

Celebrating over 50 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 Six 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 SIX 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 Program will concentrate on recognizing safe and unsafe boundaries, and how to take action when boundaries are threatened or violated. The focus is on salvation history as contained within the Old Testament.

A few of the objectives to be covered are:

- ♥ Respect that the Bible tells us that God and God's goodness prevail over sin and evil and that God chose to send Jesus to us for our salvation.
- ♥ Explain that the Holy Spirit inspired the authors of the Bible and that the Holy Spirit is always present and active in the lives of people.
- ♥ Understand the stories in the books of the Old Testament and recognize that Jesus is the fulfillment of God's covenant with His people.
- ♥ See that the way to the reign of God is a way of justice and peace.
- ♥ Recognize that worship belongs to God alone and the Eucharistic liturgy is the community's central act of worship.
- ♥ Understand that diversity adds richness to family life and to God's creation..
- ♥ Learn to pray using Scripture and following the Ten Commandments.

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:

- ♥ Use gifts and talents for the service of others.
- ♥ Utilize values in the decision-making process.

- ♥ Develop a personal fitness and nutrition program for a healthy lifestyle.
- ♥ Relate the major organs and body systems to physical fitness and nutrition.
- ♥ Recognize the existence of eating disorders.
- ♥ Understand legal, social, and emotional consequences of drug use.
- ♥ Identify dangerous situations and practice good decision making.
- ♥ Understand and demonstrate the need for increased personal hygiene habits during adolescence.
- ♥ Explain changes occurring during puberty and maturation.
- ♥ Demonstrate abstinence.
- ♥ Identify diseases that can be controlled or prevented.
- ♥ Understand the rules for prohibiting weapons in school.
- ♥ Learn first aid skills such as choking and minor injuries.
- ♥ Demonstrate respect for all life.
- ♥ Demonstrate peer mediation strategies to resolve problems in group situations.
- ♥ Demonstrate the ability to act responsibly and accept consequences.
- ♥ Identify stressful situations and practice stress-management techniques.
- ♥ Identify how peer pressure affects decision-making.

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:

- ♥ Place Values, Expanded Forms, and Exponents
- ♥ Round, Compare and Order Decimals
- ♥ Estimation of operations for whole numbers, decimals, and fractions
- ♥ Operations of whole numbers and decimals.
- ♥ Scientific Notation
- ♥ Divide decimals by whole numbers and decimals.
- ♥ Patterns with Tenths, Hundredths, Thousandths
- ♥ Zeros in Division
- ♥ Order of operations
- ♥ Translate and evaluate algebraic expressions, equations and inequalities
- ♥ Evaluating one-step equations with whole numbers, decimals and fractions
- ♥ Order of operations with a calculator
- ♥ Compare and order integers
- ♥ Add, subtract, multiply, divide integers
- ♥ Expressions and equations with integers
- ♥ Find the prime factorization of a composite number
- ♥ Compare and order fractions.
- ♥ Simplest Form of fractions
- ♥ Naming fractions as decimals and vice versa
- ♥ Terminating and Repeating Decimals
- ♥ Add, subtract, multiply and divide fractions
- ♥ Probability
- ♥ Compound Events
- ♥ Permutations and Combinations
- ♥ Organize data into spread sheets.
- ♥ Reading, interpreting and creating plots and graphs
- ♥ Lines and Angles
- ♥ Areas of Polygons and Circles = 0 A
- ♥ Surface areas of cubes, cylinders, and prisms
- ♥ Transformations, Symmetry, and Tessellations

- ♥ Ratio, Proportions and Percents
- ♥ Measurements of mass, capacity, and weight in the customary system
- ♥ Measurements of mass, capacity, and weight in the Metric system
- ♥ Relate customary and metric units

Language Arts

Listening

- ♥ Identify a speaker's motive, bias, and point of view.
- ♥ Interpret and distinguish between literal and figurative language.
- ♥ Infer outcomes and draw conclusions from orally presented material.

Speaking

- ♥ Express ideas and feeling using a variety of words.
- ♥ Incorporate new vocabulary into daily speech.
- ♥ Adapt content and form of language use to accommodate purpose and audience.
- ♥ Prepare and deliver formal presentations with and without visual aids.

Reading

Literal Comprehension

- ♥ Ask questions of themselves and actions as they read.
- ♥ Understand stage direction and relevance to the text.

Inferential Comprehension

- ♥ Organize main idea and supporting details in an outline.
- ♥ Identify mood and the relevance to the story line and character's action.
- ♥ Identify genre and its elements.
- ♥ Make inferences based on material read and predict future outcome.

Critical/Evaluative Thinking

- ♥ Identify the author's use of literary techniques:
 - dialogue
 - similes, metaphors, personification
 - point of view
 - conflict and plot
- ♥ Understand the author's conflict resolution and develop alternative outcomes.

Fluency

Word Recognition (Vocabulary)

- ♥ Select from multiple definitions the most appropriate contextual meaning for a word.
- ♥ Identify and define synonyms and antonyms.
- ♥ Identify relationships in analogies.

Phonetic Analysis

- ♥ Apply phonics rules to decode unknown words.
- ♥ Use syllabication rules to decode unknown words.

Structural Analysis

- ♥ Utilize word study skills such as:
 - suffixes and prefixes
 - abbreviations and capitalization
 - apostrophe to show possession
 - multi-syllabic words

Study/Organizational Skills

- ♥ Develop test taking skills and strategies: reading and following all directions; read all choices before choosing an answer; checking for clue words; finding hints; rereading important direction words; omitting difficult items, then going back; numbering all parts of a question.
- ♥ Use time management skills.
- ♥ Use skimming/scanning to locate information.

Writing

Prewriting

- ♥ Collect and focus ideas for the writing process.
- ♥ Explore a variety of forms and purposes for writing (stories, journals, poetry, letters, personal narratives, friendly letter, business letter, descriptive, compare/contrast, report, how-to, fable, folk tales, fairy tales, opinion).

Drafting

- ♥ Establish a situation, plot, point of view, conflict (and for autobiography, the significance of event and of conclusions that can be drawn from those events).
- ♥ Develop complex characters.
- ♥ Use a range of strategies, such as dialogue, tension or suspense, naming, and specific narrative action, e.g. movement, gestures, expressions.

Revising

- ♥ Evaluate whether writing achieves its purpose.
- ♥ Eliminate extraneous details and inconsistencies.
- ♥ Improve sentences with more vivid language.

Editing/Mechanics

- ♥ Use conventional spelling.
- ♥ Identify and correct misspelled words.
- ♥ Correct errors in grammar and usage.

Publishing

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

Social Studies

The social studies curriculum is a survey of World History, focusing on Ancient (Mesopotamia/Middle East) and Classical (Greece and Rome) civilizations and two Asian civilizations (India and China). Geographic knowledge, map, chart, and graph reading skills are woven throughout the curriculum. The civic ideals of democracy and the rule of law are empathized while studying Greece and Rome respectively. Students will learn the origins, development, and contributions of these civilizations to our world.

Science

Students will continue to utilize the FOSS curriculum to engage in hands on learning about Earth, Life, and Physical Sciences. In grade 6, the topics covered include weather and water diversity of life, electromagnetic force, and variables & design*.

A few of the objectives to be covered are:

- ♥ Identify and describe the tools used by meteorologist to help them predict and describe weather conditions.
- ♥ Describe the different properties of gas using a particle model.
- ♥ Describe and explain the relationship between air pressure and density.
- ♥ Use pressure map data to predict the movement of wind.
- ♥ Relate the density of air to how fluids move via convection currents.
- ♥ Describe the changes in particle's energy level in a convention current.
- ♥ Differentiate between weather and climate and how they vary in different parts of the Earth.
- ♥ Explain how the amount of energy from the Sun affects the climate at different latitudes.
- ♥ Explain what cause wind on a local and global scale.

- ♥ Describe how the energy of particles changes during changes in phase.
- ♥ Describe the formation of clouds in the atmosphere.
- ♥ Identify and explain the information displayed on weather maps.
- ♥ Describe the flow of energy and matter in the water cycle.
- ♥ Explain how ocean affect climate on land.
- ♥ Describe recent changes to the environment due to the change in climate based on the increase in greenhouse gas emissions.
- ♥ Investigate the characteristics of life through identification of living and nonliving things.
- ♥ Identify the different components of a microscope and explain their functions.
- ♥ Use a microscope to examine microorganism.
- ♥ Differentiate between single celled and multicellular organisms.
- ♥ Describe the structures within cells that enable the functions of life.
- ♥ Describe the different levels of complexity in living organisms.
- ♥ Apply the characteristics of life to unknown organism to determine if they are living or nonliving.
- ♥ Describe how the vascular system transports necessary nutrients through plants.
- ♥ Describe the process of photosynthesis.
- ♥ Describe the relationship between pollinators and flowers.
- ♥ Explain the process of plant reproduction and growth.
- ♥ Compare the process of reproduction in protists, flowering plants, and animals.
- ♥ Identify and describe the different forces acting on an object.
- ♥ Describe the interaction of magnets and the factors that affect the force of attraction between them.
- ♥ Assemble a complete circuit and explain how energy flows through the circuit.
- ♥ Analyze the components of an electric motor to determine their function in terms of energy transfer.

*Variables and Design objectives are forthcoming with the release of the new FOSS kit.

Art

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

THEME: Art is Everywhere -- Recognizing sources of inspiration in everyday life

Focus of Lessons:

- ♥ Expanding on the beauty of the often overlooked
- ♥ Recognizing the beauty in simple subjects
- ♥ Everyday routines inspire art
- ♥ Favorite things inspire creativity
- ♥ Learning to see the dynamics of motion
- ♥ Daydreams inspire art
- ♥ Defining the beauty in productivity
- ♥ Finding inspiration in the kitchen
- ♥ Finding inspiration in common materials
- ♥ 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 six. Students will build upon the lessons that were introduced in the earlier grades expanding in the following areas: grammar, spelling, pronunciation, vocabulary conjugation of the verbs SER, ESTAR, GUSTAR, TENER and the regular verbs ending in AR. Simple Spanish phrases will be introduced and taught along with telling time and the date in Spanish. To fully appreciate the language, aspects of Spain's culture will be taught.

Technology

The students will be introduced to the various functions of the word processing programs such as clipart, spacing, alignment, and spell check. They will also begin working with spreadsheets and formatting them in different ways. They will continue to work with the Internet and become more comfortable using a variety of search engines in the Technology Learning center as well as in their daily instruction in their individual core subjects.
