

**Welcome to 8th Grade at St. Simon Parish School
2011-2012**

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Policies:

1. **Class Participation:** Students are expected to come to class prepared with assignments, supplies, and a good attitude. Participation will affect report card grades.
2. **Behavior:** Students are expected to act respectfully at all times to all those around them, including adults and property.
3. **Homework:** Assignments are due at the beginning of class. Homework may be typed or written in blue or black ink. Incomplete or late homework will be given 75% credit if returned the next day. Assignments turned in later than that will not be considered and students will receive a zero. All assignments must contain a proper heading that includes Name, Block, Date, Subject, and Title or assignment label.
4. **Tests:** Tests will be sent home for parent signatures, no matter the grade. Signatures are required and will count toward a student's overall grade.
5. **Major Projects:** All major projects must be typed, double-spaced, and written in 12pt font. They are due on the assigned date. If a student is absent for any reason, the assignment is still due.
6. **Absences:** Students who are absent for any reason are responsible for making up all assignments, obtaining missed lecture notes and handouts. Make-up Tests and Quizzes will need to be arranged with the teacher. Make-up assignments are due pending the amount of days missed.
7. **Plagiarism:** Cheating is not tolerated. Our Student Learning Expectations of Honor and Character prohibit such dishonesty. All work must be authentic and one's own.
8. **Grading:** In general, all assignments are graded on a point basis. Work is weighted as follows: 10% Class work and participation, 30% Homework, 60% Tests, Quizzes, Major Projects.
9. **School Grading Scale:** 100-93=A, 92-90=A-, 89-87=B+, 86-83=B, 82-80=B-, 79-77=C+, 76-73=C, 72-70=C-, 69-67=D+, 66-63=D, 63-60=D-, 59-below=F

8th grade Religion

Objectives:

1. The 8th grade curriculum is designed to study the history of the Church, to understand its mission, and our participatory role in the Church today. Church doctrine, scripture, sacraments and liturgy, moral development, prayer and spirituality, service and mission will be covered according to the recommendations given by the Diocese of San Jose.
2. Preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation will also take place.
3. 30 hours of service from each student will also be completed.
4. Memorization and understanding of the major Catholic prayers will also be accomplished.
5. Coverage of the required Family Life material that includes emphasis on the importance of family and community, the Church's teaching on human sexuality and love, and respect for life will also be completed. The emphasis is on MORAL Catechesis.
6. There will be homework assignments in Religion. The expectation is that students study and prepare for tests and complete various projects assigned each trimester.

Texts:

Finding God: Celebrating Church - Loyola Press

Confirmed in the Spirit - Loyola Press

Family Life - Benzinger

New American Bible - students may use their copy from previous years, or they will need to purchase a new one.

Specific Required Materials for Religion Class:

Dedicated Religion copybook

Red and Blue or Black ball point pens

Highlighter

1 divider (labeled Religion)

8th grade US History

Objectives:

1. The 8th grade curriculum is designed to help students understand the major events preceding the founding of the nation and relate their significance to the development of American constitutional democracy, analyze the political principles underlying the US Constitution, the Declaration of Independence, how citizens participate in the political system, US foreign policy, the influence of Industrialism and immigration, effects of slavery, westward expansion and the Civil War.
2. Cover the California State Standards for 8th grade US History. Each Lesson will cover at least one standard.
3. Promote critical thinking through spiraled curriculum, cooperative learning, historical analysis, engage students with primary sources, use theory of multiple intelligences to differentiate instruction, reading skill development, develop writing fluency, use graphic organizational tools for note-taking, use pre and post assessments to document understanding of the material.
4. Prepare (academically) for the Washington D.C. trip.
5. Reinforce higher order thinking: intellectual reasoning, reflection, and research skills.
6. Most of the work required to complete this course will be done in class via group efforts and individual reflections. Studying and preparing for tests, projects, and long-term assignments should be expected as homework.

Texts:

History Alive!: The United States Through Industrialism - Teachers' Curriculum Institute 2005

History Alive!: Interactive Student Notebook

Specific Required Materials for US History Class:

Dedicated US History copybook

1 divider (labeled US History)

Colored pencils and/or thin markers

Miscellaneous materials may need to be brought in on occasion for the purpose of presentations or props.

Algebra I

Objectives:

1. The Algebra I curriculum is a standard full year course. It is designed to move students through the material at a pace in which they will be able to test themselves out of the Algebra I course offered at the High Schools. *Not all students will be able to do this and will need an additional year of Algebra in high school.
2. Cover the California State Math Standards for Algebra. Each lesson covers more than one standard.
3. Problem solving, graphing, using multiple steps to solve, memorizing and applying formulas, simplifying and rationalizing polynomials, using quadratic functions appropriately and accurately, and the use of logic and reasoning to write proofs in preparation for Geometry will be covered in this course.
4. Limited use of a calculator. Work will be done by hand for the most part.
5. Homework will be assigned nightly. Quizzes will be 2x weekly. Chapter Tests vary in timing.

Texts:

Algebra I: California Ed. 2005- Glencoe

Online Resource: www.ca.algebra1.com

8th grade class pages website

Specific Required Materials for Algebra I:

Dedicated Algebra I Copybook

1 divider (labeled Algebra I)

Scientific Calculator

Graph Paper $\frac{1}{4}$ "

Mini Ruler

Highlighter

Mechanical Pencils or number 2 pencils

Geometry

Objectives:

1. The Geometry curriculum is a standard full year course.
2. Cover the California State Math Standards for Geometry.
3. Write proofs, know specific theorems and postulates, rules of parallel and perpendicular lines, congruency and proportionality of triangles, trigonometry, area and volume of circles and other polygons.
4. Prepare students for Algebra II placement test in the Spring.
5. Ongoing review of Algebra I material.

Texts:

Geometry: Concepts, Skills, and Problem Solving - Calif. Ed. 2008, Glencoe

Online Resources: www.ca.geometryonline.com

8th grade class pages website

Specific Required Materials for Geometry:

Dedicated Geometry Copybook

1 divider (labeled Geometry)

Scientific Calculator

Graph Paper ¼"

Protractor

Compass

Highlighter

Mechanical Pencils or number 2 pencils

Language Arts

Spelling: etymology of words, prefixes, suffixes, roots; knowing and understanding the spelling rules; using words in context; tests weekly on 25 words, plus five bonus words.

Vocabulary: systematic approach using words effectively and flexibly. A study of the nuances of word's meanings; includes prefixes, suffixes, root words, using words in context; test every two weeks on 20 words.

Grammar: primary focus is on sentence construction with usage of appositives, verbal phrases, infinitives, independent and subordinate clauses, adjectival and adverbial clauses, compound and complex sentences. Will also review key parts of speech and their functions throughout the year. Diagnostic tests at the beginning of each chapter, with quizzes and tests throughout the chapter.

Literature: expectation is that students will be thoroughly familiar with the basic element of story grammar. They are required to 1) evaluate the structural elements of a plot; 2) compare and contrast the motivations and reactions of literary characters; 3) analyze the relevance of the setting; 4) identify and analyze recurring themes; and 5) identify elements of the writer's style. In addition to understanding the structural elements of a novel, the students are expected to understand the purposes and characteristics of different types of poetry: ballad, lyric, couplet, epic, and sonnet. The students should be able to do extensive independent reading by the end of Eighth grade.

Writing: of the eleven types of essays (narrative, evaluation, persuasive, informative, argumentative, expository, comparison, literary analysis, cause and effect, descriptive, and process) we will practice each at least once, and the more difficult to master more than once. All essays in Eighth grade are controlled by a thesis with well supported details or evidence from the text, as well as writing features such as transitions, parallelism, a consistent point of view, and usage of figurative language. All essays are of 500 – 750 words, typed.

Texts:

Literature, Reading and Language – Pearson
Writing and Grammar – Prentice Hall
Everyday Spelling – Prentice Hall
Vocabulary for Achievement – Great Source

Novels:

Across Five Aprils by Irene Hunt
Of Mice and Men by John Steinbeck
To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee
Farewell to Manzanar by Jeanette Wakatsuki & James Houston
Night by Elie Wiesel

Projects:

T1: Book Report – Bibliography
T2: Research Paper
T3: Consumer Information

Grade Breakout: All assignments are graded on a point basis. Work will be weighted as:

Spelling: 20% workbook and class work; 30% homework and writing assignments; 50% Tests.

Vocabulary, Grammar & Writing: 10% participation; 15% workbook and class work; 30% homework and writing; 45% tests and quizzes.

Literature: 15% class work; 15% participation; 30% tests and quizzes; 40% essays and homework.

Important Notes:

Homework: Homework will be assigned each class period and given specific due dates. All homework can be found on the website and students are responsible for checking the board in the classroom for updates. All essays are to be typed (even rough draft) and all other work is to be in blue or black ink. Incomplete or late homework may be submitted for 75% credit only one day after the original due date. All essays / written assignments not turned in on the due date will decline in grade credit of one full letter grade for each day it is late. All homework should include the student's name, date, block, subject, and type of writing assignment.