



ST. JOHN'S ACADEMY

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE - ROOTED IN CATHOLIC FAITH

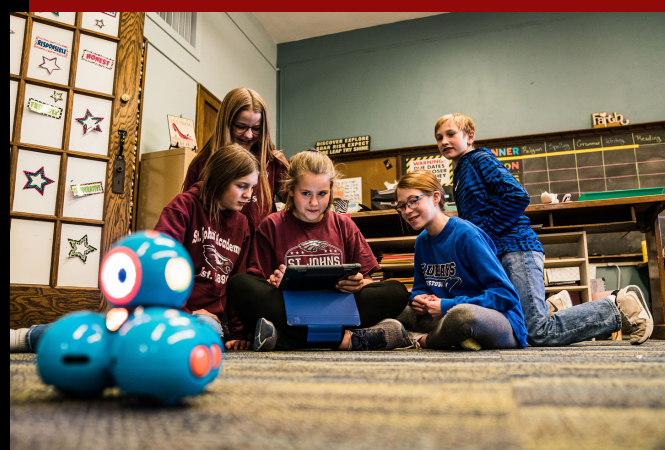
EST. 1890

"THOSE WHO HOPE IN THE
LORD WILL RENEW THEIR
STRENGTH.
THEY WILL
SOAR ON WINGS
LIKE EAGLES;
THEY WILL RUN AND NOT
GROW WEARY. THEY WILL
WALK AND NOT BE FAINT."

ISAIAH 40:31

ST. JOHN'S ACADEMY
MIDDLE SCHOOL
EST. 2021

2023-2024 COURSE CATALOG



**faith
virtue
community
servant-leadership**



"Train up a child in the way they should go and in the end they will not turn from it."
Proverbs 22:6



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SIXTH GRADE COURSES

6TH GRADE ACADEMIC SUPPORT

COURSE TITLE

Description

Students will have a study hall period where they will have time to work on homework and/or projects, as well as receive academic support from a teacher, if they choose.

6TH GRADE ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

COURSE TITLE

Description

Students will explore and expand their knowledge of academic English. There will be endless opportunities to develop and master all the areas of ELA including reading a variety of genres, interpreting text, and learning/practicing strategies of a good reader. Students will read a variety of short selections as well as the novels *Maniac Magee* by Jerry Spinelli and *The Magician's Nephew* by C.S. Lewis. There will be weekly spelling lessons and vocabulary development. All of these academic lessons will be approached with a variety of activities including individual/group work involving creative expression with skits and projects. There will be many opportunities for writing development with focus on the 6+1 Writing Traits, special focus on Voice and Conventions. (While all traits will be addressed, there will be a special focus on two of the traits in each grade, 6-8.) Students will also do a research project and have an intro to debate. Students will have many opportunities for public speaking culminating with the annual SJA Speech Contest in the spring for grades 6-8. All the experiences in this class will provide the opportunity to see God's message and live the virtues that are an essential part of the experience at SJA.

6TH GRADE LIBRARY

COURSE TITLE

Description

Students will learn library skills important to gathering information in print and digital formats. Various authors and genres will be explored. Students will complete a research project and learn to evaluate and select relevant information. Copyright and digital citizenship will be stressed as well as citing sources.

6TH GRADE MATH

COURSE TITLE

Description

Students investigate ratios, rates, and percents and solve problems involving proportional relationships. They continue to develop their understanding of division where fractions are involved. The students will use positive and negative numbers to describe quantities and order these numbers and their absolute values from least to greatest or place them on a number line. In the geometry portion of the course, they will investigate area, surface area and volume of shapes and solids that involve rectangles and triangles (including prisms and pyramids). Students will use variables to create equations that model relationships between two quantities. Additionally, they will investigate properties of multiplication and addition and demonstrate how these properties allow mathematicians to create equivalent expressions.

6TH GRADE MUSIC

COURSE TITLE

Description

Students will learn about different genres of music, music history and music theory. Students will learn fundamental concepts in music theory such as reading and writing music notation, major and minor scales, music intervals and key music vocabulary terms such as dynamics, tempo, form, melody, meter, and rhythm. Classroom activities will combine foundational music theory with composition writing and performance on simple pitched or non-pitched instruments. The class will also explore instruments of the orchestra and percussion instruments found in cultures throughout the world by listening to and analyzing world music.

6TH GRADE P.E.

COURSE TITLE

Description

Objectives of Physical Education at St. John's Academy include playing games, getting students moving, and building a foundation for lifelong, healthy physical activity. Students are engaged in the objectives through lessons to build the students' learning and skills in three domains: psychomotor (body), cognitive (brain) and affective which focuses on the students' feelings, attitudes and values. Lessons and assessments are implemented based on North Dakota's Physical Education Standards for the appropriate grade level.

6TH GRADE RELIGION

COURSE TITLE

Description

The focus of the 6th grade Religion textbook is The Word of God in the Old Testament. Students will learn how the Old Testament is timeless and applies to their daily lives as they live in relationship with Jesus. Students will gain knowledge of our Faith and Liturgy, the virtues, moral formation through the 10 Commandments, prayer life, mission/charity work, and how to turn to/trust in God in life's challenges that are specific for a 6th grader. This will be accomplished as students attend weekly Mass, participate in classroom discussions and projects, have daily prayer throughout the school day including a daily decade of the Rosary, and perform acts of service within our school and community. This religion class experience is designed to help 6th grade students continue their relationship with God so to carry it with them as a foundation for the rest of their lives.

6TH GRADE SCIENCE

COURSE TITLE

Description

Grade 6 Science is built on the 5th grade science curriculum and consists of an instructional framework that integrates physics, chemistry, earth science, astronomy, and biology. Students will uncover preconceptions with formative assessment science probes.

6TH GRADE WORLD HISTORY

COURSE TITLE

Description

This course begins with a study of ancient world history. This allows students to learn about the history of ancient civilizations, geography, early economy, the first forms of government, and ways of life. This study will give students a better understanding of how the modern world developed by allowing the discovery of how the contributions of ancient people impact the world today. The course will focus on the first discoveries of humans, early civilizations in Mesopotamia and Egypt, Ancient India and China, Ancient Greece and Rome before moving into the study of early American cultures and Europe.

SEVENTH GRADE COURSES

7TH GRADE BIBLE TIMELINE

COURSE TITLE

Description

Timeline of Salvation history will take the 7th graders through the major events and dates found in the Bible, giving students a deeper look into God's saving activity throughout the history of the world. 7th Grade Bible Timeline is a one-semester course.

7TH GRADE ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

COURSE TITLE

Description

In 7th grade, students will take their knowledge of academic English to a deeper level and will use self-reflection and goal setting to take ownership of their learning. Students will experience a variety of literary works that will include many genres, including multimedia and the novels *Sounder* by William A. Armstrong, *A Long Walk to Water* by Linda Sue Park, and *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe* by C.S. Lewis. Students will interact with the texts in a variety of ways both through independent study and group work. Students will engage in discussion and debate and there will be many opportunities for writing development with focus on the 6+1 Writing Traits, special focus on Ideas and Word Choice. (While all traits will be addressed, there will be a special focus on two of the traits in each grade 6-8.) Students will do a research project. Students will have many opportunities for public speaking culminating with the annual SJA Speech Contest in the spring for grades 6-8. All the experiences in this class will provide the opportunity to see God's message and live the virtues that are an essential part of the experience at SJA.

7TH GRADE HEALTH

COURSE TITLE

Description

Students will assess and develop life skills with an added emphasis on decision-making and refusal skills. Students are engaged in character building and hands on activities as they explore topics such as goal setting, building self esteem, physical fitness, nutrition, physical, mental and emotional health.

7TH GRADE LIFE SCIENCE

COURSE TITLE

Description

Life Science brings science off of the page and beyond the four walls of the classroom - into the exciting world in which we live with a wealth of resources. It goes much further as it dives deep into the incredible natural phenomena all around us to spark students' imagination and inspire success.

7TH GRADE MATH, ACCELERATED

COURSE TITLE

Description

This course is designed to prepare students to take Algebra I as an 8th grader. It weaves together concepts traditionally taught in both Math 7 and Math 8. In this course, students evaluate complex expressions that involve integers, decimals, and fractions and simplify algebraic expressions. They write and solve equations with variables on both sides of the equal sign, including equations with special solutions (no solution and infinitely many solutions). In addition to equations, students create and solve inequalities that model real world situations, while also interpreting the solution. Students work with expressions that involve positive and negative exponents and scientific notation. They examine what it means for two quantities to be in a proportional relationship using tables, graphs, and equations. Perfecting their knowledge of percentages, they now use percentages to find percent of change, tax, tips, markups, discounts, interest, commissions, and percent error. They begin their exploration of linear relationships, graphing lines using a table and directly from slope-intercept form. As well, they interpret the meaning of the slope and the y-intercept in the context of a real-world situation. In the geometry unit, students examine special angle relationships that occur within intersecting lines and triangles (both interior and exterior angles). The students also find the area, volume, and surface area of composite figures.

Enrollment in this course is by invitation/recommendation of the teacher. When making this recommendation, the teacher takes into account the student's performance in Math 6, his/her work ethic, his/her NWEA MAP scores, and the student's desire to study advanced mathematics courses in high school.

7TH GRADE MATH

COURSE TITLE

Description

Students evaluate complex expressions that involve integers, decimals, and fractions. They write and solve equations and inequalities with variables on only side of the equal sign that model real world situations. Students examine what it means for two quantities to be in a proportional relationship using tables, graphs, and equations. Perfecting their knowledge of percentages, they now use percentages to find percent of change, tax, tips, markups, discounts, interest, commissions, and percent error. In the geometry unit, students examine special angle relationships that occur within intersecting lines and triangles (both interior and exterior angles). As well, they find the area, volume, and surface are of composite figures. Students also investigate the probability of simple and compound events.

7TH GRADE P.E.

COURSE TITLE

Description

Objectives of Physical Education at St. John's Academy include playing games, getting students moving, and building a foundation for lifelong, healthy physical activity. Students are engaged in the objectives through lessons to build the students' learning and skills in three domains: psychomotor (body), cognitive (brain) and affective which focuses on the students' feelings, attitudes and values. Lessons and assessments are implemented based on North Dakota's Physical Education Standards for the appropriate grade level.

7TH GRADE RELIGION

COURSE TITLE

Description

Students delve into the New Testament in this course, deepening their understanding of Jesus Christ and the Church. A special emphasis is given to St. Pope John Paul II's Theology of the Body, helping students understand the beauty of being created in God's image and being created for love. Students will examine the complementarity of men and women, and the unique gifts each brings to the family and society.

7TH GRADE STEAM I & II

COURSE TITLE

Description

The 7th & 8th graders will alternate years of completing the STEAM I & II curriculum. STEAM I will be taught to both 7th & 8th graders in the 2022-23 school year, followed by STEAM II in the 2023-24 school year. STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Math) education is a transformative approach to learning that guides students through an exciting world of curiosity, problem solving, and creativity. The core subjects of science and math are connected to language arts and social studies through interdisciplinary activities and units infused with the arts and technology. Students engage in inquiry activities and make real-world connections as they produce both digital and project based artifacts. These projects often incorporate the engineering design process and multiple technological tools. Students take on leadership roles in the STEAM environment and develop a deeper understanding of the conceptual connections within their subjects.

7TH GRADE TECHNOLOGY

COURSE TITLE

Description

In today's society, it is important that students are knowledgeable about computers. In this course, students will explore and create projects using Microsoft Word, PowerPoint, and Excel. Internet and email etiquette will also be discussed. Students will learn about the importance of copyright, internet safety, digital citizenship, and cyberbullying. In addition, students will explore other software including PowToon and Canva. Keyboard skills will be practiced with a variety of creative course projects. Students will use all of their skills to create a fun end of semester project.

7TH GRADE WORLD GEOGRAPHY

COURSE TITLE

Description

This course will focus on the study of physical and human geography helping the students understand the impact both have on the Earth and its inhabitants. Students will analyze populations, settlements, and how human activities change the physical environment. Students will compare how different areas around the world developed, the standard of living, systems of government, and economic factors of countries around the globe as well as the physical geography, the ancient cultures, the regions, and modern challenges that face countries today. The course will begin in North, Middle, and South Americas, before moving into Europe, Eurasia, Africa and then into Australia and Oceania.

EIGHTH GRADE COURSES

8TH GRADE ALGEBRA 1

COURSE TITLE

Description

In this course, students perfect their understanding of linear functions, working with linear functions in slope-intercept form, standard form, and point-slope form. As well, the students compare linear functions, identify the domain and range of a function, and interpret key elements of the function, such as the slope, y-intercept, and x-intercept. They also construct a line of fit to a scatter plot and use the equation of the line of fit to make predictions. Students learn to solve systems of linear equations by graphing, substitution, and elimination. Additionally, they graph systems of linear inequalities. Developing their understanding of nonlinear functions, students are exposed to piecewise-defined functions, absolute value functions, and exponential growth and decay functions. In the second semester a significant amount of time is spent working with polynomials. Special emphasis is given to quadratic equations and functions. Students solve quadratic equations using graphing, factoring, completing the square, and applying the quadratic formula. (Prerequisite: Successful completion of Math 7A. If a student earns an A or a B average for the year, he/she will earn one high school math credit for this course and will move on to Geometry in his/her freshman year. Students who earn a C average or lower will be required to repeat Algebra I in his/her freshman year.)

8TH GRADE EARTH SCIENCE

COURSE TITLE

Description

Earth Science provides an in-depth, collaborative, and project-based learning experience designed to help spark students' interest and empower them to ask questions and think critically. Through inquiry-based, hands-on investigations of real-world phenomena, students will construct explanations for scientific phenomena and design solutions for real-world problems.

8TH GRADE HEALTH

COURSE TITLE

Description

Students will assess and develop life skills with an added emphasis on decision-making and refusal skills. Students are engaged in character building and hands on activities as they explore topics such as conflict resolution, effects of tobacco, alcohol, drugs, infectious diseases, non-infectious diseases and disorders, body changes and personal safety.

8TH GRADE MATH

COURSE TITLE

Description

Students write and solve equations with variables on both sides of the equal sign, including writing their own equations to model real-world situations. Students work with expressions that involve positive and negative exponents, square roots, cube roots, and scientific notation. Students discover and use the Pythagorean Theorem to solve problems related to right triangles and to find the distance between two points in the coordinate plane. They begin their exploration of linear relationships, graphing lines using a table and directly from slope-intercept form. As well, they interpret the meaning of the slope and the y-intercept in the context of a real-world situation. Students develop their understanding of a function as a rule that assigns a unique output for each input value and categorize functions as linear or nonlinear. In the geometry portion of the course, students work with the volume formulas for cylinders, cones, and spheres to not only find the volume but also missing dimensions of the geometric solid. Additionally, students explore transforming a geometric figure using translations, reflections, rotations, and dilations.

8TH GRADE P.E.

COURSE TITLE

Description

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8TH GRADE RELIGION

COURSE TITLE

Description

Utilizing developmentally appropriate language and methodology, 8th grade students will deepen their knowledge of Christ and his Bride, the Catholic church, as they dive deep into lessons on Divine Revelation, the Holy Trinity, Church History, while exploring the Church's teachings on Morality and Sacramental life. The course is designed to prepare students for the world that awaits them by equipping them with knowledge of God's abounding love and mercy while learning to utilize the tools that God provides to His people to assist them on their spiritual journey.

8TH GRADE SERVANT LEADERSHIP

COURSE TITLE

Description

This course will consist of students learning to be leaders who serve God and their community. Students will learn about other individuals who are examples of servant leadership. Students will also have opportunities to lead and be of service to others, in both our school and local community. Students in this course will practice servant leadership by helping other students in the school, school service projects, plan special projects and events, organize ways to help the community outside the school.

8TH GRADE SPANISH 1

COURSE TITLE

Description

Through Catholic Virtual, this course is designed to develop an authentic and practical understanding of the Spanish language and culture. Students will learn to express their thoughts, feelings, and opinions in Spanish using basic, real-life situations and learning scenarios.

8TH GRADE STEAM I & II

COURSE TITLE

Description

The 7th & 8th graders will alternate years of completing the STEAM I & II curriculum. STEAM I will be taught to both 7th & 8th graders in the 2022-23 school year, followed by STEAM II in the 2023-24 school year. STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Math) education is a transformative approach to learning that guides students through an exciting world of curiosity, problem solving, and creativity. The core subjects of science and math are connected to language arts and social studies through interdisciplinary activities and units infused with the arts and technology. Students engage in inquiry activities and make real-world connections as they produce both digital and project based artifacts. These projects often incorporate the engineering design process and multiple technological tools. Students take on leadership roles in the STEAM environment and develop a deeper understanding of the conceptual connections within their subjects.

8TH GRADE U.S. HISTORY

COURSE TITLE

Description

This course begins with a study of America's native peoples and exploration, the early European colonization, and settlement in America. It continues with the Revolutionary War Era and the creation of the Constitution of the United States. The course will continue through the early republic and westward expansion before moving into the Civil War Era. Following the study of the Civil War time period, the course will touch on reconstruction and growth. The course will discuss the United States role in World War I, the time of prosperity and Great Depression, and World War II.

2023-24 St. John's Academy Middle School Schedule

		6th Grade	7th Grade	8th Grade
Period #0	7:30-8:10	Band - M-W-F Choir T-R		
Period #1	8:10-9:04	Religion	Religion	Religion
Period #2	9:07-9:54	LA	Life Science	US History
Period #3	9:57-10:44	Reading/Writing/Novel	Math I (P4/S2) Bible Timeline	Earth Science
Period #4	10:47-11:34	World History	Math II (P3/S2) Tech I	Language Arts
Period #5	11:37-12:24	Science	Language Arts	Math 8 Servant Leadership
Lunch	12:27-12:48	Lunch		
Period #6	12:51-1:38	PE/Music/Library	STEAM (Y1)	Algebra Servant Leadership
Period #7	1:41-2:28	Math 6	Geography	Spanish STEAM (Y1)
Period #8	2:31-3:05	(M) - Acad Supp Math Support	Health Q1,Q3 PE Q2, Q4	Health - Q2,Q4 PE Q1, Q3

