

MCGANN - MERCY DIOCESAN JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

FIDES ~ SAPIENTIA ~ VIRTUS

Curriculum Guide **2017-2018**



ADMINISTRATION

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Mrs. Lisa M. Navarra, *Assistant Principal*
Mr. Charles Bender, *Dean of Students*

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JUNIOR HIGH MAIN OFFICE SECRETARY

Mrs. Donna Galvin

GUIDANCE SECRETARY

Mrs. Susan Clifford

TUITION MANAGER

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Ms. Debbie Barth

All courses follow the curriculum of the Rockville Centre Diocese, which closely adheres to the New York State Department of Education.

7th Grade Course Offerings

***Honors Level Courses Offered in Math, English,
Social Studies and Science***

Religion: *Life of Jesus*
English: *Language Arts*
Foreign Language: *Modern Language Exploratory (French/Spanish)*
7th Grade Latin
Mathematics: *Pre-Algebra*
Science: *Life Science*
Social Studies: *United States and New York State History Part I*

Fine Arts
Music: *Band or Chorus*
Physical Education

Study Hall

8th Grade Course Offerings

***Honors Level Courses Offered in
Math, English, Social Studies and Science***

****Advanced Honors Courses Offered in Math and Science***

Religion: *Catholic Identity & Social Justice*
English: *Language Arts*
Foreign Language: *French I, Spanish I or Latin I*
Mathematics: *Introduction to Integrated Algebra or * Integrated Algebra H*
Science: *Physical Science or*
**Living Environment H*
Social Studies: *United States and New York State History Part II*

Health
Music: *Band or Chorus*
Physical Education

Study Hall

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS DEPARTMENT

The New York State Grades 3-12 ELA curricula include six modules that focus on reading, writing, listening, and speaking in response to high-quality texts. Each module is intended to last a quarter of a school year; the addition of two extra modules allows for teacher choice throughout the year. The modules will sequence and scaffold content that is aligned to the CCLS for ELA & Literacy and the PARCC Frameworks. Each module will culminate in an end-of-module performance task, aligned to the PARCC Frameworks, which can provide information to educators on whether students in their classrooms are achieving the standards. Modules may include several units and each unit may include a set of sequenced, coherent progressions of learning experiences that build knowledge and understanding of major concepts. They will also include daily lesson plans, guiding questions, recommended texts, scaffolding strategies, examples of proficient student work, and other classroom resources.

Since all content learning depends upon the correct understanding of the spoken and written word in English, students will read a minimum of 25 books or their equivalent per year and write an average of 1000 words per month across all content areas and standards.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS 7

This course will help students to read with comprehension, write effectively, use grammar correctly, and improve written and spoken vocabulary. It will give students an understanding of literary elements and devices and allow them to explore a variety of literary forms. Students will learn annotation and note taking skills, how to determine the intended purpose and audience of a written piece, and how to construct both argumentative and expository essays. By the end of the year students will be able to recognize denotative and connotative meanings, compare a written work with its film or, video and stage version, and recognize the effect of one's point of view in evaluating ideas, information, opinion and issues.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS 8

This course will build on the skills mastered in grade seven; broaden experiences in analyzing Literature, help students to listen and write more effectively, and emphasize the necessity for improvement in communication skills of writing, reading listening and speaking. Students will be expected to master the elements of essay writing in all forms, write original and imaginative texts, conduct an author study, critique a speaker for content and delivery, use dialogue to convey information, follow multi-step directions which provide information about a task, create graphic organizers to organize information presented in a nonfiction selection, follow a series of complex directions, and analyze how foreshadowing operated within the plot of a reading selection.

FINE ARTS DEPARTMENT

The Fine Arts Curriculum for grade seven combines and incorporates participation in Art, Music, Library, and Public Speaking.

FINE ARTS 7

This course is given 2x a times a week, rotating with music. The component will allow students to:

- Possess a better appreciation and understanding of the specified subject and its importance.
- Work in a variety of mediums and styles
- Explore the history of the subject
- Express his or her own unique talents.

Chorus

The Chorus focuses on vocal technique, choral literature and performance while developing the voice to sing freely and in tune throughout its full range. The group studies and performs works chosen by the teacher but with input from the students. This helps to pick music that will broaden the student's education and at the same time give them a chance to sing music that they will enjoy. Performances include a winter concert, spring concert and an appearance at the Christmas tree lighting ceremony.

Concert Band

Concert Band is an instrumental ensemble that performs and studies traditional and popular works, written and arranged for concert band. While having full rehearsals two times a week, there are group lessons every day for each group of instruments. Performances include a winter concert, spring concert and an appearance at the Christmas tree lighting ceremony. Being a part of the concert band also gives students the chance to participate in chamber music. These groups will perform at masses and at other events in the school that include music.

FOREIGN LANGUAGE DEPARTMENT

Central to the middle school philosophy is the belief that middle school is not merely a continuation of elementary school, but rather a unique entity with a mission of its own. Middle school philosophy also views early adolescence as a time of exploration. In an attempt to design middle school curricula around the developmental needs of students, the role of exploratory courses has gained wider support among educators, including an increased interest in foreign language exploratory courses.

Grade 7

MODERN LANGUAGE EXPLORATORY (FRENCH/SPANISH)

Students entering the program with prior experience with the language are accommodated in a variety of ways depending on their skill set and goals. The class is taught primarily in the target language addressing a variety of learning styles. Students start from basic French/Spanish skills such as alphabet sounds, numbers, days of the week, and months, and move through the first units in the textbook. Students actively participate with physical responses to teacher-led directions and develop listening and speaking skills. They also begin to learn basic grammar and writing skills. Equal emphasis is placed on writing, listening, speaking, and reading, giving all students the chance to demonstrate competence. Class activities include skits, puppet shows, interactive games, group work, and songs. Students visit the computer lab to use language-learning software such as Linguascope.com websites. They also watch French/Spanish films, listen to French music, prepare and eat French food, and speak with French-speaking visitors to the classroom when possible.

LATIN 7

Students will discover the language of the ancient Romans and the world in which it was spoken. They will learn grammatical structures different from English and come to understand how language works. Students will develop their mental processes of attention to detail, memory, logic and critical reasoning. They will also develop their literacy skills by reading Latin passages and becoming familiar with tales from Roman mythology. Students will discover the larger cultural and historical heritage that they share with Europe, the Middle East and North Africa.

Grade 8

FRENCH I

This course is designed to introduce the beginning foreign language student to the fundamentals of the French language. Students will learn grammatical structures different from English and come to understand the French language and how it works. They will develop their mental processes of attention to detail, memory, logic, and critical reasoning. Students will also develop literary skills by reading passages and becoming familiar with tales from French literature. Through the use of *Discovering French Blue*, supplementary materials, and adherence to the *National Standards for Foreign Language*, each student continues on to the next level of French instruction with a solid foundation upon which to build.

LATIN I

The emphasis of this course is on pronunciation, basic grammar, vocabulary, and English words derived from Latin. Students learn to translate Latin passages into English and to respond in Latin to simple conversational questions. They will also demonstrate knowledge of Greco-Roman culture, history, geography, and mythology. There is selective participation on the Level I National Latin Exam, the Latin Declamatio, and first level Certamen at Stony Brook University. Requirements: Daily homework and various mini projects.

SPANISH I

This course will explore the Spanish language, its literatures and cultures, through grounding in art, film, music, humor, legends, feelings, land and nationalism, fantasy and imagination, and institutions, such as family, school, and restaurants. This course will expand students view of the Spanish-speaking world and its diverse subcultures; develop vocabulary; increase linguistic proficiency with practical applications of grammar; apply multi-modal approaches to the “reading and writing” of Spanish.

MATHEMATICS DEPARTMENT

MATHEMATICS 7: A Story of Ratios

This course will focus on many different aspects of a student's learning experience. The first emphasis is on study habits, including homework, note taking, study skills and test taking. Mastery of basic skills in arithmetic and geometry is the second point of emphasis. The third and the most challenging piece is the introduction to algebra.

As part of the New York State Common Core Curriculum *A Story of Ratios*, seventh grade mathematics is about (1) developing understanding of and applying proportional relationships; (2) developing understanding of operations with rational numbers and working with expressions and linear equations; (3) solving problems involving scale drawings and informal geometric constructions, and working with two- and three-dimensional shapes to solve problems involving area, surface area, and volume; (4) drawing inferences about populations based on samples; (5) formulating and reasoning about expressions and equations, including modeling an association in bivariate data with a linear equation, and solving linear equations and systems of linear equations; and (6) grasping the concept of a function and using functions to describe quantitative relationships.

MATHEMATICS 8 ADVANCED: Common Core Algebra 1 A: A Story of Functions

This course follows the New York State curriculum as outlined below, but at a slower pace. The course is a 2 year course. Students in the non-honors course will complete the remainder of the curriculum in 9th grade.

The course culminates in the NYS assessment in June.

MATHEMATICS 8 ADVANCED: Common Core Algebra I H: A Story of Functions

The fundamental purpose of this course is to formalize and extend the mathematics that students learned in the middle grades. Because it is built on the middle grades standards, this is a more ambitious version of Algebra I than has generally been offered. The modules deepen and extend understanding of linear and exponential relationships by contrasting them with each other and by applying linear models to data that exhibit a linear trend, and students engage in methods for analyzing, solving, and using quadratic functions. The Mathematical Practice Standards apply throughout each course and, together with the content standards, prescribe that students experience mathematics as a coherent, useful, and logical subject that makes use of their ability to make sense of problem situations.

The course culminates in the NYS assessment in June.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION/HEALTH 8

JR. HIGH PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Physical Education classes are designed to develop physical, cognitive and social skills as well as promote general fitness, self-confidence and cooperation. Students will learn fundamental skills and basic rules while participating in a variety of physical activities and games. The focus of the class is on skill development, health, skill themes, movement concepts and respect for each other as well as the game.

HEALTH 8

This course is required for every 8th grade student and is taken once a week. It is designed to offer the student an understanding of the relationship between the mind and body within a religious framework. Health is a full year course offered two days per week. During this time frame we will cover the following topics: Understanding Health, Physical Activity/Fitness, Social Health/Relationships, Tobacco/Alcohol Your Body Image, Communicable Diseases, Non-communicable Diseases and Nutrition.

RELIGION DEPARTMENT

All students who attend McGann-Mercy High School are required to take Theology classes each year. These courses are treated as academic and are weighted equally with all other courses in the curriculum. Even though all students who attend the school are not Roman Catholic, all are required to learn the history and the beliefs presented. As students' progress through high school, they will study world religions so as to better prepare them for becoming tolerant world citizens.

RELIGION 7: Christ Our Life

The seventh-grade program of the Christ Our Life series is devoted to the study of God's love as it is revealed through his son Jesus. *Jesus the Way, the Truth, and the Life* is designed to help young adolescents grow in their knowledge of Jesus, that they may love him more ardently and serve him more generously. It is my goal, as well as the schools; to create a warm, value centered Christian community, which promotes service, self-respect, and respect for others. Our mission is to pave the roadway to excellence with a spiritual commitment entwined with ethics, curiosity, and moral character.

RELIGION 8: Visions

The eight-grade program by *Pflaum Gospel Weeklies* puts Jesus Christ at the center of catechesis by building lessons around the Sunday Gospels of the liturgical year. The Gospels are the heart of all the Scriptures "because they are our principal source for the life teaching of the Incarnate Word, our Savior" (CCC125). Through this Gospel-centered catechesis, we can "enter into the mystery of Christ, and discover ourselves and the meaning of our lives in him (55). In addition to the Visions a student's handbook, What the Church Believes and Teaches, will address those elements of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* that have been judged necessary and appropriate for the age group. The handbook provided, in one convenient publication, all the teaching that must be mastered. The weekly issues provides the stories, exercises, activity, reflection, prayers, and challenges that show how a faithful Catholic can live out these teachings, celebrate them in the liturgy, and share them at home, at school, and with friends.

SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

SCIENCE 7: Life Science

Students will understand and apply scientific concepts, principles and theories pertaining to living environment and physical setting, recognizing the historical development of ideas in science. Science must provide opportunities for students to become critical thinkers and evaluators of their surrounding environment. This course will emphasize the role of personal, social and career use as well as academic preparation of students. Topics studied include life activities of plants and animals, cells and cell division, heredity, human and comparative anatomy and physiology, disease processes, populations and basic laboratory skills. The selected topics will provide foundation for future Biology courses and serves as a prerequisite.

SCIENCE 8: Physical Science

As a preparatory course for high school Earth Science, Physics, and Chemistry, students will understand and apply scientific concepts, principles and theories pertaining to the physical setting and living environment. They will recognize the historical development of ideas in science. They will gain an understanding of important relationships, processes, mechanisms, and applications of the living environment through conducting laboratory hands on experiments. Topics studied will include the Solar System, motion of objects, magnetism, electricity, and energy transformations observed in everyday life. Students will gain an understanding of important relationships, processes, and applications of the physical environment as well as enhancing their laboratory skills. The topics covered in this course serve as a prerequisite for Earth Science.

SCIENCE 8 ADVANCED: Living Environment H

This Regents course follows the New York State core curriculum for “The Living Environment.” Basic biological concepts and systems are explored on a core level. Emphasis is placed on life as an entity, interacting with its outside environment as well as maintaining its own stable internal environment. Topics include scientific methodology, ecology, cytology, evolution and taxonomy, human anatomy and physiology, and molecular genetics. The development of laboratory skills and participation in selected activities is a requirement to receive credit. Specific laboratory exercises must be completed and reports submitted summarizing acquired skills and knowledge. Good reading skills are important in promoting an in-depth understanding of the topics covered.

This course fulfills the Life Science requirement for graduation. Each student must fulfill the mandatory NYS requirement 1200 minutes of lab work. A Regents examination is taken in June. Students who pass both the Physical Science Regents and this Biology Regents qualify for the Science requirement for an Advanced Regents Diploma.

SOCIAL STUDIES DEPARTMENT

SOCIAL STUDIES 7: United States and New York State History Part I

This course emphasizes the skills necessary to cover the basic cultural and geographical terms and historical perspectives that a student should know. Topics covered in Part 1 will begin with basic geography skills and continue with topics ranging from the earliest Native Americans to the US reforms of the 1850's, reporting on relevant current events will be an integral component as well. As a secondary goal the course will seek to expand the student's scholastic skills, for example, the proper use of primary sources and their analysis. Skill building in writing, reading comprehension and the ability to communicate with confidence is emphasized. Verbal expression and vocabulary building will be expected. Students will become familiar with answering DBQ's (Document Based Questions).

SOCIAL STUDIES 8: United States and New York State History Part II

This course emphasizes the skills necessary to cover the basic cultural and geographical terms and historical perspectives that a student should know. Part II of this course on the United States and New York History begins with the events leading up to the Civil War and extends to the present time, with heavier emphasis on current events and analytical skills to prepare students for high school. As a secondary goal the course seeks to expand the student's scholastic skills: for example, the proper use of primary sources and their analysis. Skill building in writing, reading comprehension, ability to communicate with confidence and ability to express their opinion is encouraged. Verbal expression and vocabulary building will be emphasized. Students will continue to analyze DBQ's (Document Based Questions) and write effective essays.