

VALLEY CATHOLIC MIDDLE SCHOOL



An education that will last a lifetime.



OUR MISSION

Valley Catholic School, sharing in the mission of the **Sisters of St. Mary of Oregon**, fosters a faith-filled community of lifelong learners and compassionate leaders committed to living out Catholic values and following Jesus' example through prayer, service, and love.



WHO WE ARE

Valley Catholic Middle School is a key component of our college preparatory program, offering a rigorous STEM certified curriculum. Students in grades 6-8 participate in an advanced program designed to guide them through middle school and prepare them for the academic challenges they will face in high school, college, and beyond.

Founded in 1903 by the Sisters of St. Mary of Oregon, Valley Catholic School has a strong academic tradition of fostering critical thinking, intellectual curiosity, and active social responsibility.

Valley Catholic School is located on the Sisters of St. Mary of Oregon's beautiful 43-acre campus in Beaverton, Oregon. Valley Catholic is Oregon's only Catholic school serving children and young adults from infancy through high school.



ADVANCED CURRICULUM PROVIDES THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXCEL.

It is our vision that Valley Catholic Middle School graduates will be: open to growth, intellectually curious, engaged in faith, compassionate leaders and involved global citizens.

COURSES INCLUDE:

English: Two courses for each grade including grade level to advanced

Fine Arts: Up to two classes a day are available
+ Performing Arts: Band, Choir, Drama, Orchestra
+ Visual Arts: Bookmaking, Digital Design, Painting, Printmaking, Photography, Sculpting

Physical Education/Health: Daily courses that include lifelong fitness skills, healthy life styles and team building

Religion: Courses include faith development, history, and ethics

Science: Intro to Earth science, chemistry, physics and biology

STEMinar: Project based learning courses including collaborative student work time, study skills and writing support for sixth and seventh grade students

Social Studies: Geography, Culture and History

Technology:

- + Windows and Google platform labs
- + Apple one-to-one iPad program
- + Digital design, digital citizenship, technology skill building, design thinking and project based learning
- + Exposure to coding

World Language: High School French I or Spanish I



Electives: In addition to the fine arts, eighth grade students may choose one additional elective course. While these courses vary year-to-year, options often include Journalism, STEM careers, Creative Writing, Intro to Robotics, Marine Biology, Red Cross Babysitting Course, CERT training, and Yearbook.

GRADE LEVEL:

Valley Catholic Middle School includes grades 6-8

ACCREDITATION:

Northwest Accreditation Commission (NWCA) in partnership with AdvancED

CERTIFICATION:

AdvancED STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) Certification

REGISTRATION:

Oregon Private School

ENROLLMENT:

Total enrollment is 255

STUDENT TEACHER RATIO:

1:8 based on all teaching staff

FACULTY/STAFF:

- + 35 total faculty/staff including shared staff with Valley Catholic High School
- + 26 full-time faculty/staff
- + 12 part-time faculty/staff
- + A full-time middle-school counselor

AVERAGE SERVICE HOURS:

Students complete an average of 12.5 service hours annually.



VCMS PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS



- + Valley Catholic Middle School's curriculum follows the requirements outlined in the Archdiocesan standards and the Oregon State Framework. These include alignment with Next Generation Science Standards, Apple School of Distinction and International Society for Technology Education standards.
- + Opportunities to excel with an advanced curriculum that provides a well-rounded educational experience
- + First and only school in the Northwest to earn a STEM accreditation through AdvancED
- + Participating in the Valley Catholic Middle School's Speech Tournament, an annual event attended by students from schools across the region
- + Focus on developing research, writing, presentation and product development skills across all grade levels
- + Attend high school-level math, music, and world language (French or Spanish) classes taught by high school teachers
- + Development of a three-year writing portfolio to advance critical thinking skills while engaging in self-reflection that leads to more proficient writers as students enter high school
- + Development of time management skills, by learning to use the school-issued agenda/daily planner, how to fight procrastination and how to manage long-term projects
- + Participation in CYO sports including football, volleyball, cheer leading, basketball, swimming, track and field, baseball, lacrosse. Valley Catholic also offers a cross country running club
- + Participation in National Junior Honor Society (NJHS) – Members meet weekly to advance leadership qualities and work on service activities decided on by the group
- + Students are issued an iPad and have access to two computer labs and a 3D Printer. They are taught skills on Windows and Google platforms.
- + Teachers are certified Apple Teachers who integrate technology across all subject areas to enhance academic learning across the curriculum.



BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

In grade 6, students:

- + Attend one week of Outdoor School in the fall. The VCMS outdoor school program enriches the 6th grade curriculum by extending instruction beyond the classroom and provides students an engaging hands-on experience to learn about the natural world and obtain strong interpersonal skills in order to become good stewards of God's creation in addition to spending time on team building activities.
- + Participate in STEM projects such as the Mars Project and the Greek and Roman Fair —students research a topic of interest, make a creative visual project and share it with the Valley Catholic community.
- + Learn infant and child first aid, CPR and a modified version of the Red Cross babysitting course.

In grade 7, students:

- + Participate in Waves of Love, an annual service project designed to serve the greater community. Student travel to the Oregon Coast to clean beaches and help community and home-bound residents with outside tasks.
- + Future City competition: Students learn about infrastructure and the design process of a city. In groups,

they design a futuristic city that anticipates the unique needs populations will face in the future. Students build a model of their city and present their design in a competition.

- + Business project: Students are introduced to the "real world" and learn to write a resume and go on a mock interview. After researching start-up companies, students work in a group to design their own product and develop a business plan for their start up business.

In grade 8, students:

- + Visit each week with residents of Maryville (the skilled rehabilitative and intermediate care facility on campus) to form relationships and write resident's personal biographies.
- + Learn Hands-Only CPR and teach others in the greater community in conjunction with Tualatin Valley Fire and Rescue.
- + Capstone is an intensive, year-end, cross-curricular project in which students hone their research, project and presentation skills. This serves as the culminating assessment to synthesize and apply knowledge and skills learned over the three years of middle school to a topic of their own choosing.



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