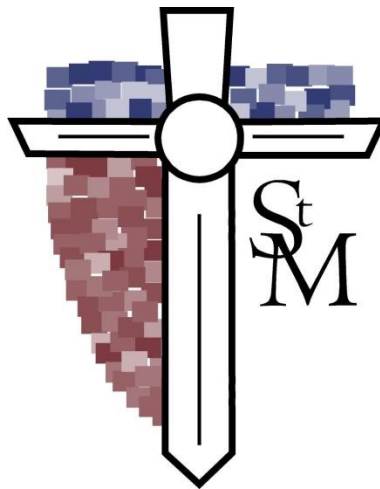


St. Michael Catholic School

Curriculum Guide

K-6



MEETING THE NEEDS OF ALL STUDENTS

At St. Michael Catholic School we celebrate the uniqueness of all students. We take each student's needs into consideration every day. This begins with the belief that each child should be encouraged to work to their full potential. Various instructional methods are used to meet the strengths and challenges of all.

Beginning in the primary grades, small group instruction is emphasized, primarily in reading and math, which facilitates in meeting the varied needs of developing students. Each student is then able to work at his or her own instructional level. These levels include working on grade level, below grade level, and above grade level.

Students with academic and/or behavioral challenges receive accommodations or modifications in their programs.

The following four pages specifically reflect how each grade level (grades K-2, 3-5, and 6-8) assists students with challenges and students who excel.

Meeting the Needs of Students Grades K-2

Accommodating Struggling Students (May differ slightly by grade level)

- . Spelling – Extra practice provided and/or limited word list
- . Reading -- One-on-one instruction with reading teacher, classroom teacher, or teacher assistant
- . Reading – Leveled reading materials to provide extra support
- . Reading and Math – Small group instruction
- . Math – One-on-one instruction with classroom teacher or teacher assistant.
- . Math – Additional opportunities for hands-on learning with use of manipulatives
- . All subjects -- Additional visual information
- . All subjects --- Preferential seating so teacher can assist immediately during instruction

Accommodating Accelerated Students (May differ slightly by grade level)

- . Spelling - Additional challenge words
- . Reading – Higher leveled reading books
- . Reading – Reading circles/reading groups assigned by ability level
- . Reading –Higher level thinking/ questioning
- . Math – Increasing depth/richness of assigned problems
- . Math - Assigning challenge activities in addition to practice activities
- . Math – Flexible math groupings to allow for customized challenge work
- . Math – Use of additional tools/manipulatives
- . Extra Opportunities to develop skills and ability through extra projects

At the K-2 level, teachers try to balance the academic, social and spiritual development of each student. Our job is to maintain academic excellence in the area of strength while fostering growth, development and interest in areas of challenge.

Meeting the Needs of Students Grades 3-5

Accommodating Struggling Students (May differ slightly by grade level)

- . Spelling - Modified amount and/or difficulty of spelling words
- . Reading - Smaller reading groups
- . Reading - Individualized tutoring with aides (pull-out time in tutor room)
- . Reading - One-on-one help from teacher and tutor
- . Reading - Leveled readers to allow opportunity for success
- . Reading - Tests read to struggling readers .
- Reading - Graphic organizers give information to visual learners
- . Reading - Reading circles/ reading groups assigned by ability level
- . Reading - Extended work time given to finish assignments/tests
- . Math - Reduced amount of problems (assigning 'Reteach' vs. 'Practice')
- . Math - Lessons and work created to child's pace
- . Math - Aides and teachers work with small groups/individual students
- . Math - Tools/manipulatives to increase understanding with hands-on learning
- . Math - Extended work time given to finish assignments/tests
- . Skills - Individually checked planners, individual behavior contracts
- . Skills - Option of parent typing/scribing for students with graphomotor difficulty
- . Educate parents regarding age-appropriate expectations – academic and social

Accommodating Accelerated Students (May differ slightly by grade level)

- . Spelling - Additional challenge words & activities
- . Reading - Leveled reading groups
- . Reading – Higher level thinking/questioning
- . Math – Offer enrichment/challenge activities in addition to practice activities
- . Math - Math groups created at regular pace and advanced pace
- . Math - Tools/manipulatives to increase understanding
- . Math – 3rd grade– ability grouped within class, 4th grade and older – separate classes by ability
- . Extra Opportunities to develop skills and ability through presentations, enhanced

projects, extra research projects

At the Grade 3-5 level, teachers try to balance the academic, social and spiritual development of each student. Our job is to maintain academic excellence in the area of strength while fostering growth, development and interest in areas of challenge.

The library has begun a collection of audio books for struggling readers and we are piloting an e-book program that will possibly reach whole school.

Meeting the Needs of Students in Middle School

Accommodating Struggling Students (May differ slightly by grade level)

- . Present instruction using a variety of learning styles
- . Text on tape/ CD
- . Provide copies of notes
- . Provide individual, small-group, whole-group reading experiences
- . Limit essay responses
- . Limit time spent on homework assignments
- . Extended time for assignment and/or test completion
- . Accept word-processed assignments
- . Provide assistance in brainstorming writing topics
- . Provide extra examples and models of finished products to guide student work
- . Daily assignment sheet
- . Daily check of planner
- . Test corrections to earn extra points and reinforce learning
- . Test review and assistance during test-taking
- . Teach planning and pacing skills
- . Modify grading criteria/weight
- . Educate parents regarding age-appropriate expectations – academic and social

Accommodating Accelerated Students (May differ slightly by grade level)

- . Challenge students with higher expectations
- . Enrichment lessons and work
- . Provide choice in activities and projects
- . Higher order questioning techniques
- . Encourage self-motivation through challenge work
- . Small group instruction with expanded concepts
- . Promote leadership
- . Provide self-paced assignments to initiate self-discovery of new concepts
- . Initiate collaboration with peers
- . Opportunities for outside of class enrichment activities, such as speech club or math club

At the Grade 6-8 level, teachers try to balance the academic, social and spiritual development of each student. Our job is to maintain academic excellence in the areas of strength while fostering growth, development and interest in areas of challenge.

Archbishop Murphy High School staff gives feedback to the local Catholic Elementary schools feedback that helps prepare all students for success .

Kindergarten Curriculum

Religion:

Students participate in daily prayer, special designated school liturgies and service projects. Formal class lessons follow the themes in the adopted Religion series. The students learn about Christian values and Catholic traditions through integrated curriculum and example throughout the day.

Mathematics:

The newly adopted math program, enVisionMATH, follows the National Common Core Standards. enVisionMATH uses problem based interactive learning and visual learning to deepen conceptual understanding. The topics and skills introduced in kindergarten are:

- sorting and classifying, recognizing and reproducing patterns, identifying writing numbers 0-9 and writing numbers through 100
- counting orally by ones, fives and tens to 100.
- beginning skills for money, telling time, measurement and calendar activities.
- graphing, addition and subtraction.

Common math language begins at our level and is used throughout the following grades.

Language Development/Reading Readiness:

The Language and Reading programs are integrated through the use of Harcourt "Storytown". The program includes:

- . Phonetic awareness
- . Letters of the alphabet and writing of those letters using Zaner-Bloser Manuscript
- . Identifying and reviewing the sounds of letters
- . An introduction to early reading, blending and building

- . Identifying high frequency words
- . An introduction to current children's authors and literature.

The program reinforces these skills through

- oral sharing,
- writing activities,
- fine motor skills,
- following oral direction, and
- pre-reading and reading groups.
-

Handwriting:

Students use the Zaner-Bloser handwriting book by Zaner-Bloser, Inc.

Handwriting instruction is a critical component of a student's overall literacy development. It provides a foundation for success in reading, writing and test taking. Handwriting is instructed several times a week to increase fluency and legibility.

Science/Health:

The children are exposed to the wonders of science through hands-on activities. Our health curriculum includes the adopted curriculum from the Archdiocese on personal safety as well as additional units on; our body, hand washing, exercise, healthy foods, and our senses just to name a few.

Social Studies:

Kindergarten is introduced to the community around us with topics including:

- being a good citizen,
- following rules,
- where we live,
- sense of time
- using a calendar,
- using stories from our past

Additionally, Kindergarten learns about seasonal season topics such as:

- holidays
- important people in history and their celebrated days.

Social Development:

The program assists in the students' social development. Daily activities help the student:

- . Become independent learners
- . Complete tasks in a timely manner
- . Share and work cooperatively with others
- . Take care of materials used
- . Have concern and compassion for others
- . Make the transition from parent assisted preschools or daycares
- . Take accountability for choices and behaviors

Building these skills will assure a smooth transition into the next step of their formal education.

The Peace Builder program helps the early primary learner lay the foundation for a positive caring approach to others.

Art

In Kindergarten, artists will begin their exploration of the Elements of Art: line, shape, texture, color, space and value. We will learn the names of different lines and shapes, learn all about the primary and secondary colors through various art projects, and develop our art skills and techniques by using art tools correctly. Artists will use a wide variety of media to create their incredible artwork, including: watercolor tempera, colored pencil, crayon, and more.

We will do observational drawings, self-portraits, work outside and inside and have a ton of fun in the process!

Library

Kindergarteners receive an introduction to library skills such as the difference between fiction and non-fiction. The focus is on listening skills, silent reading, direction following, and picking a good fit book.

Technology

The students are introduced to the following skills:

- Operate the mouse (selecting, clicking, and dragging).
- Identify & use letters, numbers & other basic keys on the keyboard.
- Identify basic computer components (keyboard, monitor, mouse, printer etc.).
- Show responsibility when using the computer.

Kindergarten Specialist Curriculum

Music

Our year together has a focus on learning how to sing together, to tell the difference between singing and speaking and high and low pitches, to create a little drama in our songs, and play some singing games. We have one large performance, the Christmas program. We also learn to sing

hymns for our weekly school liturgy,.

PE/Health

Our Physical Education curriculum utilizes games and activities that are age appropriate to teach the students how to use their bodies efficiently and how to keep them fit and healthy. It also incorporates activities and games that require them to learn about teamwork, communication, strategy and sportsmanship.

Each trimester students will also be exposed to a unit of health. These units will combine both

classroom instruction and hands on activities. The units we will be covering will be chosen based on meeting the Washington State Learning Expectations for Physical Education and Health.

It is our hope that through teaching our students the fundamentals of movement and exercise along with a healthy understanding of their body and how it works, we can nurture a habit of activity and self care that continues on throughout their lifetime.

Kindergarten Enriching Teachable Moments

- . Large spacious classrooms, plenty of kid friendly organized areas
- . Individual age and size appropriate playground
- Three Field trip to the Children' Theater
- Annual zoo trip
- . In room sinks for lots of necessary hand washing and clean up
- . Special theme days
- . Variety of hands-on materials, games and manipulatives
- . Kindergarten attends all of the same specialists as the rest of the school
- . Up-to-date curriculum and materials

First Grade Curriculum

Religion:

The first grade curriculum focuses on building an understanding of God and his wonderful ways of mercy and love for us. Students practice committing to memory the prayers that are said at home: Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be, Grace (before meals), and The Harcourt series, "Called to Faith" helps us to expand our understanding of God and His Good News. Students learn about the Church community, and how all are a part of that through baptism and participation in liturgical life. Stories are read about Jesus and about the lives of the saints. Students attend weekly Mass and practice the appropriate behavior and responses for being active members of the parish.

Mathematics:

The newly adopted math program, enVisionMATH, follows the National Common Core Standards. enVisionMATH uses problem based interactive learning and visual learning to deepen conceptual understanding. It presents a balanced approach to learning math concepts:

- Understanding problems,
- applying skills,
- transferring knowledge from one learning situation to another.

Students are exposed to a variety of problems that solidify this understanding. The first grade math program focuses fostering a deep understanding of addition and subtraction facts to 20.

This emphasis provides a basis for growth in the subsequent years.

Reading/Language Arts:

Reading is integrated into as much of the day as possible! Children begin their day written by the teacher where they have the opportunity to practice skills through an interactive model.

The Harcourt “Trophies” series is used to provide an all-inclusive program of

- learning phonics,
- language arts,
- spelling,
- literary genre,
- vocabulary.

A variety of activities allow students to respond to the stories, through

- creative writing
- artistic expression, and
- skill-building activities.

Children progress through the stages of “kid spelling” to knowledge and use of standardized spelling patterns. Weekly spelling lists and high-frequency words are taught to provide a solid foundation of reading skills.

Handwriting:

Students use the Zaner-Bloser handwriting book by Zaner-Bloser, Inc. Handwriting instruction is a critical component of a student’s overall literacy development. It provides a foundation for success in reading, writing and test taking. Handwriting is instructed several times a week to increase fluency and legibility.

Science:

The children are exposed to the wonders of science through hands-on activities. Our health curriculum includes the adopted curriculum from the Archdiocese on personal safety, as well as additional units on: our body, hand washing, exercise, healthy foods, and our senses, just to name a few.

Social Studies

First Graders are introduced to the community around us with topics including being a good citizen, following rules, where we live, sense of time using a calendar, and stories from our past. Additionally, First Graders learn about seasonal topics such as holidays and important people in history and their celebrated days.

Library

First grade continues to explore library skills by learning the importance of book care, and how to find a book Discussion about favorite topics, authors, and good fit books is also a focus.

Technology

- Use input devices to successfully operate computers.
- Navigate through Windows environment.
- Use software and online learning resources.

First Grade Specialist Curriculum

Music

We will be continuing our journey to learn about what notes are as well as how to read them by singing, clapping, using hand instruments, and playing music games. We have one major performances The Christmas Program. We also learn to sing hymns for our weekly school liturgy,.

PE/Health

Our Physical Education curriculum utilizes games and activities that are age appropriate to teach the students how to use their bodies efficiently and how to keep them fit and healthy. It also incorporates activities and games that require them to learn about teamwork, communication, strategy and sportsmanship.

Each trimester students will also be exposed to a unit of health. These units will combine both classroom instruction and hands on activities. The units we will be covering will be chosen based

on meeting the Washington State Learning Expectations for Physical Education and Health.

It is our hope that through teaching our students the fundamentals of movement and exercise along with a healthy understanding of their body and how it works, we can nurture a habit of activity and self care that continues on throughout their lifetime.

1st Grade Enriching Teachable Moments

- We celebrate of the 100th Day of School with projects and a party
- . Bi-Annual zoo trip, Beach trip
- . Literacy and Math Centers
- . Journals
- . Special theme days
- . Variety of hands-on materials, games and manipulatives
- . Kindergarten attends all of the same specialists as the rest of the school
- . Up-to-date curriculum and materials
- . Several trips to live theatre
- . Ultimately, we grow by leaps and bounds in our ability to be more independent readers, writers, and problem solvers!

2nd Grade Curriculum

Religion:

The second grade curriculum concentrates on preparing students for receiving the sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Eucharist. We use the Harcourt Brace, "Call to Faith" series. The curriculum includes prayers, such as: The Sign of the Cross, Meal Blessings, The Lord's Prayer, Hail Mary, Glory Be, Morning Offering, Act of Contrition, and Mass Responses. Through weekly Scripture reading students learn about God's revelation and covenant, and will be able to retell Jesus' miracles as they relate to the Eucharist in bringing new life. They also learn about the role of the Church and the liturgical seasons, the saints, how to be followers of Christ, the presence of God's grace, and the importance of a parish community.

Mathematics:

We use the enVisionMATH series which follows the National Common Core Standards. The enVisionMATH program is designed to deepen the students understanding through problem based learning by appealing to both the visual and interactive learner. This program encourages in-depth student understanding by looking at the "whole" not just the "parts." Students work with numbers in a "hands-on" manner using various manipulatives. The program organizes content using the exact same structure as the Common Core Standards for Math. Students learn how to:

- add and subtract double-digit numbers, with and without regrouping
- explore geometry and measurement,
- money and time,
- data and graphing, and
- basic fractions.
- introduced to division and multiplication concepts.

Reading/Language

Reading/Language Arts: Students use the Harcourt Trophies series with the themes of "Banner Days", and "Just For You." This is an all-inclusive program which incorporates language and reading skills. There is a variety of genres, non-fiction, realistic fiction, historical fiction, folktales. Children are introduced to vocabulary words. Weekly spelling words come from the stories and phonics skills are taught for reading (decoding), and spelling (encoding). The students retell or write the order of events that happen in a story. A reading log is turned in at the end of every week. The students also do SRA. The students learn the parts of speech, and

write in complete sentences using correct punctuation. They also do creative and journal writing.

Handwriting:

Students begin the year using manuscript handwriting, and cursive handwriting begins after the Christmas holidays.

Science:

In our life cycle unit students will study the life cycle of plants and butterflies by growing seeds and watching caterpillars turn into butterflies. Also in our life science unit we will build an ecosystem model to keep in our classroom and learn about consequences of rapid changes in the ecosystem by nature and by humans. The third unit will focus on water and weather.

Social Studies:

In second grade, students learn about communities. We will use daily geography to learn simple map and directional skills, we will learn how our government works and why communities are needed to help people succeed. We will learn what our responsibilities are to help the community. We will provide stewardship in our community by helping pick up our playground and participate in a yearly service project.

Library

Second grade is introduced to the on-line cataloging system and begins to find books by Dewey Decimal category through the Sno-Isle Library system.. Students also cover the Caldecott Award and begin to recognize books by genre. Students also begin understanding the use of a call number.

Informational Technology

Internet Safety and Acceptable Use is our goal to promote safe use of the internet and online

resources in all grade levels. Please see the Parent and Student Handbook for the Internet Use Terms and Conditions. Skills for each grade level are built upon from the previous year and new skills as introduced. Students will not be graded in computers as it is integrated technology to enhance and supplement classroom curriculum in all subjects.

2ND GRADE SPECIALIST

Music

We will be continuing our journey to learn about what notes are as well as how to read them by singing, clapping, using hand instruments, and playing music games and learning the songs for weekly mass. Reading music will be introduced this year by using the piano keyboard and other basic instruments. Performance includes the annual Christmas program.

PE/Health

Our Physical Education curriculum utilizes games and activities that are age appropriate to teach the students how to use their bodies efficiently and how to keep them fit and healthy. It also incorporates activities and games that require them to learn about teamwork, communication, strategy and sportsmanship.

Each trimester students will also be exposed to a unit of health. These units will combine both classroom instruction and hands on activities. The units we will be covering will be chosen based on meeting the Washington State Learning Expectations for Physical Education and Health.

It is our hope that through teaching our students the fundamentals of movement and exercise along with a healthy understanding of their body and how it works, we can nurture a habit of

activity and self-care that continues on throughout their lifetime.

2nd Grade Enriching Teachable Moments

- Create seasonal door hangings for Merry Haven Care Center.
- Field Trip to Merry Haven Care Center to sing.
- Pacific Science Center- Butterfly Exhibit and Professor Wellbody Academy.
- Parents are welcome for all class parties including Halloween, Christmas, and Valentines.
- Weekly art docent parent volunteers.
- Support the parish in Reconciliation and First Eucharist preparation
- Guest speaker about government.
- Optional science fair project
- Field trip to Arlington kangaroo farm
- IXL-Math

3rd Grade Curriculum

Religion:

The third grade curriculum focuses on learning how to relate to our faith by seeing, celebrating, and living as Catholics. We use the Harcourt Brace, "Call to Faith" series. This curriculum teaches the following unit themes: the Church is one; the Church is holy; the Church is Catholic; the Church is apostolic; and, the Church has a mission to the world. Students participate in daily Religion class and prayer and weekly school liturgies. Focus is put on learning the Jesus Prayer, The Apostles Creed, the Memorare, the Gloria and reviewing the prayers learned in the previous grades. Religion is also integrated across the curriculum in the classroom including music, songs, poetry, art, etc

Mathematics:

The newly adopted math program, enVisionMATH, follows the National Common Core Standards. enVisionMATH uses problem based interactive learning and visual learning to deepen conceptual understanding. Students learn mathematical concepts by direct instruction, hands-on experiences, and step-by-step models that build conceptual understanding. They also practice these concepts by using problem solving skills and strategies. Our curriculum teaches students to understand numbers and operations, money, time, multiplication and division concepts, facts, data graphing, probability, geometry, measurement, fractions, and decimals.

Reading/Language Arts:

Students use the Harcourt reading series program. This is an all-inclusive program which incorporates language and reading skills. The instruction presented in this program is based on recent research done in the area of language arts. Each week, students read a selection that emphasizes vocabulary development, silent or oral reading, and a response directly connected with the reading through a guided reading component. Phonics and grammar are directly connected with reading, spelling, and writing through letter and sound relationships and general rules in spoken language. Spelling consists of weekly units of study based on phonetic elements present in work list.

The reading program also incorporates the SRA Lab (Scholastic Reading Achievement) which enable the students to read independently at their own reading level. They are assessed in the areas of comprehension, vocabulary development and word study.

Students in third grade write in complete sentences using capitalization and punctuation. They can identify nouns, verbs, pronouns, adjectives and adverbs, and types of sentences. They are introduced to editing. Their writing also includes creative writing and journals.

Handwriting:

The Zaner-Bloser cursive handwriting book program is used with weekly lessons.

Science:

Through each of the science units, time is spent questioning, modeling, problem solving, designing and conducting investigations, and explaining. The main units of study are force makes things move, properties of materials, forms of energy and the sun's daily motion.

Social Studies:

We will be focusing on three main units. The first unit the students will be examining is First Nations of North America with an emphasis on Northeastern Indians. The students will be completing hands on activities. The students will have the opportunity to write a final report and make a diorama of either a longhouse or a wigwam. Our second unit will be Cultures of North America where we will look at the different regions of the United States and how the climate and culture varies among them. Our last unit will be Cultures in Our Community. We will look at the different cultures that surround us.

Library

Students focus heavily on specific ways to pick A JUST RIGHT BOOK, using the online cataloging system, finding fiction books by genre for book reports and research and distinguishing fact vs. opinion.

Informational Technology

Internet Safety and Acceptable Use is our goal to promote safe use of the internet and online resources in all grade levels. Please see the Parent and Student Handbook for the Internet Use Terms and Conditions. Skills for each grade level are built upon from the previous year as new skills are introduced. Students will not be graded in computers as it is integrated technology to enhance and supplement classroom curriculum in all subjects.

All grades will use the computer lab experience to enhance learning and understanding in all areas of instruction. Middle school will use dedicated lab time for core courses and specialist projects and assignments.

Third Grade Specialist Curriculum

Music

Our focus is a little different as we discover what rhythm is, what time signatures are, what music symbols mean, and learn how they change our music. We work on reading music by playing instruments and singing. We have one performances this year: The Christmas Program

PE/Health

Our Physical Education curriculum utilizes games and activities that are age appropriate to teach the students how to use their bodies efficiently and how to keep them fit and healthy. It also incorporates activities and games that require them to learn about teamwork, communication, strategy and sportsmanship.

Each trimester students will also be exposed to a unit of health. These units will combine both classroom instruction and hands on activities. The units we will be covering will be chosen based on meeting the Washington State Learning Expectations for Physical Education and Health.

It is our hope that through teaching our students the fundamentals of movement and exercise along with a healthy understanding of their body and how it works, we can nurture a habit of activity and self-care that continues on throughout their lifetime.

3rd Grade Enriching Teachable Moments

- Create seasonal door hangings for Merry Haven Care Center.
- Field Trip to Merry Haven Care Center to sing.
- Pacific Science Center- Butterfly Exhibit and Professor Wellbody Academy.
- Parents are welcome for all class parties including Halloween, Christmas, and Valentines.
- Weekly art docent parent volunteers.
- Support the parish in Reconciliation and First Eucharist preparation
- Guest speaker about government.

- Optional science fair project
- Altar servers
- Lectors at mass
- Pioneer Farms field trip
- Field trip to Arlington kangaroo farm
- IXL- Math

4th Grade Curriculum

Religion:

In fourth grade, there is an emphasis on Catholic values, building a relationship with God and being responsible stewards of His creation. We use the Harcourt , “Living Our Faith” series. The life of Mary, the saints and the Rosary are studied as deepening our love for the teachings of Christ. Students study the Beatitudes, the Ten Commandments, the sacraments, and prayer (focusing on the Nicene Creed and the Prayer for Peace). Students join in daily prayer, prepare liturgical celebrations, participate in school Masses, and contribute to ongoing service projects.

Mathematics:

The newly adopted math program, enVisionMATH, follows the National Common Core Standards. enVisionMATH uses problem based interactive learning and visual learning to deepen conceptual understanding. The math program offers students continued conceptual development and application of skills. By the end of fourth grade, students understand large numbers, addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division of whole numbers. The students also work with fractions and decimals.

Reading/Language Arts:

The fourth grade program uses the Harcourt Reading series. The students learn to comprehend various genres pulled from various non-fiction and fiction texts. Concentrated studies of short stories and novels help students become accomplished literature lovers. Students work to develop a vocabulary through structural analysis and key word learning.

Fourth grade students write in complete sentences using capitalization and punctuation. They can identify nouns, verbs, pronouns, adjectives, adverbs, and types of sentences. They will organize their writing with a clear beginning, middle, and end. Their writing includes creative writing and journals.

Handwriting:

Students use the Zaner-Bloser handwriting book. Cursive is expected to be use the program on a weekly basis.

Science:

Students study physical science with an emphasis on energy, forces, waves and information. The study of life science focuses structure, function and processing. In earth science, the students study the processes that shape the earth. The use of tools and processes of scientific inquiry is taught through demonstrations and hand-on experiments. Students learn broad concepts and accompanying vocabulary while developing their critical thinking and study skills. They will be expected to demonstrate their understanding. Interactive Science Curriculum is presented to the students which integrates Science, Technology, Mathematics and Engineering (STEM) concepts.

Social Studies:

Students use the *"Discovering Washington"* text book, including supplemental worksheets, and projects. Fourth graders will use their understanding of social studies concepts and skills to study the history of our region to help us understand the present. Students will use their map skills and general geography to help them in their learn how we live in the Northwest. Lastly they will understand what it means to be a citizen of Washington and discover what their rights and responsibilities are.

Library

Heavy focus on the Dewey Decimal System and its categories and sub-categories. Expected to find fiction and non-fiction books by call number.

Information Technology

All grades will use the computer lab experience to enhance learning and understanding in all areas of instruction. Continue basic keyboarding practice with emphasis on technique & typing skill. Also the students will continue using computer skills and software applications to enhance learning, cross curriculum assignments, support personal productivity, group collaboration, and learning throughout the curriculum.

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4TH GRADE SPECIALIST CURRICULUM

Music

We continue where 3rd grades ends, but we really focus on reading music, especially when learning the songs for weekly mass. Journals are added to the routine of each class day and they are short questions about what we had covered in the previous class. Performance includes the annual Christmas program.

PE/Health

Our Physical Education curriculum utilizes games and activities that are age appropriate to teach the students how to use their bodies efficiently and how to keep them fit and healthy. It also incorporates activities and games that require them to learn about teamwork, communication, strategy and sportsmanship.

Each trimester students will also be exposed to a unit of health. These units will combine both classroom instruction and hands on activities. The units we will be covering will be chosen based on meeting the Washington State Learning Expectations for Physical Education and Health. It is our hope that through teaching our students the fundamentals of movement and exercise along with a healthy understanding of their body and how it works, we can nurture a habit of activity and self-care that continues on throughout their lifetime.

4th Grade Enriching Teachable Moments

- Pioneer Farms
- Parents are welcome for all class parties including Halloween, Christmas, and Valentines.
- Create seasonal door hangings for Merry Haven Care Center.
- Field Trip to Merry Haven Care Center to sing.
- Pacific Science Center- Butterfly Exhibit and Professor Wellbody Academy.
- Parents are welcome for all class parties including Halloween, Christmas, and Valentines.
- Weekly art docent parent volunteers.
- Support the parish in Reconciliation and First Eucharist preparation
- Guest speaker about government.
- Optional science fair project
- Altar servers
- Lectors at mass
- Field trip to Skagit county museum
- Field trip to Arlington kangaroo farm
- IXL- Math Program

Fifth Grade Curriculum

Religion:

In fifth grade, students explore the depth of the seven sacraments and use the Harcourt series, “Called to Faith”. Students participate in daily prayer and specifically learn the Joyful Mysteries and the Prayer of the Faithful Departed. Students study the parts of the Mass to gain a better understanding of their meanings. We utilize the mysteries of the Rosary to foster knowledge and use of the Bible.

Mathematics:

The newly adopted math program, enVisionMATH, follows the National Common Core Standards. enVisionMATH uses problem based interactive learning and visual learning to deepen conceptual understanding. Students perform the basic math operations with numbers, fractions and decimals. In addition they are introduced to algebra, geometry, measurements, graphs, percent’s and problem solving. Students learn strategies to understand and solve real world math problems and logical thinking through weekly extension assignments. Students work cooperatively as well as independently. Fifth grade students are ability-grouped for math instruction.

Language Arts/Reading:

Students continue to develop writing skills. Students learn the parts of speech and the development of sentences and paragraphs with these writing techniques. The class continues to concentrate on the use of grammar and punctuation. Overall, creativity is our primary writing focus. Developing an appreciation for literature is also a goal in fifth grade through the use of The Harcourt “Storytown” series. This is also reinforced through teacher

read-alouds, book reports, and everyday reading opportunities. Students continue to develop reading comprehension skills through literature and strengthen vocabulary throughout the Harcourt series. Critical and analytical thinking are used to analyze an author's use of language and perspective.

Handwriting: Students use the Zaner-Bloser handwriting book. Cursive is used throughout the year.

Science:

Students learn and use the Scientific Method of Investigation through "hands-on" experiences. They explore and gain knowledge about living systems, processes that change the earth, the solar system, building blocks of matter, energy and motion. Interactive Science Curriculum is presented to the students which integrates Science, Technology, Mathematics and Engineering (STEM) concepts.

Social Studies:

the social studies program focuses on exploration and colonization of the United States. Students work on map skills, and memorization of the states and capitals. In addition, students focus on note-taking skills and examining cause and effect of events from our past. "United Streaming" multi-media is used to enhance student learning.

Library

Introduction to biographies and autobiographies, proficient use of on-line cataloging system

Informational Technology

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Computer skills for each grade level are built upon the previous year as new skills are introduced. Students will not be graded in computers. All grades will use the computer lab experience to enhance learning and understanding in all areas of instruction. All students will have the opportunity to use dedicated laptop time for core courses and specialist projects and assignments. Students use computer skills and software to enhance learning, cross curriculum assignments, support personal productivity, group collaboration, and learning throughout the curriculum.

Fifth Grade Specialist Curriculum

Music

We will be refocusing on recorder this fall as well as learning more information about other instruments that they may want to play the following year in band. Journals are used to help them with key concepts that will be used throughout the year. Reading music will be very important in this class. We have one performance this year, the annual Christmas program.

PE/Health

Our Physical Education curriculum utilizes games and activities that are age appropriate to

teach the students how to use their bodies efficiently and how to keep them fit and healthy. It also incorporates activities and games that require them to learn about teamwork, communication, strategy and sportsmanship.

Each trimester students will also be exposed to a unit of health. These units will combine both classroom instruction and hands on activities. The units we will be covering will be chosen based on meeting the Washington State Learning Expectations for Physical Education and Health. It is our hope that through teaching our students the fundamentals of movement and exercise along with a healthy understanding of their body and how it works, we can nurture a habit of activity and self-care that continues on throughout their lifetime.

5th Grade Enriching Teachable Moments

- Touring the aircraft carrier U.S.S. Abraham Lincoln
- Attending a live stage production at the Pied Piper Theater
- Writing a letter to President Obama and receiving a reply
- Being members of the Safety Patrol
- Participating in the Iditarod school reading contest
- Singing in the choir
- Making Mardi Gras masks and celebrating with a King Cake
- Producing the Christmas play
- Conducting Tenebrae Lenten prayer service
- Sharing in a Seder service
- Attending weekly school Mass
- Volunteering for community service projects
- Visiting the Pacific Science Center
- Holding mock presidential elections
- Hosting coffee and doughnuts for parishioners after Wednesday Mass during Catholic Schools Week
- Writing to students at St. Michael School in Findlay, Ohio

- Participating in the Snohomish Summer Reading Program

Sixth Grade Curriculum

Religion:

Sixth grade is a year when students take a more active role in their faith. Through the Harcourt, “Called to Faith” series, they are taught about the Old Testament, Exodus, Creation, the prophets, the New Testament, the Gospels, and the Acts of the Apostles. Students spend time studying the Bible. An understanding of Liturgical seasons, saints, and the Holy Spirit are taught. Students join in daily prayer and examine living their faith through words and actions. Sixth graders must meet community service hour requirements. In addition, students spend time in adoration of the Blessed Sacrament every Thursday and participate in school Masses.

Mathematics:

The Math program emphasizes an understanding and application of Math concepts. Opportunities for reading, writing and speaking mathematically are provided. Areas of study include whole number operations, measurement, geometric sense, problem solving, mathematical reasoning, exponents, patterns & variable integers, probability, and properties of real numbers. Students experience application for math in real-life situations. Sixth grade students are ability-grouped for math instruction.

English:

The English program explores the writing process and different purposes for writing. Paragraph and essay structure is emphasized in composition as well as specific instruction on grammar, usage, and mechanics. Sixth graders continue to improve building vocabulary skills.

The program supports students as they develop community, study skills and organizational skills. Sixth grade students are ability-grouped for English.

Literature:

The need for working on comprehension and critical thinking skills continues to be important in sixth grade. The appreciation of literature grows as students complete a novel study once per trimester. A variety of genres are studied including short stories, folk tales, myths, poetry, non-fiction, and drama. Students learn to investigate literary terms and techniques. Students participate in independent, small group, and whole group literary activities.

Science:

In sixth grade, students explore the scientific process skills and apply their skills using the scientific method to create an experiment for a science fair. This year is focused on Earth Science, including ecosystems, earth history, physical systems, structures and processes, as well as space. Interactive Science Curriculum is presented to the students which integrates Science, Technology, Mathematics and Engineering (STEM) concepts. Note-taking skills and project based activities are emphasized. The highlight of sixth grade science is spending a week at Outdoor School.

Social Studies:

Discovering ancient civilizations and their people is the focus in sixth grade. Students study major themes such as economics, geography, politics, religion, society and culture, and science and technology. The skills of extracting and organizing important ideas

from informational text are reinforced and practiced. Students learn to research, classify and report information through a variety of hands on experiences.

Library

In-depth discussion of genres, award categories and award winning books, and fact vs. opinion.

Information Technology

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Computer skills for each grade level are built upon the previous year as new skills are introduced. Students will not be graded in computers. All grades will use the computer lab experience to enhance learning and understanding in all areas of instruction. All students will have the opportunity to use dedicated laptop time for core courses and specialist projects and assignments. Students use computer skills and software to enhance learning, cross curriculum assignments, support personal productivity, group collaboration, and learning throughout the curriculum.

Sixth Grade Specialist Curriculum

Music

We will be learning more information about other Instruments. Journals are used to help them with key concepts that will be used throughout the year. Reading music will be very important in this class as they will continue playing the recorder, and they will continue learning the songs for weekly mass. Performance includes the annual Christmas program.

PE/Health

The PE curriculum continues to evolve to teach to a more complete picture of the health/fitness continuum. Guided by the Washington State Learning Expectations for Physical Education and Health, our curriculum will utilize activities and games that are age appropriate to expand student's knowledge about how to use their bodies efficiently and how to keep them fit and healthy. We also incorporate activities and games that require them to learn about teamwork, communication, strategy and sportsmanship.

Each trimester students will also be exposed to a unit of health. These units will combine both classroom instruction and hands on activities. It is our hope that by exposing our students to a wide variety of activities, and teaching them the fundamentals of exercise along with a healthy understanding of their body, we can nurture a habit of activity and self-care that continues on throughout their lifetime.

6th Grade Enriching Teachable Moments

- Participating in the school band
- Visiting the Tacoma Museum of Glass
- Corresponding with a student in Mexico
- Writing a letter to President Obama and receiving a reply
- Touring the aircraft carrier U.S.S. Abraham Lincoln
- Attending a live stage production at the Pied Piper Theater
- Being members of the Safety Patrol

- Singing in the choir
- Making Mardi Gras masks and celebrating with a King Cake
- Participating in the Iditarod school reading contest
- Producing the Christmas play
- Conducting Tenebrae Lenten prayer service
- Sharing in a Seder service
- Attending weekly school Mass
- Volunteering for community service projects
- Visiting the Pacific Science Center
- Holding mock presidential elections
- Hosting coffee and doughnuts for parishioners after Wednesday Mass during Catholic Schools Week
- Writing to students at St. Michael School in Findlay, Ohio
- Participating in the Snohomish Summer Reading Program