

ST. MONICA SCHOOL
Gr. 8 Curriculum

English - The English course consists of grammar, writing and vocabulary. Students study grammar in-depth including parts of speech, punctuation, capitalization, sentence structure, phrases and clauses. Students participate in writer's workshops to improve writing skills. Personal narratives, descriptive essays, persuasive essays, compare and contrast essays, expository essays, and five paragraph essays are among the skills taught. Additional skills studied are how to write an effective thesis statement, introduction, middle, and conclusion. In addition, an in-depth vocabulary curriculum includes parts of speech, vocabulary in context, synonyms, antonyms, and pronunciation/stress marks. Vocabulary makes use of an online interactive text in order to utilize technology in the classroom.

Literature - With an emphasis on the classics, literature is novel based with analysis of all parts of the novel, i.e., plot, theme, characterization, and setting, among others. Students learn to annotate and make text to text, text to self, and text to world connections. Students read and analyze four novels during the year. Some novels are To Kill a Mockingbird, The House on Mango Street, and Shakespeare. Students also study fables, myths, legends, short stories, poetry and poetic devices.

American History - Students learn about the Reconstruction Era, westward expansion, railroads, and the industrial revolution. They also study World War I, The Great Depression, World War II, the Cold War, Civil Rights and the Vietnam War. Students understand the significance of history and how it influences their world today. The course uses an interactive online text giving students the opportunity to utilize technology in the classroom.

Math “Algebra 1” - This is the continuation from the seventh grade book. The students will learn about solving linear equations, polynomials, factoring, and radical expressions as well as quadratic functions. Includes IXL for added practice.

Science - Pearson Realize is our current online science book. The program is geared towards and follows Massachusetts State Standards. It is a combination of Life, Earth and Physical Science. The text includes biology, astronomy, ecosystems, soil, weathering and volcanoes. Students need a working iPad, surface or Kindle for every class in order to interact and read text.

Religion - Units include: 1. How Do We Nourish God’s Gift of Faith?, 2. Who Are Our Ancestors in Faith?, 3. How Can the Church’s Heritage Give Us Hope?, 4. What Does It Mean to Be Catholic?, all with Catechism Connections, Biblical Basis, Saints, Blesseds and Devotions.

Spanish – Part II (once a week) Introductory Spanish including vocabulary and conversation.