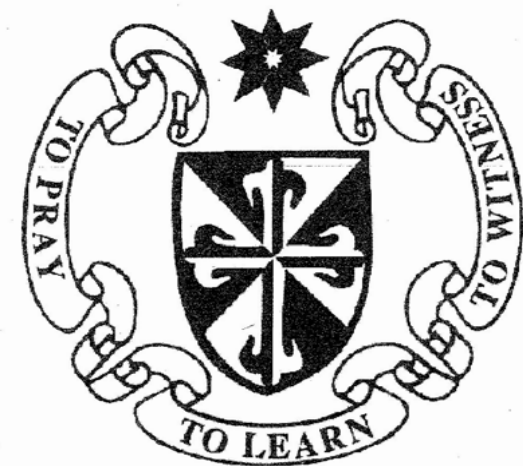


English & Language Arts	History & Social Studies	Mathematics	Religious Studies	Science
<p>Grade Six</p> <p>Sixth grade students focus on the proper use of grammar and development of essay writing. As stepping-stones towards writing a well-organized, formal essay, students review sentence structure, the parts of speech, the different types of clauses and phrases, and capitalization and punctuation throughout the year. Opinion, persuasion, compare and contrast, personal narrative essays and research reports are all covered. In literature, this year builds on previous years' instruction centered on reading, interpreting, and analyzing works of fiction and non-fiction. A variety of genres are covered throughout the year, including: myths, poems, short stories, fiction novels, dramatic plays, and essays.</p> <p>Grade Seven</p> <p>English language and literature are the two components of Language Arts. The English component stresses vocabulary development, grammar, and the process of writing with a focus on organizational structure, clarity, coherence, and the development of ideas. The literature component emphasizes the comprehension and analysis of a variety of literary works including novels, short stories, plays, and poetry. Students will begin to understand the tools of the writer and identify these literary devices in literature as well as employ them in their own writing. A variety of oral and written projects and presentations will allow students to develop their skills and demonstrate their knowledge.</p> <p>Grade Eight</p> <p>English language and literature are the two components of Language Arts. The English component stresses vocabulary development, grammar, and the process of writing with a focus on response-to-literature essays. Students will learn to prepare written work in accordance with Modern Language Association (MLA) style guidelines. Students in eighth grade are encouraged to analyze literature, both in terms of how the writer employs literary devices as well as the study of plot and characterization as a means of understanding the human condition. Our study of literature will include novels, short stories, poetry, and plays. A variety of oral and written projects and presentations will allow students to develop their skills and demonstrate their knowledge.</p>	<p>Grade Six</p> <p>This year focuses on Ancient Civilization. Among the civilizations studied throughout the year are: early hunter-gather societies, the Ancient Mesopotamians, the Ancient Egyptians, the Indus River Valley peoples. The Maurya Empire, China's many dynasties, the Ancient Greeks, the Persian Empire and the Roman Empire. Some world religions are also covered within the context of specific civilizations, including paganism, Judaism, Hinduism, Buddhism, Islam, Confucianism and Christianity. Within each chapter, specific skills are introduced, continually practiced, and tested. These skills include, but are not limited to: reading maps and charts, understanding timelines, identifying cause and effect, distinguishing fact from opinion, and judging the validity and reliability of primary and secondary sources and other historical evidence.</p> <p>Grade Seven</p> <p>This year focuses on Medieval and Early Modern Times. Among the civilizations studied throughout the year are: the Roman Empire (reviewed) the Byzantine Empire, the Muslim Empire, early West African Empires (Mali, Ghana, and Songhai), the Mayas, the Incas, the Aztecs, the Mongol and Ming Dynasties of China, Japan, and early European societies. Some world religions are also covered within the context of specific civilizations, including paganism, Christianity, Islam and Buddhism. Within each chapter, specific skills are introduced, continually practiced and tested. These skills include, but are not limited to: reading maps and charts, interpreting line graphs, analyzing causation and correlation, ordering events on a flow chart, and judging the validity and reliability of primary and secondary sources and other historical evidence.</p> <p>Grade Eight</p> <p>This year focuses on the history of the United States of America. Beginning with the birth of the nation, including the American Revolution, the signing of the Declaration of Independence, and the passage of the Constitution. The rest of the course covers: the development of political parties, early domestic and foreign policies, the plight of the Native Americans, domestic reform movements, the Industrial Revolution, westward expansion, slavery and the Civil War, Reconstruction, the Progressive Era, and later foreign policies with Latin America and Europe prior to Word War I. Within each chapter, specific skills are introduced, continually practiced, and tested. These skills include, but are not limited to: understanding sequence; interpreting maps, graphs, and charts; analyzing cause and effect; evaluating summaries, and judging the validity and reliability of primary and secondary sources and other historical evidence.</p>	<p>Grade Six</p> <p>Sixth grade math is designed to improve and solidify the student's computational and problem solving skills. Mastering the four arithmetic operations, with whole numbers, positive fractions, positive decimals, and positive and negative integers, give the students the preparation for more complex concepts introduced in the seventh grade. The students are introduced to both algebraic and geometric concepts that become the building blocks for future mathematic courses.</p> <p>Grade Seven</p> <p>Seventh grade mathematics provides students with the introduction to algebraic and geometric concepts, at the same time solidifying the arithmetic operations of fractions, decimals, and positive and negative integers. Problem solving and the reading and writing of mathematics are all integrated into the curriculum on a regular and on-going basis. Successful completion of this course gives students a firm foundation for the algebra class they will take as eighth graders.</p> <p>Grade Eight</p> <p>All students in eighth grade are required to take algebra. Mastering algebra is an essential skill toward success in future mathematical courses. Students will become proficient in solving equations and inequalities, graphing linear equations, and problem solving. Polynomials, quadratic equations, algebraic fractions and systems of equations, are the concepts that will be introduced and practiced. Writing of mathematics is integrated into the curriculum on a regular and ongoing basis.</p>	<p>Grade Six</p> <p>This year focuses on the Old Testament. Topics covered over the course of the year include, but are not limited to: the creation of the world, mystery of evil, covenants as God's promises, prophets as the messengers of God, and the coming of Jesus. Integrated into each chapter/unit are opportunities for students to become more proficient in reading the Bible and using it as a source of information on the Catholic doctrine outside of their textbook. Students also participate in class discussions on a variety of topics as well as individual and group activities centered on God and their relationship with Him.</p> <p>Grade Seven</p> <p>Seventh grade religion classes focus on the New Testament and the life of Jesus. Students are encouraged to gain an appreciation for the message and mystery of Christ and the development of Christian scriptures. Based on Jesus' teaching of unconditional love expressed by service to others, students will complete ten hours of community service during the school year. Their community service experiences are a springboard for discussions on social justice and the outreach activities help them to see how they can make valuable contributions to their community. Seventh graders also will complete a course of study on family life.</p> <p>Grade Eight</p> <p>The eighth grade religion offers students an opportunity to examine and deepen their faith lives through discussions, reflection, and an active and thoughtful questioning process. With a respect for all religious traditions and openness to the ideas of others, students explore the possibility of developing a real and personal relationship with God. Students also investigate and debate relevant moral and social issues within a Christian framework and complete a course of study on family life. In addition, eighth grade students are required to complete ten hours of community service.</p>	<p>Grade Six</p> <p>Sixth grade students will study Earth Science including plate tectonics and the earth's structure. Topography in the shaping of the earth's surface is covered along with thermal energy, energy in the earth's system. Ecology is also covered with emphasis on our resources of energy and materials. Laboratory investigation and experimentation teach students to implement the scientific process.</p> <p>Grade Seven</p> <p>This year is a focus on Life Science, looking closely at genetics and its traits. Evolution is covered, accounting for the diversity of species developed through gradual processes over generations. The structure and function of living systems along with physical principles in living systems are covered. All areas are covered through investigation and experimentation through lab experiences.</p> <p>Grade Eight</p> <p>Eight grade looks at Physical Science, particularly studies in motion, forces, the structure of matter, and chemical reactions. Students learn about the periodic table of the elements and the structure of atoms - protons, neutrons, and electrons. Students also study the structure and composition of the universe by looking at the evolution of stars and galaxies. Eighth graders study the chemistry of living systems, density and buoyancy. All areas are covered through investigation and experimentation through lab experiences.</p>



Curriculum Guide Grades K-8

ST. GREGORY SCHOOL
GOALS

- Build Community
- Develop Character
- Achieve Academic Success

English & Language Arts	History & Social Studies	Mathematics	Religious Studies	Science
<p>Kindergarten</p> <p>Students learn how to read, write, speak and listen through various types of instruction. They use letter books that focus on a letter at a time. These books build on their prior knowledge as they work through them while increasing their vocabulary and concept development, decoding and word recognition and reading comprehension. Guided reading books are introduced to each student after assessment. Zoo Phonics is used to strengthen students’ phonemic awareness and phonics skills through a kinesthetic approach to reading, writing and spelling. Literature is an essential component of our instruction.</p> <p>Grade One</p> <p>The primary focus of first grade language arts program is the development of reading and writing skills. Students in the first grade learn the phonetic components of language and they learn to apply these components in their oral and silent reading. Students in the first grade also develop their comprehension skills and a basic understanding of story structure. Writing skills are developed beginning with a focus on spelling, handwriting, punctuation, capitalization, as well as the writing process.</p> <p>Grade Two</p> <p>Our second grade language arts program teaches and reinforces reading skills – comprehension, phonics, and vocabulary. In spelling there is continued focus on phonetic patterns and their relationship to spelling. There is a formal review of the manuscript alphabet in handwriting. Work continues with sentence structure, parts of speech, capitalization, and punctuation. Journal writing, informational writing and creative writing are all areas of focus.</p> <p>Grade Three</p> <p>The students in the third grade expand their knowledge of phonics and reading fluency. The students are taught additional strategies for reading comprehension. In Reader’s Workshop, students choose "just right" books for independent reading and are taught in small groups. Story elements including setting, plot and characters are reviewed, and independent reading time is increased. Students respond to literature in their Reading Workshop Journals. Handwriting, spelling and word-processing skills are reinforced, practiced and applied. Continued work is done in the area of grammar with an introduction to pronouns, adjectives and adverbs. Written expression of ideas in a more complete and sophisticated manner is expected and utilized. Students are involved in writing paragraphs, simple reports and letters throughout the school year.</p> <p>Grade Four</p> <p>The fourth grade language arts program continues to emphasise reading skills. Students continue work on oral reading skills, report, essay and creative writing, reading comprehension and reasoning skills, reading rate and fluency through a wide variety of literature. Continued work is done on expanding vocabulary, increasing accuracy in spellings and improving proofreading skills. In Reader’s Workshop, students choose "just right" books for independent reading and are taught in small groups using leveled reading. Students respond to literature in their Reading Workshop Journals. The students expand their writing skills in the areas of paragraph development, letter, report, grammar usage, and sentence structure are also areas of focus.</p> <p>Grade Five</p> <p>Students will continue to expand their reading and writing skills, be able to identify parts of a sentence, and parts of speech. Students will build skills for paragraph writing and exploring sensory details. Students continue to work on reading vocabulary, decoding, comprehension, reference, study and literature skills. Students are continuing to increase their volume of independent reading for appreciation of literature and enjoyment. They are also challenged to polish their speaking and listening skills.</p>	<p>Kindergarten</p> <p>Students will learn why it is important to follow rules and what it means to be a good citizen. Students are introduced to symbols of our state and our country, as well as symbols and signs that they might see in their neighborhood. They will discuss the jobs that are important in our community, jobs their parents may have, and what they want to be when they grow up. Students will be introduced to location by learning to find things on a map or a globe, and to identify things in their neighborhood or school. Students will begin to explore the concept of time by using and interpreting a calendar. Students will learn from times past by discussing holidays and traditions, reading about important people in history and identifying how things have changed.</p> <p>Grade One</p> <p>The social studies curriculum begins with looking at ourselves, our families, our school, our friends and our community. Basic map skills are developed as students study maps, globes and their own community. The curriculum also focuses on current events, different cultures and citizenship. Students will learn to locate on maps and globes San Mateo, California, the United States, the seven continents, and the four oceans.</p> <p>Grade Two</p> <p>Students in second grade learn the difference between life today and long ago. They study family history and traditions and can put events in the order in which they occurred. They learn to identify landforms and oceans and can navigate with a map or globe. The concept of community is expanded. They are taught that all communities throughout the world have similarities and differences and change over time. They study basic economic concepts, discover how people use resources and interact as producers and consumers. They also study people in our distant and recent history who are heroes and made a positive difference in the world.</p> <p>Grade Three</p> <p>Students in the third grade learn more about our connections to the past and the ways in which local, regional and national government and traditions have developed and left their marks on current society, providing common memories. Emphasis is also on the physical and cultural landscape of California, including the introduction to the study of Native Americans, the arrival of immigrants and the impact they have both had in forming the character of our contemporary society.</p> <p>Grade Four</p> <p>The main focus for students in the fourth grade is California. The students learn more about the geography of California. They focus on the Native Americans who settled in California, the Missions of California, the Gold Rush to 20th Century California. Students participate in the California Gold Rush Camp in Columbia, California.</p> <p>Grade Five</p> <p>Fifth graders are introduced to exploration and the founding of America. Students collaborate to study the geography, natural resources and diversity of cultures that provided so much of the richness we know today. They will continue to discover the American Indians and their influence on American culture and history. Students will gain a better understanding of the cause and consequences of the American Revolution.</p>	<p>Kindergarten</p> <p>Students will identify, sort and classify objects by attributes. They will learn to organize and make patterns. Students will count, represent, name, write, group and order numbers up to 30. Measurement and weight will be explored and students will become familiar with comparing objects that are shorter, longer, taller, heavier, lighter, etc. Students will explore the concern of time by naming the days of the week, reciting our daily calendar, and by using a clock to tell time to the nearest hour. Graphs will be used to compare and interpret data. Students will identify common plane and geometric shapes. Students will be introduced to addition and subtraction and begin to form math sentences. They will be introduced to money and will learn to identify and count coins.</p> <p>Grade One</p> <p>The concepts of number and place value and the understanding of the processes of addition and subtraction are the major focus of the first grade curriculum. Students will master the addition and subtraction facts up to the number 18. Also, students continue to work on classification, patterns, estimation, and measuring. The concepts of “greater than and less than” as well as fractions (1/2, 1/3, 1/4) are introduced. Students will learn the characteristics and properties of two and three dimensional geometric shapes. Students will learn to add and subtract tens and ones with regrouping.</p> <p>Grade Two</p> <p>In the second grade math program, students are expected to master addition and subtraction through 20. They are able to add and subtract with regrouping. They focus on place value with two and three digit numbers. Word problems and estimation become very important skills. They are introduced to simple multiplication and division. Students continue to work on understanding the concepts of fractions, measurement, geometry, money and time. Students use charts and graphs for data analysis and practice mathematical reasoning in problem solving.</p> <p>Grade Three</p> <p>Third grade math continues to involve operations with whole numbers. Students learn multiplication and division facts through 12. They learn how to multiply two and three digit numbers by a one digit number. They also learn single digit division. In addition, students continue to work on other concepts including time, money and measurement. They work with graphs, probability, geometry and fractions. Students focus on the ability to analyze information and choose the correct operation needed to solve everyday problems.</p> <p>Grade Four</p> <p>Fourth grade students continue developing their skills with whole number addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. They begin work on fractions, mixed numeral and decimals. Continued work is done developing strategies and skills used for solving word problems.</p> <p>Grade Five</p> <p>Students will build a mastery of skills using a curriculum that emphasizes conceptual understanding. Students will compute, perform calculations, solve problems, create expressions and make decisions based on logic and reasoning. The mastery of basic concepts allows students the freedoms to problem solve and interpret results. The mathematical content is taught in a repetitive fashion using a variety of skills in an interesting way.</p>	<p>Kindergarten</p> <p>Students will begin to recognize that they are all children of God and that God loves them very much. Students will learn that God made all things. Students will learn that God made all people special and unique. Students will become aware of special times of the church year such as Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, etc. Students will learn prayers such as the Our Father, the Hail Mary, our St. Gregory School Prayer and Grace before Meals. We will pray to God as a class everyday for things we are thankful for as well as for others who are in need.</p> <p>Grade One</p> <p>The first grade religion program focuses on the “family” of the Church. Students will come to understand the meaning of God, Our Father. They will come to learn of Jesus as God’s Son and the lessons He taught us. They will learn about Mary, the Mother of Jesus. They will learn how to participate in school Masses and Catholic holidays. They will learn the importance of prayer, kindness, sharing and giving service to others. The children will learn about the lives of many saints and Bible stories. The children will be introduced to Sacraments of our Catholic church.</p> <p>Grade Two</p> <p>The major area of focus for the second grade religion program is the preparation for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Communion. Included in this preparation is the celebration of belonging to the Christian community. Students also learn about forgiveness and begin to understand the meaning of sin, sorrow and reconciliation. Students celebrate the life of Jesus and develop a relationship with Him through His presence in the Eucharist. They also study all the parts of the Mass.</p> <p>Grade Three</p> <p>The focus of the third grade religion curriculum is the Church. Students gain an understanding of what the function of the Church is and what are the beliefs of the Catholic Church. They are introduced to the sacraments of Confirmation, Holy Orders, Anointing of the Sick, and Matrimony. They gain familiarity with locating Bible passages, the Ten Commandments, works of Mercy and Jesus’ Law of love.</p> <p>Grade Four</p> <p>Fourth grade religion students focus on the study of morality. They extend the study of the Ten Commandments and Jesus’ Law of Love. They also study the saints and the Beatitudes. Students also study Family Life with a focus on the gift of Life.</p> <p>Grade Five</p> <p>Fifth grade religion students learn about the life and teachings of Jesus. They study the seven sacraments as sacred signs as well as celebrations. The students study the liturgical lessons of Advent and Lent and how to locate passages of Scripture in the Bible. There is a strong family life component in which students are introduced to the male and female reproductive systems. They also learn the changes and challenges that they will experience during puberty. The importance of living your faith as opposed to just studying it is emphasized.</p>	<p>Kindergarten</p> <p>Students will sort objects, learn how things move, and discuss how people use tools to help things work. Students will discuss the weather and the seasons and will keep track of our weather with a daily weather graph. They will learn about different kinds of animals, how they grow and move, the body parts of animals, and what body coverings they have. Students will learn about the earth’s air, land and water. We will learn about the parts of a plant and what plants need to grow.</p> <p>Grade One</p> <p>First graders learn about their bodies and study and experience the five senses. They also study plants and animals and animal habitats. They learn methods of recycling natural resources as they come to understand how important it is to care for our earth. First graders will learn that solids, liquids and gases have different properties.</p> <p>Grade Two</p> <p>Second grade students continue to learn more about different animal groupings, their habitats and life cycles. They observe and measure the motion of objects. They are introduced to geology with the study of rocks, soil and fossils. They begin to learn the scientific process of asking questions and conducting careful investigations.</p> <p>Grade Three</p> <p>The focus of study for third graders is physical science. They will study energy, matter, light and change. They begin to use the scientific process of investigation and experimentation by asking meaningful questions and conducting careful investigations.</p> <p>Grade Four</p> <p>Fourth grade students continue the study of the scientific method. They study rain forests earthquakes and volcanoes. The fourth grade also participates in the Jason Project doing an in-depth study of the solar system.</p> <p>Grade Five</p> <p>Fifth grade science is based on physical, life, and earth sciences. We study the elements and their combinations, plants and animals, water, land, oceans, the sun, and the solar system. All areas are covered through investigation and experimentation.</p>