



Sacred Heart Catholic School

2019-2020 Course Curriculum Guide

Grades 7-8

NOTE: To graduate with Honors from Sacred Heart Catholic High School, a student must have an overall GPA of 93 or greater and no grade lower than a B for a final grade in any course earning Carnegie units. See the Student-Parent Handbook for details.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR 7th GRADE:

- 7th grade Math is grade-level Math; Pre-Algebra is advanced 7th grade Math. Students receive high school credit for Pre-Algebra, and grades are factored toward the student's high school GPA.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR 8th GRADE:

- The following courses are counted as high school credit, and grades will be factored towards the student's high school GPA.
 - Technology Foundations
 - *Spanish I
 - All 8th grade Math courses
 - *Latin I
- *Advanced classes. An overall average of 90 or greater in 7th grade English is required to sign up for these courses.
- Pre-Algebra is 8th grade Math; Algebra I is Advanced 8th grade Math.

English & Literature

English 7: A year-long course

This course integrates various components of language arts in a collaborative atmosphere. The course is designed to help students become independent readers, writers, and thinkers and build the skills necessary for academic success. Students will read novels throughout the year, as well as several shorter pieces of literature, compose argumentative, narrative, and expository essays, and study grammar in context. Summer and outside reading are required.

English 8: A year-long course

The course integrates various components of language arts in a collaborative atmosphere. The course is designed to help students become independent readers, writers, and thinkers and build the skills necessary for academic success. Students will read novels throughout the year, as well as several shorter pieces of literature, compose argumentative, narrative, and expository essays, write a research report and study grammar in context. Summer and outside reading are required.

Mathematics

7th Grade Mathematics: A year-long course

The 7th grade mathematics framework supports the more sophisticated computations that students can do with rational numbers and introduces exponents. Algebraic topics and the formation of generalizations are the major focuses, as the course is preparing students for Pre-Algebra.

Pre-Algebra: A year-long course

Credit: 1 Unit, 7th & 8th grade only

Pre-algebra provides the mathematical background, skills and thinking processes necessary for the successful completion of Algebra and Geometry. Topics include integers (positive and negative numbers), rational numbers (fractions), geometry, solving equations, solving inequalities, linear functions, and systems of equations, statistics and probability. Whole group presentations are done, followed by working of problems by teacher and students.

Algebra I: A year-long course for 8th through 10th grade students.

Credit: 1 unit

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Pre-algebra.

This course provides a formal development of the algebraic skills and concepts necessary for students who will take a geometry course and other advanced college-preparatory courses. In particular, the instructional program in this course should provide for the use of algebraic skills in a wide range of problem solving situations. The course emphasizes structure and the properties of the real number system. It includes, but is not limited to, solution and evaluation of open sentences (equations and inequalities); solution of open sentences by graphing number line and coordinate plane; solution of systems of open sentences; basic operation with polynomials; solution of quadratic equations; understanding and using elementary functions; use of exponents; simplifying radicals; and introductory topics from statistics and probability. **This course is required for graduation.**

Social Studies

Social Studies 7: A year-long course

Seventh grade history focuses on the history of the world from beginning of man to the 1700s, through the study of culture, geography, economics, politics and current events. The students compare different cultures and develop an appreciation for the uniqueness of people.

Social Studies 8: A year-long course

The focus of eighth grade social studies is U. S. History, from pre-Columbian societies to Reconstruction. Students develop an understanding of the American form of government and the duties of citizens in a civil society.

Science

Science 7: A year-long course

The seventh grade competencies and objectives build on the kindergarten through sixth grade concepts and allow students to make concrete associations using the processes of science in solving problems, making decisions, and furthering understanding. Seventh grade topics include properties and changes of properties of matter, motions and forces, energy transfer, structure and function in living systems, and the structure of the Earth system. Throughout the teaching process, inquiry, safety skills, the scientific method process, measuring, use of scientific equipment, current events, environmental, and hands-on activities are emphasized.

Science 8: A year-long course

The eighth grade competencies and objectives build on the kindergarten through seventh grade concepts and explore the joint enterprises of science and technology and the interrelationships of these to each other in the context of society and the environment. Eighth grade science is designed to build connections that link technology and societal impacts to topics such as properties and changes of properties of matter, motions and forces, energy transfer, structure and function in living systems, and the structure of the Earth system. Throughout the teaching process, inquiry, safety skills, the scientific method process, measuring, use of scientific equipment, current events, environmental, and hands-on activities are emphasized.

Religious Studies

Religious Studies 7: A year-long course

The seventh grade text, *Alive in Christ*, focuses on the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ as described in the New Testament, with an emphasis on the Gospels, and is a continuation of the text used in 5th and 6th grades. Students also learn about the liturgical year in the Church, as well as the important elements of the Mass. Projects that include an art activity are integrated into the curriculum, such as a study of the Saints in October and "Christmas Around the World" in December. Students are required to complete 15 service hours each nine-weeks, including community service opportunities announced at school.

Religious Studies 8: A year-long course

Students learn the authentic teachings of the Catholic Church. The faith formation at this level focuses on the Church and what it means to be the Church. The students are taught the content through lectures, projects and through the use of multimedia. There is also spiritual time for reflection. Students are required to perform 15 hours of community service each nine-week period. Students are involved in Mass preparation, planning and participation as lectors, commentators and gift bearers. They also have the privilege of participating in weekly Eucharistic Adoration.

Computer Science

Technology Foundations: A year-long course for 8th Grade Students

Credit: 1 Unit

Technology Foundations is a technology-rich curriculum that prepares students to function in the 21st Century environment. This course is designed to provide foundational skills in all relevant areas of technology, including keyboarding, operating systems, word processing, spreadsheets, desktop publishing, multimedia presentations, and social networking. The course also focuses on self- and career development by encouraging students to create a program of study that maps out their high school and postsecondary education. Technology Foundations is built upon the Common Core Standards, 21st Century Skills, and the National Educational Technology Standards for Students (NETS-S). Upon successful completion of the course, students will have been exposed to the latest technology and will be able to make informed decisions on how to ethically interact both online and off.

This course is required for graduation.

Foreign Language Electives

Two years of the same foreign language are required for graduation.

American Sign Language I:

As an introduction to American Sign Language, this course will cover basic vocabulary, grammar, sentence structure, and cultural foundations of ASL. Students will begin to learn to express themselves through signing by using: concrete ideas, fingerspelling and grammar.

Latin I: A year-long elective course for 8th through 12th grade students.

Credit: 1 Unit

This course is an introduction to the language with the primary focus on vocabulary acquisition and basic grammar. Translation skills are built through modified texts. Students learn simple Greek and Roman myths, geography and history through the Republic period. The National Latin Exam is required and attendance at the state Latin convention is encouraged.

Spanish I: A year-long elective course for 8th through 12th grade students.

Credit: 1 Unit

This course is an introduction to the language with the primary focus on providing the skills needed to communicate, to engage in conversation and to understand written and spoken language.

Elective Courses

Choral Music: A year-long elective for 7th & 8th grade students.

Coursework includes choral performance and the study of the relationship of music elements, music theory and technology to performance practices. Students will participate in two choral music concerts.

Debate 7-8: A year-long elective for 7th & 8th grade students.

Skills in oral communications help the individual to think logically, clearly and creatively. Students will select, write, and perform various speeches in the interpretation of literature, expository and extemporaneous speaking and debate. Students are members of the Sacred Heart Jr. High Forensics Team and will compete in local Speech and Debate tournaments.

Percussion Ensemble: A year-long elective for 7th & 8th grade students.

Coursework includes an introduction to drumline, Brazilian samba music, and playing drum sets in various styles around the world. There will be a final performance to showcase music learned throughout the semester. No previous experience is required.

Advanced Percussion Ensemble: A year-long elective for 7th & 8th grade students.

Audition Required.

Students will expand physical drumming techniques and learn increasingly challenging music in drumline and samba band. Students will also play more drum set as they learn to play along with contemporary groups as well as improvise. The students will perform at the end of each semester to demonstrate skills acquired.

Physical Education – General: A year-long elective for 7th & 8th grade students.

Physical Education is designed as a daily instructional program that includes themes such as: team, dual and individual sports, rhythms/dance, and fitness activities. Physical education may also include non-traditional activities. The program allows students opportunities to practice and apply a range of motor skills in physical activities that emphasize the social skills associated with competitions. Personal fitness assessment is an integral part of this program. **A physical is required.**

Physical Education - Athletic: A year-long course for 7th & 8th grade student athletes.

This course is designed to provide the student athlete with advanced training in team and individual sports and additional fitness gains such as strength, endurance, flexibility, body composition, agility and cardio respiratory endurance. **A physical is required.**

Strings Ensemble: A year-long course for 7th & 8th grade students.

The curriculum includes learning the parts of a string instrument and how they work, learning to sight read, understanding basic music principles for performance, basic music theory, and vocabulary of music terms. The students will be working as a group and functioning as an ensemble with periodic playing experiences in the classroom to monitor individual progress and public presentations at the end of each semester to show accomplishments. The main goal will be to use their musical talent to eventually enhance the student Mass.

Theatre: A year-long course for 7th & 8th grade students.

Students will learn the basic elements of theater: acting, scenic design, costuming, makeup and business practices, and apply their knowledge.

Visual Art: A year-long elective for 7th & 8th grade students.

In this course, students develop knowledge and skills in the creation and study of works of art and design. Building on concepts and skills acquired in the elementary courses, students will increase their knowledge of production, critical analysis, history and culture, aesthetics, and connections among the visual arts, other content areas, and everyday life. Students will work with a wide variety of media and materials including drawing, pen & ink, acrylic paints, oil pastels, watercolor paints and sculpture.