

The Mission of St. Norbert School  
is to find God in all things through  
learning, faith and service.



**ST. NORBERT SCHOOL**  
THINK AHEAD

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*Rosanne Sikich, Principal*

**ST. NORBERT SCHOOL**  
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# Seventh Grade

## Curriculum Guide



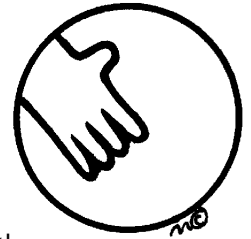
## **SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL LEARNING (S.E.L.)**

Many key sets of skills and behaviors provide a strong foundation for achieving success in school and in life. One skill is knowing emotions, how to manage them, and ways to express them constructively. Another skill is building and maintaining positive relationships with others and contributing to the well-being of a school. These skills help all students learn to recognize the feelings and perspectives of others.

### **By the end of Junior High students will be able to...**

#### **Self-Awareness and Self-Management Skills**

- recognize and accurately label emotions.
- demonstrate control of impulsive behavior.
- identify one's likes and dislikes, needs and wants, strengths, and challenges.
- identify family, peer, school, and community strengths.
- identify goals for academic success and classroom behavior.



#### **Social Awareness and Interpersonal Skills**

- recognize that others may experience situations differently than oneself.
- use listening skills to identify the feelings and perspectives of others.
- describe the ways that people are similar and different.
- describe positive qualities in others.
- identify ways to work and play well with others.
- demonstrate appropriate social and classroom behavior.
- identify problems and conflicts commonly experienced by peers.
- identify approaches to resolving conflicts constructively.

#### **Decision-Making Skills and Responsible Behavior**

- explain why unprovoked acts that hurt others are wrong.
- identify a range of decisions that students make at school.
- make positive choices when interacting with classmates.

## JUNIOR HIGH ELECTIVES

St. Norbert Junior High currently offers numerous unique fine arts and technology electives based on educational significance and student interest. Electives are geared toward engaging students in challenging ways that interest them. All students are enrolled in physical education and a foreign language class as well. Additionally, incoming 6<sup>th</sup> grade students are enrolled in Study Skills to encourage a successful transition to junior high. This class teaches students how to incorporate several organizational techniques.

### By the end of Junior High students may choose from...

#### Fine Arts Electives

- Basic Drawing
- Painting Methods
- Fashion
- Debate
- Guitar
- Hand Bell Choir
- Music Makes a Movie



#### Technology Electives

- Study Skills
- Technology Explorations
- Basic LEGO
- Green City Challenge
- LEGO Mindstorm
- Photoshop/Digital Photography
- Programming (multi-level)
- Journalism
- Film Studies



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Dear Parents,

We hope you find this Curriculum Guide helpful! The guide is meant to give you an overview of what your child will be learning at his/her grade level. This overview will assist you when having conversations about classroom work with your child's teacher and when reinforcing learning concepts at home with your child.

We invite you to contact your child's teacher with any questions throughout the year. We look forward to a successful partnership to enhance each student's knowledge.

God Bless,

St. Norbert School Staff

Curriculum guides for preschool through eighth grade are available on our website.

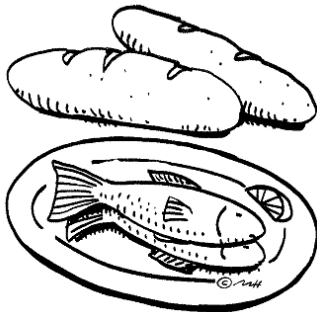
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## RELIGION

Through scripture and tradition, seventh grade students gain a deeper understanding of the impact of Jesus in their lives and in the world. Students gain understanding of His mission through His role as the son of Mary and Joseph, His relationship with the apostles, the parables He told, and the miracles He worked. They will be aware that Jesus' kingdom is one of love, justice, and truth, and have a deeper understanding of the sacraments.

### **By the end of seventh grade students will be able to...**

- understand that faith is a gift from God which we profess together and to the world.
- identify that the central mystery of the Catholic faith is the Holy Trinity.
- understand the sacramental nature of the church and the meaning of the sacraments in personal life.
- recognize that sacramental life is rooted in faith and in prayer.
- understand and celebrate the liturgical rites of the church in the church year.
- describe the organizational structure of the church.
- recognize how stewardship is important to the spiritual life of the parish and to one's life.
- recognize that the parish has racial, cultural, and ethnic identities that must be respected.
- understand that other religions must be respected.
- participate in a variety of service projects.

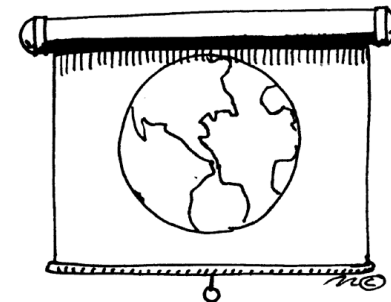


## SPANISH II

Obtaining fluency through the acquisition of vocabulary and grammar in a meaningful context is the focus of Spanish. Students learn to speak, read, write, and listen using a kinesthetic style of learning. Assessments are based on how well students can use the language rather than how well they have memorized the rules. The TPRS® method of teaching Spanish is used. This method focuses on achieving real language acquisition through the development of practical skills.

### **By the end of Spanish II students will be able to...**

- read three novellas and various short stories to learn vocabulary and grammar in context.
- practice speaking through acting out chapters in the novellas.
- develop skits to practice vocabulary and grammar that mimic real-life scenarios.
- use the eTextbook for games, videos, and assessments.
- acquire elements of the culture through the readings and on field trips.
- develop confidence in writing in Spanish through written retells of the novellas or stories.
- listen to videos and audio CD to aid in understanding native speakers.

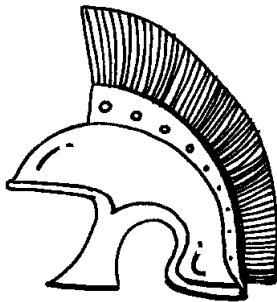


## LATIN II

Learning Latin helps students develop strong study habits, improve their knowledge of English vocabulary, and gain insight into the world of ancient Romans. In Latin II, students will build upon the grammar and vocabulary that they learned in Latin I. Vocabulary study will emphasize Latin roots used in English. Culture and history units will focus on: the foundation of Rome, the Roman Republic (through the Punic Wars), and the architecture and layout of the Roman forum.

### By the end of Latin II students will be able to...

- read, comprehend, and interpret more complex Latin sentences and texts.
- demonstrate an understanding of the practices, products, and perspectives of Roman culture.
- investigate the history and culture of Rome through primary source material (both in translation and in Latin).
- reinforce and expand their knowledge of other subject areas through the study of the Latin language and Roman history and culture.
- use their knowledge of the Latin language to improve their understanding of English.
- compare and contrast their own culture with that of the ancient Romans.



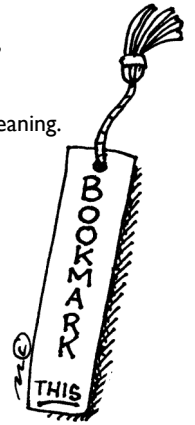
## AMERICAN LITERATURE

The junior high language arts program prepares student to exceed the norm in reading, writing, and communication while enhancing syntax skills that portray sophistication in writing and speaking; skills increase progressively each year. American Literature focuses on finding theme in a variety of texts, as well as advancing the writing process by incorporating support and elaboration while also varying structure and developing individual voice.

### By the end of American Literature students will be able to...

#### Reading Comprehension and Language

- make connections from text to text, from text to self, and from text to the world.
- use a variety of strategies to comprehend, relate to, and infer meaning across literary genres.
- interpret and analyze text using story elements, point-of-view, voice, and theme.
- compare how authors express their literary devices to add meaning.
- determine inferences regarding the motives of characters and the consequences of their actions.
- interpret and analyze the author's message.
- identify the structure of the text using an outline or a graphic organizer.



#### Writing

- demonstrate the use of various writing genres to express purpose and ideas.
- use the writing process: prewriting, planning, writing, revision, editing, and publishing to create an organized paper.
- enhance writing by using descriptive language, varied sentence structures, transitional sentences, and transitional words and phrases.
- establish a voice and tone to clarify the writer's purpose for the audience.

#### Listening and Speaking

- interprets and synthesizes the words of the speaker to comprehend the main points.
- demonstrate comprehension through oral responses.
- participate thoughtfully in small and large group discussions.
- enhance projects and oral presentations through the use of technology.

## WORLD LITERATURE

The junior high language arts program prepares student to exceed the norm in reading, writing, and communication while enhancing syntax skills that portray sophistication in writing and speaking; skills increase progressively each year. World Literature provides a solid foundation and the confidence to achieve success in a rigorous high school curriculum.

### **By the end of World Literature students will be able to...** **Reading Literature and Informational text**

- analyze how particular lines of dialogue or incidents in a story or drama propel the action, reveal aspects of a character, or provoke a decision.
- determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text; analyze the impact of specific word choices on meaning and tone, including analogies or allusions to other texts.
- analyze how differences in the points of view of the characters and the audience or reader create such effects as suspense or humor.
- cite the textual evidence that most strongly supports an analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.
- analyze in detail the structure of a specific paragraph in a text, including the role of particular sentences in developing and refining a key concept.
- evaluate the advantages and disadvantages of using different mediums (e.g., print or digital text, video, multimedia) to present a particular topic.

### **Writing**

- use words, phrases, and clauses to create cohesion and clarify the relationships among claim(s), counterclaims, reasons, and evidence.
- use domain-specific vocabulary to inform about or explain the topic.
- provide a conclusion that follows from and reflects on the narrated events.
- use technology to produce and publish writing and present the relationships between information and ideas efficiently.
- conduct short research projects to answer self-generated questions and focused questions while drawing from several sources of information.

### **Speaking and Listening**

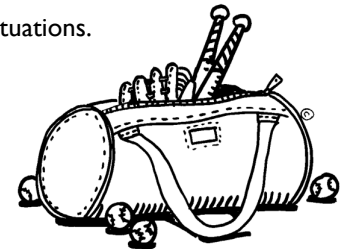
- pose questions that connect the ideas of several speakers and respond to others' questions and comments with relevant observations and ideas.
- adapt speech to a variety of tasks; demonstrate command of formal English.

## PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Physical education promotes the spirit of cooperation, leadership, and good sportsmanship. Students participate in a variety of games, team sports, and physical fitness activities. They receive instruction in rules, skills, and strategies associated with different sports as well as participate in activities involving sports and physical conditioning.

### **By the end of Junior High students will be able to...**

- demonstrate control when performing combinations and sequences of locomotor, non-locomotor and manipulative motor patterns.
- compare and contrast efficient and inefficient movement patterns.
- apply basic offensive, defensive and cooperative strategies in selected activities, games and sports.
- identify the principles of training: frequency, intensity, time and type.
- identify and participate in activities associated with the components of health-related fitness.
- apply rules and safety procedures in physical activities.
- monitor intensity of exercise through a variety of methods.
- set realistic short-term and long-term goals for a health-related fitness component.
- identify opportunities within the community for regular participation in physical activities.
- apply the principles of training to the health-related fitness goals.
- participate in establishing procedures for group physical activities.
- remain on task independent of distraction (e.g., peer pressure, environmental stressors).
- work cooperatively with others to accomplish a set goal in both competitive and non-competitive situations.



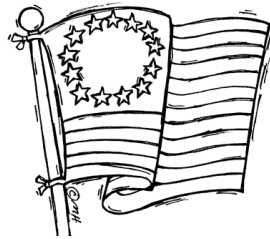
## SOCIAL STUDIES

In seventh grade, the main focus in Social Studies is on United States History from explorations that lead to European colonization to pre-Civil War. There is extensive focus on the American Revolution and founding documents. Other units include the Louisiana Purchase, the Lewis and Clark expedition, and the growth of technology and industry. Through the Junior Achievement program, students are introduced to many economic concepts. Students are required to pass the U.S. and Illinois Constitution tests.

### By the end of seventh grade students will be able to...

#### History/Culture

- identify how the United States has gained territory throughout its history.
- describe the origins and development of slavery in the United States and the early ideas of abolition.
- describe the reasons American colonists fought for independence.
- discuss the significance of the Declaration of Independence.
- explain the shortcomings of the Articles of Confederation.



#### Geography

- examine the early Spanish, Dutch, French and English colonies.
- use maps and other geographic representations to gather information about people, places and environments.

#### Civics, Government, and Economics

- describe the structure and functions of the United States government and the Illinois government.
- evaluate the economic differences in the pre-Civil War North and South.

## PRE-ALGEBRA

Problem solving with rates and ratios, working with variables and variable expressions, and gaining an understanding of basis statistical analysis are key skills students will gain in seventh grade. These Common Core State Standards are important foundational skills for college and career readiness. Seventh graders proficient in these skills may be placed in eighth grade math.

### By the end of Pre-Algebra students will be able to...

#### Ratios and Proportional Relationships

- compute unit rates associated with ratios of fractions.
- describe whether two quantities are in a proportional relationship including identifying the constant of proportionality.
- use proportional relationships to solve real-world problems including markups and markdowns, percent increase and decrease.

#### The Number System

- apply properties of operations as strategies to add and subtract rational numbers.
- apply and extend previous understanding of multiplication, division, and fractions to multiply and divide rational numbers.
- solve real-world and mathematical problems using the four operations with rational numbers including those with complex fractions.

#### Expressions and Equations

- use properties of operations as strategies to add, subtract, factor, and expand linear expressions with rational coefficients.
- solve multi-step real-life and mathematical problems with positive and negative rational number in any form.
- use variables to represent quantities in real-world or mathematical problems to construct simple equations and inequalities to solve these problems.

#### Geometry

- solve problems involving scale drawings; know the formulas for the area and circumference of a circle.
- solve real-life and mathematical problems involving area, surface area, and volume of two- and three-dimensional objects.

#### Statistics and Probability

- use random sampling to draw inferences about a population; draw informal comparative inferences about two populations.
- develop a probability model and use it to find probabilities of events.

## ALGEBRA I

Students take Algebra I in 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> grade at St. Norbert. The goal of these classes is to equip students with the necessary skills to be successful math students in high school. How well a student's understands Algebra I correlates directly to his/her success in the rest of High School math classes. By exposing students to Algebra I, students are better prepared for more advanced high school math classes.

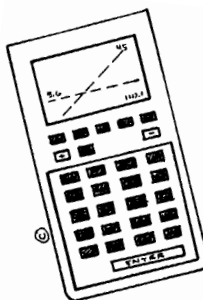
### By the end of Algebra I students will be able to...

#### The Number System

- recognize, create, and solve ratios and proportions.
- demonstrate competency in all operations of rational numbers.
- identify and approximate irrational numbers.

#### Expressions and Equations

- apply symbolic expressions to represent unknowns.
- solve algebraic equations for a given variable.
- define and utilize terms related to linear equations.
- define, evaluate, and compare functions.
- represent an equation, inequality, or a set of points on the Cartesian plane.



#### Functions

- understand that a function is a rule that assigns to each input exactly one output.
- compare properties of two functions each represented in a different way (algebraically, graphically, numerically in tables), or by verbal descriptions.

#### Geometry

- identify, describe, and analyze attributes of two and three-dimensional shapes.
- explain and use the Pythagorean relationship.

#### Statistics and Probability

- find probabilities of events and makes population generalizations.
- recognize/categorize patterns through data analysis.
- represent data using concrete objects, pictures, and a variety of graphical representations.

## SCIENCE

Science at the seventh grade level is taught utilizing a hands-on approach. This includes discussion, laboratory experimentation, and written work. At this level, the Scientific Method is stressed as a means of problem solving. The curricula focuses on Physical Science. Topics that are investigated include: Lab Safety, Structure and Properties of Matter, Chemical Reactions of Matter, Interactions and Conservation of Matter and Energy, Force and Motion.

### By the end of seventh grade students will be able to...

#### Scientific Practices

- apply the scientific method to investigations.
- analyze and interpret charts and other graphic information.
- use mathematical and computational thinking.
- follow basic safety procedures and identify and use basic scientific equipment.
- plan and carry out investigations and understands the connections between science and technology.

#### Physical Science

- explain that substances react chemically to produce new substances with different properties.
- give examples of how total mass is conserved in chemical reactions.
- relate simple patterns of the periodic table to the physical property of matter.
- describe ways that forces can affect motion.
- explain the factors that affect the gravitational force on objects by conducting experiments.

