



Curriculum

2009-2010

Valley Catholic School is a college preparatory school and consists of grades 7-12. However, students in the seventh and eighth grades participate in a specialized program commonly referred to as Valley Catholic Middle School (VCMS). The middle school program is designed to help prepare the students for high school by offering an age-appropriate transition from the sixth to ninth grade.

Valley Catholic Middle School's curriculum follows the requirements outlines in the Archdiocesan standards and the Oregon State Framework. The middle school curriculum and policies were developed after thorough study of the Valley Catholic High School program, as well as consultation with area public and Catholic middle and high schools.

The individual classroom teachers may add additional units in an effort to enhance the core curriculum. This information, along with any specific classroom procedures, grading policies, or class requirements will be listed on each individual teacher's class syllabus.

Curriculum Review Process

Valley Catholic Middle School's curriculum is reviewed and updated on a yearly basis with an in-depth study of individual subjects occurring at least every four years, as determined by the Archdiocese of Portland. In addition, Valley Catholic Middle School's staff and administration, in conjunction with the Valley Catholic High School's department heads, review curriculum as follows:

Curriculum Review Committees

Departments

Departments are based on the subject (math department, fine arts department, etc.) and all Valley Catholic teachers in grades seven to twelve attend department meetings. These meetings happen each quarter (more often for some subjects). If a teacher has classes in more than one subject area (math and religion, for example), then the teacher attends BOTH department meetings.

Middle School Staff/Program

There are five staff members, plus the dean, identified as the middle school CORE staff. These teachers specialize in needs of the middle school students for everything from day-to-day classroom procedures to school environment (social, extra-curricular, transitional/age appropriate adjustments from HS program, etc.) Middle School CORE meetings address everything from middle school specific curriculum to individual student needs.

Tools for Review

Middle School Test Results

- Archdiocesan standardized tests (IOWA, previously Stanford) for our current seventh and eighth grade students. The results are compared to students throughout the Archdiocese of Portland as well as to the National average.
- STS High School Placement Test Results for our current eighth grade students. The results are compared to students throughout the Archdiocese who have applied as a freshman to a Catholic high school (This includes public and private school applicants.) Please note: All of the local Catholic high schools give the exact same entrance test to all freshman applicants.

High School Materials/High School Follow-Up

The review process includes, but is not limited to the following feedback:

- PSAT and SAT scores of our middle school alumni
- AP (advanced placement) test scores for our MS alumni
- High school GPAs
- College acceptances and placement for our MS alumni (As well as honors and awards received)
- Personal check-in end at feeder high schools (admission directors, department heads, teachers) to see how our MS alumni are performing on a day-to-day basis.

Other

Content Review and Textbook Adoption Cycle

The Archdiocese and the State of Oregon review a core content area, such as science, math, etc. on a yearly basis. This review process is a key component in Valley Catholic's text book adoption cycle so that as the state and Archdiocese make changes, we can address the changes in our textbook adoptions, as appropriate. Typically, Valley Catholic Middle School adopts two textbooks a year, making every subject go through an in-depth review every four years in addition to the yearly review.

Trends in Education and Department Meetings

All curriculum updates are considered, as well as any trends in education, on a yearly basis within the department meetings. All of this information is used to review, adjust, or confirm our current curriculum and leads to updates on our VCMS Curriculum Guide that is published each January - for admission purposes - and goes into affect the following school year.

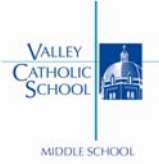


Table of Contents

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

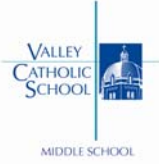


Table of Contents

Part Two: Curriculum Guide 2010-2011

Eighth Grade

Computer Science Department

- Eighth Grade Computers - Mrs. Cassinelli

English Department

- Eighth Grade Language Arts – Mr. Manning
- Eighth Grade Speech – Mrs. Gfroerer

Fine Arts Department

- Eighth Grade Band – Mr. Schauffler
- Eighth Grade Choir – Sr. Juliana
- Eighth Grade Orchestra – Mr. Hatton

Foreign Language Department

- French I – Ms. Miller
- Japanese I – Ms. Miwa-Cook
- Spanish I – Mrs. Navarro

Health/PE Department

- Eighth Grade Health and P.E. – Mr. Lommen

Math Department

- Eighth Grade Math
Mr. Manning
Mrs. Richard
- Eighth Advanced Math: Accelerated Pre-Algebra
Mrs. Kemper

Religion Department

- Eighth Grade Religion: Life of Christ
Mrs. Gfroerer and Mrs. Donovan

Science Department

- Eighth Grade Science: Earth and Environmental
Mrs. Poling

Social Science Department

- Eighth Grade Social Science: United States History
Ms. Ferrari

