



8th Grade

RAIDER PRIDE IS HARD TO HIDE

Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic School

CURRICULUM

Religion

The religion program focuses on spiritual formation. Through reciting daily prayer, planning and assisting in liturgy and other forms of worship, engaging in dialogue with our priest, and participating in various service projects, students build a strong foundation in their faith. Catholic values are discussed and integrated not only in religion classes, but throughout the entire curricula. In seventh grade, the focus is on:

- Morality
- Sacraments
- Church History
- Preparation for the sacrament of Confirmation

Technology

Students will learn:

- Use content-related tools, software, and simulations to support learning and research
- Apply productivity /multimedia tools and peripherals to support personal productivity, group collaboration and learning throughout curriculum
- Demonstrate the text editing features of a word processing document
- Demonstrate the special formatting features of a word processing program
- Plot and use different types of charts and graphs
- Use power point to create projects and assignments
- Construct a simple spreadsheet

Language Arts / Reading

Students experience literature in the form of nonfiction, fiction, poetry, folktales, fantasies, and plays. Reading comprehension and fluency develops and improves as students are presented with the following skills:

- Making inferences using textual evidence as support
- Identifying the theme or central idea of text and how it develops
- Analyzing how plot, characterization, setting, point of view, and conflict interact
- Identifying the purpose and effect of various forms of figurative language
- Applying word analysis and vocabulary skills
- Analyzing the structure, style, and purpose
- Analyzing character conflict and how the author develops the characters' view point
- Comparing and contrasting various texts on topic

Writing

Students use writing to convey meaning, applying classroom instruction in grammar, spelling, mechanics and process.

Students will:

- Write in multiple forms including persuasive, expository, and narrative formats
- Write well developed essays appropriate for the purpose
- Use the writing process including pre-writing, revising, and editing
- Properly evaluate and cite sources

Speech and Communication

Students will listen for understanding, following directions, and respond appropriately to the speaker. Students will use acquired language and vocabulary to express opinions. Students will:

- Participate in small and large group discussions
- Analyze the speaker's main idea, purpose and argument
- Express ideas clearly using appropriate presentation skills
- Incorporate visuals into presentations when appropriate

MOTOR SKILL DEVELOPMENT

Students in our junior high experience physical education through:

Movement- combinations and sequences in locomotors /non-locomotors manipulative skills, team, individual and lifetime sports and activities

Physical Fitness- exercises, effects of physical movement on the body, assessment and goal setting

Team Building-Cooperative sports and activities, leadership skills

Communication and Decision Making- Verbal and nonverbal skills, making wise choices, conflict resolution with respect
Health in conjunction with science and religion classes

MUSIC

Instruction revolves around concepts involving both vocal and instrumental music including:

Tempo, articulation, expression, beat/meter, rhythm, pitch, melody, harmony, performance and counter melodies

Students will also investigate the foundation of American music and musical theater.

Where Children Grow In Wholeness and Holiness



Math

Students acquire knowledge of mathematics and the ability to apply math skills through implementation.

Students will:

- Know that there are numbers that are not rational, and approximate them with rational numbers
- Work with radicals and exponent integers
- Understand the connections between proportional relationships, lines, and linear equations
- Analyze and solve liner equations and pairs of simultaneous linear equations
- Define, evaluate and compare functions
- Use functions to model relationships between quantities
- Understand congruence and similarity using physical models, transparencies, or geometry software
- Understand and apply the Pythagorean Theorem
- Solve real world and mathematical problems involving volume of cylinders, cons, and spheres
- Investigate patterns of association in bivariate data
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Some standards within the domain of "Algebra" may be utilized based on a student's mathematical progression.



Education should consist of a series of enlightenments, each raising the individual to a higher level of awareness, understanding, and kinship with all living things.

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Social Studies

The social studies curriculum prepares students for informed participation in tomorrows America. This comprehensive social studies program presents a mixture of history, geography, economics, citizenship and culture. Eighth grade students will explore themes that focus on:

- United States history from 1865
- The Constitution (U.S., Illinois), the flag
- Global issues
- Economic systems
- Political systems and Catholic teachings
- Compare and analyze differences in portrayals and perspectives of:
 - Historical figures
 - Historical events
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The mandatory Illinois State and/or U.S. Constitution must be administered and passed prior to 8th grade graduation.

Science

Hands on and interactive science will help students develop skills for a lifetime of science exploration including;

- Explain the physical history and processes of planet Earth
- Identify and determine how cellular life processes are accomplished
- Describe the role of DNA in genetics and apply the principles or genetics to human inheritance
- Interpret data from graphs and tables
- Discuss the current policies and ethics related to science and technology
- Understanding of elements and the periodic table
- Chemical processes in everyday life

Additional academic and social opportunities:

*Drop Everything and Read

*Brain Gym

*Art

*Unit Collaborative Studies

*Piano lessons / Band

*School Choir

*Extracurricular Sports

*Special Occasion projects

*Enrichment Days

*Vacation Bible School

*Summer activities

*Service projects

*All School Spelling Bee

*Catholic Schools Week activities

*Drama

*Family Mass

*Home and School Social activities

*Altar Serving Ministry