



St. Gregory the Great Parish and School

Eighth Grade Curriculum Highlights

In Social Studies your child will:

- ♥ Interpret the past using a variety of primary and secondary sources
- ♥ Compare ancient and present-day communities around the world
- ♥ Identify and describe significant people in the major eras in the United States and world history
- ♥ Examine the impact of immigration on the United States and world history
- ♥ Summarize major issues associated with the history, culture, and tribal sovereignty of igneous peoples of Americas
- ♥ Organize and analyze information to place people in historical perspective
- ♥ Describe the relationship between and among significant events in the United States and world history
- ♥ Critically analyze current events in the United States and the world
- ♥ Explain the interpretation of historical events according to various viewpoints
- ♥ Identify major scientific discoveries and technological innovations and describe their social and economic effects on society
- ♥ Explain the need for laws and policies to regulate science and technology
- ♥ Describe how personal economic decisions impact global economy (e.g., starting new business initiatives, boycotts, and earning power of workers)
- ♥ Determine the location of natural resources and explain how they generate trade and economic patterns
- ♥ Describe effects of investments in infrastructure (e.g., education, health care, public safety, transportation, etc.) on the economy
- ♥ Identify and explain various points of view concerning economic issues (e.g., taxation, unemployment, inflation, the national debt, and distribution of income)
- ♥ Compare the standard of living in various societies
- ♥ Interpret and explain the development of money in history
- ♥ Differentiate among the various economic and political systems (e.g., feudalism, capitalism, communism, etc.)
- ♥ Distinguish and explain basic economic concepts (e.g. supply and demand; production, exchange, and consumption; labor, wages, and capital; inflation and deflation; public and private goods and services; market economy and command economy)
- ♥ Identify the economic role of institutions (e.g., corporations and businesses, banks, labor unions, and the Federal Reserve System)
- ♥ Identify components of culture (e.g., religion, art, language, customs and cuisine)
- ♥ Describe and analyze ways in which people interact with, modify and adapt with the environment
- ♥ Explain the movement of people, ideas, products and diseases in the world
- ♥ Demonstrate ways in which a citizen may participate in public policy debate
- ♥ Identify individual responsibilities to local, state, national and global communities
- ♥ Explain the role and impact of civil actions
- ♥ Explain how legislative, executive, and judicial powers are separated and balanced at the federal level
- ♥ Describe and explain how the federal system separates the powers of federal, states, and local government
- ♥ Distinguish how the powers of government are acquired, maintained, justified, and sometimes abused
- ♥ Describe the role and effects of international organizations and political alliances throughout the world
- ♥ Describe and explain how various factors influence individual identity
- ♥ Describe cooperation and interdependence among groups, societies and nations
- ♥ Demonstrate knowledge of the world's religions
- ♥ Compare and contrast the components of various religion's culture
- ♥ Explain impact of world's events globally
- ♥ Describe the reflection of cultural values and ideas in art and architecture
- ♥ Describe cultural contributions of racial and ethnic groups in the United States and the world
- ♥ Identify examples of bias and stereotyping and how they contribute to conflict
- ♥ Give examples of media influence on behavior and decision-making of individuals and groups
- ♥ Analyze the impact of personal decisions on global issues (e.g., trade agreements, recycling and conserving the environment)
- ♥ Analyze the cause and effect relationship of different events over time
- ♥ Research the political values of freedom, democracy, equality and justice as embodied in important documents (e.g. the Magna Carta, Declaration of Independence, US Constitution, and Bill of Rights)
- ♥ Analyze significant events and the major eras of the United States and the world
- ♥ Research the causes and consequences of global issues (e.g., urbanization of species, consumption of natural resources, and world events)
- ♥ Analyze and discuss important political documents (e.g. the Magna Carta, Constitution, Bill of Rights, and landmark decisions of the Supreme Court)
- ♥ Analyze cultural conflicts in United States history
- ♥ Identify past and present countries in the world
- ♥ Explain relative and absolute location of places using appropriate geographic terminology
- ♥ Locate and identify physical features in the world
- ♥ Use maps, charts, and graphs to display and compare information
- ♥ Use an atlas to estimate distance, calculate scale, identify dominate patterns of climate and land use, and compute population density
- ♥ Construct mental maps of selected locales, regions, states, and countries and draw maps from memory, representing relative location, direction, size and shape
- ♥ Create different types of maps (e.g., political, physical, and thematic)
- ♥ Identify past and present world regions
- ♥ Identify United States regions throughout history
- ♥ Utilizes technology for research and presentations
- ♥ Analyze social issues based on whether human dignity is valued or harmed
- ♥ Identify abuses of human dignity found in American society



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Eighth Grade Curriculum Highlights—Continued

In Social Studies your child will (cont.):

- ♥ Articulate the component parts of human dignity
- ♥ Identify actions that would be considered abuses of human rights (local, national, international)
- ♥ Identify Biblical passages related to human dignity
- ♥ Identify actions that would be considered abuses of human rights (local, national, international)
- ♥ Research social data and church teaching as a way to begin to transform injustice
- ♥ Can discuss laws and policies that can benefit the poor and vulnerable members of society
- ♥ Can articulate the causes of poverty and the systems which prevent people from overcoming poverty
- ♥ Does research on the 20th and 21st century people who have fought for injustice (e.g., Archbishop Romero, Dorothy Day, Martin Luther King)
- ♥ Clearly articulate the difference between justice and charity
- ♥ Discuss the role work can play as a contribution to self and society
- ♥ Articulate the importance of intrinsic values
- ♥ Give example of the basic rights and responsibilities of workers in at least three different job areas

In Mathematics your child will:

- ♥ Identify irrational numbers
- ♥ Convert fractions, decimals, and percents greater than 1 and less than 0
- ♥ Collect, organize, and analyze data and draw conclusions using various methods
- ♥ Measure and draw angles up to 360°
- ♥ Name, define complex figures (rhombus, polyhedron, cylinder) and their component parts
- ♥ Apply concepts of variable expression and equation to solve simple problems
- ♥ Convert large numbers using scientific equations
- ♥ Graph equations
- ♥ Analyze pattern relationships
- ♥ Apply four operations to rational numbers
- ♥ Select, create and use appropriate graphical representations
- ♥ Identify and create congruent figures (formal)

- ♥ Create and interpret line of best fit
- ♥ Apply formulas for area, surface area and volume for 2 and 3 dimensional figures
- ♥ Identify functions
- ♥ Add and subtract like expressions
- ♥ Use integer components and square roots
- ♥ Convert small and large numbers into scientific notation

In Science your child will:

- ♥ Demonstrate wind flow from high pressure areas to low pressure areas
- ♥ Explain how the tilt of the earth determines seasons and length of day
- ♥ Understand how the ear is a receptor for sound
- ♥ Explain that a human being has interactive systems
- ♥ Understand homeostasis
- ♥ Describe the stages of development of a growing embryo and fetus
- ♥ Explain the relationship between magnetic forces and electric forces
- ♥ Observe that materials act as insulator and conductors of electrical current
- ♥ Demonstrate that light is essential for vision
- ♥ Describe how sound travels in waves
- ♥ Demonstrate how the ear is a receptor for sound
- ♥ Ask questions about data to determine the factors that affect the strength of electric and magnetic forces.
- ♥ Use mathematical representations to describe a simple model for waves that includes how the amplitude of a wave is related to the energy in a wave.
- ♥ Develop and use a model to describe that waves are reflected, absorbed, or transmitted through various materials.
- ♥ Integrate qualitative scientific and technical information to support the claim that digitized signals (sent as wave pulses) are a more reliable way to encode and transmit information.
- ♥ Use argument supported by evidence for how the body is a system of interacting subsystems composed of groups of cells.
- ♥ Use argument based on empirical evidence and scientific reasoning to support an explanation for how characteristic animal behaviors and specialized plant structures affect the probability of successful reproduction of animals and plants respectively.

- ♥ Develop a model to describe how food is rearranged through chemical reactions forming new molecules that support growth and/or release energy as this matter moves through an organism.
- ♥ Gather and synthesize information that sensory receptors respond to stimuli by sending messages to the brain for immediate behavior or storage as memories.
- ♥ Analyze and interpret data to provide evidence for the effects of resource availability on organisms and populations of organisms in an ecosystem.
- ♥ Construct an explanation that predicts patterns of interactions among organisms across multiple ecosystems.
- ♥ Develop a model to describe the cycling of matter and flow of energy among living and nonliving parts of ecosystem.
- ♥ Construct an argument supported by empirical evidence that changes to physical or biological components of an ecosystem affect populations.
- ♥ Evaluate competing design solutions for maintaining biodiversity and ecosystem services.
- ♥ Analyze displays of pictorial data to compare patterns of similarities in the embryological development across multiple species to identify relationships not evident in the fully formed anatomy.
- ♥ Gather and synthesize information about the technologies that have changed the way humans influence the inheritance of desired traits in organisms.
- ♥ Define the criteria and constraints of a design problem with sufficient precision to ensure a successful solution, taking into account relevant scientific principles and potential impacts on people and the natural environment that may limit possible solutions.
- ♥ Evaluate competing design solutions using a systematic process to determine how well they meet the criteria and constraints of the problem.
- ♥ Analyze data from tests to determine similarities and differences among several design solutions to identify the best characteristics of each that can be combined into new solution to better meet the criteria for success.
- ♥ Develop a model to generate data for interactive testing and modification of a proposed object, tool, or process such that an optimal design can be achieved.

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Eighth Grade Curriculum Highlights—Continued



Technology Skills



Skills are learned through the integration of technology.

Your child will:

- Use Microsoft Publisher and its features to present information
- Copy and paste words/images
- Add line/border, table, arrange features
- Revise a document (spelling, delete, move, insert)
- Edit for spelling using spell checker
- Use review tools, edit using synonym, thesaurus feature
- Use page layout tools, columns, orientation, margin, header and footer, borders, watermark
- Use keyboarding skills utilizing the space bar, delete, backspace, caps lock, shift, and number keys
- Refine work through the use of format, arrange, and insert functions
- Use Word Art function
- Use advanced functions of Word
- Use the scroll bar to move up and down, left and right
- Understand copyright laws
- Understand and use appropriate bibliography skills to credit researched information, use of images and website information
- Use technology to research information
- Use Excel, PowerPoint and other Office applications to present information
- Utilize technological tools in all areas of curricular study

This highlights guide does not contain the complete curriculum. It is meant to be an overview of the content taught. Many additional topics, skills, and standards are covered throughout the school year.



In Reading/Language Arts your child will:

- ♥ Exhibit comprehension through self-monitoring, questioning, visualization, predicting and making inferences
- ♥ Analyze literary elements and defining features of multiple works of literature
- ♥ Choose, discuss, interpret, and evaluate a variety of genres
- ♥ Provide one's own and discuss other's interpretive responses to diversity, American cultural heritage, and world cultures
- ♥ Evaluate text resources such as charts, tables, pictures, glossaries, indices, appendices etc.
- ♥ Select material for a specific purpose for reading
- ♥ Use effective reading strategies to achieve their purpose in reading
- ♥ Read interpret, and critically analyze literature
- ♥ Read and discuss literacy and nonliterary texts in order to understand human experience
- ♥ Read to acquire information
- ♥ Present information to a group
- ♥ Accept and use constructive criticism
- ♥ Distinguish between supported and unsupported statements
- ♥ Integrate setting, dialog, plot, characters, descriptive language, and a satisfying ending in a fictional piece of writing
- ♥ Compile, organize, and evaluate information, taking notes that record and summarize what has been learned
- ♥ Produce an organized written and oral report
- ♥ Integrate elements of the writing process automatically
- ♥ Apply grammar and spelling skills successfully

In Music your child will:

- ♥ Sing music written in two or three parts
- ♥ Compose short pieces of music
- ♥ Understand basic principles of meter, rhythm, tonality, intervals and harmonic expressions
- ♥ Make historical and cultural connections to music

In Health your child will:

- ♥ Apply nutritional concepts to food choices and disease prevention
- ♥ Describe the major parts and functions of the nervous system
- ♥ Know the benefits of early detection and treatment of disease
- ♥ Identify abstinence as the way to prevent pregnancy
- ♥ Describe how personal health goals are influenced by changing information, abilities, priorities and responsibilities
- ♥ Describe the effects of teratogens (toxins) on the developing fetus

In Physical Education your child will:

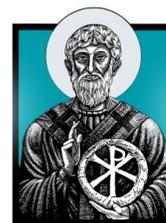
- ♥ Execute developmentally advanced movements patterns in modified versions of team and individual sports
- ♥ Understand how to execute appropriate offensive/defensive strategies
- ♥ Assess personal motor fitness status
- ♥ Select appropriate practice procedures to learn and master skills
- ♥ Find positive ways to exert independence
- ♥ Learn to play within the rules of a game or activity
- ♥ Know the importance of communication in dual and team sports
- ♥ Appreciates skilled movement of the body.

In Religion your child will:

- ♥ Recognize that there are angels who praise and serve God
- ♥ Recognize major periods in the Bible and in the history of the Catholic Church
- ♥ Recognize holy people of other faith traditions; Gandhi, Martin Luther King, Jr. etc
- ♥ Identifies the symbolic nature of the Sacraments with symbols in life
- ♥ Articulate the cycles of the Liturgical Year, including special feasts
- ♥ Identifies sacramental action is Scripture
- ♥ Describe experiences of conscience which signal what is right and what is wrong

In Spanish your child will:

- ♥ Demonstrate increased comprehension through recognition of key words in the Spanish language
- ♥ Refine understanding of the Spanish language
- ♥ Read and comprehend more complex written directions in Spanish
- ♥ Respond appropriately to commands in Spanish
- ♥ Recognize structural patterns in the Spanish language
- ♥ Use correct pronunciation, inflection, and intonation to convey meaning in Spanish
- ♥ Identify sentence structure comparisons to improve language skills in Spanish
- ♥ Identify and discuss major contributions and historical figures of the Spanish culture
- ♥ In Art your child will:
- ♥ Work independently and collaboratively to produce ideas and works of art
- ♥ Apply the principles and elements of art
- ♥ Explore the difference between the creative process and skill development
- ♥ Observe and discuss artworks
- ♥ Respect and be open to the opinion of others when discussing various artwork
- ♥ Explore various styles in art
- ♥ Plan and organize thoughts and ideas for personal artwork



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