

GRAND ISLAND CENTRAL CATHOLIC MIDDLE SCHOOL EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

The following classes are offered to all students in the sixth, seventh, and eighth grades. The educational program at each grade level is required to ensure that our students will be successful in the high school setting. Some of the courses are only one quarter in duration. These courses are intended to be exploratory in nature and hopefully the students will develop an interest for further study. Religious Studies is a required course for all students. Each student is required to take either band or choir or the student may choose to take both. Algebra I, Pre-Chemistry, and Pre-Physics are courses that have qualification standards.

GRADE SIX

REQUIRED

Religious Studies 6
Math 6
English 6
Reading 6
Social Studies 6
Physical Education 6
Science 6
Careers 6
Health 6

REQUIRED EXPLORATORY

Computers 6
Art 6
General Music 6
Speech 6

Required Electives
(one or both)
Band
Chorus

GRADE SEVEN

REQUIRED

Religious Studies 7
Math 7
English 7
Reading 7
Social Studies 7
Physical Education 7
Science 7
Health 7

REQUIRED EXPLORATORY

Computers 7
Art 7
General Music 7
Speech 7

Required Electives
(one or both)
Band
Chorus

GRADE EIGHT

REQUIRED

Religious Studies 8
Math 8 or Algebra I
English 8
Social Studies 8
Computers 8
Physical Education 8
Science 8 or Pre-
Chemistry / Pre-Physics
Health 8

REQUIRED EXPLORATORY

Art 8
General Music 8
Speech 8

Required Electives
(one or both)
Band
Chorus

ART

Art 6 (Quarter) Required, Grade Level 6

Prerequisite: None, Credits: 2.5

Description: All sixth grade students will explore drawing theory, design elements and principles, color theory application, art movements, vocabulary and clay construction (pinch construction).

Art 7 (Quarter) Required, Grade Level 7

Prerequisite: 6th Grade Art, Credits: 2.5

Description: Further exploration of art methods, movements, vocabulary elements and principles of design, texture drawings, and clay construction (coil construction).

Art 8 (12 weeks) Required, Grade Level 8

Prerequisite: 7th Grade Art, Credits: 3.5

Description: Continuation of the art methods, movements, vocabulary elements and principles of design, printing, weaving, still life drawing, and clay construction (slab construction).

COMPUTER EDUCATION

Computer 6 (Quarter) Required, Grade Level 6

Prerequisite: None, Credits: 2.5

Description: This course is designed as an introduction to proper keyboarding. The students will be taught how to operate the computer, proper finger position and reaches for the keyboard (alphabetic, numeric, and symbol), and how to use a simple word processing program. Also included will be computer terminology, saving files, and general information about the computer.

Computer 7 (Quarter) Required, Grade Level 7

Prerequisite: Computer 6, Credits: 2.5

Description: This course will be a continuation of skill building from the sixth grade level. In addition to skill building, the course will include learning to use tool bars (cut, copy, pasting, page set ups, centering, etc.). They will learn to key from rough-draft copy and make changes to the copy. They will learn to correctly format short reports and to proofread them to identify and correct mistakes.

Computer 8 (All Year – EOD) Required, Grade Level 8

Prerequisite: Computer 7, Credits: 5 per year

Description: The eighth grade curriculum will conclude the skill building phase of keyboarding. Also included at this level will be formatting block style letters and short reports. More emphasis is placed on proofreading skills at this level. An introduction to power point presentation software is done.

ENGLISH

English 6 (All Year) Required, Grade Level 6

Prerequisite: None, Credits: 5 per semester

Description: Grammar course content: Simple Compound and Complex Sentences, Language Usage. Literature: plot, characters, conflict, suspense/tension, literary device, non-fiction, Greek Mythology. Writing: numerous creative writing assignments including poetry, short stories, journals, 5-paragraph essays. Weekly vocabulary and spelling lists.

English 7 (All Year) Required, Grade Level 7

Prerequisite: English 6, Credits: 5 per semester

Description: The grammar series Warriner's English Grammar and Composition is used. DailyGrammar.com and Terrific Grammar worksheets are also used. Course content: Grammar; parts of speech, parts of the sentence, building sentences, punctuation, fragments and run-ons, capitals, pronouns, agreement of subject and verb, correct verb usage, sentence combining, effective paragraphs, outlining and composition.

Literature: discoveries, conflicts, heroes, comics, nature, love, triumph and defeat. Spelling: weekly tests. Writing: numerous creative writing assignments, compositions and essays culminating in a 500-word essay.

Novels: Skellig and This Side of Paradise.

English 8 (All Year) Required, Grade Level 8

Prerequisite: English 7, Credits: 5 per semester

Description: The grammar series Warriner's English Grammar and Composition is used. Course content: parts of speech, parts of the sentence, punctuation, fragments and run-ons, capitals, subject-verb agreement, verb usage, sentence combining, paragraphs, composition. Literature: self and others, suspense and mystery, portraits, nature, courage, searching.

Spelling: weekly tests. Writing: numerous creative writing assignments, compositions and essays culminating in a 500-word essay.

Novels: The Boy in the Striped Pajamas and The Diary of Anne Frank.

MATHEMATICS

The math department uses the Renaissance learning program – “Accelerated Math”. This software program adjusts instruction by giving individualized assignments to help all students reach their greatest potential.

Math 6 (All Year) Required, Grade Level 6

Prerequisite: None, Credits: 5 per semester

Description: The objectives of this course include addition, subtraction, division, and multiplication of whole numbers, fractions, decimals, and mixed numbers. In addition, a unit on number theory that deals with factoring and exponents is included. Additional units on ratios, proportions, basic geometry, and statistics are also included.

Math 7 (All Year) Required, Grade Level 7

Prerequisite: Math 6, Credits: 5 per semester

Description: The objectives include a review of the basic operations of whole numbers, decimals, and fractions. Solving equations with variables in preparation for algebra is incorporated into each unit. Operations with integers will be introduced. In addition, the students will study the use of ratios, proportions, and percents. Beginning units of geometry that include measurement, area, surface area, and volume are also covered. Additional units on ratios and proportion, probability, integers, statistics, and coordinate graphing are available if time permits throughout the year.

Math 8 (Pre-Algebra) (All Year) Required, Grade Level 8

Prerequisite: Math 7, Credits: 5 per semester

Description: Math skills and Pre-algebra skills are integrated and emphasized in this course. In addition to work on the four basic operations using whole numbers, fractions, and decimals, equation-solving becomes very important in each unit. First semester concentrates on integers, coordinate graphing and number theory. Second semester work includes units on exponents, scientific notation, ratio and proportion, geometry, area and volume.

Algebra I (All Year) Elective, Grade Level 8

Prerequisite: Math 7 and recommendation of teacher, based on classroom performance and results of the MAP Assessment and the Orleans-Hannah Algebra Readiness Test.

Credits: 5 per semester

Description: This is an accelerated class, designed to help the student understand the basic structure of the real number system, recognizing the techniques of algebra as reflections of the structure, and to acquire ability in applying algebraic concepts and skills. Content: symbols and sets, open sentences in one and two variables, equations, inequalities and problem-solving, positive and negative numbers, special products and factoring polynomials, graphing and properties of the real number system.

- A. Additional Criteria: In the spring of the seventh grade year, students will be assessed for algebra readiness. Students will receive a recommendation of Algebra I or Pre-Algebra (Math 8) from their mathematics instructor.
- B. It is recommended that a student taking Algebra I as an eighth grader should maintain at least a 90% (B+) average. Future classes in math depend on a firm foundation of Algebra I. Averaging below 90% (B+) puts the student at jeopardy for all future math classes.**
- C. Students below the 90% (B+) average at the end of the first quarter should seriously consider Pre-Algebra for the rest of the year or at the end of the year retaking Algebra I for their 9th grade year.**
- D. A student taking Algebra I as eighth graders are expected to take Advance Placement (AP) Calculus as a senior.

MUSIC

Band 6 (All Year) Elective, Grade Level 6

Prerequisite: Experience or permission of Instructor. Credits: 5.0 per semester

Description: Sixth grade band is designed to reinforce the basic concepts of musicianship including proper playing technique, music reading, and appreciation of many different kinds of music. Students perform in two concerts a year. Students are eligible to audition for Mini-Blues Jazz Ensemble. Students are eligible for Crusader Rock drumline.

Band 7 (All Year) Elective, Grade Level 7

Prerequisite: Experience or permission of Instructor. Credits: 5.0 per semester

Description: Seventh grade band will reinforce and continue concepts learned in sixth grade band. Students perform in two concerts a year. Students are eligible for Mini-Blues Jazz Ensemble as instrumentation will allow. Students are eligible for Crusader Rock drumline.

Band 8 (All Year) Elective, Grade Level 8

Prerequisite: Experience or permission of Instructor. Credits: 5.0 per semester

Description: Transition to high school band. Introduction of more advanced musical concepts such as more complex time & key signatures & rhythmic complexities, while keeping a grasp on the firm foundations learned in sixth & seventh grade band classes. Students perform in two concerts a year. Students are eligible for Mini-Blues Jazz Ensemble as instrumentation will allow. Students are eligible for Crusader Rock drumline.

Choir 6 (All Year) Elective, Grade Level 6

Prerequisite: None, Credits: 5.0 per semester

Description: This class focuses on singing with a group. Basic music techniques such as balance and blend along with harmony and other musical elements will be explored. There will be some opportunity to perform while gaining an appreciation of vocal music.

Choir 7 (All Year) Elective, Grade Level 7

Prerequisite: None, Credits: 5.0 per semester

Description: This class is performance based and focuses on singing with a group. Basic singing techniques are reinforced. Students are eligible to participate in Middle School Swing Choir and middle school honor groups.

Choir 8 (All Year) Elective, Grade Level 8

Prerequisite: None, Credits: 5.0 per semester

Description: This class is performance based and focuses on group singing and preparing for high school concert choir. Students are eligible to participate in Middle School Swing Choir and honor groups.

General Music 6 (Quarter) Required, Grade Level 6

Prerequisite: None, Credits: 2.5 per semester

Description: Basic elements of music are introduced. Students will be instructed in basic music theory, basic note reading skills, music periods, and listening examples. This is a non-performing class.

General Music 7 (Quarter) Required, Grade Level 7

Prerequisite: None, Credits: 2.5 per semester

Description: This class will be an extension of concepts introduced in General Music 6. Students will be introduced to basic composition. This is a non-performing class.

General Music 8 (12 weeks) Required, Grade Level 8

Prerequisite: None, Credits: 3.5

Description: A more advanced study into the history of music and music theory. Students will be able to recognize masterworks of great composers and learn advanced theory and history. This is a non-performing class.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND HEALTH

Physical Education/Health 6 (All Year) Required, Grade Level 6

Prerequisite: None, Credits: 2.5 or 5 per semester

Description: Developmental class stressing cooperation with individual and group activities. Emphasis is on developing gross and fine motor skills and weight training basics. Health component will emphasize personal health and wellness as well as fitness and exercise relating to individual health.

Physical Education/Health 7 (All Year) Required, Grade Level 7

Prerequisite: None, Credits: 2.5 or 5 per semester

Description: Recreational class stressing team activities and participation. Emphasis on personal and social growth. Classes to include the following core activities: aerobics-walking-jogging, volleyball, basketball, and badmitten. Classes to introduce the following activities: floor hockey, arena football, speedball, soccer, and weight training. Health component will emphasize personality and self-esteem relating to mental health and the study of nutrition and the importance of a healthy diet.

Physical Education/Health 8 (All Year) Required, Grade Level 8

Prerequisite: None, Credits: 2.5 or 5 per semester

Description: Recreational class stressing team activities and participation. Emphasis on personal and social growth. Classes to include the following core activities: aerobics-walking-jogging, volleyball, basketball, and badmitten. Classes will include the following activities: floor hockey, arena football, speedball, soccer, and weight training. Health component will emphasize how stress affects the body and making healthy food choices for proper nutrition.

READING

Reading 6 (All Year) Required, Grade Level 6

Prerequisite: None, Credits: 2.5 per semester

Description: This class is an introduction/review in application of the reading skills in word attack and comprehension to vocabulary development. Emphasis is placed on grade level comprehension skills, development of logical reasoning skills, and the continued development of the use of reference materials, library skills, and study skills. Required reading materials are classical children's literature assigned from a reading list. Opportunities to develop cooperative educational skills and to apply reading, research, spelling, writing, grammar, and study skills are provided through daily class assignments. Learning to be responsible and to be prompt with assignments are other major goals of this course. Both silent and oral reading skills are developed, as are listening skills. Basic word processing skills will be introduced through grade level appropriate composition.

Reading 7 (All Year) Required, Grade Level 7

Prerequisite: None, Credits: 2.5 per semester

Description: This class teaches the student to apply the reading skills in word attack and comprehension to vocabulary development. Emphasis is placed on advanced level comprehension skills, development of logical reasoning skills and continued development of the use of reference materials. Required reading materials are classical children's literature assigned from a reading list. Opportunities to develop cooperative educational skills and to apply reading, research, spelling, writing, and grammar skills are provided through daily class assignments and by required participation in class time. The teacher is available before and after school for students to receive extra help with reading skills. Learning to be responsible and to be prompt with assignments are other major goals of this class. Both silent and oral reading skills are developed, as are listening skills.

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Jesus and Becoming a People of God: Building Community (All Year)

Required, Grade Level 6

Prerequisite: None Credits: 2.5 per semester

Description: Following the directives of the Bishops' documents, "TO TEACH AS JESUS DID," the emphasis of the Middle School Religious Studies Program focuses on forming a faith community through Academics and Service. Jesus and the People of God are the focus, leading to character formation and Christian values! Christian Community is examined through a review of basic Catholicism, prayer, customs, vocabulary, sacraments, liturgy and the liturgical year. Communal Prayer is experienced. Contemporary events are examined, shedding light on the faith lives of the students.

Jesus and the People of God: Living in Community (All Year)

Required, Grade Level 7

Prerequisite: None Credits: 2.5 per semester

Description: The 7th grade Religious Studies Curriculum focuses on Community, Message and Service emphasized in the Bishop's documents, "TO TEACH AS JESUS DID." Again, the focus is on Jesus and the People of God. The understanding of Christian Service is deepened. Followers of Jesus work together in love and service of others! Qualities of a Catholic Christian are stressed through examples from Scripture, Church History and Contemporary Events. Understanding of the Liturgical Year is deepened. Faithfulness to communal prayer is a priority!

Our Life in the Church (All Year – EOD) **Required,** Grade Level 8

Prerequisite: None Credits: 5 per year

The 8th Grade Religious Studies Curriculum focus is the rich history of the Church—it's 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 are studied throughout the year. Fourth quarter will study Theology of the Body. Theology of the Body for Middle School refers to lectures given by Blessed Pope John Paul II, covering such topics as the bodily dimension of the human person, the nature of human sexuality, the need for communion, and the nature of marriage. Theology of the Body for Middle School applies to the lives of teens addressing questions relating to chastity and sexuality. Daily prayer and its importance are emphasized. Students are encouraged to earn service hours and to participate in the Presidential Service Awards Program.

SCIENCE

Life Science 6 (All Year) Required, Grade Level 6

Prerequisite: None Credits: 5 per semester

Description: Lab oriented course with “hands on” approach to learning being utilized as much as possible. Topics include: scientific method, classification of living things, animal and plant tissues and cells, simple organisms, the plant kingdom and plant processes, the animal kingdom and animal behavior.

Earth Science 7 (All Year) Required, Grade Level 7

Prerequisite: None Credits: 5 per semester

Description: Earth Science is the study of Planet Earth and incorporates the study of other sciences, including geology, astronomy, and oceanography. Earth Science is a lab oriented course providing “hands on” applications for students to understand the complex balance of factors affecting the physical world in which they live. Course topics: scientific method, problem solving, the solar system, oceans, fresh water, earth’s structure, volcano, earthquakes, & earth’s resources.

Science 8 (All Year) Required, Grade Level 8

Prerequisite: None Credits: 5 per semester

Description: Science 8 is a combination of both physical and biological science. This science class studies the basic principles of chemistry, meteorology, cell biology and the physics of flight. Course topics: Measurement, using the SI system, graphing data, structure of the atom, elements, compounds, balancing chemical equations, atmosphere, weather, biomes, cells, genetics, and the history of flight.

Criteria for the following Pre-Chemistry and Pre-Physics courses:

Student performance on the algebra readiness test and 1st and 2nd semester Science 7 grades average to an A. For those students performing at the necessary level, the choice will be given to take either Pre-Chem/Pre-Physics or Science 8. This is a high school course. 8th graders who are accelerated to PC/PP will be expected to keep a B average and to be responsible in class. Students will also be expected to take the college prep science classes through their Senior year.

Pre-Chemistry (Semester) Elective, Grade Level 8

Prerequisite: Pre-algebra or enrolled in Algebra Credits: 5

Description: This course is designed to give students a better preparation for high school chemistry and preparation for college. It includes basic understanding of naming substances, the properties and structure of matter, the Periodic Table, energy changes, and equilibrium in acids and bases. Critical thinking is emphasized and developed.

Pre-Physics (Semester) Elective, Grade Level 8

Prerequisite: Pre-algebra or enrolled in Algebra Credits: 5

Description: This course is designed for the student who plans to continue education after high school. It is designed to help prepare these students for a future in math and science challenges. Topics include: measurement, machines, motion, gravity, waves as sound and light, heat, and electricity. It is a good course on how technology affects our lives.

SOCIAL STUDIES

Social Studies 6 (All Year) Required, Grade Level 6

Prerequisite: None Credits: 5 per semester

Description: Sixth Grade Social Studies is a survey of American History from the discovery of the New World through Reconstruction. Sixth Grade Social Studies will emphasize Social Studies Skills including charts, maps, graphs, and will include sociological, anthropological, geographic, and historic themes.

American Geography (Quarter) Required, Grade Level 7

Prerequisite: None Credits: 2.5

Description: A required course which covers the geography of each of the 50 states. Emphasis is placed on the cities and landmarks within these states as well as topics such as map reading, state symbols, historical locations, topography, and regional economics.

Civics (3 Quarters) Required, Grade Level 7

Prerequisite: None Credits: 5

Description: General study of federal, state, and local government. This course describes the responsibilities of being a citizen on a national, state, and local level. The community we live in is also discussed as well as the role of the student in the school.

Social Studies 8 (All Year) Required, Grade Level 8

Prerequisite: None Credits: 5 per semester

Description: Eighth Grade Social Studies is a survey of American History from Reconstruction until Modern Times. Eighth Grade Social Studies will emphasize Social Studies skills including charts, maps, graphs, and will include sociological, anthropological, geographic, and historic themes.

SPEECH

Speech 6 (Quarter) Required, Grade Level 6

Prerequisite: None Credits: 2.5

Description: This quarter class will give students opportunities to practice oral communication skills with public speaking, one-on-one communication, and small group situations. Skills that we will focus on will be building confidence,

organization, listening, collaboration, creative thinking, and verbal and non verbal delivery. Students will have the opportunity to take what they did in class and perform in speech competitions in the spring.

Speech 7 (Quarter) Required, Grade Level 7

Prerequisite: None Credits: 2.5

Description: This quarter class will give students opportunities to practice oral communication skills with public speaking, one-on-one communication, and small group situations. Skills that we will focus on will be building confidence, organization, listening, collaboration, creative thinking, and verbal and non verbal delivery. Students will have the opportunity to take what they did in class and perform at competitions in the spring.

Speech 8 (12 weeks) Required, Grade Level 8

Prerequisite: None Credits: 3.5

Description: This trimester class will give students opportunities to do a variety of assignments and projects related to communicating with others. We will focus on the speech creation process from topic selection to delivery. We will develop skills of organization, research, word choice, audience analysis, and delivery; in addition, we will do some acting and oral interpretation projects and mass communications projects. Students will prepare speeches that they may compete with in middle school speech tournaments in the spring.

MISCELLANEOUS

Careers 6 (Quarter) Required, Grade Level 6

Prerequisite: None Credits: 2.5

Description: The emphasis of this course is to expose the students to a variety of careers and to create an awareness of opportunities that exist for people as contributing and responsible members of society. Social etiquette skills are taught to students to enhance proper public behaviors.

School Counseling Curriculum Program

The content of Central Catholic's Guidance and Counseling Program is based on nationally recommended student competencies which are knowledge, attitudes or skills the student should master as a result of participating in a school counseling program. The competencies are organized by domains of academic (learning), career (earning), and personal and social development (living). Integrating these competencies across the curriculum is the most effective approach. A four-year plan is implemented at the end of the eighth grade year and reviewed each year through the senior year in high school. All of these experiences strengthen the students' decision-making skills, empowering them to select appropriate high school courses necessary to reach their future goals.

STANDARDIZED TESTS

Certain test results are an integral part of the admissions process to most colleges. The higher your test scores, the better your chances of admissions to a

greater number of schools. Some assessments are utilized for career exploration and for course placement, while the ACRE is specific for assessing the Religious Studies program.

ACRE, Grade level 8

Description: The Assessment of Catechesis/Religious Education (ACRE) serves as a tool for assessing the effectiveness of catechetical/ religious education programs. It offers a picture of where grade 8 students are in terms of their basic religious knowledge and assesses the religious beliefs, attitudes, practices, and perceptions of students in these grades. The assessment provides information about areas of strengths in catechetical/religious education programs as well as areas that may need additional attention or improvement.

MAP Assessment-Grade level 6, 7, 8

Description: Measurements of Academic Progress (MAP) is an assessment that starts with detailed, accurate information about where each child is on his/her learning journey.

Assessments: The computer-based testing system, MAP, is built on 30 years of research and refinement, and adapts to the student in real-time as the test progresses for a pinpoint picture of learning achievement and readiness.

Reporting: Data that informs, in timely, actionable reports to help guide decision making at every level.

Stable and Consistent

When students take the adaptive tests, they are presented with test questions at different levels of difficulty, that adjust based on their responses.

At the end of a testing sequence, the student receives an overall score, called RIT, that indicates the instructional level appropriate for him or her.

RIT scale offers proven benefits:

- **Stability**: A RIT score of 148 ten years ago means the same thing now as it did then.
- **Grade-independent**: Test items match student performance, not grade level. So two students with a score of 210 are at the same level, even if one is in third grade and the other is in fourth.
- **Equal Interval**: On the RIT scale, the increments are the same whether it's the difference between 140 and 152 or 200 and 212. This gives educators a clear yardstick for measuring progress.