

*Celebrating over 59 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 Eight 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 EIGHT 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 helps young people understand respect and disrespect within the context of their Circle of Grace.

---

A few of the objectives to be covered are:

- ♥ Recall and explain the Nicene Creed, the Ascension, and the Paschal Mystery.
- ♥ Learn how the early Church was formed, beginning with the Apostles.
- ♥ Understand that God continues to reveal Himself to the Church through scripture, tradition and the Magisterium.
- ♥ Understand that Jesus is both divine and human.
- ♥ Gather in the Eucharist to hear God's Word and celebrate God's presence with us.
- ♥ Confess their sins and celebrate God's forgiveness in the sacrament of penance/ reconciliation.
- ♥ Know that Christians are called to defend the sacredness of life from conception until death.
- ♥ Realize that in marriage sexual intercourse is both love-giving and life-giving.
- ♥ Recognize that responsible parenting requires patience, love, and commitment.
- ♥ Appreciate that Jesus has called them and all His followers to help fulfill God's kingdom of justice, love, and peace.
- ♥ Continue to use Scripture as a means of prayer and inspiration.

# 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 new abilities that have been acquired as a result of this maturation process.
- ♥ Recognize the importance of family and relationships.
- ♥ Recognize the value and benefits of being active and physically fit.
- ♥ Differentiate between resting, target, and maximum heart rate.
- ♥ Discuss aerobic and anaerobic exercise.
- ♥ Understand and explain the use, misuse, and abuse of drugs.
- ♥ Demonstrate how to resist peer pressure.
- ♥ Accept individual differences.
- ♥ Accept responsibility for behaviors and choices.
- ♥ Promote abstinence.
- ♥ Investigate importance of types of immunizations.
- ♥ Recognize dangers and risks of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs.
- ♥ Demonstrate CPR technique.
- ♥ Discuss and demonstrate first aid techniques that can be used on a daily basis.
- ♥ Critique the media's role in the health field.
- ♥ Demonstrate the ability to use conflict resolution skills effectively.
- ♥ Demonstrate an awareness of the extent and consequences of violence in society.
- ♥ Develop coping skills for dealing with separation and loss.

# 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:

- ♥ Integers – all operations
- ♥ Absolute Value
- ♥ Algebraic expressions and order of operations
- ♥ Simplifying algebraic expressions
- ♥ Solving on-step, two-step, and multi-step algebraic equations
- ♥ Write and evaluate multi-variable expressions.
- ♥ Writing, graphing and solving one and two-step inequalities
- ♥ Graphing in the coordinate plane
- ♥ Graphing equations with two variables
- ♥ Writing, graphing, and solving linear equations with using slope and y-intercepts
- ♥ Solving Linear Systems by graphing
- ♥ Translations, Symmetry, Rotations
- ♥ Comparing and ordering rational numbers.
- ♥ Operations on rational numbers
- ♥ Square roots and irrational numbers.
- ♥ Use the Pythagorean Theorem to solve problems.
- ♥ Ratio, rates, and proportions
- ♥ Similarity and direct measurement using scale models and maps
- ♥ Use proportions to prove similar and congruent figures.

- ♥ Percent Applications
- ♥ Simple and Compound Interest
- ♥ Probability
- ♥ Exponents and negative exponents with multiplication and division
- ♥ Find alternate interior angles, vertical angles, supplemental angles and corresponding angles.
- ♥ Classifying polygons
- ♥ Find areas of various geometric shapes
- ♥ Find Surface areas and volume of Prisms, cylinders, pyramids and cones
- ♥ Collecting data into spreadsheets
- ♥ Graphing data into various graphs and plots
- ♥ Probability, permutations, and combinations
- ♥ Theoretical and Experimental Probability
- ♥ Independent and dependent events
- ♥ Sequences and functions
- ♥ Writing rules and graphing linear and non-linear functions
- ♥ Exploring operations on polynomials
- ♥ Factoring polynomials
- ♥ FOIL method of multiplying binomials

## **Language Arts**

### **Listening**

- ♥ Listen to identify the purpose of a speaker's message: instructional materials, step by step directions, advertisements, and announcements.
- ♥ Distinguish relevant statements from irrelevant statements.
- ♥ Listen to identify and analyze a speaker's persuasive techniques such as promises, dares, and flattery.
- ♥ Determine a speaker's motive, bias, and point of view.

### **Speaking**

- ♥ Develop speaking techniques: tone, volume, pitch, tempo, emphasis, inflection, pronunciation, gesture, posture, and eye contact through oral presentations.

### **Reading**

#### **Literal Comprehension**

- ♥ Identify and interpret plot and story line (setting, characters, rising action, climax, falling action and resolution).
- ♥ Use information from text to paraphrase appropriate information.
- ♥ Understand the meanings of stage directions.

#### **Inferential Comprehension**

- ♥ Identify mood and tone and their relevance.
- ♥ Confirm/reject predictions throughout text using supporting evidence.
- ♥ Identify sentences that foreshadow future events.
- ♥ Track changes in a character's life and determine if they are flat or round characters.

#### **Critical/Evaluative Thinking**

- ♥ Evaluate author's persuasive techniques.
- ♥ Identify symbols used within the text and their meaning.
- ♥ Recognize the differences between a summary and synopsis.
- ♥ Find the central theme of the text, as well as alternative or sub-themes.

### **Fluency**

#### **Word recognition (vocabulary)**

- ♥ Supply missing words in context.
- ♥ Select from multiple definitions the most appropriate contextual meaning for a word.

- ♥ 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:
  - regular and irregular plurals
  - apostrophe to show possession
  - multi-syllabic words

### Study/Organizational Skills

- ♥ Take notes independently from oral and written sources and record information in systematic way.
- ♥ Paraphrase information learned.
- ♥ Regularly clean out their desk, locker, and folders and evaluate the importance of handouts.

### Writing

#### Prewriting

- ♥ Use literature as a model/pattern for writing.
- ♥ Select and use reference materials and resources as needed for writing.
- ♥ Collect information from a variety of sources for research purposes.

#### Drafting

- ♥ Develop complex characters.
- ♥ Include sensory details and figurative language.
- ♥ Provide background information on the topic when appropriate.
- ♥ Anticipate problems, mistakes, and misunderstanding that might arise.

#### Revising

- ♥ Respond constructively to other's writing.
- ♥ Correctly use proofreading symbols.
- ♥ Avoid clichés and trite expressions.
- ♥ Avoid plagiarism.

#### Editing/Mechanics

- ♥ Correct sentence syntax errors.
- ♥ Use conventional spelling.

#### Publishing

- ♥ Prepare corrected copy for publication.
- ♥ Add illustrations or graphics through technology, if appropriate.
- ♥ Share writing with appropriate audiences.

## Social Studies

---

The social studies curriculum is a survey of U.S. History from the beginning of the Civil War up to modern times. It focuses on our government, culture, and interaction with other nations. It encompasses how the United States has become a world power. Geographic knowledge of the world and the United States, and map, chart, and graph reading skills are woven throughout the curriculum. The expansion of American civic life is emphasized by studying the Civil War Amendments to the Constitution and the political reforms of the Progressive Era.

---

## Science

---

Students will continue to utilize the FOSS curriculum to engage in hands on learning about Earth, Life, and Physical Sciences. In grade 8, the topics covered include planetary studies, human system interactions, heredity and adaptations, waves, and gravity & kinetic energy

---

A few of the objectives to be covered are:

- ♥ Day and night are caused by Earth's rotation on its axis.
- ♥ The Earth's tilt on its axis and its revolution around the Sun causes different seasons.
- ♥ Explain evidence that supports the argument that the Earth is round.
- ♥ Create scaled models of the Earth, Moon, and Sun and their distances.
- ♥ Explain using evidence why the Moon appears to change its shape over a month's time.
- ♥ Utilize models to explain seasons, moon phases, and relationship among stars, moons, and planets.
- ♥ Describe different features of the moon and explain their formation.
- ♥ Classify the different objects within the solar system.
- ♥ Identify and describe the function of eight organ systems in the body.
- ♥ Describe the relationship between the structural levels in the body.
- ♥ Explain how different organ systems interact with each other.
- ♥ Use evidence to support an argument.
- ♥ Describe how cells obtain necessary nutrients and eliminate waste.
- ♥ Understand how the human body acquires information from the environment.
- ♥ Explain how the fossil record tells us about the history of life on Earth.
- ♥ Evaluate a family tree and cladogram to describe inheritance.
- ♥ Utilize models to show how traits are inherited.
- ♥ Use Punnett Squares to predict the possibility of receiving a trait(s).
- ♥ Explain how mutations can lead to variation in a population.
- ♥ Explain how positive mutations can lead to adaptation.
- ♥ Use models to discover properties of waves
- ♥ Relate properties of a wave to energy
- ♥ Use engineering practices to solve a problem
- ♥ Explore and explain properties of light waves
- ♥ Determine how different media affect the path of light
- ♥ Explore how information and communication can be coded as a digital wave

\*\*Information regarding objectives for gravity & kinetic energy forthcoming

## Art

---

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

---

**THEME: I am an Artist -- Greater awareness of the endless possibilities art has to offer**

**Focus of Lessons:**

- ♥ The role of a cartoonist
- ♥ The role of a scientific illustrator
- ♥ The role of a fashion designer
- ♥ The role of a commercial artist
- ♥ The role of an interior designer
- ♥ The role of an architect
- ♥ The role of an art historian – self-portrait
- ♥ The role of a photographer
- ♥ The role of a graphic designer
- ♥ Seasonal projects/art work

## 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 eight. Students will build upon the lessons that were introduced in grade six and seven expanding in the following areas: grammar, spelling, pronunciation, conversation and vocabulary. Spanish phrases will be taught. As the course progresses, it will provide essential information on Spanish verb formation. To fully appreciate the language, aspects of Spain's culture will be taught.

---

## Technology

---

Technology is integrated across the curriculum utilizing researched based assignments and projects. Students will continue to use word processing, spreadsheets, and presentation software to further develop their skills.

---