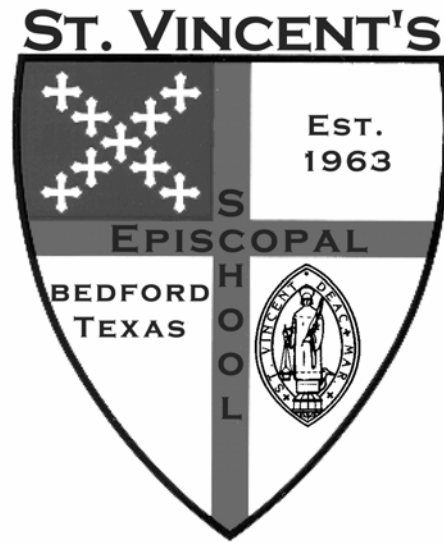


St. Vincent's Cathedral School



Curriculum and Course Guide Middle School

2008-2009

Middle School Course Guide

St. Vincent's Middle School is an extension of the strong academic programs built in the Lower School and a bridge to the college-preparatory curriculum in the Upper School. It is comprised of sixth through eighth grades.

The school affirms the standard of excellence through accreditation in the Southwestern Association of Episcopal Schools (SAES) and recognition by the National Association of Independent Schools. St. Vincent's superior academic reputation is validated by national standardized test scores; the entire 7th grade class of 2004 qualified for the Duke Talent Identification Program. The faculty members are all degreed and many hold advanced degrees. The educational experience is structured to develop a mastery of subject matter as well as a lifelong love of learning. The faculty models the love of learning through continuing education and professional growth.

All students study language arts, mathematics, science, history, foreign language, and electives. The elective schedule may include art, music, band, choir, drama, religion, and computer technology. In addition to academic and artistic endeavors, all Middle School students take a physical education course to promote physical fitness and to prepare them for interscholastic athletic opportunities. Holding to the tenets of Anglican education, community service is an integral part of the Middle School. Students are required to perform a minimum 20 hours of community service each year.

To supplement their classroom studies, students take field trips to museums, concerts, and points of interest in the Dallas/ Fort Worth area. Class trips, social and extracurricular activities, Student Council, Astra Club, and National Junior Honor Society, not only enhance the academic experience of Middle School students but also foster independence and provide for valuable opportunities to forge new friendships.

The curricula and activities of the Middle School are designed to prepare students for a rigorous college-preparatory program in grades nine through twelve. St. Vincent's Middle School provides a challenging, yet nurturing, environment where students are encouraged to take pride in their accomplishments and responsibility for their actions.

St. Vincent's succeeds with its own unique vision: *Educating Mind, Body, and Spirit in the Anglican Tradition*.

Language Arts

The Middle School Language Arts curriculum concentrates on the interrelated study of grammar, literature, vocabulary, and composition. Each successive year reinforces, strengthens, and expands upon the skills learned the previous year. The program provides students with a method for developing skills in two key areas for academic success: writing and critical reading.

The study of grammar and vocabulary forms an integral part of Middle School Language Arts. With a competent command of grammar and a growing vocabulary, students are able to meet the demand for good clear communication skills, both written and oral.

Students develop critical reading skills by exploring novels, poetry, short stories, essays, biographies, and autobiographies which represent various historical and cultural perspectives. The integrated curriculum helps students learn strategies for comprehending and analyzing texts, and gain an understanding that literature can be a vehicle for making sense of human

experiences.

History

World History

To understand today's world, it is important to learn about the past. Students will learn how the ideas, events, and people of the past have shaped our lives. In each unit students will study the geography, history, culture, government, and economics of the period being studied. Along with the textbook, students will use maps, charts, multimedia, and technology to discover information about the topic.

Texas History

Texas History introduces students to the important geographical dimension, cultural diversity, and significant role of Texas in American history. Students build on their foundations of map reading, geographical terminology, and important locations that allow them to master political, social, and economic concepts. In chronological sequence, students gain a broad perspective on the history of Texas. Detailed studies of individuals and events underscore the uniqueness and diversity of Texas and its inhabitants. Student research papers link historical knowledge to contemporary information.

United States History

The study of American History furnishes a wealth of material to help students appreciate the cultural diversity of the United States. In American History, The Early Years to 1877, students receive a broad view of the people and events that have contributed to the foundation of this country and our system of democracy. Students will use a variety of sources in the study of American history such as: the textbook, maps, charts, multimedia, and technology.

The Foundations of Western Civilization

This course is taken by both seventh and eighth graders and moves between a focus on ancient Greece and ancient Rome in alternate years. During the 2006-07 school year in "The Foundations of Western Civilization – Greece" students learn the Greek alphabet and study the impact of the Greek language upon English. They also learn about the art and architecture of the ancient Hellenic world. Most importantly, they study the influential ancient authors in their own words (in English translation). The syllabus includes Homer's *Odyssey* and selections from Hesiod's *Theogony*, the fables of Aesop, the dialogues of Plato, the lectures of Aristotle, and the histories of Thucydides and an abbreviated version of *Antigone* by Sophocles. During the 2007 - 2008 academic year seventh and eighth graders will undertake a similar study of the Latin language and the culture of the ancient Roman Empire. In each class we return again and again to the question of how the ideas of the ancient Greeks and Romans continue to affect our contemporary world.

Math

Sixth Grade

Sixth grade mathematics develops students' skills in the basic operations of whole numbers, fractions, and decimals. Other topics include number theory, ratio, proportion, measurement, geometry, probability, statistics, and graphing. Students strengthen their skills through the use of application problems. Students use calculators and computers to facilitate learning of such concepts. Class instruction includes short exercises for skill maintenance, concept development, mental computation, and problem solving.

Seventh Grade

Seventh grade mathematics further develops students' skills in the operations of whole numbers, integers, fractions, and decimals. Students engage in activities to promote the learning of number theory, geometry, measurement, probability, statistics, ratio, and proportion. Students use calculators and computers to facilitate learning such concepts. Instruction includes introductory exercises for skill maintenance, concept development, mental computation, and problem solving. Students develop concepts and skills necessary for Algebra.

Eighth Grade

Pre-Algebra shifts the students' perspective from manipulative skills to a broader curriculum. Students explore algebra, geometry, and other areas of mathematics in verbal, tabular, graphical, and symbolic form. Problem-solving activities and applications are used to encourage students to model patterns and relationships with variables and functions and to construct, draw, measure, and classify geometric objects. Students use graphing calculators and computer software to facilitate their learning. During class, students review previous concepts, obtain new information, and practice newly learned skills.

Algebra I covers real numbers, open sentences in one and two variables, graphing linear functions, polynomials and factoring, exponents and radicals, quadratic equations, systems of equations, inequalities, absolute value, relations and functions in general, coordinate geometry, and the basic trigonometric functions. Throughout the course, emphasis is placed on methods of handling applied problems. Care is taken to develop an understanding of the fundamental concepts, beginning with the system of whole numbers and concluding with the system of real numbers.

Science

Earth Science

Earth Science presents a study of the Earth and its place in the Universe. Students are introduced to geology through study of Earth's chemical composition, rocks and minerals, land erosion and deposition, and various tectonic forces. Students study oceanography, meteorology, and astronomy, in addition to geology.

A laboratory section promotes accurate observations, data collection and analysis, safe manipulation of laboratory equipment and materials, and proper presentation and discussion of results.

In the laboratory section of Earth Science, students will be involved in projects about the oil and

space industry, seismology, and topography.

Life Science

Life Science develops the students' abilities in the scientific method, research, and analytical reasoning. Students study various life forms inhabiting our planet and the life processes and body systems of these organisms.

The laboratory section also further develops accurate observations, data collection and analysis, safe manipulation of laboratory equipment and materials, along with proper laboratory techniques.

In the laboratory section of Life Science, students will be introduced to comparative anatomy through the dissection and study of various simple and complex animals. Students will also be challenged with DNA fingerprinting and genetics activities.

Integrated Physical Science

Integrated Physical Science emphasizes the scientific method and research skills while introducing students to the chemical and physical worlds of matter in our Universe. The course is divided into two areas of study: chemistry and physics. Students will explore Newton's laws and chemical reactions in the laboratory section of the course. Labs allow students to identify experimental variables, unknowns, and sources of error. Students master the skills of observation, collection and analysis of data, the safe use of laboratory equipment, and proper lab techniques.

Foreign Language

Spanish Sixth Grade

Sixth grade students continue with Spanish as the language component of the curriculum.

Students begin a more formal study of the language by learning to conjugate verbs using a systematic, logical approach.

The process goes beyond the rote memorization that is commonly associated with the study of verbs and their tenses. Students are given social, philosophical, as well as linguistic reasons and applications for the use of verbs.

Physical Education

Physical Education enables students to improve their own physical performance, and discover self-potential; encourages students to develop knowledge and understanding of activities through analyzing performances; develops social and communication skills; and encourages students to develop a sense of responsibility for themselves and others.

Team sports are introduced. Students develop and utilize skills associated with individual, dual, and team sports. This helps promote sportsmanship and appropriate competitive attitudes towards teammates, opponents and officials. Students develop an appreciation for teamwork and fair play, as well as the display of appropriate participation etiquette. Members of the teams are held responsible for representing the school at all times.

Sports available at St. Vincent's may include softball/baseball, co-ed flag football, girls'

volleyball, boys' and girls' basketball, co-ed soccer and track.

Physical Education is taught in a comfortable environment. Students will develop the self confidence to understand the value of teamwork in order to solve problems or other desired tasks.

Electives

Students may choose from the following list of elective classes. Elective choices may vary from year to year depending on student population.

Art	Music
Band	Religion
Drama	Journalism

High School Course Guide

The development of each student's mind, body and spirit begins in preschool and continues through their senior year. St. Vincent's safe and nurturing atmosphere communicates, above all, that learning is valued. The preschool through 12th grade curriculum provides the opportunity for intellectual growth and curiosity, developing sound character, and instills an appreciation of one's role in society. Learning the value of honesty, the dignity of hard work, and respect for others forms the foundation of self-esteem, self-respect, and lifelong academic and personal success.

St. Vincent's Upper School is committed to providing students with an excellent college preparatory experience. The prescribed graduation requirements are as follows: English (4 credits), Math (3 credits), Social Studies (4 credits), Foreign Language (3 credits), Science (4 credits), Religion (1 credit), Fine Arts (1 credit), Physical Education (1 1/2 credits), Computer Applications (1 credit), Speech (1/2 credit), and Electives (3 credits).

Freshman Year

English 1

This course will challenge students to explore a body of World Literature via critical reading, discussion, reflection, and analysis. Students will be guided to develop their critical thinking, written, and verbal expressions skills. Students will conduct literary research and further refine their research skills. Literature study will be supplemented with grammar and linguistic development through grammar lessons, vocabulary development, and essay composition.

Algebra I

This course is designed to prepare students for advanced level studies of mathematics. Topics include real numbers, variables, functions, graphing, equations and inequalities, polynomials, rational expressions, linear equations, exponents, radicals, and word problems.

or

Geometry

This course introduces basic geometric definitions and properties which students use to develop proof-writing skills. These skills are necessary as students review and expand on concepts of parallel and perpendicular lines; triangles, quadrilaterals, and other polygons; circles; congruence and inequalities; area and perimeter (circumference) of polygons (circles); and surface area and volume of solids. The course further develops students' mathematical abilities by exploring concepts related to Algebra II and Trigonometry.

Biology

This course develops students' skills in the scientific method, research, and analytical thinking. Students learn laboratory skills as an integral part of their study of the scientific method. Lab experiments include the use of microscopes, models, and dissections. Students integrate lab results to recognize and apply the concepts presented in class.

World Geography

This course examines people, places, and environments at local, regional, national, and international scales from the spatial and ecological perspectives of geography. Students develop an understanding of the relationship of geography to events of the past and present.

Spanish I

The course is an introduction to advanced level language study. Students will be challenged to demonstrate competency in four primary areas: reading, writing, listening, and speaking. Cultural content is an important part of the course and the student is expected to demonstrate an understanding and appreciation of cultural events and traditions.

or

Latin I

This course is an introduction to advanced level language study. Students will be challenged to demonstrate competency in reading and writing. Cultural content is an important part of the course and the student is expected to demonstrate an understanding and appreciation of historical events and traditions.

Physical Education

This course provides a positive experience with physical activities so students will continue to be active and maintain their fitness throughout their lives.

Elective: (1 credit)

Sophomore Year

English II

The students work toward the acquisition of expository, analytical writing skills, while at the same time begin to develop a personal voice through writing persuasive essays. World literature study allows students to develop new skills for closer textual analysis. Vocabulary study will continue with an emphasis on language skills associated with the PSAT.

Geometry

This course introduces basic geometric definitions and properties which students use to develop proof-writing skills. These skills are necessary as students review and expand on concepts of parallel and perpendicular lines; triangles, quadrilaterals, and other polygons; circles; congruence and inequalities; area and perimeter (circumference) of polygons (circles); and surface area and volume of solids. Students will further develop their mathematical abilities by exploring concepts related to Algebra II and Trigonometry.

or

Algebra II

This course is designed to strengthen algebra skills and introduce higher order mathematical concepts in preparation for a study of calculus.

World History

Students study historical developments across all continents and develop an understanding of the major world cultures and their impact on today's society.

Chemistry

This course provides the student with a thorough introduction to the nature, structure, and interaction of matter. Qualitative and quantitative laboratory experiences are utilized to explore the concepts presented during class discussions as well as develop analytical skills. Mathematical and problem solving skills are enhanced and defined.

Latin II

This course is a continuation of the skills introduced in Latin I. Historical content is enhanced by a variety of activities.

or

Spanish II

The course is a continuation of the skills introduced in Spanish I. Cultural content is enhanced by a variety of activities.

Physical Education:

(½ year) (see previous)

Electives: (1 ½ credits)

Junior Year

Algebra II

This course is designed to strengthen algebra skills and introduce higher order mathematical concepts in preparation for a study of calculus.

or

Pre Calculus

This course covers a variety of mathematical topics that strengthen and expand the necessary skills for a high level study of calculus.

English III

Students will study representative writers, works, and themes in American literature from the earliest writings to the modern era. Emphasis is placed on written and oral analyses of reading assignments. Vocabulary study is drawn from 1000 Most Important Words with additional emphasis on language skill associated with the SAT and PSAT.

or

AP Language and Composition

This course, as specified in College Board publications, is a full year introductory college English course in the reading and critical analysis of a variety of literature.

Physics

This course is designed to challenge the student to apply mathematical concepts to the study of natural phenomena. The course includes lab work utilizing graphical interpretation of data and assessment of experimental uncertainty.

AP Latin III

The course, as specified by the College Board publications, is an advanced study of literature and historical events.

or

Spanish III

Students focus on building vocabulary, refining basic grammar skills, covering more sophisticated grammar, and continuing their study of culture.

U.S. History

This course surveys the major trends, events, and personalities in American history from Reconstruction to the present. Students will examine historical trends and documents and relate them to contemporary political and social institutions.

or

AP U.S. History

The course, as specified by the College Board publications, begins with the discovery and settlement of North America and continues through the twentieth century in the context of college level academic expectations.

Electives: (2 credits)

Senior Year

English IV

The course focuses on the study of British literature with emphasis on close, critical reading and oral and written analysis of the selections. The teacher uses vocabulary study and grammar review throughout the year to enhance the effectiveness of students' writing.

or

AP Literature and Composition

This course, as specified in College Board publications, is a full year introductory college English course focusing on the close reading and analysis of poetry, prose, and drama and on students' written responses to what they read.

AP Calculus

The course begins with a review of important topics and proceeds to a study of the standard topics of a first semester college course.

U.S. Government

This course is a survey of the American political system, constitutional policies, and decision making process. Student will study the United States Constitution with emphasis on the basic foundations of the American government and the inalienable rights of its citizens.

Economics

This course presents a thorough study of macroeconomic and microeconomic theory and provides an introduction to business finance and world market structures.

Electives: (4 credits)

Electives:

9th Band Chorus Drama Journalism Religion	10th Band Chorus Drama Religion Technology Writing Lab	Art	Art Journalism
11th Art Band Chorus Computer Science Creative Writing Drama Journalism Religion Speech Technology Writing Lab	12th Art Band Chorus Computer Science Creative Writing Drama Journalism Religion Speech Technology Writing Lab AP Science AP Spanish Internship Calculus		

Required elective classes are: Fine Art (1 credit), Technology Application (1 credit), Religion (1 credit), and Speech (1/2 credit). Elective choices may vary from year to year depending on student population.