



Table of Contents

Part Two: Curriculum Guide

2010-2011

Seventh Grade

Computer Science Department

- Seventh Grade Computers

English Department

- Seventh Grade Language Arts
- Seventh Grade Speech

Fine Arts Department

- Seventh Grade Art
- Seventh Grade Band
- Seventh Grade Choir
- Seventh Grade Orchestra

Health/PE Department

- Seventh Grade Health and P.E.

Math Department

- Seventh Grade Math
- Seventh Advanced Math: Accelerated Pre-Algebra

Religion Department

- Seventh Grade Religion: Life of Christ Eighth Grade

Science Department

- Seventh Grade Science: Earth and Environmental
- Science: Physical and Chemical

Social Science Department

- Seventh Grade Social Science: Ancient Civilizations

Study Skills

- Seventh Grade Social Science: Ancient Civilizations



Computers

Seventh Grade

**Computer
Science
Department
2009-2010**

Teacher:
Phone: 503-644-3745 (Main Number)
E-mail: @valleycatholic.org

Required Textbooks: None

Supplemental Programs/Materials:

Course Description:

Seventh grade computer skills are taught in isolation during orientation, weekly computer class, as well as through integration within the other academic subjects. Students learn the basic components of a computer and how to care for them. Students learn proper keyboarding skills, and learn how to use *Office 2007* to create simple curriculum-based projects.

Class Scope and Sequence:

Skills Taught in Class

Computer Basics

- Computer hardware
- Peripherals
- Types of software
- Computer care

Keyboarding – “Micro Type Pro”

- Master alphabetic keyboarding and numeric keyboarding.
- Improve speed/accuracy through skills lessons, games, and diagnostic testing

Digital Citizenship

- **Citing sources (Text and Images)**
- Cyber bullying
- Plagiarism

Microsoft Word 2007

- Word 2007 basics

Integrated Skills

Internet

- Search Engines
- Searching techniques
- Netiquette and online safety
- Internet applications

Microsoft Word 2007

- Text and document formatting
- Tables
- Desktop Publishing
- Mail Merge

Microsoft PowerPoint 2007

- PowerPoint 2007 basics
- Formatting slides
- Adding text, graphics, and animations



Language Arts

Seventh Grade

**English
Department
2009-2010**

Teacher: Joe Manning
Phone: 503-644-3745 Main Office
E-mail: jmanning@valleycatholic.org

Required textbooks:

English 7, Houghton Mifflin.
Vocabulary Enricher – Level B, Sadlier-Oxford.

Novels: *The Circuit* by Francisco Jimenez *The Giver* by Lois Lowry
The Outsiders by S.E. Hinton *The Pearl* by John Steinbeck *A Wizard of Earthsea* by Ursula K. Le Guin

Supplemental Programs/Materials:

Participation in Valley Catholic Middle School Speech Tournament

Course Description:

English 7 allows students to continue to develop readers, writers, and speakers. Building upon language arts skills learned prior to this course, students are expected to give their full effort to improve their vocabulary, reading, writing, grammar, and speaking. Further, they will see and engage in real-world application of these skills and come to know learning as a means to some other end, not as an end in itself.

Class Scope and Sequence:

	Literature	Literature Concepts	Writing	Grammar	Vocabulary
Unit One	<i>Green Salami, Seventh Grade, and Barrio Boy</i>	Summarizing, connections, and genres	Descriptive	Sentences, parts of speech, diagramming	Terms, prefixes, and roots
Unit Two	<i>The Circuit</i>	Plot, point of view, setting, subject, theme, and symbols	Letters and literary analysis	Punctuation	Grade level vocabulary
Unit Three	<i>The Pearl</i>	Foreshadowing, parable, symbolism, imagery	Expository and research	Nouns	Grade level vocabulary
Unit Four	<i>The Monsters are Due on Maple Street, All Summer in a Day, Harrison Bergeron, and The Giver</i>	Foreshadowing and characterization	Compare and contrast	Verbs, pronouns, and modifiers	Grade level vocabulary
Unit Five	Poetry	Figurative	Poetry	Language and sound devices	Grade level vocabulary
Unit Six	Short stories	Plot, point of view, setting, and theme	Story	Dialogue, appositives, gerunds, infinitives, and participles	Grade level vocabulary
Unit Seven	<i>The Outsiders</i>	Characterization	Character analysis	Diagramming	Grade level vocabulary



Speech

Seventh Grade

**English and
Middle School
Departments
2009-2010**

Teacher: Joe Manning and Jennifer Gfroerer
Phone: 503-644-3745 or 503-520-4703 (Direct Line)
E-mail: jmanning@valleycatholic.org or jgfroerer@valleycatholic.org

Required textbooks: None

Course Description:

Speech skills are taught within the English and Study Skills classes, small group practice sessions, as well as through integration within the other academic subjects. Students learn the basic elements for giving presentations as well as specific training for Valley Catholic Middle School's Annual Speech Tournament.

Picking a Speech

- Humorous Speech
- Serious Speech
- Patriotic Speech (8th grade only)

Tips for Giving Speeches

- Body Language
- Hands
- Posture
- Feet
- Eye Contact

Elocution

- Finding a Piece
- Memorization Techniques
- Delivery
- Interpretation of Author's Meaning

Extemporaneous

- Sample the Content
- Author's Purpose
- Use of Language Cues
- Technique
- Focus
- Cadence

Impromptu

- Use of Topic
- Developing the Speech
- First Line Prompts
- Topics as Metaphors
- Compare/Contrast points
- Perspectives
- Use of Humor

For over 40 years, Valley Catholic Middle School has hosted an Annual Speech Tournament in late February/early March. Over 400 students compete each year for trophies and scholarships that are applied toward tuition at any Catholic high school within the Archdiocese of Portland. Members of Toastmasters and members of the community serve as judges for elocution, extemporaneous reading and impromptu speeches. All Valley Catholic Middle Students compete in the Speech Tournament.



**Fine Arts
Department
2009-2010**

Art Exposure

Seventh Grade

Teacher: Linda Lawyer and Jennifer Gfroerer
Phone: 503-644-3745 or 503-520-4703 (Direct Line)
E-mail: jgfroerer@valleycatholic.org

Required textbooks: None

Course Description:

Seventh grade art exposure class is taught weekly, as well as through integration within the other academic subjects. Students learn about a featured artist's work as a starting point to teach art history, vocabulary, technique, and art appreciation and criticism. The presentations include biographical information on the artist, a presentation on the works of art, a lesson in art history, art appreciation skills and a hands-on project.

Class Scope and Sequence:

Unit One: Matisse

- Use of Color
- Fauvism, Modernism

Unit Two: Van Gogh

- Post-Impressionism

Unit Three: Mexican Yarn Art

- Huichol

Unit Four: Seurat

- Neo-impressionism, Modern Art

Unit Five: Mosaics

- Patterns
- Decorative Art

Unit Six: Picasso

- Cubism
- Spanish



**Fine Arts
Department
2009-2010**

MS Music - Band

Seventh Grade

Teacher: Dan Schauffler
Phone: 503-644-3745 (Main Number)
E-mail: dschauffler@valleycatholic.org

Required Textbooks:

Standard of Excellence: A Comprehensive Band Method Book – Neil A. Kgos

Supplemental Programs/Materials:

Alfred's Music Theory Computer Program

Course Description:

The goals of this class are to build the playing fundamentals and musical skills of all members. Rehearsal time will be spent on music methods, theory, scales, rhythms, and learning each musician's instrument. Difficult sections of Concert Band and Pep Band music will be reviewed. The Pep Band supports the school's sports teams at home games. Opportunities are provided for public performance.

Unit One:

- Traditional 20th Century and Pop Band Literature

Unit Two:

- Sight-reading

Unit Three:

- Instrumental Technique

Unit Four:

- Theory

Unit Five:

- Historical Context

Unit Six:

- Evaluation; test, research
- Appreciation

Music Appreciation:

Music appreciation based on the literature performed, and, through required quarter reports on specified composers and current musical personalities, and on live or TV classical concerts.

Concert Requirements:

Students will have the opportunity to perform in two school sponsored concerts, one in December and one in May/June. Students are required to participate in the school concerts. Additional performances and/or competitions may be announced later in the school year.

Music Uniform:

- **Shirt:** Long sleeve light blue oxford shirt with VCMS logo (Either the Valiant or dome logo is acceptable)
- **Pants:** Navy blue uniform pants (capris, shorts, skirts, skorts are not acceptable)
- **Tie:** Dennis uniform navy blue cross ties for girls and navy blue clip or regular ties for boys



**Fine Arts
Department
2009-2010**

MS Music - Choir

Seventh Grade

Teacher: Sr. Juliana Monte
Phone: 503-520-4706 (direct)
E-mail: srjulianam@valleycatholic.org

Required Textbooks:

Alfred Music Theory books 1 and 2
Staff Book

Supplemental Programs/Materials:

Alfred's Music Theory Computer Program
Successful Warm-Ups – Telfir
Patterns in Performance – Hal Leonard

Course Description:

This course covers fundamentals of music, voice production, sight-reading, and familiarity with the masterpieces of choral literature. Singing in trios and in small ensembles also encourages growth. Opportunities are provided for public performances.

Unit One:

- Sight-Singing

Unit Two:

- Vocal Warm-ups

Unit Three:

- Theory: Music Fundamentals

Unit Four:

- Ear Training Dictation

Unit Five:

- Unison, 2,3,and 4 Part Music

Unit Six:

- Music Appreciation through the Literature
- Use of Latin, German, Italian, and French texts when appropriate

Unit Seven:

- Small Ensemble experience (quartets singing & testing)

Concert Requirements:

Students will have the opportunity to perform in two school sponsored concerts, one in December and one in May/June. Students are required to participate in the school concerts. Additional performances and/or competitions may be announced later in the school year.

Music Uniform:

- **Shirt:** Long sleeve light blue oxford shirt with VCMS logo (Either the Valiant or dome logo is acceptable)
- **Pants:** Navy blue uniform pants (capris, shorts, skirts, skorts are not acceptable)
- **Tie:** Dennis uniform navy blue cross ties for girls and navy blue clip or regular ties for boys



MS Music - Orchestra

Seventh Grade

**Fine Arts
Department
2009-2010**

Teacher: Travis Hatton
Phone: 503-644-3745 (Main Number)
E-mail: thatton@valleycatholic.org

Required Textbooks: None

Supplemental Programs/Materials:

Alfred's Music Theory Computer Program

Course Description:

The students in this course are instructed in orchestral techniques and in music fundamentals. The objectives include the spiritual, musical, aesthetic, cultural, and social growth of each individual through participation in this musical group as well as an increase in love and knowledge of music. Opportunities are provided for public performance.

Unit One:

- Scales and warm-ups

Unit Two:

- Theory – taught in class and through computer lab assignments

Unit Three:

- Sight-reading practice

Unit Four:

- Basic analysis

Unit Five:

- Ensemble playing taught through the selected literature, stressing expression, musicality, technical accuracy, and precision

Music Appreciation:

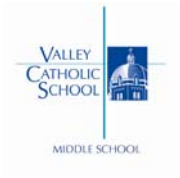
Music appreciation based on the literature performed, and, through required quarter reports on specified composers and current musical personalities, and on live or TV classical concerts.

Concert Requirements:

Students will have the opportunity to perform in two school sponsored concerts, one in December and one in May/June. Students are required to participate in the school concerts. Additional performances and/or competitions may be announced later in the school year.

Music Uniform:

- **Shirt:** Long sleeve light blue oxford shirt with VCMS logo (Either the Valiant or dome logo is acceptable)
- **Pants:** Navy blue uniform pants (capris, shorts, skirts, skorts are not acceptable)
- **Tie:** Dennis uniform navy blue cross ties for girls and navy blue clip or regular ties for boys



Health and Physical Education

Seventh Grade

**Health/PE
Department
2009-2010**

Teacher: Herb Lommen
Phone: 503-520-4718 (direct)
E-mail: hlommen@valleycatholic.org

Required Textbook:

Teen Health – Course 3, Glencoe McGraw-Hill 2009

Supplemental Programs/Materials:

American Red Cross Adult/Child/Infant First Aide, CPR, AED training book, video, and skill cards

Course Description

The class will introduce the students to the structure and functions of their body systems.

Students will explore the effects of drugs, alcohol, smoking, and nutrition on their body and

lifestyles. Students will learn about physical fitness and how to develop a program to

improve their own fitness level.

P.E.

Unit One

- Softball
- Badminton

Unit Two

- Study of movement
- Weight Training
- Fitness

Unit Three

- Weight Training
- Basketball

Unit Four

- Basketball
- Soccer
- Minor Games

Health

Unit One

- Body systems
- Child and infant CPR/First Aid

Unit Two

- Physical fitness
- Body systems

Unit Three

- Nutrition
- Growth and development

Unit Four

- Drugs

Health will start in October and finish in the middle of May. Classes will be every Monday and Wednesday in place of Physical Education.



Pre-Algebra

Seventh Grade

**Math
Department
2009-2010**

Teacher: John Brunecz and Elizabeth Richard

Phone: 503-644-3745 (Main Number)

E-mail: jbrunecz@valleycatholic.org or erichard@valleycatholic.org

Required Textbooks:

Pre-Algebra - Glencoe

Supplemental Programs/Materials:

Valley Catholic Middle School students take the AMC8 exam. The American Mathematics Competition for students in the 8th grade and below is a 40 minute multiple choice test. The test is designed to enrich the mathematics experience of middle-school students.

Course Description:

This course gives extensive practice and review of concepts, computational skills and problem-solving strategies necessary for success in Pre –Algebra.

Class Scope and Sequence:

Tools for Problem Solving

- Order of Operations
- Variables and Expressions
- Powers and Exponents
- Solving Equations Mentally

Patterns and Number Sense

- Divisibility Patterns
- Prime Factorization
- Sequences
- Greatest Common Factor
- Least Common Multiple

Integers

- Comparing and Ordering Integers
- The Coordinate System
- Adding/Subtracting Integers
- Multiplying/Dividing Integers
- Solving Equations
- Integers as Exponents

Applications with Decimals

- Decimals: Comparing, Rounding and Estimating, Multiplying and Dividing
- Powers of Ten
- Scientific Notation

Applications with Fractions

- Mixed Numbers and Improper Fractions
- Simplifying Fractions
- Adding and Subtracting Fractions and Mixed Numbers
- Dividing Fractions and Mixed Numbers

Investigations in Geometry

- Angles
- Polygons
- Triangles and Quadrilaterals
- Area
- Surface Area and Volume

Statistics and Data Analysis

- Mean, Median, and Mode
- Stem-Leaf Plots
- Misleading Statistics

An Introduction to Algebra

- Using Inverse Operations
- Addition and Subtraction Equations
- Multiplication and Division Equations
- Writing Algebraic Expressions



Accelerated Pre-Algebra

Seventh Grade

**Math
Department
2009-2010**

Teacher: Becky Kemper
Phone: 503-644-3745 (Main Number)
E-mail: bkemper@valleycatholic.org

Required Textbooks:
Pre-Algebra - Glencoe

Supplemental Programs/Materials:

Valley Catholic Middle School students take the AMC8 exam. The American Mathematics Competition for students in the 8th grade and below is a 40 minute multiple choice test. The problems are not routine, and their solutions often require creative ways of thinking about mathematics. The test is designed to enrich the mathematics experience of middle-school students. Valley Catholic Middle School students consistently score amongst the top participants. Interested students may also participate in the Mathcounts and Pentegames programs, and attend the PCC Mathfest Contest.

Course Description:

This course gives extensive practice and review of concepts, computational skills and problem-solving strategies necessary for success in Algebra I.

Class Scope and Sequence:

Tools for Algebra and Geometry

- Order of Operation
- Variables, Expressions, and Equations
- Adding, Subtracting, Multiplying, and
- Dividing Integers

One-Step Equations and Inequalities

- Solving Equations
- Solving Inequalities
- Graphing Solutions

Factors and Rational Numbers

- Greatest Common Factor and Least
- Common Multiple
- Negative Exponents
- Solving Equations with Rational Numbers
- Solving Inequalities with Rational Numbers

Solving Equations and Inequalities

- Solving Multi-Step Equations
- Solving Multi-Step Inequalities

Functions and Graphing

- Graphing Linear Equations
- Slope and Intercepts
- Systems of Equations
- Graphing Linear Inequalities

Ratio, Proportion, and Percent

- Ratios and Rates
- Proportion
- Percent Proportion
- Percent of Change



Religion: Life of Christ

Seventh Grade

**Religion
Department
2009-2010**

Teacher: Mary Donovan and Jennifer Gfroerer
Phone: 503-644-3745 or 503-520-4703
E-mail: mdonovan@valleycatholic.org or jgfroerer@valleycatholic.org

Required textbooks:

Blest Are We: The Story of Jesus, RCL Benziger, 2008
Project Genesis: An Image of God Loves God, Family, and Friends, Leaflet Missal Company, 1996
The New American Bible

Supplemental programs/materials:

Second Step Program: Stepping In, Committee for Children, 2008
The Four Agreements: A Toltec Wisdom Book by Don Miguel Ruiz (C 1997)

Course Description:

This class presents a chronological narrative of the life of Christ from His birth to His Ascension using the American Bible and the *Blest Are We* textbook. It also includes a discussion of peer relationships through Second Step and moral Christian living through Project Genesis. Major projects and exams may include Unit exams, Valley Catholic Early Learning School project, Sisters of St. Mary of Oregon project, and semester exams.

Class Scope and Sequence:

	Blest Are We	Second Step	Project Genesis	Catholic Traditions	Honoring Mary	Sister's Project	VCELS Project
Unit One:	The Mystery of the Incarnation	Empathy and Communication	N/A	Prayer, Baptism, Liturgical Year, Formation of the Mass	Mary as the Mother of God	Sister's Lifeskill introduction (Calligraphy, baking, stain glass, cards, music, etc.)	Training Abridged version of the Red Cross' Babysitter's Course and Child/Infant CPR/First Aid
Unit Two:	The Meaning of the Kingdom	Emotion Management	N/A	Prayer, Advent, Holy Orders, Matrimony	Immaculate Conception, Rosary	Interview Skills	Classroom Training
Unit Three:	The Christian Life	Substance Abuse Prevention	N/A	Prayer, Reconciliation, Anointing of the Sick	Mary as a guide and mother for us	Childhood	Rhyming and Predictable Text
Unit Four:	The Paschal Mystery	N/A	Theology, Virtues	Prayer, Lent, Eucharist, Confirmation	Mary as the model disciple	Early Adult	Importance of play
Unit Five:	The Good News	N/A	Relationships	Prayer, Ordinary Time	Mary as a mediator	Day to Day Life	Story Telling/ Extemporaneous Reading

* In addition to the above coursework for Religion, the students will be attending Mass and prayer services at least twice a month.



Physical Science

Seventh Grade

**Science
Department
2009-2010**

Teacher: June Poling
Phone: 503-644-3745
E-mail: jpoling@valleycatholic.org

Required Textbooks:

Science Explorer - Physical Science, Prentice Hall, 2009

Supplemental Programs/Materials:

VCMS science fair 1st – 3rd place winners are invited to attend the Northwest Science Expo and VCMS Catholic Schools science fairs. Students are also encouraged to become involved in the after school science club. Club students compete in the Bonneville Power Administration Middle School Science Bowl in January.

Course Description:

Students in 7th Grade Science will be introduced to, review, or master concepts in the physics and chemistry sciences. This course emphasizes critical thinking and problem-solving skills, as well as laboratory experience. Students will master locating and researching scientific information found in the library and on the Internet. They will be required to present the results of a scientific experiment of their own creation during the 3rd quarter. This project will be entered in the February VCMS Science Fair.

Class Scope and Sequence:

Science Literacy

- Lab safety
- Scientific Method
- Experimental design
- Metric System
- Excel Spreadsheets

Motion, Forces and Energy

- Motion
- Newton's Laws
- Work Energy and Power
- Rocketry

Chemical Building Blocks

- Introduction to Matter
- Solids, Liquids, and Gases
- Atoms and the Periodic Table
- Chemical Bonds
- Chemical Reactions

Light

- The Electromagnetic Spectrum
- Light

Labs

- Paraffin Melting Safety
- Spinning Blimp
- Using lab equipment – safety and metric measuring

Labs

- Measuring Motion – Speed A la Carte
- Inclined to Roll
- Balloon Zoom
- Monkey in a tree demonstration
- Rocket fin design

Labs

- Density
- Boyle's Law
- Charles' Law
- Metal Salts Flame Test Demonstration
- Evidence for Chemical Reactions
- Jell-o surface area
- Peroxide, Catalase Reaction

Labs

- Build an Electromagnet Detector
- Prisms and Mirrors



Social Studies

Seventh Grade

**Social Studies
Department
2009-2010**

Teacher: Courtney Ferrari
Phone: 503-644-3745 (Main Office)
E-mail: cferrari@valleycatholic.org

Required textbooks:

Southwest & Central Asia -Holt Social Studies
South & East Asia & the Pacific (online text) -Holt Social Studies
Africa (online text) - Holt Social Studies
Europe & Russia - Holt Social Studies

Supplemental Programs/Materials:

Student Atlas, 5th Edition – Dorling Kindersley (DK)

Course Description:

This class focuses on the history, cultures and geography of the eastern hemisphere: Asia as traversed by the Silk Road; the Mediterranean region including Europe, the Maghreb and Near East; and sub-Saharan Africa. Students will look at the historical development of political and religious ideas, technologies and cultural forms around the world. We'll see how people exchanged ideas through trade, travel, and conflict.

Students will have hands-on opportunities to investigate different cultures; learn to prepare oral presentations; and will learn research, writing and citation skills as part of a second-semester research paper on an African country.

Class Scope and Sequence:

Asia Along the Silk Road

- Geography—physical and political
- History of the Silk Road
 - First Golden Age (200 BC-200 AD)—Roman Empire to Han China
 - Second Golden Age (700-1000 AD)—Muslim Empires, Tang China
 - Third Golden Age (1200-1400 AD)—Mongol Empire and Japan
- Belief Systems—Confucianism, Hinduism, Buddhism, Islam, Taoism, Shinto
- Cultural exchange through trade: economics, music, language
- Research skills
 - Website evaluation; database search
- Writing skills
 - Paragraph & essay structure

Africa

- Geography—bioregions; physical, political & cultural geography
- Culture—language, music, art, folklore
- History
 - Ancient empires (Mali, Songhai, Ghana, Kongo, Zimbabwe)
 - European colonialism
- Cultural exchange through trade: religion, technology, slavery
- Research project

Europe

- Geography—physical and political
- History
 - Rise of feudalism
 - Crusades
 - High Middle Ages
 - Renaissance
 - Reformation
 - Scientific Revolution
- Belief systems: Judaism, Christianity



Study Skills

Seventh Grade

**Middle School
2009-2010**

Teacher: Jennifer Gfroerer
Phone: 503-520-4703 (Direct Line)
E-mail: jgfroerer@valleycatholic.org

Required textbooks: None

Course Description:

Study skills class offers the following enhancements to the existing curriculum. Students will use classwork and homework from other classes to learn the following skills. In a few cases, practice assignments or extension activities may be assigned to help reinforce a particular skill or concept.

Class Scope and Sequence:

Organizational Skills

- Time Management
- Project/Long Term Assignment
- Detailing Homework
- SQ#R
- Text Learning Strategies
- Speed Reading basics
- Improving Reading Comprehension

Testing – How to Study

- Types of Tests
- Test Taking Tips
- Testing Formats
-

Learning Styles

- Visual Learning
- Auditory Learning
- Kinesthetic Learning
- Seven (Eight) Intelligences
- How to Apply Different Study Techniques

Public Speaking

- Oral Reading Skills
- Eye Contact, Voice Quality, Body Language
- Practice for the Speech Tournament
- (Extemporaneous Reading and Impromptu)

Alternative Study Techniques

- Active Study Strategies
- Visualization
- Mnemonic devices
- Word Association /Acronyms
- Categorizing
- Developing a Study Plan for Final Exams

Good Friday Service

- Reading of the Gospels
- Script Writing
- Acting/Oral Reading
- Music Choices
- Lighting and Sound
- Choreography
- Sign Language

Teacher Assistant/Service Jobs

In addition to the coursework, students have the opportunity to sign up for a teacher assistant or service job. Teacher assistant jobs range from semester commitments to one-time jobs. Most teacher assistants are required to commitment to work one day a week instead of attending study hall (Study skills is a study hall one day a week). Jobs may include working with the sisters in various duties (such as in the garden), helping in a VCES or VCELS classroom, helping the residents at Maryville with activities (such as bingo or physical therapy), maintaining the VCS recycling program, or assisting the librarians at VCES or VCS. One-time jobs will be posted on the day help is needed and students may volunteer on the spot.

Any student who volunteers will earn service hour credit towards a National Junior Honor Society or a VCMS service letter.