

Celebrating over 50 Years of Excellence!

St. Rocco School

Sharing the Love of the Heart of Christ!

What Your Child Learns



A Parent's Guide to the *Grade Seven Curriculum*

CHRIST is the reason for this school.
~in our minds, on our lips, and always in our hearts~

At St. Rocco School, we promote a Catholic Education providing a rich spiritual, academic and social development of each child. We do this through a stimulating environment and a broad based and balanced core standard curriculum for each subject area in every grade level. Our curriculum will continuously undergo evaluation and updating.

Included but not limited to:

Empowering Writing Grades K-8

Foss Kits Grades K-8

STAR assessments are used regularly throughout the year as formative and interim testing to screen for reading and math achievement levels. They will be used once a year in April as nationally normed summative assessments. The assessments are computer based either being taken on a laptop, PC or tablet. The reports yield data in both disciplines in order for the teachers to identify differentiated classroom instructional strategies for individualized student progress in grades 2-8.

Next Generation Science Standards Grades 5-8

St. Rocco School is accredited by the New England Association for Schools and Colleges.

Please note that these curriculum guides provide only an overview of what your child will be learning and that the actual written curriculum is much more comprehensive.

What Your Child Learns

GRADE SEVEN CURRICULUM

Religion

Students will become aware that God made and loves us. They will appreciate themselves as gifts of God. They will examine what Catholics believe, how Catholics celebrate, live, and pray. As part of the Religion Program, the Circle of Grace Program will concentrate on recognizing safe and unsafe boundaries, and how to take action when boundaries are threatened or violated.

A few of the objectives to be covered are:

- ♥ Explain that key themes of the Good News are found in Scripture.
- ♥ Understand that new adult members are welcomed into the Church through a faith-formation process called the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA).
- ♥ Understand Catholics gather in the Eucharist to hear God's Word and celebrate God's presence with us.
- ♥ Recognize that Jesus told us that the greatest commandments of all are to love God with our whole heart and to love our neighbors as ourselves.
- ♥ Pray for openness and generous response to God's call in our lives.
- ♥ Learn that Chastity helps people to live according to God's plan.
- ♥ See that adolescence is a period of rapid growth, stimulates the search for self identity, and is a time when they will mature sexually.
- ♥ Understand that good communication is the key to family relationships.
- ♥ Learn to pray using Scripture.
- ♥ Understand what it means to follow Jesus in daily life.
- ♥ Achieve a good grasp of the sacraments.

Health

The students will study a variety of topics relating to personal and mental health, nutrition and fitness, harmful substances, human growth, disease and injury prevention, the importance of safety and community resources, and strategies for conflict resolution and stress management:

A few of the objectives are listed below:

- ♥ Identify the basic emotional needs of human beings and demonstrate awareness of how these needs can be met.

- ♥ Demonstrate socially acceptable habits and attitudes toward success and failure.
- ♥ Maintain a personal fitness and nutrition program.
- ♥ Differentiate between resting, target, and maximum heart rates.
- ♥ Analyze the six basic nutrients and their nutritional value.
- ♥ Differentiate between harmful and helpful substances.
- ♥ Demonstrate resistance skills.
- ♥ Understand the concepts from conception through birth.
- ♥ Understand the importance of abstinence.
- ♥ Discuss possible causes, symptoms, treatment, prevention, and transmission of certain infectious/non-infectious diseases.
- ♥ Know the danger/risk associated with alcohol and tobacco.
- ♥ Know ways to reduce negative pressure.
- ♥ Begin to learn appropriate CPR technique.
- ♥ Assess the messages of all media.
- ♥ Analyze “rights of consumers”.
- ♥ Design and evaluate a plan for resolving conflict.
- ♥ Demonstrate an awareness that resolving conflicts is a continuous process throughout maturation.
- ♥ Demonstrate methods of stress relief.

Math

Students will understand numbers and ways of representing numbers. They will demonstrate an understanding of classification, patterning and sequence. Students will recognize ways to measure objects, time, and money. Students will begin to demonstrate an understanding of data collection, display, and interpretation.

A few of the objectives are listed below:

- ♥ Operations with Decimals
- ♥ Comparing and ordering integers
- ♥ Operations with integers
- ♥ Order of operations and the Distributive property
- ♥ Mean, Median, and Mode
- ♥ Translating and evaluating algebraic expressions
- ♥ Solving algebraic equations using all four operations
- ♥ Two-Step algebraic equations
- ♥ Graphing and writing inequalities
- ♥ Solving inequalities using all four operations
- ♥ Compare and order fractions
- ♥ Find prime factorization.
- ♥ Exponents.
- ♥ Scientific notation
- ♥ Change fractions to decimals to percent and back.
- ♥ Ratios, rates, and proportions
- ♥ Percent applications
- ♥ Find area and perimeter of various geometric shapes.
- ♥ Lines, Planes, and Angles
- ♥ Apply the Pythagorean Theorem.
- ♥ Number sequences and function rules
- ♥ Compute simple and compound interest
- ♥ Graphing the in the coordinate plane
- ♥ Graphing linear equations and slope
- ♥ Translations, symmetry, reflections, and rotations
- ♥ Collecting survey data into spreadsheets
- ♥ Construct and interpret bar graphs, line graphs, and stem-leaf plots.
- ♥ Probability of compound events

- ♥ Permutations and combinations

Language Arts

Listening

- ♥ Develop vocabulary by listening to familiar and challenging selections read aloud.
- ♥ Listen to identify the purpose of a speaker's message: instructional materials, step by step directions, advertisements, and announcements.
- ♥ Infer outcomes and draw conclusions from orally presented material.
- ♥ Detect use of propaganda and over-generalizing.

Speaking

- ♥ Adapt content and formality of oral language to purpose and audience. Use speaking skills to persuade another person.

Reading

Literal Comprehension

- ♥ Draw the text together to identify explicit and implicit main ideas
- ♥ Understand the author's use of preface, prologue, and epilogue.

Inferential Comprehension

- ♥ Search for connections between what they know and the new information they encounter in the text they read.
- ♥ Identify elements of literary genres.
- ♥ Elaborate the story line to include the type of conflict.
- ♥ Recognize flashbacks and place them in the proper sequential order.
- ♥ Articulate the relationship between plot and theme.

Critical/Evaluative Thinking

- ♥ Evaluate the author's use of literary techniques.
- ♥ Compare/contrast characters within text and across texts.
- ♥ Make and support judgments that are warranted and reasonable.
- ♥ Think critically about an issue or dilemma raised in a story, explaining the problem, alternative courses of actions, and evaluate the writer's solution.
- ♥ Develop and accept multiple interpretations of a text.

Fluency

Word Recognition (Vocabulary)

- ♥ Understand meaning changes caused by the use of prefixes and suffixes.
- ♥ Use references and technology to build word meanings and confirm pronunciation.
- ♥ Solve verbal analogies.
- ♥ Identify colloquialisms.

Phonetic Analysis

- ♥ Apply phonics rules to decode unknown words.
- ♥ Use syllabication rules to decode unknown words.

Structural Analysis

- ♥ Utilize word study skills such as:
 - suffixes and prefixes
 - inflectional endings
 - possessives
 - irregular plurals

Study/Organizational Skills

- ♥ Follow multiple written directions.
- ♥ Develop a study schedule.
- ♥ Paraphrase information learned.
- ♥ Consistently utilize agenda to record homework and long term assignments.

Writing

Prewriting

- ♥ Use literature as a model/pattern for writing.
- ♥ Collect information from a variety of sources for research purposes.
- ♥ Select first or third person point of view, appropriate to the assignment.

Drafting

- ♥ Develop complex characters.
- ♥ Use a range of strategies, such as dialogue, tension or suspense, naming, and specific narrative action.
- ♥ Include sensory details and figurative language.
- ♥ Correctly cite direct quotations. (Also in Technology)

Revising

- ♥ Evaluate whether writing achieves its purpose.
- ♥ Avoid clichés and trite expressions.

Editing/Mechanics

- ♥ Identify and correct misspelled words.
- ♥ Correct errors in grammar and usage:
 - semicolon
 - colon
 - independent and dependent clauses
 - quotation marks in dialogue
 - transitive and intransitive verbs
 - active and passive voice

Publishing

- ♥ Prepare corrected copy for publication.
- ♥ Add illustrations or graphics, if appropriate with the use of technology
- ♥ Share writing with appropriate audiences.
- ♥
- ♥ Ask questions to draw others into conversation.
- ♥ Engage in creative dramatic activities using appropriate verbal and nonverbal communications (skits, pantomimes, plays, games).
- ♥ Develop interview skills.

Science

Students will continue to utilize the FOSS curriculum to engage in hands on learning about Earth, Life, and Physical Sciences. In grade 7, the topics covered include Earth history, populations and ecosystems, and chemical interactions

A few of the objectives to be covered are:

- ♥ Describe the characteristics of sedimentary rocks.
- ♥ Explain the forces which result in the formation of sediments.
- ♥ Construct an explanation that Earth's landforms are shaped by slow, persistent processes.
- ♥ Use evidence to identify the relative ages of sedimentary rock.
- ♥ Use evidence to describe that the geological processes that occur today are the same that occurred millions of years ago.
- ♥ Describe how the fossil record represents what we know about ancient life.
- ♥ Differentiate between the different layers of the Earth based on compositions and location.
- ♥ Describe the characteristics of igneous rock.

- ♥ Describe the relationship between where earthquakes and volcanoes are found and plate boundaries.
- ♥ Explain how the different movements of Earth's plate can result in the formation of different landforms.
- ♥ Describe the characteristics of metamorphic rock.
- ♥ Explain how rock is recycled through Earth (the rock cycle).
- ♥ Use observations and evidence to explain an area's geological story.
- ♥ Observe a population to determine what factors it needs in order for the population to grow and flourish.
- ♥ Describe the relationship among individuals, populations, communities, and abiotic factors within an ecosystem.
- ♥ Compare the different techniques scientists use to study a population.
- ♥ Identify and describe the defining characteristics of an ecosystem.
- ♥ Study an ecosystem and how biotic and abiotic factors interact to construct a food web.
- ♥ Describe the effect of light on the rate of photosynthesis.
- ♥ Explain how energy from sunlight is transferred through an ecosystem.
- ♥ Describe the variables that can limit the size of a population.
- ♥ Explain how human impact can influence an ecosystem's biodiversity.
- ♥ Use evidence to determine the properties and identity of an unknown mixture.
- ♥ Evaluate the components of a consumer product to identify the elements found within them.
- ♥ Utilize models to describe the properties of gas.
- ♥ Explain the phenomenon of expansion and contraction of matter in terms of kinetic energy.
- ♥ Investigate how kinetic energy is transferred between substances.
- ♥ Construct a device that limits the amount of energy transfer.
- ♥ Compare dissolving and melting.
- ♥ Describe phase change in terms of particle movement.

Art

Each student will be provided with an introduction to artists (their works, their techniques, their mediums, their struggles, and their perseverances) in an environment that encourages self-discovery and self-expression through artistic experimentation.

THEME: Artists Dream -- Tapping our inner resources for creative problem-solving

Focus of Lessons:

- ♥ Challenging our abilities by changing our habits
- ♥ The challenge of the third dimension
- ♥ Making art happen with distortion
- ♥ Memories and emotions – A personal journey of the spirit
- ♥ Working with juxtaposition
- ♥ Great literature literally inspires art
- ♥ Perspective in art as it relates to our lives
- ♥ Trash becomes treasure in an artist's eye
- ♥ Transporting ourselves through consuming imagery
- ♥ Seasonal projects/art work

Social Studies

The social studies curriculum is a survey of U.S. History from the earliest times to the age of exploration and colonization up to the beginning of the Civil War. Geographic knowledge of the United States, map, chart, and graph reading skills are woven throughout the curriculum. Special focus is given to the U.S. Constitution as the basis of the American system of government.

Music

All students in Grades 1 through 8 have general music once each week. The general music program introduces students to the following basic musical concepts: rhythm, melody, harmony, tone color, form, and expression. Students experience these concepts through singing, moving, and listening and apply them through performing and creating, both in the classroom and in liturgical settings throughout the school year.

Students explore various styles of music and recognize music from different historical periods. Music instruction is complemented by music learning software for Kindergarten through Grade Eight.

Our adopted music curriculum is *Making Music*, published by Silver-Burdett/Ginn, supplemented by *Music Alive*, a monthly magazine published by Cherry Lane for the Middle School.

Physical Education

All students at St. Rocco School have a balanced Physical Education program that gives them opportunities for vigorous activity, teaches skills, and stresses the importance of life-long fitness. Our Physical Education program reinforces our Christian values and social skills by providing opportunities for collaboration and good sportsmanship. Students in the Middle School participate in a wide variety of activities, games and sports. Students have the opportunities to utilize the skills developed at earlier grade levels in game and sport situations. They learn more advanced rules and strategies that can be implemented in game situations. In addition, students are provided ample opportunities to act as leaders within the class environment. The students also participate in the President's Challenge Physical Fitness Test each spring. For those interested, there is an intramural program offered to the students during their lunch recess that complements the physical education curriculum. While healthy competition is part of physical education, the emphasis remains on cooperation and participation.

Spanish

During this academic year Spanish will be offered in grade seven. Students will build upon the lessons that were introduced in grade six expanding in the following areas: grammar, spelling, pronunciation, and vocabulary. Spanish phrases will be introduced and taught. As the course progresses, it will provide essential information on Spanish verb formation, on the use of adjectives, nouns and their agreement, and on the conjugation of verbs ending in AR and ER. To be able to begin carry on a conversation using the vocabulary and verbs they have learned. To fully appreciate the language, aspects of Spain's culture will be taught.

Technology

The students will continue to use word processing and presentation software. They will continue to learn and use the Microsoft Excel program and the Microsoft Publisher program. Students will complete cross curriculum activities and projects, applying learned knowledge from their computer literacy lessons.
