



ST. JOSEPH

CATHOLIC SCHOOL

6-8th Grade Profile

Classes Available	<p>Two section per grade</p> <p>The Upper School, grades 6-8, are taught in a departmentalized manner. Each grade has two classes and each class is assigned a homeroom teacher. Students rotate on a bell system to various instructors.</p>
Teachers	<p>Mrs. Norma Ivy – Spanish; 6th grade homeroom</p> <p>Ms. Shannon Connors - Science; 6th grade homeroom</p> <p>Sr. Mary Anthony Nguyen, OP- Religion; 7th grade homeroom</p> <p>Mrs. Kimberly Coomer - Social Studies; 7th grade homeroom</p> <p>Mrs. Judy Gavin - Math; 8th grade homeroom</p> <p>Mrs. Toni Pouttu – Language Arts; 8th grade homeroom</p>
Class Size	Maximum 25 students
Religion	<p>Upper School Religion classes each have their own focus.</p> <p>Sixth grade focuses on the Old Testament using Sadlier’s <i>We Believe: We are God’s People</i>. They study the history of our Jewish brothers and sisters and all that leads to the coming of Christ. From the Creation to the Judges, 6th graders will experience the world of the Old Testament and the prophecy of the coming Messiah.</p> <p>Seventh grade studies Sadlier’s <i>We Live Our Faith: As Disciples of Jesus</i>. Students learn to experience Christ on a personal level, learn about the life of Christ and His Apostles, and finally the Seven Sacraments, instituted by Christ for us to experience the Sacred on Earth.</p> <p>Eighth grade examines the History of the Catholic Church with Sadlier’s <i>We Love Our Faith: As Members of the Church</i>. From the beginnings of Our Church at Pentecost through centuries of change, 8th graders learn the true teachings of the Church and Her part in their lives.</p> <p>At times, we will pray outside in the Rosary Garden or take trips to St. Joseph’s chapel and sanctuary. We learn the value of spending quiet time alone with Jesus. We learn the importance of helping out with the Mass as well as with service projects like garage sales and canned food drives. We rely on prayer, Scripture, and the teachings in the Catechism to assist our learning.</p>



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Language Arts	<p>Students will study literature, grammar, writing, and vocabulary during the Language Arts class. The writing will be in reflection and an extension of the grammar we study and the literature we read. The students will develop proficiency for comprehending a variety of texts for thinking critically, creatively, and analytically. Various literary genres include, but not limited to, fiction, nonfiction, folklore, poetry, and drama. Students will also read grade appropriate novels and work across the curriculum to strengthen students' understanding and interest. They will write informatively, descriptively, persuasively, and narratively. In addition, each grade level will learn the techniques required of research through technology and create essays reflective of their work. Finally, students will learn Latin & Greek Roots to enrich the curriculum by using words in context, applying synonyms and antonyms, and breakdown word meanings.</p>
8 th Grade Accelerated Language Arts	<p>Accelerated English uses advanced reading materials as a springboard for a concentration on writing. Students will analyze novels over and above the literature required of all 8th graders. Students will likewise cover at a faster pace the grammar and mechanics required of English students. This program requires classroom and independent study, with an emphasis on creativity and imagination. Students will be challenged to reach their fullest potential by developing their English skills to the highest level.</p>
Spanish	<p>The Upper School Spanish program at SJCS follows the <u>World Language Curriculum Standards</u> set forth by the University of Loyola's Center for Catholic School Effectiveness. These achievement standards, as well as our student objectives, fall within the following strands: Communication, Cultures, Connections, Comparisons among Cultures, and Communities. Every lesson utilizes all four language modes: reading, writing, listening, and speaking. The textbook series <i>¡Avancemos!</i> (Levels 1 and 2) by Holt McDougal is used to support our curriculum standards.</p> <p>Sixth and seventh grade classes master all grammar concepts in the present tense and some past tense while building upon the vocabulary previously learned in the PreK-5 Spanish program. Eighth grade branches into using more of the past, future, and conditional tenses with a strong focus on original self-expression in the language. All classes participate in student-centered learning activities that foster students' confidence, creativity, and accuracy in language expression. Students also explore many different Spanish-speaking cultures and</p>



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	<p>think critically about their similarities, differences, and connections to their own community and Catholic beliefs. Teaching methodologies and technology used in the classroom include: TPR (Total Physical Response), TPRS (Teaching Proficiency through Reading and Storytelling), Games, Chants/Songs, Conversational Drills, online WebQuests, computer-based practice and project resources, and the Promethean Flipcharts, ActivBoard, and ActivExpression learner response system.</p>
Math - General	<p>Math is offered at several levels, 6th grade math, Pre-Algebra and Algebra I. Pre-Algebra is offered to all 7th grade students – in two ways; one class consists of top math students and moves at a rapid pace allowing them to move onto Algebra I in 8th grade. The other Pre-Algebra class moves at the pace of the students and continues into their 8th grade year. Graphing calculators are used in all Upper School classes to assist in our math program.</p>
Math - 6 th	<p>Sixth grade math covers problem solving and graphing; decimals, fractions and ratios – adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing them; proportions and percents; geometry – area and volume; algebra – adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing integers; algebra – solve equations; probabilities</p>
Math - Pre-Algebra	<p>Pre-Algebra covers algebra – adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing integers, solving equations and inequalities solving two-step and multi-step equations and inequalities; ratios, proportions and percents; statistics and probability; geometry; measurement – area and volume; trigonometry; polynomials</p>
Math - Algebra	<p>Algebra covers solving expressions, equations and functions; solving linear equations and inequalities as well as systems of linear equations and inequalities; graphing – relations and functions; polynomials; factoring; quadratic equations and exponential functions; trigonometry; rational and radical expressions and equations</p>
Science	<p>The Upper School science program consists of an integrated curriculum which allows students to sample a variety of fields. These fields include: life science (biology), physical science (chemistry/physics), and Earth science.</p> <p>In sixth grade, our program covers Earth science. The students will learn about the geosphere, hydrosphere, atmosphere and biosphere and understand the interactions between all of these. They will also develop their fundamental laboratory skills by constructing a to-scale model of the Earth's structure, observing, documenting and predicting weather patterns, as well as discovering fresh water resources and how to preserve our precious resources. They also study the sun, moon, and planets and how each of those affects the others.</p> <p>In seventh grade, our program covers life science, or biology. This year focuses on cells and how they work together to create larger body systems. The</p>



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	<p>students will discover how our body systems complete their specific task, as well as how all of the systems work together. While studying the reproductive system, we also transition into heredity and genetics, and finally discover how organisms work together in different ecosystems. Students will experience laboratory activities such as dissections, microscopic observations, and identifying organisms in different local habitats.</p> <p>Our eighth graders study physical science, or chemistry and physics. They will develop an understanding of matter, energy and the elements of the periodic table. Students will observe endothermic and exothermic chemical reactions, and identify the energy transformations that take place. In the second half of the year, students will become familiar with forces, motion, energy and waves. Several laboratory opportunities will allow them to calculate the speed and velocity of objects, observe Newton's Laws of Motion and construct a roller coaster by applying their knowledge of the concepts learned throughout the year.</p>
Social Studies	<p>The primary focus for the sixth grade social studies program is World History. The study of early civilizations and their impact on modern cultures will emphasize how people have adapted to environmental changes and have emerged into a global society. Students will continue to learn fundamental concepts in civics, economics, and geography.</p> <p>Students in seventh grade will study Texas history in the Fall semester and world geography in the Spring semester. Students study the history of Texas from early times to the present. Content is presented with more depth and breadth than in Grade 4. Students' focus each year is on key individuals, events, issues, and their impact. Seventh graders use primary and secondary sources to examine the rich and diverse cultural background of Texas. The fundamentals of geography are explored by investigating the cultural aspects of the seven continents. Students will use the five geographic inquiry skills for the course. They incorporate the use of instructional technology, as well as the continued development of critical thinking skills.</p> <p>Eighth Grade United States History is designed as a survey course through American History. This course will focus on the period of American History from the discovery of North America through Reconstruction (after the Civil War.) Students taking this course will attain a mastery of U.S. History from the 1490s through the 1870s with special focus on critical thinking, chronology, and geography.</p>
Field Trips	<p>The Upper School attends a performance at Bass Hall every year as well as various trips to museums and other interesting places.</p>