

	SEVENTH GRADE: CHRISTENDOM CYCLE	EIGHTH GRADE: NEW WORLD CYCLE
RELIGION	<p>Study of the Faith through the articles of the Apostles' Creed; review memorization of Baltimore Catechism No. 2. Church history is explored in world history course. English and Latin prayers; virtues; corporal and spiritual works of mercy.</p> <p>Texts: Faith and Life Series; <i>My Catholic Faith, Morrow; The Creed in Slow Motion</i>, Knox.</p>	<p>Study of the commandments of God and Church laws and customs; and the seven sacraments. Review Baltimore Catechism #2. Apologetics paper required for graduation. English and Latin prayers; virtues; corporal and spiritual works of mercy.</p> <p>Texts: Faith and Life Series; <i>My Catholic Faith, Morrow; The Mass in Slow Motion</i>, Knox.</p>
LANGUAGE ARTS GRAMMAR & LITERATURE	<p>Literature 7 Review mastery of grammar, usage and mechanics; continue diagramming and editing. Develop analytic thought and clear and effective writing. Analyze classic and Catholic literature selections from the world in a variety of genres, including full-length fiction and non-fiction, drama, short stories and poetry. Literary terms. Continue comprehension skills and reading strategies.</p> <p><i>Grammar and Composition III</i>, A Beka; <i>Fix-It Grammar</i>, (Institute for Excellence in Writing).</p>	<p>Literature 8 Review mastery of grammar, usage and mechanics; continue diagramming and editing. Develop analytic thought and clear and effective writing. Analyze classic and Catholic literary selections from America in a variety of genres, including full-length fiction and non-fiction, drama, short stories and poetry. Literary terms. Continue comprehension skills and reading strategies.</p> <p>Texts: <i>Grammar and Composition IV</i>, A Beka; <i>Fix-It Grammar</i>, (Institute for Excellence in Writing).</p>
WRITING & SPEAKING	<p>Our comprehensive writing program provides a solid foundation for exceptional performance in high school and university. Daily practice, structural guidelines and specific requirements and techniques develop competency, independence and creativity. Note-taking, outlines, editing of rough drafts and completing final papers; practice identifying the purpose and audience of each writing, and documenting sources in a bibliography; précis, research reports; creative, narrative, expository, persuasive and descriptive essays. Daily public speaking practice.</p> <p>Texts: <i>Teaching Writing: Structure and Style</i> and <i>Medieval History-Based Writing Lessons</i>, (IEW)</p>	<p>Our comprehensive writing program provides a solid foundation for exceptional performance in high school and university. Daily practice, structural guidelines and specific requirements and techniques develop competency, independence and creativity. Note-taking, outlines, editing of rough drafts and completing final papers; practice identifying the purpose and audience of each writing, and documenting sources in a bibliography; précis, research reports; creative, narrative, expository, persuasive and descriptive essays. Daily public speaking practice.</p> <p>Texts: <i>Teaching Writing: Structure and Style</i> and <i>American History-Based Writing Lessons Vol. 2</i>, (IEW).</p>
VOCABULARY	<p>Proven direct-instruction vocabulary program introduces more key words each year, improves reading comprehension, supports writing and speaking skills, and increases standardized-test scores.</p> <p>Texts: <i>Spell to Write and Read</i> (BHI Books); <i>Vocabulary Workshop</i> (Sadlier-Oxford).</p>	
HANDWRITING	<p>Maintain required cursive standard in all assignments.</p>	
TOUCHSTONES (Socratic Inquiry)	<p>Every week students and teachers engage in a Touchstones discussion. The readings will occasionally integrate nicely with the time period being studied, though the primary purpose of Touchstones is to develop the habits of Socratic inquiry. Teachers and students will engage in close study of philosophical and literary texts and will learn, over time, to speak clearly and listen attentively. The skills acquired in Touchstones will be carried over into all aspects of school and home life.</p>	
LOGIC	<p>An in-depth study of the classical syllogism. Along with a basic understanding of the Christian theory of knowledge, students learn the four kinds of logical statements, the ways propositions can be opposed, the ways which they can be equivalent, and more.</p> <p><i>Traditional Logic I</i>, Memoria Press</p>	
POETRY	<p>Daily memorization of poems or speeches; public recitation of poetry or speeches in front of the class and school.</p>	

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MATHEMATICS	Saxon Math 87 with Pre-algebra Skills in rate; powers and roots; geometric proofs; scientific notation; algebraic terms; irrational numbers; factoring algebraic expressions, etc.	Saxon Algebra 1/2 Pre-algebra. Mastery of a variety of math skills—from fractions and their arithmetic operations to the Pythagorean theorem and the simplification of algebraic expressions.
MATHEMATICS	Saxon Algebra 1/2 Pre-algebra. Mastery of a variety of math skills, from fractions and their arithmetic operations to the Pythagorean theorem and the simplification of algebraic expressions.	Saxon Algebra I Evaluation of expressions involving signed numbers, exponents and roots; solution and uses of equations; quadratic formula; graphs of functions, statistics, etc.
HISTORY/GEOGRAPHY (Includes the study of the narrative story of history, and geography, economics, government and civics.)	World History with a focus on Christendom Survey from pre-history to modern times with the Incarnation as the focal point. Proper attention to and appreciation for the role of the Catholic Church. Geography mastered facts reviewed and in context. Review mastered facts related to history dates and figures and events. Timeline review. Texts: <i>Christ the King, Lord of History</i> (TAN); <i>The Ultimate Geography & Timeline Guide</i> , Wiggers.	American History Survey from pre-Columbian times to the end of the 20th century. Includes Illinois history. Proper attention to and appreciation for the role of the Catholic Church is provided. Government, economics, and civics. United States and Illinois constitution tests. Geography mastered facts reviewed and in context. Review mastered facts related to history dates and figures and events. Timeline review. Texts: <i>Christ and the Americas</i> (TAN); <i>The Making of Illinois, Mather</i> ; <i>The Ultimate Geography & Timeline Guide</i> , Wiggers.
SCIENCE/HEALTH	Life Science The study of life processes, principles and concepts. Cells, protists, fungi, plants, animals, nutrition, disease, systems of the body, ecology, and more. Pro-life text. Scientific method; experiments.	Physical Science Fundamental study of physics and chemistry. Includes atmosphere, weather, astrophysics, and environment (myths of environmentalism, too), etc. Hands-on experiments and labs using the scientific method; Pre-or co-req: Math 87
LATIN	Latin Ia High-school level course introducing students to the perennial tongue of Western civilization and of Holy Mother Church. Focus on the basic structure of the language: five kinds of Latin nouns, two kinds of adjectives, four regular conjugations of verbs; and the skills needed for translation; ecclesiastical pronunciation. Texts: <i>Latin Grammar</i> and <i>First Year Latin</i> , Henle.	Latin Ib High-school level course continuing the focus on mastering grammar with an emphasis on subjunctive clauses and verbs, and the skills needed for translation. Students will earn one high-school credit for Latin upon completion of this course. Texts: <i>Latin Grammar</i> and <i>First Year Latin</i> , Henle.
ART	Art history, appreciation, theory, and practice are covered in these year-long courses that lead children to God by Benedict XVI's "way of beauty." Students continue to develop a Catholic appreciation for art, recognize famous works and identify their artists, and gain an understanding of the historical periods of Western art and art theory. They create projects and drawings as they journey through the development of art beginning with Ancient times and continuing through the Modern period. Special attention is paid to the spiritual significance of art as an expression of "the human need to surpass the visible" (Benedict XVI). The purpose is not merely to teach fine arts skills or develop a familiarity with famous artists, but still more to cultivate a sensitivity to beauty and to the way God speaks through art.	
CHOIR	Fundamentals of choral singing. Emphasis on the sacred music of the Church: plainchant, homophony and polyphony. Vocal production, sight-singing, and the enjoyment of singing. Music theory, history and appreciation.	
DRAMA	Students participate in a drama class and one theatrical performance each year.	
COMPUTER/LIBRARY	Reinforce research skills and keyboarding skills.	
PHYSICAL EDUCATION	Development of skills, rules, and strategies for individual and group sports. Tools to assess, achieve and maintain personal physical fitness. National Fitness Test of the U.S. <i>Exemplary Physical Education Curriculum</i> .	
FIELD TRIPS	Varies. Shakespearean play; local manufacturing business or nature preserve.	Varies. Fermilab; visit to the mayor of Rockford, state capitol in Springfield or another site.

Each year, minor changes are made in the curriculum to improve our program and to better serve our students. The academy reserves the right to change, alter, or amend the curriculum whenever such changes are deemed necessary.