

## **GRADES 6-8 COURSE DESCRIPTIONS 2022-2023**

The following courses will be offered to our Middle School students during the 2022-2023 school year. Each student must enroll in English, Math, Science, Social Studies, and Theology. Three additional elective courses may be selected.

### **ELECTIVES**

#### **MIDDLE SCHOOL ART**

*Available to students in grades 6-8 (Multi-Age Classes)*

*2 Semesters*

Students will be learning the rudiments of drawing, painting in acrylic and watercolor, and will construct simple dimensional art works. Color theory will be explored and used after tints, tones and shades are mastered. Harmonies such as Complementary, Monochromatic, and Analogous will be taught. Calligraphy and pottery will be explored. Many of the drawing and painting projects will be collaborative with other classes. Emphasis will be placed on preparing works for Art Show entry.

#### **MIDDLE SCHOOL BAND**

*Available to students in grades 6-8*

*2 Semesters*

Middle School Band is an introduction to formal performance-oriented music. Emphasis is on the large ensemble concept with much attention given to both the concert and competition opportunities. The 7th and 8th grade Band also has the opportunity to perform at one High School Football game per year. Individual performance opportunities are also encouraged and available with participation at Junior High Solo and Ensemble Festival.

#### **6th GRADE BAND**

*2 semesters*

In 6th grade band students continue to develop and build upon the skills they learned in 5th grade band working towards a full ensemble sound and balance. Students will also have the opportunity to audition for percussion or try out instruments such as the bass clarinet, tuba, tenor sax, oboe, bassoon and french horn that are not available in 5th grade. Students will perform in the Fall Concert, Christmas Concert, and Spring Concert.

#### **7th GRADE BAND**

*2 semesters*

In 7th grade band students will continue to build upon the skills they have learned in previous years. The 7th grade rehearses independently, but combines with the 8th grade band for concert performances and festival. In March of every year the combined 7th and 8th grade band perform at Concert Band Festival. In addition to festival the 7th grade band performs at the Fall concert,

Christmas Concert, Pre-Festival Concert, Spring Concert and the Blossomtime Parade. Students in 7th and 8th grade are able to perform in District Solo and Ensemble events in December and April. All students in 7th and 8th grade will explore solo and chamber ensemble music as part of the band curriculum.

### **8th GRADE BAND**

*2 semesters*

Our 8th grade band students study intermediate and advanced techniques on their individual instruments as well as continuing to build their overall ensemble skills. They rehearse as an individual class but perform in concerts and at festival combined with the 7th grade band. Our 8th grade band also participates in marching band with the high school during the fall semester performing at all home football games as well as at District VI Marching Band Festival in October and at scholastic invitationals throughout the season. Performances for 8th graders also include the Fall Concert, Christmas Concert, Pre-Festival Concert, Spring Concert, and Blossomtime Parade as well as opportunities to perform at District Solo and Ensemble Festival in December and April. All students in 7th and 8th grade will explore solo and chamber ensemble music as part of the band curriculum.

### **CHOIR**

*Available to students in grades 6-8 (Multi-Age Classes)*

*2 Semesters*

Students will study choral music from various periods of musical history, as well as concentrate on the fundamentals of music and developing musicianship skills. Emphasis is placed upon the development of the individual voice and the choral sound. Students are encouraged to participate in solo and small ensemble singing opportunities. Students will participate in the Christmas and Spring Concert performances.

### **COMMUNICATIONS FOR LIFE**

*Available to students in grades 6-8 (Multi-Age Classes)*

*2 Semesters*

This class is a two-semester elective class that will concentrate on skills in performance and interpersonal techniques. The focus will be on listening, nonverbal, and group skills. The concentration of skills will differ for each grade level. Projects will range from impromptu, persuasive, informative, and demonstration speeches, debate, group, drama, and oral interpretation.

### **FIT-4-LIFE**

*Available to students in grades 6-8 (Multi-Age Classes)*

*2 Semesters*

Physical education is a sequential, developmentally appropriate educational program that provides students with the knowledge, skills, fitness, and attitudes necessary to lead a healthy lifestyle. All students will show competence in the following six physical education content

standards: motor skills and movement patterns, understanding of movement concepts, principles, strategies, and tactics as they apply to the learning and performance of physical activities, regular participation in lifelong physical activity, achieving and maintaining a health-enhancing level of physical fitness, exhibiting responsible personal and social behavior that respects self and others in physical activity settings, and value of physical activity for health, enjoyment, challenge, self-expression, and/or social interaction.

Health education provides students with the knowledge and skills necessary to practice healthy behaviors and teaches students how to recognize the influence of responsible decision-making on quality of life.

### **LIFE MANAGEMENT**

*Available to students in grades 6-8 (Multi-Age Classes)*

*2 Semesters*

Life Management topics include Nutrition, Basic Cooking, Sewing, and Consumer Education. During Nutrition and Basic Cooking, students will explore nutrients and the effects on the body, kitchen safety, food safety, safe appliance use and parts of a recipe. Responsibility for handling equipment will be stressed. Reading directions, reasoning, and many problem-solving techniques will be utilized in a way that will be new to most students. The expected benefits will be much more than just a finished product; more importantly, students will experience a successful learning process. Students learn advertising, appliance care, and basic money skills in Consumer Education. This course will be taught in a Finance Lab setting. Students will have access to our Global Trading Platform-StockTrack.

### **SEMINAR/RESOURCE**

*Available to students in grades 6-8 (Multi-Age Classes)*

*2 Semesters*

Students are highly encouraged to schedule a seminar/resource period if they need time during the school day to work on the work. Some students will be scheduled for a mandated seminar course for academic interventions.

## **EARLY HIGH SCHOOL ELECTIVE PROGRAMS**

### **INTRODUCTION**

Our Early High School Program affords students in grades 7-8 opportunities in various content areas to earn “early” high school credits (transferable). Each content area has unique expectations and standards for student application. Earning early high school credits allow students to experience additional elective courses, challenge themselves with high school level rigor, and begin to open their high school schedule to allow for Advanced Placement and dual credit courses, global studies experiences (study abroad), Career and Technical Education, internships and engaging in a sneak-peak of what high school will be like. Early High School provides a door of opportunity and experiences. Enrollment in early high school courses will

take place in May. Academic Advisors will explain opportunities and meet with eligible students during the spring scheduling cycle. Grades and credits earned in the Early High School Program apply to the students' high school transcript.

- Mathematics: Algebra I, Geometry (grades 7-8)
- Science: Biology (grade 8)
- English: Journalism (grade 8)
- Social Studies: World History (grade 8)
- World Language: Spanish I, French I, Latin I (grade 8)
- Personal Finance/Global Trading: (grade 8)
- 2D/3D Art: (grades 7-8)

### **ALGEBRA GRADES 7-8**

- Eligibility Targets
  - Successful completion of Pre-Algebra
  - MAP Scores, Mathematics
  - Teacher/Advisor Recommendation

#### **Description:**

This is a required, first year algebra course. The key content involves writing, solving, and graphing linear and quadratic equations, including systems of two linear equations or inequalities. This course also includes study of monomial and polynomial expressions, exponents, functions, and rational expressions. Quadratic equations are solved by factoring, completing the square, graphically, or by application of the quadratic formula. Algebraic skills are applied in a wide variety of problem-solving applications.

### **GEOMETRY GRADES 7-8**

- Eligibility Targets
  - Successful completion of Algebra
  - MAP Mathematics
  - Teacher/Advisor Recommendation

#### **Description:**

Geometry introduces students to the basic principles of Euclidean geometry. Students will learn key definitions, symbols, notations, theorems, and properties of geometric figures which serve as the foundation for the course. Emphasis is placed on developing deductive reasoning and logical thinking skills through the use of geometric proofs. Geometry includes a study of right triangle trigonometry that is developed through similarity relationships, two- and three-dimensional figures, transformations, area, surface area, and volume formulas.

## **WORLD HISTORY GRADE 8**

- Eligibility Targets
  - B+/88% average or higher in both Middle School Language Arts and Social Studies
  - MAP Reading-80th percentile
  - Teacher/Advisor Recommendation
  - \*This course is scheduled in addition to middle level social studies placement

### **Description:**

This course is a survey of world history from early civilizations to the present day. The class takes both a chronological and thematic approach, giving students both a sense of historical progression and the ability to see global patterns among various societies. A strong emphasis will be on current global issues, giving students an understanding of the connection between world history and what is happening in the world today. Developing geography skills and incorporating current events will be an important part of this course.

## **BIOLOGY GRADE 8**

- Eligibility Targets
  - A-/90% average or higher in Middle School Science
  - MAP Reading-80th percentile, Science-90th percentile
  - Teacher/Advisor Recommendation
  - \*This course is scheduled in addition to middle level science placement

### **Description:**

The Next Generation Science Standards is a multi-state effort in the United States to create new education standards that are rich in content and practice, arranged in a coherent manner across disciplines and grades to provide all students an internationally benchmarked science education. The NGSS-aligned course explores the living world with emphasis on biological interactions in everyday life. Students will investigate cell biology, genetics, evolution, ecology, cellular processes, and the diversity of life. Concept oriented information, laboratory experiences, experimental design, technology, and data analysis are emphasized. This course includes a laboratory component.

## **YEARBOOK GRADE 8**

- Eligibility Targets
  - B/80% average or higher in Middle School English
  - \*This course is scheduled in addition to middle level English placement

### **Description:**

This course is designed to develop basic entry-level skills and specific topics related to scholastic journalism. The purpose of this course is to enable students to develop fundamental skills in the production of print or electronic stories and photography for the production of three LMC publications: Laker Vision, Newsletter, Yearbook.

## **WORLD LANGUAGES: SPANISH I, FRENCH I, LATIN I**

- Eligibility Targets
  - B/80% average or higher in Middle School English
  - MAP Reading-75th percentile, Language Arts 75th percentile
  - Teacher/Advisor Recommendation

### **Descriptions:**

**Spanish I**, a course based on Michigan's Academic Standards for World Languages, introduces students to effective strategies for beginning Spanish language learning, and to various aspects of Spanish-speaking cultures. This course encourages interpersonal communication through speaking and writing, providing opportunities to make and respond to basic requests and questions, understand and use appropriate greetings and forms of address, participate in brief guided conversations on familiar topics, and write short passages with guidance. This course also emphasizes the development of reading and listening comprehension skills, such as reading isolated words and phrases in a situational context and comprehending brief written or oral directions. Additionally, students will examine the practices, products and perspectives of Spanish-speaking culture; recognize basic routine practices of the target culture; and recognize and use situation-appropriate non-verbal communication. This course further emphasizes making connections across content areas and the application of understanding Spanish language and culture outside of the classroom.

**French 1**, This course introduces the students to elementary French conversation and being able to express themselves in everyday situations. This course addresses basic elementary grammar, the reading of simple French stories, beginning French composition, authentic listening activities and the culture of French speaking locations and people. Main conversation topics include: introducing oneself, talking about food, family, interests and different actions in the present and past tenses.

**Latin 1**, introduces students to the basics of the Latin language, beginning with a review of basic English grammar to ensure that necessary terminology is understood. The lessons proceed through noun and verb endings, adding more complex structures as the course progresses.

## **PERSONAL FINANCE & GLOBAL TRADING GRADE 8**

- Eligibility Targets
  - B/80% average or higher in Middle School Mathematics
  - MAP Reading-75th percentile, Language Arts 75th percentile
  - Teacher/Advisor Recommendation

### **Description:**

The Finance Lab provides students with a hands-on learning environment to examine the principles of market structure which drive the financial marketplace. Students will work with software simulation programs to provide a real-world experience. Dual-screen monitors at each station as well as LED tickers winding along the lab will provide continuous live feed of current stock processes. Students will work in breakout spaces designed for group projects and classroom meetings.

In this introductory finance course, students learn basic principles of economics and best practices for managing their own finances. Students learn core skills in creating budgets, developing long-term financial plans to meet their goals, and making responsible choices about income and expenses. They gain a deeper understanding of capitalism and other systems so they can better understand their role in the economy of society. Students are inspired by experiences of finance professionals and stories of everyday people and the choices they make to manage their money.

## **2D/3D ART GRADES 7-8**

- Eligibility Targets
  - Teacher/Advisor Recommendation

### **Description:**

The elements and principles of design are the basic core upon which the Art Program is developed. Each level of Art is built upon the previous year of study. Students are able to use a wide variety of materials in the areas of Calligraphy, Drawing, Acrylic Painting, Oil Painting, Pottery, Collage, Colored Pencil Drawing and many other artistic endeavors.

## **CONTENT COURSES**

### **ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS**

#### **6th GRADE ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS**

*2 Semesters*

### **Description:**

This is a course of integrated studies of literature, composition and language. Students will engage in the study of Grammar usage and mechanics, listening skills, spelling, vocabulary, and study skills. Novels and literature, as well as themed units of study will be used to engage students in word recognition, fluency, comprehension, and metacognition activities. Students will use informational and narrative text, as well as practice the writing process for a variety of purposes and audiences. Speaking, listening and viewing skills will be employed in this course. Emphasis in this course is placed on understanding the writing process.

#### **7th GRADE ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS**

*2 Semesters*

### **Description:**

This is a course of integrated studies of literature, composition and language. Students will engage in the study of Grammar usage and mechanics, listening skills, spelling, vocabulary, and study skills. Units organized by genre, as well as novels and literature will be used to engage students in word recognition, fluency, comprehension, and metacognition activities. Students will use informational and narrative text, as well as practice the writing process for a variety of purposes and audiences. Speaking, listening and viewing skills will be employed in this course.

Emphasis in this course is placed on practicing the writing process.

## **8th GRADE ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS**

*2 Semesters*

### **Description:**

This is a course of integrated studies of literature, composition and language. Students will engage in the study of Grammar usage and mechanics, listening skills, spelling, vocabulary, and study skills. Units organized by genre, as well as novels and literature will be used to engage students in word recognition, fluency, comprehension, and metacognition activities. Students will use informational and narrative text, as well as practice the writing process for a variety of purposes and audiences. Speaking, listening and viewing skills will be employed in this course. This course will emphasize integrating the use of current technology tools to practice the writing process and publish student work.

## **MATHEMATICS**

### **6th GRADE MATH**

*2 Semesters*

### **Description:**

This course is intended to teach students operations with fractions, rational numbers, and integers, applied problems using decimals, percentages and rational numbers, introduction to exponents, coordinate plane, writing and simplifying expressions, solving equations, measurement and converting between measurement systems, basic geometric properties and transformations, and probability.

### **7th GRADE MATH**

*2 Semesters*

*Available to all 7th grade students and 6th grade students with teacher approval*

### **Description:**

This course will prepare students for Pre-Algebra. Students in this class will acquire information in the following areas: applying whole numbers, fractional and decimal operations, ratios, proportions and percents, expressions, one-step equations and inequalities, volume and surface area, and understanding probability and data concepts.

### **PRE-ALGEBRA**

*Available to all 8th grade students and 7th grade students with teacher approval*

*2 Semesters*

### **Description:**

This Pre-Algebra course is offered to 7th and 8th grade students and is an introduction to basic algebra concepts and a review of arithmetic algorithms. The course emphasizes the concepts necessary to be successful in Algebra I and II. The course helps students develop good



mathematical study skills and learning strategies. Students will explore algebraic expressions and integers, solve one- and two-step equations and inequalities, factors, ratios, proportions, percents, exponents, linear functions and graphing, area and volume, data analysis and probability, and nonlinear functions and polynomials.

## SCIENCE

### 6th GRADE SCIENCE

*2 Semesters*

#### **Description:**

This is a course where students in sixth grade develop their investigation and knowledge of science through integrated science units. Students will focus on 4 areas of study this year: Earth Science, Life Science, Physical Science, and Engineering Design Practice as directed by the Diocese of Kalamazoo.

**Life Science:** Ecosystems, Biomes, Energy cycles of living organisms

**Physical Science:** Forces, Potential and Kinetic Energy, Energy transfer, Newton's Laws

**Earth Science:** Rocks and Minerals, Geologic Time, Fossils, Earth's changing landscape

**Engineering Design and Practice:** STEM practice and application, Coding introduction and practice and Technology use and inquiry/learning.

### 7th GRADE SCIENCE

*2 Semesters*

#### **Description:**

This is a course where students in seventh grade continue to develop their investigation and knowledge of science through integrated science units. Students will continue to focus on 4 areas of study this year: Earth Science, Life Science, Physical Science, and Engineering Design Practice as directed by the Diocese of Kalamazoo.

**Life Science:** Cells, including structure and function, transport of materials, Diffusion, Osmosis, Cell reproduction (mitosis and meiosis).

**Physical Science:** Matter, Elements, Periodic Table, Chemistry of Matter, Atoms

**Earth Science:** Atmosphere, Weather, Climate of Earth. Influences on the Earth by human and non human forces.

**Engineering Design and Practice:** STEM practice and application, Coding introduction and practice and Technology use and inquiry/learning.

### 8th GRADE EARTH SCIENCE

*2 Semesters*

#### **Description:**

This course enables students to further their understanding of the core studies of science before high school electives. It is the third step of the integrated curriculum as directed by the Diocese of Kalamazoo. Students will further focus on 4 areas of study in Earth Science, Life Science, Physical Science and Engineering Design and Practice.

**Life Science:** Natural Selection, Genetics and Heredity, Adaptations, Body Systems

**Physical Science:** Waves--Sound Energy, Physical Energy, Electromagnetic Energy

**Earth Science:** Space, Earth-Moon relationships, Solar System, Astronomy

**Engineering Design and Practice:** STEM practice and application, Coding introduction and practice and Technology use and inquiry/learning

## **SOCIAL STUDIES**

### **6th GRADE SOCIAL STUDIES**

*2 Semesters*

#### **Description:**

Sixth grade students will explore the tools and mental constructs used by historians and geographers. They will develop an understanding of Ancient World History of the Western Hemisphere and will study contemporary geography of the Western Hemisphere. Contemporary civics/government and economics content is integrated throughout the year. Social Studies is a multifaceted discipline, integrating the study of social science humanities. The purpose of the social studies curriculum is to promote civic competence and responsible behaviors that enable students to actively participate in our democratic society. Our approach is the teaching of social studies that integrates our Christian values with the development of civic attitudes and responsibilities. We consciously connect responsible citizenship with the Social Justice Teachings of the Catholic Church, establishing real world application for Social Justice in the study of historical events and figures, economic conditions, cultural influences and appreciation, political issues, and the participation of civilization in society. The Social Studies Curriculum also integrates literacy standards in reading, writing, speaking, listening, and language when appropriate. Students will learn about past and present global issues. Using significant content knowledge, research and inquiry, they will analyze issues and be given opportunities to compose essays using reasoned argument.

### **7th GRADE SOCIAL STUDIES**

*2 Semesters*

#### **Description:**

Seventh grade students will review the tools and constructs used by historians and geographers. They will develop an understanding of Ancient World History of the Eastern Hemisphere and will study contemporary geography of the Eastern Hemisphere. Contemporary civics/government and economics content is integrated throughout the year. Social Studies is a multifaceted discipline, integrating the study of social science humanities. The purpose of the social studies curriculum is to promote civic competence and responsible behaviors that enable students to actively participate in our democratic society. Our approach is the teaching of social studies that integrates our Christian values with the development of civic attitudes and responsibilities. We consciously connect responsible citizenship with the Social Justice Teachings of the Catholic Church, establishing real world application for Social Justice in the study of historical events and figures, economic conditions, cultural influences and appreciation, political issues, and the participation of civilization in society. The Social Studies Curriculum

also integrates literacy standards in reading, writing, speaking, listening, and language when appropriate. Students will learn about past and present global issues. Using significant content knowledge, research and inquiry, they will analyze issues and be given opportunities to compose essays using reasoned argument.

## **8th GRADE SOCIAL STUDIES**

*2 Semesters*

### **Description:**

Eighth grade students continue their study of United States History from the writing of the Constitution through Reconstruction. Geographic, civics/government, and economics content is integrated within the historical context. Using significant content knowledge, research, and inquiry, the students analyze an issue or propose a plan for civic action. They develop reasoned arguments and write a persuasive essay addressing issues from the past within a historical context. Where appropriate, they make comparisons to relevant contemporary humanities. The purpose of the Social Studies curriculum is to promote civic competence and responsible behaviors that enable students to actively participate in our democratic society. Our approach is the teaching of social studies that integrates our Christian values with the development of civic attitudes and responsibilities. We consciously connect responsible citizenship with the Social Justice Teachings of the Catholic Church, establishing real world application for Social Justice in the study of historical events and figures, economic conditions, cultural influences and appreciation, political issues, and the participation of civilization in society. The Social Studies Curriculum also integrates literacy standards in reading, writing, speaking, listening, and language when appropriate. Students will learn about past and present global issues. Using significant content knowledge, research and inquiry, they will analyze issues and be given opportunities to compose essays using reasoned argument.

## **THEOLOGY**

### **6th GRADE THEOLOGY**

*2 Semesters*

### **Description:**

#### **Theme: Following Christ**

The blueprint for a life of love: the law of God, especially in the Ten Commandments, and the presence of Jesus in the Holy Mass. The interaction of the challenges of God's law and his gifts of grace that help us fulfill his law.

#### **Sequence:**

Part 1: The Ten Commandments. Forming the conscience and increasing closeness to God.

Part 2: The Holy Mass. An emphasis on the Real Presence and Christ's sacrifice and explanation of the parts of the Mass.

Part 3: The Last Things. Death and God's judgment of us, with an emphasis on the great happiness of Heaven.

**Aim:** To help sixth-grade students learn to love the moral law as Christ did and to cherish and love the Mass as our best prayer to God, and especially to revere and adore Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament.

## 7th GRADE THEOLOGY

*2 Semesters*

### **Description:**

#### **Theme: The Life of Grace**

Grace as our link with God, his gift to us to bring us to Himself and his eternal life, with an emphasis on transmission of grace through the seven sacraments and on God's loving gifts of revelation, of himself through the prophets, the Incarnation, and the Church. The role of grace in developing the virtues.

#### **Sequence:**

Part 1: God Reveals Himself. The revelation of God through creation, the prophets, and to the chosen people.

Part 2: God Becomes Man. Jesus, true God and true Man, Priest and Sacrifice.

Part 3: God Shares His Life. The operation of grace in our lives, in developing the virtues especially through each sacrament.

**Aim:** To help seventh-grade students treasure the sacraments as indispensable to a full Christian life of love and truth. To understand how grace works and its relation to practicing the virtues, and to appreciate our gifts of reason and faith.

## 8th GRADE THEOLOGY

*2 Semesters*

### **Description:**

#### **Theme: Our Life in the Church**

The history of the Church - its founding by Christ, its birth in the Holy Spirit, the marks of the one, true Church, the Fathers and Doctors of the Church, the saints and the role of the religious and laity up to the present. The structure of the Church Jesus planned, the role of the Magisterium, the clergy, the religious and the laity and our own vocations.

#### **Sequence:**

Part 1: The Church. Christ's plan for the Church's structure and its necessary attributes; the Church's teaching authority. The early Church: Martyrs, Fathers, Saints and Mary.

Part 2: The Christian in the World. Religious and laity, Holy Orders, Marriage, and family life; call to holiness.

Part 3: The Last Things. Death, Judgment, the end of the world.

**Aim:** To help eighth-grade students know and love the Church as Christ's Body, and respond to the teaching of the Magisterium as the sure voice of Jesus, so that young people may be strengthened through their lives in the Church to face the confusion and secularism of modern-day society.