

WHAT DID YOU LEARN TODAY?

An answer to the question you may ask often!

Grade 8 Religion

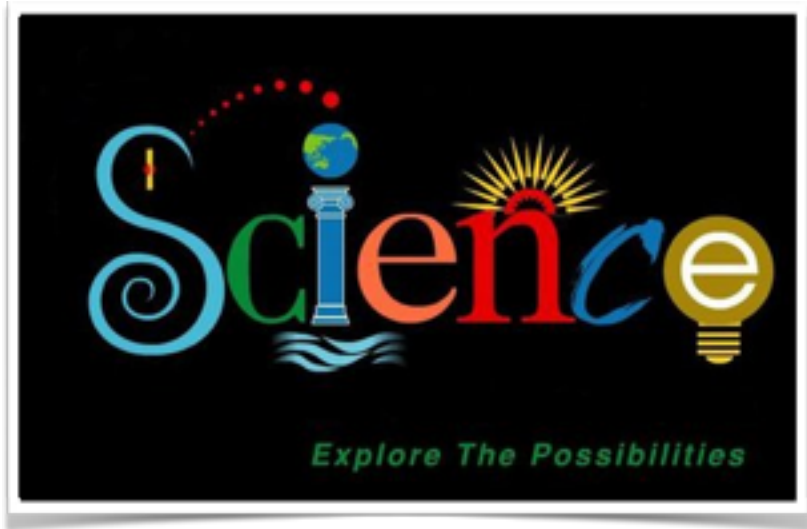
The curriculum for eighth grade religion is the history of the church. Students will focus on the development of our church this year.

We will also integrate many of our principles for faithful living throughout the year.

The students will be active in celebrating mass by being involved as lectors, gift bearers, servers and as members of the choir.

Catholic Social Justice Teachings

At the beginning of the year, students studied the Seven Catholic Social Justice Teachings. I like to begin the year with aspects of our faith which challenge us all to recall the importance of how we should treat others. Students worked to create an interlocking puzzle which illustrated the teachings. Students also researched and reported real examples of the teachings in our news.



Introduction to Science

Students in grades seven and eight began the year by reviewing the components of the scientific method. The scientific method is used to solve questions and to arrive at solutions in an organized manner. The students used the steps to create an awareness campaign about a cause they felt needed attention. Some of the campaigns addressed issues such as: concussions, homelessness, the plight of honey bee, the Ebola virus, safe driving, and several issues related to animals.

What a smart group of young people! After developing their campaigns and presenting them campaigns to peers, students wrote letters of action to companies asking for feedback on their idea. We are mailing them the week of September 21, 2014. This project integrated language arts and social studies and allowed students to see that we all can make a difference if we work together. We did have an early mailing and four students have already made an impact in the world! Details on the next page!



7th Grade Success!

Shiv Dewan, Luke May, Preston Mitchell, and Bryce Schillig, wrote to the Pro Football Hall of Fame asking them to put information on their site about concussion awareness. The Hall of Fame administration took their suggestion and embedded a link directly on their site. The link takes all interested parties to another site called **USA Football Heads Up!** This organization reports the latest information about concussions and how students can be safe when playing sports. We are looking forward to many more responses! Updates to come!

Instruction Methods

Students in both 7th and 8th grade science and 8th grade religion will participate in activities and labs, take notes through a lecture format and complete reading assignments in the science and religion books.

Students will have several days to prepare for any tests.

Please read the document titled, [Student Expectations](#) for further information regarding schoolwork.

Seventh Grade Science

The seventh graders are studying the interactions of living things. The students will be focusing on the biotic and abiotic factors in specific biomes and how the factors can impact the survival of living organisms. They will also study the levels of organization and how organisms obtain energy. We walked the school grounds looking for biotic and abiotic factors and then presented skits called "Alive or Not!" We have many students who are natural actors! We will continue the unit with experiments on population sampling, the impact of abiotic factors on biotic factors and many other activities. This unit in life science is projected to last past the mid-term of this first quarter.

Eighth Grade Science

The eighth graders are studying the area of physical science. They are learning about motion, force, and the fields that act upon all matter. Our discovery lab incorporated general principles of motion and trajectory. Student teams flew airplanes in the gym testing variables of force and arm position. The discovery lab was meant to bring awareness to motion and the invisible forces that act upon all matter. We will continue this unit with labs that test magnetic, gravitational and electrical fields and the different types of potential energy. This unit in physical science is projected to last past the mid-term of this first quarter.

I will be addressing the science fair at the beginning of October. Please check back with the website for details.



