

INTERMEDIATE CURRICULUM

In the **Religion** program, students begin to study the basic tenets of the Catholic faith. A sense of worship is developed through daily prayer and the opportunity for frequent reception of Eucharist and Reconciliation which deepens sacramental understanding. Students are encouraged to begin to reflect on how their actions affect the building of faith community. Chastity Education instruction is a component of the Religion curriculum for Grades 4 and 5. The Archdiocesan approved text, Benzinger Family Life, is used for this instruction.

Language Arts instruction centers on an integrated approach. Literary thematic units incorporate basic phonetic decoding skills, vocabulary development, and comprehension. Students begin to analyze content and apply it to their own experience. Composition and creative writing styles are introduced and developed with the support of instruction in grammar, language mechanics, and spelling.

Through the study of life in communities (Grade 3), U.S. geography and Missouri history (Grade 4), and U.S. history (Grade 5), Intermediate **Social Studies** allows the student to understand and appreciate their national environment and heritage. *Scholastic News Weekly* aids in the discussion of current events.

Intermediate **Science** helps students discover and respect the complexities of our world through the study of life, physical, and earth/space sciences. Emphasis is placed on learning through investigation and working with a cooperative learning team. SGM Science Fair is an in-class project for grades three and four with optional individual participation, and mandatory partner participation for grade five.

Students continue to build on their understanding of basic mathematical operations in the study of **Mathematics**. While emphasis is placed on problem-solving, reasoning, and critical thinking skills, attention is also given to becoming proficient in computation skills. Additional emphasis is placed on understanding the “why” of Math concepts and not just “doing” Math problems.

GRADES 3, 4, 5

In response to the ever-changing and developing area of technology, the goals of **Computer** education focus on the integration of learning and problem-solving. Instruction in simple word-processing, spreadsheet, and graphing concepts are related to classroom study. Students visually experiment with logical, creative, and effective ways to communicate. Emphasis is placed on using computers and the Internet ethically and responsibly.

In **Art** classes, students are introduced to the “language of art” which provides a basic vocabulary in the study of design and technique. Activities allow for the development of emerging creativity and instruction in project completion using a variety of mediums. Student work is displayed year round and an Art Fair is held each spring. Opportunities to enter community sponsored art contests are available.

Intermediate **Music** classes include instruction in basic theory and provide the opportunity to perform individually and with a group. Grade 4 students use flute-like musical recorders to supplement instruction. Students are introduced to the works of various composers and encouraged to appreciate all types of music. SGM participates in Archdiocesan music festivals.

Students participate in the President’s Fitness Challenge in **Physical Education** classes. Instruction focuses on athletic skills, teamwork, and the demonstration of good sportsmanship. Developing an appreciation for a healthful lifestyle is stressed.

The study of **Spanish** is mandatory for all Intermediate students. The goals of the foreign language program include developing an appreciation for becoming bilingual and learning about an alternate culture. Oral and written communication is stressed.

Focus Assemblies and **School Counselor classroom visits** help students develop a healthy self-esteem, personal potential, responsibility, understanding, social skills, and problem-solving techniques. Teaching, reinforcing, and encouraging positive ways of behaving are emphasized.