

6TH GRADE

<p>MATH</p>	<p>Text: Saxon <i>Math 87</i>. The course begins with an in-depth review of the four major math operations using whole numbers, decimals, and fractions. It continues with percentage, ratios, exponents, formulas, basic geometry, and graphing and solving equations. After completion of this course, a student will either continue with the Pre Algebra course or, in the case of the very advanced student, Algebra I.</p>
<p>SCIENCE</p>	<p>Text: Prentice Hall <i>Earth Science</i>. Carolina Biological Supply Company <i>Catastrophic Events</i>. The 6th grade science course teaches students the major concepts of earth and space science. The course offers an introduction to the basic knowledge of geology and astronomy. Through experimentation, hands-on manipulations, demonstrations, discussions, and lectures, students explore the fundamentals of earth science. Students understand how science is involved with everyday living and see daily applications of geology and astronomy. Students use the scientific method in their explorations of the many topics covered in class. Topics include: stars and galaxies, the solar system, weather, earthquakes, rocks and minerals, and natural resources.</p>
<p>ENGLISH</p>	<p>Texts: <u>Warriner's English Grammar and Composition</u>, First Course. Prentice Hall <i>Literature</i>, Grade Eight Edition. Sadlier-Oxford <i>Vocabulary Workshop</i>, Level B. The 6th grade year focuses on a review of the basics in grammar and writing with the goal of incorporating and successfully using these skills in writing and in speaking. Students practice and refine their writing of narrative, descriptive, and expository paragraphs. To further improve their writing, students study and use new vocabulary words each week. Additionally, short stories, poetry, novels, and plays are read and discussed. Reading list: <i>Across Five Aprils</i>, <i>Where the Red Fern Grows</i>, <i>The Diary of Anne Frank (the play)</i>, <i>The Pearl</i>.</p>
<p>GEOGRAPHY HISTORY</p>	<p>Texts: Holt Rinehart Winston <i>The Complete School Atlas</i>. Amsco School Publishers <i>Global Studies: Civilizations of the Past and Present</i>. Greenleaf Press <i>Famous Men of Greece</i>, Greenleaf Press <i>Famous Men of Rome</i>. In order for students to be well prepared to study history, a strong basis in geography is both useful and desirable. Thus, the first semester of this course is spent studying world geography. Through an initial emphasis on general map reading and later memorization of the countries, capitals and physical features of our world, the students build a mental setting in which to place the main events of ancient, and especially Western history. Mastering this half of the course fosters the students' confidence and refines the skills requisite to the goals of the second semester. The second semester is essentially a survey of ancient history from Pre-history through the early Middle Ages. The ultimate goals are an appreciation and knowledge of the Western Tradition.</p>
<p>LATIN</p>	<p>Text: Cambridge Press, <i>Cambridge Latin Course, Unit 1</i>. Latin 6 introduces the student to the Latin language. While vocabulary building, in both Latin and English is a primary concern, the ultimate objective remains that of the entire Latin program at Aquinas Academy, which is to prepare students to read original Latin literature. The first semester lends itself to the memorization of vocabulary, 1st, 2nd and 3rd declension nouns, and verbs of present tense. In the second half of the year other verb tenses are introduced. Said subjects are demonstrated within the context of Roman history and culture.</p>
<p>RELIGION</p>	<p>Text: Ignatius Press, <i>Following Christ Faith and Life Series Level 6</i>. The 6th grade Religion course is devoted to the Ten Commandments, the Holy Mass, and at the end of the course the students learn about the Last Things. Sixth graders are making the transition from childhood to adulthood; this period of tension is a time when they are able to understand the faith more clearly and make it truly their own. The students are able to think independently and to participate in reasoned discussion. At this turning point, the students need to be guided to follow Christ with their whole mind and will. Thus, instructing the students in the formation of conscience and in the liturgical life of the Church is vitally important.</p>
<p>STUDY SKILLS</p>	<p>This course is designed to ease the transition from the primary to the middle school curriculum. Students will work on study habits, scheduling, organizational skills, memorizing, taking notes, and taking various types of tests. Students are expected to incorporate what is learned in class into their core subject classes.</p>

7TH GRADE

<p>MATH</p>	<p>Text: Glencoe <i>Prealgebra</i>. This course creates a bridge between prior knowledge and future connections with an emphasis on ratios, proportions, percents and equations/expressions. It includes applications of algebra to geometry through line and angle relationships. Successful completion of this course ensures placement in Algebra I.</p> <p>Text: Glencoe <i>Algebra I</i>. 7th grade Algebra is by teacher recommendation only. It is for the student who has demonstrated almost flawless excellence in Math 87. See course description in 8th grade curriculum.</p>
<p>SCIENCE</p>	<p>Text: Prentice Hall <i>Life Science</i>. Modules from <i>Science and Life Issues (SALI)</i> Science and Life Issues is an issue-oriented Life Science course for middle school students. The course itself is made up of several units. The modules used in this year include <i>Our Genes</i>, <i>Our Selves</i> and <i>Micro-Life</i>. Students also use the <i>Life Science</i> text to examine the cell and its parts, animals, evolution and the environment. The curriculum includes hands-on manipulation, demonstrations and discussions. Dissections are primarily of invertebrate animals with an emphasis on variation of body systems.</p>
<p>ENGLISH</p>	<p>Texts: Warriner's <i>English Grammar and Composition</i>, Second Course. Prentice Hall <i>Literature</i>, Grade Nine Edition. Sadlier-Oxford <i>Vocabulary Workshop</i>, Level C. The 7th grade year refines the already acquired basic skills, and students should demonstrate these skills in their work, building on them as the year progresses. To this end, students strengthen their writing skills and improve their style by composing and using a varied sentence structure through deliberate use of phrases and clauses in paragraph writing. Students again study over 300 vocabulary words. In literature, students read and discuss short stories, poems, novels, and plays, learning the literary terminology for each genre. Reading list: <i>The Yearling</i>, <i>Treasure Island</i>, <i>Johnny Tremain</i>, <i>Romeo and Juliet</i>, <i>The Miracle Worker</i>.</p>
<p>HISTORY</p>	<p>Texts: Amsco School Publishers <i>Western Civilization</i>. This course is a survey of Western Civilization from the beginning of civilization to the present. The main goal of the course is that the students gain knowledge and appreciation of Western Civilization. In order to more fully appreciate ourselves and the society we live in, it is important that we study the past, especially that which has directly impacted upon us. The history of Western Civilization is our history and studying it leads us to a truer knowledge of ourselves. The emphasis on human quest for truth, virtue, and the revival of Christian culture is explored in conjunction with the study of the Western heritage we share.</p>
<p>LATIN</p>	<p>Text: Cambridge Press, <i>Cambridge Latin Course, Unit II</i>. The principal aim of the Latin course is to begin to give the students skills and knowledge needed to read classical literature in the original Latin. To this end, in addition to the presentation of Latin morphology, syntax, and vocabulary, this course also supplies the students with a battery of drills, exercises, and carefully graded passages on which to best develop these skills. Furthermore, an emphasis is placed on understanding the sense of the language, as well as on the acquisition of its forms by rote.</p>
<p>RELIGION</p>	<p>Text: Ignatius Press, <i>Following Christ Faith and Life Series Level 7</i>. Religious education in the 7th grade is devoted to understanding the life of Grace which the Church nurtures in us primarily through the sacraments. As a preparation, the first six chapters deal with natural and supernatural revelation and lead up to the mission of Christ and His Church. The course enables students to understand the need for Grace in their lives and to understand ways to acquire it. The second part of this course seeks to explain how God shares His life with us in the sacraments, further defining the meaning of Grace and the many ways God provides for us to receive it.</p>
<p>PUBLIC SPEAKING</p>	<p>The aim of this course is to provide students with the skills and knowledge needed to become accomplished public speakers. To this end, the emphasis of the course is threefold: first, attention is given to the clear and distinct ideas with which are the contents of public speaking; second, to the vivid and rhetorical language with which this content is expressed; third, to the thoughtful, (even) dramatic delivery of a piece of public speaking.</p>

8TH GRADE

MATH	<p>Text: Glencoe <i>Algebra I</i>. Algebra I provides the students the basic tools necessary to progress in the academic sequence of high school mathematics: simplifying expressions, solving equations, solving algebraic problems, polynomials and factoring, systems of equations rational expressions, probability and statistics.</p> <p>Text: Addison-Wesley <i>Geometry</i>. Text: Glencoe, <i>Algebra 2: Integration, Applications, Connections</i> Geometry OR Algebra 2 will be the next sequential step for the student who completed Algebra I in 7th grade. See High School Curriculum guide for these descriptions.</p>
SCIENCE	<p>Text: Science Curriculum <i>Introductory Physical Science</i>. 8th grade science teaches students the major concepts of physical science. The course is offered as an introduction to the basic knowledge of physics and chemistry. Through experimentation, hands-on manipulations, demonstrations, discussions, and lectures students explore the fundamentals of physical science. Students understand how science is involved with everyday living and see daily applications of physics and chemistry. Students use the scientific method in their explorations of the many topics covered in class. Topics include: atoms and elements, motion, electricity, gravitation, matter and its phases, chemical reactions, and work and machines.</p>
ENGLISH	<p>Texts: Warriner's <i>English Grammar and Composition</i>, Third Course. Prentice Hall <i>Literature</i>, Grade Ten Edition. Sadlier-Oxford <i>Vocabulary Workshop</i>, Level D. The 8th grade year continues to build on and refine the skills already acquired. This year, students write multi-paragraph compositions with writing assignments often generated by the literature materials they study. This material includes short stories, poems, novels, essays, and plays. To further enhance writing, students study and use new vocabulary words each week. In addition, students learn the fundamentals of the research process in conjunction with the writing of a research paper in another of their academic classes. Reading list: <i>Animal Farm</i>, <i>The Merchant of Venice</i>, <i>Julius Caesar</i>, <i>The Red Badge of Courage</i>, <i>A Separate Peace</i>.</p>
HISTORY	<p>Texts: Holt Rinehart Winston <i>The Story of America</i>. This course is a survey of United States History from the Age of European Exploration through World War I. The main goal of the course is that the students master knowledge of and gain appreciation for US History. In order to fully understand who we are as Americans today, we must examine the past. Through the lectures, assigned readings and exercises the students are given the instruction needed to accomplish the stated goal.</p>
LATIN	<p>Text: Cambridge Press, <i>Cambridge Latin Course, Unit III</i>. The chief aim of this Latin course is to continue to give the students the skills and knowledge needed to read classical literature in the original Latin. To this end, in addition to the presentation of Latin forms, syntax, and vocabulary, this course also supplies the student with a battery of drills, exercises, and carefully graded passages on which to best develop these skills. Moreover, it is the firm belief of the instructor that the surest way to reap the optimal benefits from the study of classical Latin is to take seriously its invitation to reckon with the structure of meaning. Hence, for this reason, an emphasis is placed on understanding, rather than on acquisition by rote.</p>
RELIGION	<p>Text: Ignatius Press, <i>Our Life in the Church</i> Faith and Life Series Level 8. The primary objective of Religion 8 is to prepare the students to receive the sacrament of Confirmation. Given the nature of this sacrament, the first semester equips the students with the skills necessary to personally pursue a fuller understanding of their own faith as they approach an understanding of the sacraments as a whole is immediately undertaken and subsequently supplemented by a similar approach to each sacrament itself. Naturally, the Paschal Mystery stands as the cornerstone of these endeavors and the catechism as a constant reference. The second semester, in turn, grants the students the opportunity to implement that understanding in the study of Church history and its impact upon Western Civilization, both ancient and contemporary.</p>
PUBLIC SPEAKING	<p>The aim of this course is to provide students with the skills and knowledge needed to become accomplished public speakers. To this end, the emphasis of the course is threefold: first, attention is given to the clear and distinct ideas with which are the contents of public speaking; second, to the vivid and rhetorical language with which this content is expressed; third, to the thoughtful, (even) dramatic delivery of a piece of public speaking.</p>

ART

The students build upon skills and techniques learned and push their creativity with an emphasis on the following:

- Adapt techniques and thematic matters to appropriate age groups
- Introduce students to more advanced medias
- Give the students more creative control in their projects
- More of an emphasis on skill mastery
- Quizzes on techniques, artists and periods in art history

The goal of middle school art, is to increase each child's ability to observe, and to be open to inspiration from the surrounding world and from inside themselves. The middle school students are introduced to more advanced forms of the medias they have already learned. Students are also introduced to new medias and techniques that build upon on skills previously learned. The students use skills learned in the past and are challenged to push these skills to new levels.

In art history, the students are tested on artists and time periods. They are also quizzed on their knowledge of techniques and terminologies.

MUSIC

The goal of the general music department is to offer students the opportunity to study and appreciate music through the following medium:

- The singing of general song material in unison, as partner songs and in parts
- Experiencing music through Eurhythmics, which gives the student the opportunity of moving through music-a whole-body approach to music education
- Learning the use of percussion instruments through rhythmic exercises and games and as accompaniment to song material
- Developing an appreciation of music through the study of composers and their musical styles through various periods of music
- Listening to and analyzing various forms of music
- Understanding music in relation to history and culture, in close association with social studies lessons of the classrooms
- Learning to read music through an understanding of musical notation and the mechanics of music
- Performing and improvising music, using instruments the students study in private lessons situations

The above concepts are taught in each grade and according to the age-appropriateness of each level.

COMPUTER SCIENCE

The middle school students will further develop their computer usage skills by using higher order thinking, creativity, research, analysis and interpretation skills to complete a variety of technology-based projects.

An emphasis is placed on increasing the students' knowledge of hardware and software terminology, improving typing and word processing skills, and the correct usage of the Internet as a safe tool for research. This is accomplished through the students' use of software, presentation, telecommunication, and productivity technologies.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Students are taught according to the National Standards in Physical Education

1. Demonstrates competency in many movement form and proficiency in a few movement forms
2. Applies movement concepts and principles to the learning and development of motor skills
3. Exhibits a physically active lifestyle
4. Achieves and maintains a health-enhancing level of physical fitness
5. Demonstrates responsible personal and social behavior in physical activities settings
6. Demonstrates understanding and respect for differences among people in physical activity settings
7. Understands that physical activity provides opportunities for enjoyment, challenge, self-expression, and social interaction.

Physical education helps students learn to work with partners and groups, share equipment, take turns, and solve problems, as they develop physical coordination.

The above is taught through the following courses of study: individual fitness activities, social development/teamwork/cooperative games, sport skills/team play, playground games, dance/movement, and relays.

AQUINAS ACADEMY

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