

MIDDLE SCHOOL CURRICULUM

The **Religion** program encourages students to develop their personal relationship with God and to come to understand sound Catholic doctrine. Religious ideas and practices are presented in a way that will help students know and live the Catholic faith. Students are invited to follow the Gospel mandate through prayer, community, worship, and service to all. Eighth graders receive the sacrament of Confirmation. Chastity Education instruction is a component of the Religion curriculum. The Archdiocesan approved text, Benzinger Family Life, is used.

Language Arts focuses on the integration of literature study, vocabulary development, writing proficiency, and communication skills. Through a variety of teaching methods, students are encouraged to read for pleasure as well as academic pursuit and to be effective written and oral communicators.

The study of **Mathematics** provides opportunity for the students to acquire proficiency in fundamental mathematical operations and to develop a strong sense of number theory. Emphasis is placed on problem-solving and critical thinking skills as students are presented with the basic foundations for algebra, geometry, and measurement. Calculator usage is integrated into classroom instruction.

Through the Middle School **Social Studies** program, students gain an appreciation of our diverse global community and respect for other cultures through the study of World History (Grade 6), World Geography (Grade 7), and American History (Grade 8). Students engage in a variety of activities including role playing, debates, and research to respond to current events. Additional emphasis is placed on relating present-day events and issues to both the past and the future.

Middle School **Science** focuses on three aspects of general science - life, earth, and physical. Formal classroom instruction helps students become comfortable with the lecture method, note-taking skills, and research. Laboratory investigations engage the students in hands-on learning. SGM Science Fair is mandatory for grade seven and optional for grades six and eight.

Students participate in the President's Fitness Challenge in **Physical Education** classes. Students are encouraged to be active in ways that increase physical fitness and demonstrate good sportsmanship. Developing an appreciation for a healthful lifestyle is stressed.

GRADES 6, 7, 8

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 word processing, spreadsheet, database, and graphing concepts are related to classroom study. Emphasis is placed on using computers and the Internet to ethically and responsibly access information in order to research, analyze, synthesize, and communicate creatively and effectively. Grade 8 students up-date information for KSGM News – a daily, live student broadcast.

Art classes afford students the opportunity to learn elements of design and technique through a variety of mediums. Art history and art appreciation are woven into the curriculum. Student work is displayed year round and an Art Fair is held each spring. Opportunities to enter community-sponsored art contests are available.

Middle School **Music** classes include instruction in basic theory and provide the opportunity to perform individually and with a group. Students are introduced to the works of various composers and encouraged to appreciate all types of music. SGM participates in Archdiocesan music festivals.

The study of **Spanish** is mandatory for all Middle School students. The goals of the foreign language program include developing an appreciation for becoming bilingual and learning about an alternative culture. As basic Spanish grammar and writing skills are introduced, oral communication continues to be stressed.

Learning Lab is an enhancement to the core block schedule curriculum that enables students to access subject teachers for one-on-one assistance, have study halls, and discuss issues and topics of interest to Middle School students. Class meetings also occur during this time.

Emphasis is placed on formulating and stating opinions, accepting the diverse viewpoints of others, working together collaboratively and cooperatively, and integrating classroom experience with life situations. Visitors and parents have served as guest speakers in their area of expertise. Appropriate community resources are utilized when feasible.

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.