

# Holy Savior Menard Central High School Junior High Course Curriculum Guide

## ART / FINE ARTS DEPARTMENT

**Art I** **1 high school credit**

**For HONOR Students:** This is a full year course for those students with exceptional talent in Art. This art opportunity helps students expand higher order thinking skills through rigorous dialogue, employing a wide variety of media and techniques in meaningful art-making experiences. Students develop a visual vocabulary; maintain a sketchbook journal, while advancing skills in keen observation, critical thinking, and evidential reasoning to become responsive communicators through visual expression, reading, writing, and speaking. Admission to this course is by applied admission before the start of the new school year. **Applicants must submit 3 pieces of work** - - 2 pencil drawings and 1 color drawing or painting. All entries must be submitted with registration application. **Corequisite: Student must be enrolled in English 8 Honors to take this course.**

## ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

### English 7

The course emphasizes the strengthening of basic skills in grammar and composition. Students become familiar with writing as a process as they improve their sentence and paragraph writing skills. Attention is placed upon the development of vocabulary and research skills. Outside reading is required.

### English 7 Honors/Accelerated Reader

The course emphasizes the relationship between grammar and composition. The students become familiar with writing as a process, and they become proficient in writing various types of paragraphs. Attention is placed upon the development of vocabulary and research skills. An increased amount of outside reading is required. **Prerequisite: Passing of the placement test for English, along with one of the following: current scores in the 86<sup>th</sup> percentile or above on standardized tests and previous English grades no lower than a B.**

### Enrichment 7

This course emphasizes individual and group work focusing on the following areas of enrichment: Reading/Study Skills, Spanish, Keyboarding, Drama. Students will explore a different area of enrichment each 9 weeks.

### English 8

The course emphasizes grammar and compositions. The students become familiar with writing as a process as they improve their sentence and paragraph writing skills. Attention is placed upon the development of vocabulary and research skills. Outside reading is required.

### Enrichment 8

This course emphasizes individual and group work focusing on the following two areas of enrichment: Advanced Reading/Comprehension Skills and Computer Literacy.

### English 8 Honors

The course emphasizes the development of advanced grammar skills with application in composition. Sentence and paragraph skills are improved with an introduction to essay writing. Vocabulary and research skills are further developed. An increased amount of outside reading is required. **Prerequisite: Based on standardized test scores (above 86<sup>th</sup> percentile) and previous English grades (no grade lower than a B).**

## FOREIGN LANGUAGES DEPARTMENT

**French I** **1 high school credit**

**For HONOR Students:** This course is offered to honors eighth grade students for high school credit. French I is designed for the student who has little or no previous foreign language education. This course introduces the basic grammar and pronunciation fundamentals. Active participation in reading, writing, listening, and speaking activities helps form the

foundation for oral and written communication. French culture is explored through class discussion. **Corequisite: Student must be enrolled in English 8 Honors to take this course.**

### Spanish I

**1 high school credit**

**For HONOR Students:** This course is offered to honors eighth grade students for high school credit. Spanish I is an introduction to basic conversational skills through the instruction of grammar, vocabulary, and pronunciation fundamentals. Active oral use of the language is stressed in contextual situations as well as through the development of reading, writing, and listening skills. Introduction of Spanish culture is also incorporated through class discussion and individual projects. **Corequisite: Student must be enrolled in English 8 Honors to take this course.**

## MATHEMATICS DEPARTMENT

### Math 7

This course includes skill development in basic arithmetic functions with introduction to algebraic and geometric concepts. Selected concepts of Pre-Algebra will be covered.

### Math 7 Honors

In the first quarter students will work with four fundamental operations on whole numbers, fractions, decimals and addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division equations using these. The remaining three quarters are designed to learn about operations with integers including equations, ratio, proportion, percent, some geometry including perimeter, area, volume, graphing equations and other topics of Algebra. **Prerequisite: Passing of the placement test for Math, along with one of the following: current scores in the 86<sup>th</sup> percentile or above on standardized tests and previous Math grades no lower than a B.**

### Pre-Algebra

In the first quarter students will work with four fundamental operations on whole numbers, fractions, decimals, and addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division equations using these. The remaining three quarters are designed to learn about operations with integers including equations, ratio, proportion, percent, some geometry including perimeter, area, volume, graphing equations and other topics of Algebra.

### Algebra I Honors

**1 high**

**school credit**

Algebra I (H) is the first course in a college-preparatory program. Students will develop skills to solve linear equations and inequalities in one variable, to factor polynomials, to reduce and perform operations on algebraic fractions, and to graph and solve linear equations, quadratic equations and radicals. If time permits, some time is given to introductory probability. **Prerequisite: Based on standardized test scores (above 86<sup>th</sup> percentile) and previous Math grades (no grade lower than a B)**

## PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT

### Health And Physical Education

This course is taken by students in the 7<sup>th</sup>- 8<sup>th</sup> grades. It consists of basic skills in team sports, physical fitness, and health education. CPR is also taught. Lifetime sports will also be covered. Courses will be designed to fit the individual student's ability.

## RELIGION DEPARTMENT

### Religion 7

*Fall Semester*

The student will discover, through a study of the Sacraments, the importance of the role of grace in each person's life. By looking at the Covenants and God's act of reaching out to mankind to bless each, students will come to better appreciate the Sacrament which Jesus establishes. The ministry of Christ continues through the Church and each person is able to encounter Jesus through the Sacraments. Students will also study the value and power of the Holy Spirit. **Textbook used: *The Life of Grace* (3rd Edition, Ignatius Press)**

*Spring Semester (4<sup>th</sup> Quarter)*

Building on the need for grace, the Sacraments, and the Holy Spirit, an academic quarter is devoted to helping each

student come to a deeper knowledge of who he/she is as an image of God. Utilizing Blessed John Paul II's "Theology of the Body", the student will grow in the awareness of his/her value and worth as a loved, and therefore, dignified child of God. The instruction is geared towards building self-esteem and respect for one's own person/body. With this knowledge, the student is then given the tools necessary to assist him/her in interpersonal relationships – to love others as God loves each person. The overall goal of the "Theology of the Body" is to help each student live a life rooted in chaste love so as to afford respect for self and others. (To enable full participation, a parent session is held before this course work begins so that parent(s)/guardian(s) can take an active role in this important process of independent growth). **Textbook used:** *Theology of the Body for Teens: Middle School Ed.* (Ascension Press)

## Religion 8

### *Fall Semester*

The student will deepen his/her understanding and appreciation of the Church. Examining the history of the Church from the community of disciples and the spreading of the Good News to the present day, each student will discover the presence of the Holy Spirit as he guides the Church and inspires Her members. The student will learn the value of prayer in relationship with God and how each one can bring about the fullness of the Kingdom Jesus preaches in his/her life. **Textbook used:** *Our Life in the Church* (3rd Edition, Ignatius Press)

### *Spring Semester*

The main objective of this course is to improve character and leadership traits by developing critical thinking, building basic skills, emphasizing positive changes in attitude and promoting essential components of character and leadership. To accomplish this objective: (1) students will complete readings about one positive role model each week, (2) successful community leaders will speak to the class about their achievements, failures and life-lessons, (3) the instructor will utilize various forms of pop-culture to demonstrate core components of character traits and (4) students will be given different opportunities to apply the concepts of the course to their personal lives, academic competencies and future goals. **Textbook used:** *Hoedel, Joseph (2005). Role Models: Examples of Character and Leadership*

## SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

### Science 7

This course is an overview of the biosphere to include varieties of life, conditions for life, and life-sustaining processes of all living things from single-cell organisms to the human body.

### Science 7 Honors (Life and Earth Science)

This course is an overview of the biosphere to include varieties of life, conditions for life, and life- sustaining processes of all living things from single-cell organisms to the human body. Major topics in Science 8 including mapping, meteorology, astronomy, etc. will also be discussed. Students will participate in the Holy Savior Menard Science Fair; winners will participate in the regional and state fairs. This course is designed for the student who will schedule physical science in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Students must be able to write well and work independently. **Prerequisite: Passing of the placement test for Science, along with one of the following: current scores in the 86<sup>th</sup> percentile or above on standardized tests and previous Science grades no lower than a B.**

### Science 8

This course is based upon geology of the earth including mapping, matter, minerals, and changes that occur. It also includes other topics that describe the earth as a planet such as weather, erosion, environment, and the universe.

### Physical Science Honors

**1 high school credit**

This course includes a general study of the principles of basic chemistry and physics with a greater emphasis on the mathematical approach. Topics include energy, mechanics, work, electricity, types of chemical reactions and solutions. **Prerequisite: Based on standardized test scores (above 86<sup>th</sup> percentile) and previous Science and Math grades (no grade lower than a B).**

## SOCIAL STUDIES DEPARTMENT

### Louisiana History

This 7<sup>th</sup> grade course offers the student the opportunity to study the unique story of Louisiana. It includes all aspects of the social sciences, beginning with the geographic setting and ending with modern Louisiana. The course content gives the student a better understanding of Louisiana's history and development. All students participate in the Geography Bee.

### American Studies

This 8<sup>th</sup> grade course is an overview of American history from the beginnings of the nation through 1877. Elements of

geography and map reading skills are also presented and used. Emphasis is placed on reading information, outlining, and taking notes. Students are required to participate in the Holy Savior Menard Social Studies Fair, working with the English department in the process of writing the research paper itself; winners will participate in the regional and state fairs.