



ST. JOSEPH'S

Middle School



St. Joseph's Catholic School educates students through faith formation, academic excellence, and the development of virtue to be disciples of Christ.



## Middle School Philosophy

- The unique needs of students in grades 6 - 8 are best met in a middle school setting that provides a student-centered program and recognizes that students of this age are undergoing greater physiological, psychological, and social changes than at any other period in their lives.
- The purpose of the middle school is to meet the educational, developmental and social needs that emerge during this time of transition from the elementary school to middle school.



## Middle School Philosophy

- Middle school students develop a repertoire of learning strategies and study skills that help develop independent learning.
- Middle school students develop the capacity for critical thought and effective communication. They also develop the ability to make reasoned moral and ethical choices.



## We Provide:

- a gradual transition from the self-contained classroom to a departmentalized structure
- a core curriculum including religion, mathematics, language arts, science, & social studies
- knowledgeable, experienced educators who are committed to teaching adolescents
- a challenging curriculum, pace of learning & support to meet individual levels of understanding
- a supportive environment for the physical and social development of students
- a climate that fosters self-esteem, self-discipline and individual responsibility
- extracurricular activities that promote self-confidence and social growth



## St. Joseph's Middle School Curriculum

Building on the strong academic foundation developed in the primary (K-2) and elementary (3-5) grades, middle school students will experience a comprehensive and challenging curriculum that prepares them for the rigors of high school.

### Core Curriculum

- Religion
- Math
- Language Arts
- Science
- Social Studies

### Specialty Subjects

- Spanish
- Art
- PE
- Music elective (choir, band or general music)



## Religion

Our Catholic Faith is at the heart of all that we do and teach. Middle School students are leaders at weekly liturgies, prepare for the sacrament of Confirmation, and have the opportunity to participate in monthly NET nights. Daily prayer and retreat experiences guide our students as they grow in their faith.

### Curriculum

6th Grade: Old Testament

7th Grade: New Testament

8th Grade: Church History & Confirmation Preparation



## Math

In the fall of 2018, the math department adopted a new curriculum titled *Math in Focus*. Students are challenged with this curriculum to not only solve a problem, but to be able to explain the why behind the problem. All math classes are leveled to allow for more individualized instruction and greater success in math. Placement into math classes is based on MAP scores, performance in previous math classes, and teacher recommendation.

### Curriculum

	<u>Option 1</u>
6th Grade:	6th Grade Math
7th Grade:	7th Grade Math
8th Grade:	8th Grade Algebra

<u>Option 2</u>
Advanced 6th Grade Math
Advanced 7th Grade Math
Algebra 1 / Geometry



## Language Arts

The Middle School team has two teachers for Language Arts instruction. Instead of one class period covering all areas of language arts, Middle School students will have two concentrated Language Arts classes:

### Literature

This class focuses on comprehension, vocabulary and spelling skills using textbooks, anthologies and relevant novels.

### Communication Skills

This class focuses on grammar skills, writing, and organizational /study skills.



## Science

Middle School students are provided a rich science experience that integrates STEAM into the curriculum. Lessons are reinforced in the Makerspace classroom giving students a hands-on approach to their learning.

### Curriculum

6th Grade: Earth Science

7th Grade: Life Science

8th Grade: Physical Science

All: Hands-On Labs

### Engineering in the STEAM Makerspace

Orthographic Drawing

Coding

2D and 3D Design

Electricity

Robots

Construction



## Social Studies

Middle School students are educated about the world around them through exploration of the social sciences: history, geography, economics, culture, and government. Our students acquire knowledge and skills that help them become informed citizens in a culturally diverse, democratic society.

### Curriculum

6th Grade: Ancient Civilizations

7th Grade: Geography

8th Grade: U.S. History



## One-to-One Laptop Program

Technology plays an integral role in our middle school. Through our 1:1 laptop program, our students acquire technology skills, have expanded educational opportunities, and learn digital citizenship.

- Students are issued a laptop in the fall of sixth grade and will use the same laptop until eighth grade graduation.
- Laptops are turned into the school over the summer break for cleaning and updating.
- We are a Google-based school using Google Classroom for assignments, projects, and other homework.



## General Information

### Faculty

The Middle School team consists of six faculty members teaching the core curriculum and one Learning Specialist to provide additional support. Middle School students interact with seven different teachers - six core curriculum teachers and one specialist (art, music, spanish, PE) - during each day.

### Sixth Grade Orientation

The first day of school is an Orientation Day for sixth grade students. This gives our new middle school students the opportunity to meet the teachers and learn their schedule without the older students in the building.



## General Information

### Homeroom

Middle school students will start and end their day in their homeroom.

### Contact Time

Choir, band, and general music are taught during Contact Time - a daily period set aside for students to work on homework and get teacher support as needed.

### Extra-Curriculars

Sixth graders will have the opportunity to participate in extra-curricular activities such as the school musical, Art Club, etc.



## General Information

### Uniform

Middle school students will wear a different uniform. A solid blue pleated skirt for the girls and navy twill pants for the boys. All students wear white polo or button down shirts. A variety of pullovers and sweaters are also available.

### Online Student Management System

Middle School parents are able to access their child's academic information through Educate, our online management system.



## Student Shadow Day: January 22

- 5th grade students will be visiting Middle School the morning of January 22nd (8:40am - 12:00pm)
- Students will be partnered with a current sixth grade student to experience a typical middle school morning
- See the flyer inside your folder for information on how to sign-up your child to attend this fun day

