manipulative skills (catch, kick, bounce, strike with hand, pass)

Display of acceptable personal and social behaviors

- Introduction of personal and social behaviors (personal hygiene, group dynamics)
- Introduction to proper behaviors and actions during PE class (sportsmanship)

Knowledge of concepts, strategies and tactics related to performance

- Introduction of sports, rules and game play strategies
- On-the-ball tactical movements (passing receiving, attacking, preventing scoring, creating space)
- Basic First Aid/Infant CPR

Ability to understand the health benefits, enjoyment and social interaction of physical activity

- Introduction of health benefits, enjoyment and social interaction within a physically active environment

Knowledge and skills to achieve a healthy lifestyle

- Introduction to physical fitness, cardiovascular and strength activities



Seventh Grade PE

Physical Education

2021-22

Required Text

None

Course Description:

In 7th grade physical education, students are expected to engage in physical activity by participating in a variety of individual and team sports. The Valley Catholic Middle School physical education program is based upon the acquisition of knowledge and skills that are the foundation for engaging in physical activity. Our mission is to empower all students to sustain regular, lifelong, physical activity as a foundation for a healthy, productive and fulfilling life. Students will be exposed to the basic skills and rules of different games and sports. They are expected to show a reasonable effort to learn and improve while participating in all activities. Sportsmanship and fair play will be exercised at all times.

Class Scope and Sequence:

Motor skill and movement pattern development (development)

- Locomotor and non-locomotor movements, rhythmic movements, hand-eye coordination
- Development of manipulative skills (catch, kick, bounce, strike with hand, pass)

Display of acceptable personal and social behaviors

- Development of personal and social behaviors (personal hygiene, group dynamics)
- Development of proper behaviors and actions during PE class (sportsmanship)

Knowledge of concepts, strategies and tactics related to performance

- Development of sports, rules and game play strategies
- Adult CPR, AED training, First Aid

Ability to understand the health benefits, enjoyment and social interaction of physical activity

- Development of personal fitness plan
- Working with others in a group to learn social interaction among peers

Knowledge and skills to achieve a healthy lifestyle

- Performing fitness tasks
- Develop a fitness plan based on individual preferences/interests



Eighth Grade PE

Physical Education

2021-22

Required Text

None

Course Description:

In 8th grade physical education, students are expected to engage in physical activity by participating in a variety of individual and team sports. The Valley Catholic Middle School physical education program is based upon the acquisition of knowledge and skills that are the foundation for engaging in physical activity. Our mission is to empower all students to sustain regular, lifelong, physical activity as a foundation for a healthy, productive and fulfilling life. Students will be exposed to the basic skills and rules of different games and sports. They are expected to show a reasonable effort to learn and improve while participating in all activities. Sportsmanship and fair play will be exercised at all times.

Class Scope and Sequence:

Motor skill and movement pattern development (proficiency)

- Locomotor and non-locomotor movements, rhythmic movements, hand-eye coordination
- Development of manipulative skills (catch, kick, bounce, strike with hand, pass)

Knowledge of concepts, strategies and tactics related to performance

- Show proficiency/improvement in sport games, rules and game play strategies
- Adult CPR, AED training, First Aid

Knowledge and skills to achieve a healthy lifestyle

- Show proficiency/improvement in physical fitness, cardiovascular and strength activities

Display of acceptable personal and social behaviors

- Development of personal and social behaviors (personal hygiene, group dynamics)
- Development of proper behaviors and actions during PE class (sportsmanship)

Ability to understand the health benefits, enjoyment and social interaction of physical activity

- Development of health benefits, enjoyment and social interaction within a physically active environment



Sixth Grade Religion

Old Testament
Religion Department
2021-22

Required textbooks:

Christ Our Life 6: God Calls a People, Loyola Press, 2009

The New American Bible

Course Description:

Sixth grade religion looks at the origins of the Catholic faith by studying the development of the Old Testament. We will study the origins of the Jewish people in ancient Mesopotamia and follow their history until modern times; at the historical events that shaped the stories of the Old Testament and how they relate to the Catholic faith. The course also makes connections between customs and traditions of the Catholic Church and other religions. Students will learn the history of the Bible and how to navigate it. This course deepens student understanding of the history and faith of the Old Testament. Students also spend time focused on character development. Students are guided through lessons that are designed to develop a community of support and respect throughout the school. They work to develop skills of compassion for others and think critically about how their actions impact the community. Students work on skills that will help them make positive and responsible choices throughout their lives.

Class Scope and Sequence:

Historical Context	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Geography and History of the Biblical World• Jewish Customs and Traditions• Connections between Abrahamic Faiths
Scripture	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Organization and History of the Bible, Pentateuch• Historical and Prophetic Books of the Bible• Wisdom Literature: Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, etc.
Catholic Traditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Origins of Mass, Liturgical Year• Styles of Prayer, Saints, Mary, Sacraments
Character Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Empathy, Problem Solving, Relationships• Effective Communication, Virtues• Second Step, Project Genesis, Called to Protect
Service	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Importance of Service• Connections to Church Teaching• Required Service to School Community



Seventh Grade Religion

Life of Christ
Religion Department

2021-22

Required Textbooks:

Christ Our Life 7: Jesus the Way, the Truth, and the Life, Loyola Press, 2009

The New American Bible www.usccb.org/books

Course Description:

This class presents a chronological narrative of the life of Christ from His birth to His Ascension using *The New American Bible* and the *Christ Our Life* textbook. It also includes a discussion of peer relationships through Second Step and moral Christian living through Project Genesis.

Major projects and exams may include unit and semester exams, Sisters of St. Mary of Oregon project, and community service.

Class Scope and Sequence:

Historical Context	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Inter-testament Period• 1st Century Palestine
Scripture	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Gospels• Acts of the Apostles
Catholic Traditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Prayer, Liturgy, Sacraments• Advent, Christmas, Lent• Holy Days, Feast Days• Vocations, Holy Orders
Character Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Empathy, Communication• Call to Protect, Project Genesis• Cardinal Virtues, Beatitudes• Emotion Management, Substance Abuse• Second Step, Project Genesis, Called to Protect
Service	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Waves of Love• Community Service Projects



Eighth Grade Religion

Church History
Religion Department

2021-22

Required Textbooks:

Christ Our Life 8: The Church Then and Now, 2009

The New American Bible

Course Description:

This course focuses on the history of the Catholic Church while also integrating important character development lessons and helping students become the best versions of themselves. Students explore identity, self-esteem, empathy as a way to explore ethical decision making and the Seven Themes of Catholic Social Teaching. Students learn the history and development of the Catholic Church through the following themes: Early Church, Conflict, Challenges, and Modernization. Students explore the Biblical origins of the church with a focus on the Epistles and learn how a small group of Jesus' followers emerged into a more formalized Church. Students also learn how various internal and external conflicts in the Church influenced its development. Students gain an understanding of the modern church and how it works in the modern world.

Class Scope and Sequence:

Historical Context	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early Church: Councils, Church Fathers, Heresies • Conflicts: Medieval to Modern Period • Challenges: Reformation, Scientific Revolution, Age of Enlightenment • Modernization: Anti-Catholic Attitudes, 2nd Vatican Council, The Future Church
Scripture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Epistles • Scripture as foundations of Church teachings, practices, and traditions
Catholic Traditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prayer, Liturgical Year, Saints • Sacraments, Catechism of the Church • Catholic Social Teaching
Character Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Self Esteem, Empathy, Problem Solving, Motivation and Goal Setting • Ethical Decision Making • Effective Communication • Second Step, Project Genesis, Called to Protect
Service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Importance of Service • Connections to Church Teaching • Required Service to School Community



Sixth Grade Science

Earth Science
Science Department
2021-2022

Textbook:

CK-12 Earth Science Concepts for Middle School © 2020

Course Description:

This inquiry-based course builds on the natural curiosity of students by asking questions about the world around us and Earth's place in the Universe. This course is designed to give students an appreciation for the natural world, while emphasizing critical thinking and problem-solving skills. This course will also give students the opportunity to consider humanity's impact on our environment and develop their ability to design and evaluate solutions to these issues. Scientific concepts are explored within the context of moving toward becoming mature, responsible citizens who incorporate Catholic values.

Class Scope and Sequence:

Earth's Water & Atmosphere

- The Water Cycle
- Air Masses and Weather
- Air & Ocean Currents
- Climate & Biomes

Geologic Processes & History

- Rocks & Minerals
- Landforms & Geologic Features
- Fossils & Earth's History
- Evidence of Plate Tectonics
- Geologic Time Scale

Space Science

- Space Exploration & Mars
- Moon Phases & Eclipses
- Gravity & Motions in Space
- Objects in the Solar System

Earth & Human Activity

- Natural Resources
- Natural Hazards
- Human Impacts on the Environment
- Global Climate Change

Science and Engineering Practices

- | | |
|--|--|
| • Asking Questions and Defining Problems | • Analyzing and Interpreting Data |
| • Developing and Using Models | • Constructing Explanations and Designing Solutions |
| • Planning and Carrying Out Investigations | • Engaging in Argument from Evidence |
| • Using Mathematics and Computational Thinking | • Obtaining, Evaluating, and Communicating Information |



Seventh Grade Science

Physical Science
Science Department

2021-2022

Textbook:

CK-12 Physical Science Concepts for Middle School © 2020

Course Description:

This course is designed to enhance students' understanding of physical science, which is the study of matter and energy. Physical science combines two branches of science—chemistry and physics. The class emphasizes critical thinking and problem-solving skills, as well as laboratory experiences.

Class Scope and Sequence:

Scientific Problem Solving

- Lab safety
- Scientific processes
- Experimental design
- Metric system

Motion and Forces

- Describing Motion
- The Laws of Motion
- Work and Simple Machines
- Forces and Fluids

Energy and Matter

- Energy & Energy Resources
- Thermal Energy
- Foundations of Chemistry
- States of Matter

Properties & Interactions of Matter

- Understanding the Atom
- The Periodic Table
- Elements & Chemical Bonds
- Chemical Reactions & Equations
- Mixtures, Solubility, & Acid/Base Solutions
- Carbon Chemistry

Waves, Electricity, & Magnetism

- Waves
- Sound
- Electromagnetic Waves
- Light
- Electricity
- Magnets

Science and Engineering Practices

- Asking Questions and Defining Problems
- Developing and Using Models
- Planning and Carrying Out Investigations
- Using Mathematics and Computational Thinking
- Analyzing and Interpreting Data
- Constructing Explanations and Designing Solutions
- Engaging in Argument from Evidence
- Obtaining, Evaluating, and Communicating Information



Eighth Grade Science

Life Science
Science Department
2021-22

Textbook:

CK-12 Life Science Concepts for Middle School © 2020

Course Description:

This course is devoted to the study of living organisms and their processes. Students will have an opportunity to formulate answers to the following essential questions:

- How do cells contribute to the function of living organisms?
- How does a system of living and nonliving things operate to meet the needs of the organisms in the system?
- How do living organisms pass traits from one generation to the next?
- How do organisms change over time in response to changes in the environment?

Throughout this course, students will develop scientific literacy skills, laboratory techniques, and emphasize critical thinking and problem-solving skills to encourage the application of biological knowledge to make decisions.

Class Scope and Sequence:

From Molecules to Organisms: Structures and Processes

- Biochemistry
- Cell Organelles
- Cell Processes and Energy
- Cell Division

Biological Evolution: Unity and Diversity

- Adaptation and Natural Selection
- Mechanisms of Change
- Evidence for Evolution
- Biodiversity in Humans

Heredity: Inheritance and Variation of Traits

- DNA structure and function
- Mendelian & Human Genetics
- Gene Mutations & Disorders
- Bioethics

Relationships in Ecosystems

- Interdependent Relationships in Ecosystems
- Cycles of Matter and Energy Transfer in Ecosystems
- Ecosystem Dynamics

Science and Engineering Practices

- Asking Questions and Defining Problems
- Developing and Using Models
- Planning and Carrying Out Investigations
- Computational Thinking
- Analyzing and Interpreting Data
- Constructing Explanations and Designing Solutions
- Engaging in Argument from Evidence
- Obtaining, Evaluating, and Communicating Information



Sixth Grade Social Studies

World History, Culture, and Geography

Social Studies Department

2021-22

Textbooks:

Social Studies Techbook: World Geography and World History–Discovery Education (digital)

The Nystrom Desk Atlas

Course Description:

6th grade students practice the skills of a student historian while learning about the Americas in semester one and the ancient world in Eurasia in semester two. Students interpret different map types and explore physical and human geography, seeing how people use and depend on the environment. Through a study of culture and history, students learn how people around the world organize their communities and interact with others. Students determine the achievements and learn how history has shaped cultures. Students compare and contrast forms of government, investigate current issues, and the means of change. Throughout their coursework, students will develop these foundational research skills: how to assess the credibility of sources, discern fact from opinion, paraphrase and take notes, and construct an argument using multiple sources. Students will improve their writing skills, plan projects, and give oral presentations.

Class Scope and Sequence:

The Americas

- Growth, achievement, and decline of pre-colonial empires; exploration and colonialism; modern societies

Ancient River Civilizations

- Comparative study of the Fertile Crescent, India, and China
- Growth of civilization: rise of agriculture, religion, writing
- Achievements and influence
- Decline and successor states

Mediterranean

- Greek city-states, the Roman Republic and Roman Empire to its fall
- Achievements and influence

Geography, Economics, Civics, and Research for All Regions

- Geography: map comparison, five themes, sustainability, respect and responsibility for God's creation
- Economics: labor and natural resources, trade as exchange and relationships
- Civics: types of government and social organization, roles of citizens, means of promoting the common good
- Research: investigate current challenges, analyze sources, explore solutions and develop arguments



Seventh Grade Social Studies

World History, Culture, and Geography

Social Studies Department

2021-22

Textbooks

Social Studies Techbook: World Geography and World History–Discovery Education (digital)
Student Atlas of the World, 6th Edition – National Geographic Society

Course Description:

7th grade students learn the history, cultures and geography of the eastern hemisphere: Asia as traversed by the Silk Road; the Mediterranean region including Europe, the Maghreb and Near East; and sub-Saharan Africa. Students analyze maps, find patterns in human and physical systems, and explore the interdependence of peoples and land. Historical lessons cover the growth of religions and cultures, political systems and technologies. Students learn how people exchanged ideas through trade, travel, and conflict, and how those histories shaped the present. Students investigate current issues, and the means of change. Students will have hands-on opportunities to investigate different cultures, explore and create different art forms. They will improve research, writing, citation, and presentation skills.

Class Scope and Sequence:

Africa

- Map making, biomes, human-environment interaction; respect and responsibility for God's creation
- Trade and cultural exchange: Arab and Mediterranean influence, gold-salt trade, Aksum, Swahili Coast and Indian Ocean trade
- Medieval kingdoms of West Africa, Ethiopia, southern Africa; colonialism and resource extraction
- Governmental and grass roots approaches to change
- Research skills: topic selection, source analysis, note taking, organization of ideas, writing analyze sources

Silk Road

Early Middle Ages: migration, Age of Faith

- Europe: Byzantine and Carolingian Empires, Viking expansion,
- Asia: Tang China, Islamic Empires

High Middle Ages: art and architecture, intellectual growth

- Europe: Normans, Crusades, Magna Carta
- Asia: Abbasid and Song Dynasties

Late Medieval and Early Modern Period: political consolidation, cultural change

- Europe: rise of cities, Renaissance, Reformation, Exploration
- Asia: rise of Ottomans, Ming China, Tokugawa Japan



Eighth Grade Social Studies

American History, Culture, and Geography

Social Studies Department

2021-22

Textbooks:

Social Studies Techbook: United States History, World Geography, and Civics –Discovery Education (digital)

Course Description:

This course focuses on themes of migration, liberty and political development. Students learn about migration as a defining feature of the American experience. People's movements across oceans and across the continent have shaped the country's borders, economic and social development. Their cooperation and conflicts revealed the need for protection of all citizens' rights. Students will learn about struggles to formalize these rights for women, native people and African-Americans. This country's emphasis on rights developed from English roots to a unique democratic experiment in the 19th century. Students will learn about our government's origins, how citizens have shaped it, and how the Civil War transformed the nation into a more centralized republic. Students will learn how citizens took action to defend the rights of all Americans and how the nation's history is represented in music, art and film. Students learn to think like a historian through close reading, analyzing primary and secondary sources, and defending claims with evidence.

Class Scope and Sequence:

Geography

- Physical characteristics and regions
- Expansion and settlement
- Resources, technological development, and human-environment interaction
- Respect and responsibility for God's creation

Civics and Government

- English Political Influence
- Declaring Independence
- Constitution: values, structure, amendments
- Roles of citizens
- Civil Rights, Civil Wrongs

Migration and Cultural Change

- Colonial settlement and legacy
- Westward expansion: key individuals & groups
- Immigration: industrialism, urbanization and cultural diffusion
- Cultural regions of the United States
- American music, art, and film

Conflict, Cooperation & Interdependence

- Relations with Native Americans
- Roads, Rails, and Canals
- Social Reform Movements
- Mexican War
- Civil War and its Impact
- Reconstruction and Jim Crow



Introduction to Art

Visual Arts Department

2021-22

Note: Curriculum Guide for visuals arts is currently under review

Course Description:

Beginning students will be able to explore the Elements of Art & the Principles of Design including generating and conceptualizing new artistic ideas while seeking to convey meaning throughout their projects. Students will also analyze and interpret the meaning of artistic works throughout history. All projects will include instruction in The Studio Habits of Mind, a framework for creative thinking that focuses on eight steps:

- Develop Craft
- Engage & Persist
- Envision
- Expression
- Observation
- Stretch & Explore
- Understand the Art World
- Reflect

Class Scope and Sequence (may include but not limited to):

	History	Project 1	Project 2	Project 3	Project 4
Unit One: Printmaking	The History of the medium Japanese Printmaking	Goyataku Fish Printing	Styrofoam prints	Linoleum prints	Collograph printing
Unit Two: Photography	The History of Photography WPA photographers	Composition Still life photographs	Portraiture Altered portraits	Landscape	Photo Narrative
Unit Three: Book Arts	The History of Book Making Contemporary artists' books	Pamphlet binding Wreck this Book	Japanese Stab Bindings	Accordion Folded books	Altered Books



Advanced Art

Visual Arts Department

2021-22

Note: Curriculum Guide for visuals arts is currently under review

Course Description:

This hands-on course is filled with projects and activities to boost your critical thinking, grow your creativity and develop technical and artistic skills to fulfill your concepts. We will expand on our knowledge of basic art principles to create artwork focused on advanced techniques and exploration of meaning and intent in our artwork.

Class Scope and Sequence (may include but not limited to):

	History	Project 1	Project 2	Project 3
Unit One: Identity	Famous self-portraits	Personal Mandala	Self-portrait	Self-portrait in location
Unit Two: World	Political and environmental art	Word art	Silhouettes Cut paper	Landscape
Unit Three: Narrative	Constructed Artwork	Photojournalism	Fictional story	Narrative Book



Spanish

World Language Department

2021-22

Required textbooks:

Spanish 1 & 2 Descubre Level 1 Student Edition

Course Description: When students learn another language, it not only opens doors of communication for them, it also brings lifelong benefits. Through their language studies, students practice skills such as pattern recognition and critical thinking that will serve them throughout their lives. Valley Catholic Middle School's Spanish Language curriculum is ACTFL-aligned and designed to build proficiency in the three modes of communication: interpretive, interpersonal, and presentational. By rooting the program in communication, we are able to provide an immersive experience in which students and instructors speak Spanish almost exclusively. Students will practice real-world communication skills while also engaging with the history and culture of the Spanish speaking world by reading, watching, and listening to authentic materials. The classroom is a dynamic space where students are encouraged to pursue the topics that interest them while utilizing the Spanish language. The goal for the first year of Spanish is for each student to reach the Novice High level of proficiency which includes the ability to navigate with some success in day-to-day survival situations as well as the ability to ask and answer simple questions.

Class Scope and Sequence:

Basics

- Understand, speak, read, and write simple basic Spanish

Information:

- Ask for and give information
- Make reservations
- Make plans for the future

Geography

- Recognize and appreciate the culture and geographic characteristics of the Spanish speaking world.
- In particular, those related to the United States, Mexico and Spain

Personnel

- Express likes and dislikes
- Describe self, family members, friends and favorite past times

Verbs:

- Manipulate regular verbs
- Begin to Manipulate irregular verbs in the present and future tense

Culture

- Develop an awareness of the Spanish culture, and its importance and influence worldwide