

## **Curriculum**

### **Religion**

The goal of our catechetical efforts is to foster an environment that helps a Catholic Christian develop in knowing, practicing and continuing to grow in the understanding of the teachings of Jesus and of the Catholic Church that we inherited from Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition. It is in the Catholic Christian community, in its prayer and sacred liturgies and in its lived experience, that students will continue to learn how to live the challenge of the Catholic faith so as to help build God's Kingdom of justice, peace, and love.

The course of study offers four standards in the areas of: Sacred Scripture; Sacred Tradition; Prayer Liturgy and Sacraments; and Baptismal Call to Dignity, Relationship, Moral Decision Making and Service. Under each standard are major objectives for that specific area. These objectives are placed on a chart showing when they are to be introduced, developed, mastered, and maintained. Each of these objectives has grade level indicators which show what students in that grade should know and what skills they should practice.

Students at St. Mary School attend morning Mass on a grade level rotating basis every two weeks and attend a monthly all-school Mass in addition to Benediction on a quarterly basis. Students in grades 3 – 8 are provided the opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation twice a year and participate in the Stations of the Cross and seasonal prayer services. Students in the second grade prepare and receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist for the first time and Confirmation is administered in the eighth grade.

Every day at St. Mary's begins with prayer. Students also pray as they begin different academic classes. All students are encouraged to participate in service learning projects and religious values and lessons are integrated into every aspect of the school day.

### **Mathematics**

The goal of mathematics is to produce mathematically literate individuals who can function in a world of increasing moral and technological complexity. To meet this challenging goal, the students in the Diocese of Columbus Catholic Schools will need to develop problem-solving skills as well as employ the knowledge of their Catholic faith. Students are presented with a sequential development of mathematical concepts. The Mathematics Course of Study for the Diocese and the Academic Content Standards for the State of Ohio are the foundation of all instruction, assessment and evaluation. The math program involves an interplay among strands in numbers and number concepts, computation and estimation, algebra, geometry, data analysis, measurement, and problem solving. Students see mathematics as an interdisciplinary problem solving tool and as a

critical skill for providing a variety of career options, as a universal language and as an art.

## **Science**

The purpose of science education in our Catholic Schools is to facilitate learning so students will actively apply scientific knowledge and skills to contemporary, technological, moral, and social issues. This is accomplished by recognizing God's design and promoting personal responsibility.

The science curriculum provides minds-on, as well as hands-on opportunities for students to become scientifically literate. The board areas covered include Life Science, Earth Science and Physical Science. It will also build a foundation for life-long discovery in science as well as other disciplines.

## **Language Arts**

Communication skills are among the most critical skills our students learn. The ability to read, write, listen, view, speak, and utilize informational and technological resources has a direct bearing on the quality of their lives. More than any other, the ability to communicate defines the parameters of a student's potential to learn in the future. The skills become art when students are able to apply the communication skills they have learned in an integrated fashion and in conjunction with other academic disciplines.

Language learning occurs in a literate environment where students read, write, listen, view, and utilize technology for real purposes and audiences as well as for traditional purposes. Students surrounded by all forms of integrated language will become competent in all the language processes.

Our teachers take an integrated, balanced approach to language arts instruction. Their knowledge of current research in language arts, child development, and Catholic teaching guide their selection of materials and choice of instructional methods.

## **Social Studies**

Through the study of people, places, events, and issues of the social sciences, the students at St. Mary School become active, participating citizens and decision makers in a diverse society. As an integrative core of the curriculum, cultural studies, geography, economics, political science, and civics all come to life. It is through active learning and discussing the social sciences that the student can examine world events through the lens of Catholic Social Teaching. The student will emerge as a knowledgeable, thoughtful, and discerning citizen who is prepared to actively shape the future of the nation, local and global communities, and the Catholic Church.

## **Physical Education**

Physical education is an integral part of the total educational program and contributes to the wellness of the whole child – physically, intellectually, emotionally, spiritually, and socially. It provides a continuous developmental program of physical activities that promotes fitness, critical thinking skills, self-confidence and social maturity. The objective of physical education is to promote the importance of being physically fit and for the student to understand the benefits of lifelong physical activities.

## **Health**

The purpose of health education is to enable students to integrate the social, physical, and mental/emotional health dimensions and achieve and maintain a quality lifestyle. Health education is a partnership between the home and the school that encompasses the total well being of the student, including the spiritual dimensions.

Health education enables students to make informed decisions, based upon Catholic values that will enhance their capacity for growth, their reverence for life, their self respect and their respect for others. Students need to be well informed. They must be aware of available resources and appropriate technology and possess the skills to use them in order to make good decisions that are the basis for a healthy lifestyle.

## **Visual Arts and Music**

Music and Art education experiences lead students to experience the power of sung prayer and the joy of expressing faith through music and the signs and symbols of our Catholic faith as expressed in sacred art; represent the most telling imprint of any civilization and serve as records of history, expressions, and beliefs; recognize symbol systems which people use to create, communicate, express, and acquire understanding; represent forms of thinking and ways of knowing by participation in the world through cognitive and sensory experiences; embody the deepest expression of humanity; integrate all facets of daily life experiences: worship, education, community, and work; and understand the connections among the arts, other academic disciplines, and life experiences.