

# SJCS



# MIDDLE SCHOOL 7TH GRADE

This curriculum overview is designed to summarize the major goals of the instructional program for Seventh Grade at St. James Cathedral School.

Although the curriculum is presented in this document by different subject areas, the skills and competencies from each area are often integrated during daily instruction.

The curriculum of St. James has been designed to follow the recommendations of the Diocese of Orlando and meets and/or exceeds the expectations set forth in the Florida State Standards.

The curriculum is enhanced or modified yearly to meet the needs of our student population.

# SJCS

*Academic excellence and spiritual enrichment since 1928.*

## Our Mission

St. James Cathedral School is an educational ministry of St. James Cathedral Church. A Catholic school committed to outstanding academic and spiritual development of all students, St. James Cathedral School provides varied opportunities for students to discover and develop their unique God-given gifts in a safe and stimulating learning environment. The love and stewardship of Jesus is our inspiration. We come to learn; we leave to serve.

## Our Beliefs

We believe it is our mission as Catholic educators to model the values and beliefs we teach in a faith-based community that fosters self-respect and respect for others.

We believe it is our role to develop and foster each child's unique, God-given gifts by encouraging students to do all they are capable of doing by themselves in child-centered classrooms where teachers act as facilitators.

We believe that Catholic schools should provide children with a spiritual and academic foundation that will lead to the development of creative and ethical problem solvers who will make a positive contribution to our world.

We believe that a St. James education should include intellectual, spiritual, moral and emotional formation that reflects the values we hold most dearly... integrity, honesty, moral courage, discipline and initiative.

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# Middle School

## 7th Grade Academics



### Mathematics

GO Math! at both the elementary and middle school levels combines 21st-century educational technology with modern content, dynamic interactivities, and a variety of instructional videos to engage today's digital natives.

Every student is supported through the universal access features of the program as they learn to think critically and apply their math knowledge. Whether using the innovative Online Student Edition or Write-in Student Edition, students have all the resources they need to succeed. Students are ability grouped and placed in regular or advanced.

### Civics

This subject includes learning about citizenship.

**Geography:** This subject includes basic geography tools and concepts, and the study of all regions of the world.

**They include:** The Americas, Europe and Russia, Africa, Asia, and the Pacific. For each region we study physical geography, an historical overview, cultures, and selected countries, cities, states, and provinces.

Civics and practical Geography are included in this course. Each year the school participates in the National Geographic Geography Bee. We also participate in the Orange County Bar Association Law Day activities.

### Science

**Life Science:** This subject begins with the simplest, single-celled organism and how it functions on a cellular level and continues through to the most complex organism, the multi-system human being. CK12.org text and multiple media sites are utilized to teach future science careers as well.

### Social Studies

The middle school Social Studies curriculum incorporates a variety of activities to teach appropriate, necessary skills including cooperation, communication, organization, critical and creative thinking.

### Language Arts

Students will study literature, grammar, usage, mechanics, composition, Greek and Latin roots and derivatives, reading comprehension and critical thinking, and spelling. Students will focus on learning the rules of grammar, usage and mechanics, and then incorporating those lessons into their written work.

Attention will be given to analyzing literature and comprehending literary terms. Students will learn and practice reading comprehension and critical thinking strategies.

The following series are used in class:  
Glencoe Literature, Glencoe Spelling, Florida Ready Reading, Word roots (Greek and Latin roots and derivatives), Glencoe Grammar and Language Workbook and Handbook.

### Religion

Christ Our Life encourages faith knowledge that helps children articulate their Catholic faith.

Written by the Sisters of Notre Dame, the new 2016 edition of Christ Our Life fosters children's love of God and a rich knowledge of our Catholic faith so they can proudly go out into the world and proclaim it.

With its thorough presentation of the authentic teachings of the Catholic Church, its comprehensive approach, and its variety of teaching methods, Christ Our Life is the only program that is aligned with the Church's mission for a New Evangelization, the NCEA: IFG ACRE assessments, and the Six Tasks of Catechesis.

This course is a dynamic, systematic, catechetical program that is specifically designed for faith development of adolescents.



# Middle School

## 7th Grade Programs

### Enrichment

#### Technology

Students follow the NETS (National Educational Technology Standards for Students). These standards include:

- Creativity and Innovation
- Communication and Collaboration
- Research and Information Fluency
- Critical Thinking
- Problem Solving and Decision Making
- Digital Citizenship
- Technology Operation and Concepts.

#### Music

A mixture of music history, movement and performance will be experienced by middle grade students.

#### Art

In middle school art students work with professional media to produce paintings, sculpture, pottery and graphics. They develop original works that express faith, imagination, and creativity.

They study masterworks, research artists, and can identify art styles. Students work with professional media to produce paintings, sculpture, pottery and graphics.

#### Physical Education

The fitness components of strength, flexibility and endurance are individually measured and evaluated through a variety of activities. A variety of competitive activities are introduced. Leadership roles are encouraged through students as referees.

#### Spanish

Students will be able to write, comprehend, and interpret words and expressions while engaging in conversational Spanish. Instruction takes place twice a week.

### Advanced Programs

Our WHEEL program is specifically designed to enhance the curriculum, giving students an opportunity to experience curricula outside of their regularly scheduled classes. Classes are strongly rooted in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM). WHEEL students are provided with unique, real world and hands on applications to stay ahead of today's techniques and technology. Classes are held every Wednesday on a rotation basis for the 2016-2017 school year.

#### Design It!

Creative? Imaginative? Crafty? Artistic? Then help "design it!" You will help design costumes, sets, and props for this year's middle school musical and other school related events!

This is an opportunity to be on stage without being on stage! Help to plan out, design, and create essential elements necessary for a successful musical production! Then watch your hard work help the production come alive!

#### Mad About Mythology

Students take a virtual journey to ancient Greece as they explore classic myths through interactive scripts and videos.

Continue on and travel north to the land of the Norsemen and act out tales of dwarves, dragons, gods and goddesses. They may even be offered a chance to play Hnefatafl, Viking chess.

#### G.E.A.R.

##### Get Excited About Robotics

Ignite your curiosity and imagination through this hands-on robotics class! Students have the opportunity to build and program their very own robot.

Using MINDSTORMS Education EV3 software and materials, you will design and program your robot to carry out controlled actions created by you.

In GEAR class you will learn "how to robot" and then use your robot to learn. If you have an interest in science, engineering, math, or computer programming, this class is for you.

#### Advanced Theater

Interested in a more serious drama experience? Lights, camera, action!

Join Ms. Christi Willard for an in depth drama experience. This group of students will have the opportunity to compete at the district and state levels! You will be able to audition specific pieces that you work on in this class and take it to the stage.

Students serious about competing may occasionally be asked to meet after school. If you are not interested in competing, you will have the same opportunity to do scene work in class.

The second part of the year would focus on other aspects of theatre including technical theatre and theatre management. **(First and Second Trimester commitment required.)**

# Middle School

## 7th Grade Programs - Continued

### Advanced Programs Continued

#### Panther Peer Leaders

Do you enjoy helping younger students in the classroom? Have you ever dreamed about becoming an educator and a strong leader? If so, this class is for you!

Ideal for students who are creative, who enjoy working with others and who will serve as mentors for our first grade students.

7th and 8th grade students will use their gifts, imaginations, and academic skills to enrich our little Panthers in the areas of reading, math, science, and art.

Exciting activities are planned to inspire and make learning an adventure. We will work in the classrooms, as well as the great outdoors.

**Come and be a part of serving our younger students!**

#### Panther Press Photography

How would you like to be a Panther Press junior journalist?

By producing a school newspaper, you will gain valuable skills in listening, observing, writing, editing, and publishing.

We will also open up the exciting world of photography. As they say, "A picture is worth a thousand words."

This class will give you the opportunity to report, photograph all the exciting events happening on campus, and keep you in the "loop."

#### Game Star Mechanic

Become a Gamestar Mechanic by designing games using game-based "Quests" while building critical 21st century skills.

This class will teach you the principles of game design and systems in a highly engaging environment.

Each "Quest" contains missions that challenge you to play, modify, and design games to help you level up from player to designer.

As you complete these missions, you earn items that you can use to make your own games.

### Curriculum Scope

GRADE	RELIGION	MATH	READING	LANGUAGE ARTS	SCIENCE	SOCIAL STUDIES	HANDWRITING	SPANISH
6th Grade	Loyola Press 2016 Christ Our Life	Go Math 2016	Scott Foresman 2013 / HMH 2015	Word Roots/Critical Thinking Company & Daily Grammar Practice DGP Publishing 2016, HMH Vocabulary for Achievement	McGraw Hill 2012	McGraw Hill 2016	No Books	McGraw Hill Viva el Español Level 1
7th Grade	Loyola Press 2016 Christ Our Life	Go Math 2016	Glencoe 2005	←-----→ McGraw Hill 2012		McGraw Hill 2013	No Books	McGraw Hill Viva el Español Level 2
8th Grade	Loyola Press 2016 Christ Our Life	Go Math 2016	Glencoe 2005	←-----→ McGraw Hill 2012		McGraw Hill 2013	No Books	McGraw Hill Viva el Español Level 3