

Academics - Eighth Grade

Language Arts

- Vocabulary: spelling, parts of speech, definitions
- Grammar: All parts of speech, explore all forms of writing
- Reading at least four novels as a class, analysis of genre
- Writing: Personal Narratives, Creative, Persuasive, Research, and Descriptive Writing pieces, Writing process, Writing Portfolio
- Word Master Competition
- Accelerated Reader

Algebra

- Grouping according to skill level means small classes with individual attention - low student to teacher ratio
- Advanced Algebra and Honors Algebra both have the option to “test out” of Freshman level mathematics
- High School preparatory program
- Content skills include expressions, equations, functions, inequalities, and problem solving.

Science

- The Science Department at St. Francis of Assisi continues to be recognized for excellence in education at the local, state and national levels. The middle school science experience, with its emphasis on exposure to the foundations of core and modern science principles, allows all students to be prepared for the most rigorous of any high school science curriculum.
- An in-depth look at Chemistry, Cellular and Molecular Biology with an emphasis on the structure and function of DNA in the **8th grade**.
- Special emphasis is placed upon preparing students adequately for both High School in general and High School science specifically in the choice of curriculum material, level of difficulty and skill development. Unique to the science experience at St. Francis of Assisi is participation in the process of independent research for the production of science fair projects in all nine grades, K-8.
- Science Fair is utilized as an important and rich venue for personal exploration, independent study and skill acquisition.
- Direct opportunities or academic support for students who may wish to pursue advanced research projects can be made available.

United States History

- US History - beginning with early exploration of the Americas through the Civil War
- Topics of study include: Native Americans and exploration, Colonial Settlement, Conflict and Resolution, the New Republic, Formation of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights, the Nation Expands Westward, the Civil War and Reconstruction
- Students use technology for research, web searches, performance assessments
- Understanding history through Democratic Principles, Political systems, social systems, cultural diversity, economic systems, geography, and historical perspectives

Religion

- Bridge to High School Program, exploring topics such as peer pressure, drugs, alcohol, self-esteem, and self-image.
- Celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation (every other year with grade 7/8)
- Theology of the Body, Holocaust Study (culminates with a trip to the USHMM)
- The mystery of the Church and the People
- God teaches us to live out our salvation - Service learning, compassionate understanding of the marginalized
- Relationship with God through personal prayer and community worship
- God calls us to love and serve our neighbor
- Active participation in and planning of school masses
- Retreat (2 days/overnight)

Technology

- Technology skills include: keyboarding, internet safety, word processing, PowerPoint, spreadsheet, using the internet as a research tool, technology decision-making, and use of appropriate electronic tools.
- Integration of content areas including science, language arts, Spanish, math and social studies
- Internet Safety Program - [I-Safe](#)