



# BISHOP McNAMARA

## CATHOLIC SCHOOL

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Junior High Curriculum

# Junior High Curriculum

The junior high curriculum follows the Standards and guidelines of the Diocese of Joliet in all classes.

## Religion

The Religion Program includes providing students opportunities to learn through stories, activities, Scripture, prayer, discussions, and reflection about the Catholic faith.

Students learn to:

- Understand and communicate the teachings of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*
- Participate in Mass and/or prayer service weekly
- Experience and appreciate a variety of prayer forms
- Engage in service projects
- Read and comprehend Sacred Scripture as well as texts relevant to doctrine and teachings
- Eighth grade instruction includes classroom preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation.

## English / Language Arts

The Language Arts Program includes reading, writing, speaking, listening, and the study of literature. Students will utilize the 6 + 1 Traits in Writing in addition to developing a variety of communication methods.

Students learn to:

- Read and comprehend literary and informational texts independently and proficiently noting details, text structure, and integration of ideas.
- Research topics using print and digital tools to locate, analyze, and evaluate information.
- Produce clear and coherent writing appropriate to task, purpose, and audience
- Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage
- Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions

# Mathematics

Students continue to develop conceptual understanding, procedural knowledge, and problem solving skills establishing in the lower grades.

Students learn to:

Use reasoning to analyze information to solve problems

Construct arguments to solve problems and communicate results

Use reasoning, tools, and models to solve problems in:

Ratios and proportions

Number system

Expressions and equations

Statistics and probability

Functions and geometry

Student placement in math class is determined by the results of a junior high math placement test and/or teacher recommendation. Typically, seventh grade students are placed into Math 7 or Pre-Algebra and eighth grade students are placed into Pre-Algebra or Algebra 1.

# Science

Students use concrete, hands-on experiences to understand science.

Students learn to:

- Understand and use the inquiry process to explain real world phenomena
- Understand concepts of life, physical, earth/space and engineering/technology.
- Analyze and interpret data to demonstrate understanding

Students study life science in seventh grade and physical science in eighth grade.

Students participate in the science fair process with seventh graders preparing a science fair paper and eighth graders preparing a science fair project. Eighth graders will participate in the school's science fair in January. Students are assisted in the writing process in their English/ Language Arts class.

# Social Studies

Students prepare for their role as informed, ethical and moral citizens in a democratic society.

Students learn to:

- Understand important aspects shaping our history
- Understand world geography and its effects on society
- Understand political, economic, and social systems
- Use a variety of digital tools to produce and publish as appropriate.

Typically, seventh grade includes studies of Colonial American and eight grade includes studies of the Civil War.

Students are required to pass an Illinois and a United States Constitution test to graduate from eighth grade.

# World Languages

Students continue to develop a foundation in the study of a world language (either French or Spanish).

Students learn to:

- Use the target language to communicate and/or
- Study the countries and culture of the target language people

# Physical Education

Students learn and explore factors that affect a healthy lifestyle

Students learn to:

- Understand and apply basic concepts of games/sports
- Use team-building skills
- Achieve and maintain appropriate levels of physical fitness
- Make good decisions for health and well-being
- Understand body systems and factors of growth/development

Students will have the opportunity to participate in intramural sports and/or IESA school sponsored athletic teams for boys and girls.

## Art

Students have the opportunity to express themselves in various art forms.

Students learn to:

- Understand and apply the elements of art
- Understand how art is created
- Understand the role of art in civilization

## Music

Students have the opportunity to participate in music activities and to develop an appreciation for music.

Students learn to:

- Understand and apply the elements of music
- Understand how music is created/performed
- Understand the role of music in civilization

Students will perform in a grade level choral group and will also have the option to participate in the grade school Band program.