



St. Junipero Serra Catholic School Back-to-School Night Packet 7th Grade

Included in the Back-to-School-Night Packet

- Online Contact Information
- Grading Policy
- Curriculum Outline
- Back-to-School-Night Acknowledgement Form due Friday, September 6th

Administration:

Mrs. Angeline Trudell, Lead Principal/Administrator – atrudell@serraschool.org
Mrs. Carol Reiss, Principal Preschool-Grade 4 – creiss@serraschool.org
Mrs. Julie Radzai, Principal Grades 5-8 - jradzai@serraschool.org
Mrs. Ellen Burrola, Assistant Principal - eburrola@serraschool.org
Mrs. Debbie McGee, Assistant Grades 5-8 - dmcgee@serraschool.org

Homeroom Teachers:

7A Ms. Lisa Bell, Language Arts – lbell@serraschool.org
7B Mrs. Elaina Stokes, Language Arts – estokes@serraschool.org
7C Mrs. Diana Wilkinson, Math/Science - dwilkinson@serraschool.org
7D Mr. Tony Napoli, Math / Science - tnapoli@serraschool.org
7E Mr. William Catey, Religion/ Social Studies - wcatey@serraschool.org

Specialty Teachers:

Mrs. Tricia Crowe, Small Group Language Arts--tcrowe@serraschool.org
Mrs. Amy Jons, Small Group Math – ajons@serraschool.org
Mr. Noah Loungarikis, Advanced Plus Math – nloungarikis@serraschool.org
Ms. Lynne Pantano, Advanced Plus Language Arts – lpantano@serraschool.org

Elective Teachers:

Mrs. Shannon Baine, Art – sbaine@serraschool.org
Mr. Brock Gozbak, Physical Education – bgozbak@serraschool.org
Mrs. Esther Guzman, Spanish – eguzman@serraschool.org
Mr. John Rodriguez, Physical Education – jrodriguez@serraschool.org
Mrs. Kim Taylor, Music – ktaylor@serraschool.org

Instructional Assistant:

Mrs. Jean Leet, Middle School Grades 6-8 Instructional Support -- jleet@serraschool.org

The seventh grade teachers use email as their main source of communication. For your convenience, the email addresses have been provided to you. Please allow a 24-hour response time.

Grading Policy

Grades will be entered into the grade books in the following weighted categories:

80% Authentic Assessment

20% Approaches to Learning

The students will be continually assessed using a variety of instruments, such as rubrics, classroom activities, research papers, individual and group presentations, projects, quizzes, and tests. Activities that support learning, such as group work, class work, and homework, will make up a smaller portion of the student's total grade.

Formative assessment

The goal of formative assessment is to monitor student learning and to provide ongoing feedback that can be used by teachers to improve their teaching and by students to improve their learning.

More specifically, formative assessments

- help students identify their strengths and weaknesses as well as target areas that need work and
- help faculty recognize where students are struggling so they can address problems immediately.

Summative assessment

The goal of summative assessment is to evaluate student learning at the end of an instructional unit by comparing it against standards and/or benchmarks.

Examples of summative assessments include:

- a chapter or midterm exam
- a final project
- a research paper/essay

Information from summative assessments can be used formatively when students or teachers use it to guide their efforts and activities in subsequent units or courses.

Homework and Late Work

Completion of homework is an organizational skill that is critical to student success in middle school and beyond. A strict homework policy will be enforced. Homework is expected to be completed and submitted on the due date. Students will have two days to submit late work. After that, the assignment will be accepted as a 50%.

Any work missed due to student absence is the responsibility of the student. If absent, students should first check the homework document (the link is posted on parent portal of the school website, and students will have the site bookmarked on their laptops) and then obtain any additional work when they return to school.

Students are allowed as many days as they were absent to make up the missed work without it being considered late. After the allotted time, the late work policy will be enforced.

Long-Term Projects

Long-term projects are due on the due date regardless of student absence.

Seventh-Grade Curriculum

Religion

Text: *We Live Our Faith As Disciples of Jesus*

Sadlier Publishing eBook

The Catholic Youth Bible: NRSV Saint Mary's Press

Family Life: Benziger

- Chapel for Mass, prayer services, rosary prayer, and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
- Diocesan Standards of Religion
- Old Testament: Overview of the books (Pentateuch, historical, prophets, judges)
- New Testament: Continued teachings of the New Covenant of Jesus; Gospel studies - The Book of Luke Bible study
- Church history of the Roman Catholic Church preparation
- The Four Pillars of the Catechism of the Catholic Church: Creed, Liturgy and Sacraments, Moral Life, and Prayer
- Living Stations of the Cross study and performance
- Family Life: The Five Components of God's Gifts
- The Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy
- Spiritual Retreats
- Ongoing Service in Action: Outreach projects and service opportunities
- Integration of Religion into all areas of instruction

The students will participate in formal note taking, class discussion, and research projects. A formal notebook will be maintained and evaluated each trimester. Additionally, students will read, reflect, and write in a journal on daily scripture. As tests/major projects will account for 80% of the grade, it is imperative that students spend time every night preparing for upcoming tests by reviewing the textbook and notes. If a student is absent on the original test date, he or she will have an opportunity to make up the test during school time.

Catholic Faith Formation Program

In an effort to help our students become stronger members of our Catholic faith, the SJSC faculty will present additional Religion curriculum revolving around basic catechism, including the Creed, liturgy and sacraments, Christian morality/justice, and prayer.

Social Studies

Text *Medieval to Modern Times* – California Standards Based: Holt

The Social Studies curriculum will cover World History. Students will examine European history from the decline of the Roman Empire through the Age of Enlightenment. They will study other cultures and history as well, including but not limited to China, Japan, the Middle East, India, Africa, and civilizations of the Americas. Students will also interpret maps to see where important events occurred and analyze how geography has influenced history. The students will participate in formal note taking, class discussion, current events, and research projects. A formal notebook will be maintained and evaluated for each unit of instruction. Students will regularly receive homework assignments. As tests/major projects will account for 80% of the Social Studies grade, it is imperative that students spend time every night preparing for upcoming tests by reviewing the textbook and notes. If a student is absent on the original test date, he or she will have an opportunity to make up the test during the school day.

English Language Arts (ELA)--(all levels)

Part I: Literature

Text *myPerspectives*

Novels:

- *James and the Giant Peach*, by Roald Dahl
- *Hoot*, by Carl Hiaasen
- *Crispin: Cross of Lead*, by Avi
- Additional novels may be added to the syllabus based on the teacher's discretion and the pace at which the class is able to progress.

Our literature program is designed to prepare students for high school literature classes; it includes an instruction in comprehension, vocabulary, and written and verbal skills. Students will become familiar with the literary devices used to analyze a work of fiction and will be able to apply that terminology both in writing and orally. Some literary devices that will be explored include theme, conflict, characterization, symbolism, imagery, metaphor, and simile. Students will read class novels (which will be provided to them) during the course of the year.

In addition, students will have independent or team reading requirements. Students in the Leveled and Advanced classes will be required to complete one book project each trimester based on one of their chosen novels, and students in the Advanced Plus class will be required to complete three independent reading books per trimester and write a book card for each. Directions for the book cards will be distributed and explained to students during the first or second week of class).

Part II: English Composition (Writing and Grammar)

Text: *myPerspectives* (ISBN 0-03-056492-1)

Simple Solutions English Grammar and Mechanics (ISBN 978-1-60873-243-2)
Membean (online vocabulary program)

- The Jane Schaffer format for writing essays will be taught this year beginning with the single paragraph and working towards the multi-paragraph analytical essay. Students will keep a folder of Jane Schaffer materials, samples, and exercises. Students will be given a rubric addressing all the requirements for their final paragraphs/essays before they write them. Analytical content will be important, but students must also conform to the conventions of standard written English: grammar, spelling, format, punctuation, etc.
- Other forms of writing are explored in the 7th-grade language arts curriculum, including persuasive essays, narratives, creative writing and poetry, research projects, essay questions on tests, memoirs, and letter writing.
- Vocabulary will be taught through the online Membean program. Students will be required to complete 60 practice minutes each week and will be tested every other week (or as the teacher sees fit). This is a self-paced, adaptive program that allows students to acquire new vocabulary at speeds that are most appropriate for them.
- English grammar will be taught from the *myPerspectives* curriculum, *Simple Solutions English Grammar and Mechanics* book, and additional supplemental materials.
- Students in the Advanced and Level classes will complete one *Simple Solutions* assignment per day and will be quizzed every four lessons.
- Additional help for anyone struggling with grammar will be given during class, after school, or at lunchtime, at the teacher's discretion.

If your child is struggling in grammar, please email his or her teacher.

NOTE:

- The Advanced Plus Language Arts course is designed to follow and expand on the curriculum of its grade-level counterpart.
 - Students in Advanced Plus Language Arts will analyze both literary and informational texts.
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ELA Enrichment

ELA Enrichment supports the skills being developed through the ELA curriculum. These skills are beneficial across all content areas.

- Twenty minutes of Silent and Sustained Reading
- Reading Vocabulary Development through Adaptive Programs:
 - MemBeam Vocabulary (<http://membean.com/>)
 - Reading Plus Vocabulary in the small group class (www.readingplus.com)
- Individualized support for reading skills

Science

Texts: Prentice Hall Series, 2005 Edition *Life Science*

Discovery Education Tech Book www.discoveryeducation.com

Regular, structured reading of the text will be completed in class. Thorough, accurate note-taking skills will be developed. Class participation is required. At different points throughout the year, students will work on activities and labs in the Student Creation Center. Chapter tests will be announced approximately one week before the exam date. It is recommended that students spend approximately 10 to 15 minutes nightly reviewing their notes in order to familiarize themselves with the material.

Creativity Lab

We are excited to share with your child the St. Junipero Serra 5th-8th-Grade Creativity Lab. The Creativity Lab is a 21st-century learning lab for students of all interests, ages, and abilities. Creativity Labs put technology and learning resources in the hands of students, engaging learners in science, technology, engineering, the arts, and mathematics (STEAM) while building critical 21st-century skills.

Creativity Labs feature project-based, student-centered curriculum supporting STEAM and other core academic content. The Creativity Lab is a powerfully integrated and comprehensive learning solution that combines technology with academics to prepare students for college and career success.

St. Junipero Serra's Creativity Lab features unique opportunities for students to explore, learn, and work in areas such as alternative energy, circuitry, computer graphics, digital communications, mechanical structure, robotics, scientific data and analysis, and software engineering. In our Creativity Labs, students keep a daily record of their work, create final presentations, and self-assess their efforts. Together these records create a portfolio demonstrating the depth and breadth of each student's learning. We store the portfolio electronically, so students may use the term "ePortfolio" to describe the collection of work they maintain to demonstrate the skills, knowledge, and experience they gain while working in the Creativity Labs.

Math (all levels)

Texts *enVision Math 2.0 Grade 7 Edition*, 2017 Edition

Simple Solutions: Common Core Mathematics Grade 7

Homework will be assigned from the *Simple Solutions* workbook as well as from the new material taught. All math work must be completed in pencil, with all work shown, and answers must be highlighted in yellow. *Simple Solutions* quizzes and additional assessments will be given on a regular basis. Chapter tests will be announced several days prior to the test date. Pencil, red pen, yellow highlighter, graphing notebook, *Simple Solutions* digital workbook, and textbook are standard materials for class.

Digital content (homework, quizzes, supplementals) integrated into the Pearson math curriculum will be located on the following website: www.PearsonRealize.com

Specialty Elective Classes

All Specialty Elective classes will use 4-1 Grading Rubrics

4 Highly Proficient

3 Proficient

2 Emerging

1 Deficient

Spanish

Text: *¡Así se dice! –Level 1* - Workbook

Bienvenidos 7th graders! - Welcome! The goal is to provide a strong foundation of the Spanish language. We encourage parents to become involved in their students' learning experience. The class will meet twice a week.

Students are to come to class prepared with their Spanish workbook, composition book, and writing materials. Material covered in class should be reviewed on a daily basis. Students will use the Spanish workbook *¡Así se dice!–Level 1*. We are looking forward to a rewarding school year as students successfully discover the advantages of learning the Spanish language.

Art

8½ x 11 in. spiral-bound sketchbook

Students in grades 5-8 will be introduced to a variety of historical and cultural styles, genres, and artists and will explore various media, materials, and tools to express specific meaning in works of art. Art classes will meet once a week, and the students are expected to come to class prepared with a sketchbook and any assigned materials and projects. The students will keep portfolios of their work throughout the trimester, utilizing the steps of art criticism as a tool for assessment, reflection, and appreciation of the artistic process. These portfolios will be brought home to share at the end of the school year.

Music

Worksheets and lessons will be pulled from various music texts and websites. Students will be asked to download materials from OneNote throughout the year. Students will study dynamics, tempo, tonality, music history, music theory, and other musical subjects. The curriculum includes a songwriting project, dance lessons, and discussions of movie and musical clips. Students will also participate in the musical portion of the annual Christmas concert and prepare for monthly Masses.

Physical Education

St. Junipero Serra's physical education curriculum will engage students in new and challenging activities while encouraging a healthy lifestyle. Strategies promoting healthy life decisions will be taught. We will challenge all students to learn and grow while maintaining good character and building positive relationships. The Physical Education program will focus on three main areas of student development and learning:

1. Students will develop the values of sportsmanship and fair play and will be able to transfer those skills into everyday life.
2. Students will work throughout the year to increase their overall fitness levels and will evaluate their improvement through the Fitness Testing Program.

PE Expectations

- Students are expected to use the equipment appropriately and be aware of their surroundings. Safety is the number- one priority.
- Students are expected to show good sportsmanship by being respectful and responsible to other classmates and teachers.
- Students are expected to behave reverently during prayer. Absolutely no talking or disrespectful behavior will be tolerated.
- Students are expected to refrain from talking while the PE teacher, another teacher, an adult visitor, or another student is talking. .
- Students are expected to come to class ready to participate. A large percentage of the PE grade is based on participation.
- Students are expected to be at their numbers while the teacher takes attendance and be dressed in an SJSC PE uniform and gym shoes.
- Students are expected to follow the St. Junipero Serra Catholic Code of Conduct at all times.
- Students are expected to be positive, help others, and participate in class.

Uniform Policy

1. The PE Uniform can be worn all day if the student has PE class on that particular day, unless it is a formal dress day. (See the Formal Dress Day Policy below.)
2. Shorts must be worn at waist level (especially the boys) and may not be rolled up at the waist or worn too high (especially the girls). All uniform policies and decisions are made at the discretion and judgment of the Physical Education Department and Principal.
3. Students may wear the designated school sweats any day they have PE class, but they must wear their PE shorts underneath.
4. Closed-toe athletic shoes, laced up and tied, are required for all PE classes.
5. On Formal Dress Days, students will stay in their formal uniforms. Students will not change clothes for PE class. .

Injuries/Sickness/Medical Concerns

Any condition that requires a student to sit out of PE activities must be communicated to the school in a note or email signed by a parent. If a student misses multiple PE classes, a change in grading criteria and/or a conference with the student's parent may be required. A note from a parent will excuse a student from only three PE classes. A doctor's note is needed to excuse a student from any additional PE classes. If a student does not have a note and is not feeling well, he or she may communicate with the school nurse or a teacher. Students sitting out of PE class will be assigned tasks (scorekeeper, timer, written assessment, etc.). Students must notify the teacher immediately of any injury that occurs during class, even if the individual affected is still able to participate. During a medical absence, the

student is responsible for all assignments or information given in class.

Curricular Enrichment Activities

Pig Heart Dissection

This classroom on-the-go program, paired with the Science unit on the Human Body System, helps students compare a pig heart to the human heart by mapping the chambers of the heart and tracing the blood's pathway through the circulatory system. This is scheduled for Wednesday, April 1, 2020.

Off-site Retreat

JSerra Catholic High School

The 7th-grade class will participate in a spiritual retreat led by the Campus Ministry students at JSerra High School. The date and more information will follow.

Off-site Field Trip

Channel Islands Science Discovery Program

The 7th-grade classes will participate in the Channel Islands Science Discovery Program in Ventura, CA, led by L.E.A.D. USA. We will depart from St. Junipero Serra Catholic School on Thursday, November 14, 2019, at 8:00 a.m. Upon arrival, students will tour the visitors center and view native island plants, recreated tide pools, and fossils. Students will also embark on a tour of the St. Bonaventura Mission and the Ventura County Museum and participate in an evening program about the Channel Islands Island Fox Program. On Friday, November 15, 2019, students will participate in a full-day cruise program on Santa Cruz Island, Scorpion Cove. We will depart Ventura at approximately 7:00 p.m. The estimated arrival time back to St. Junipero Serra is 9:30 p.m.

- Lodging: Sheraton Four Points Ventura Harbor Resort (1050 Schooner Drive, Ventura CA 93001 805-658-1212)
- Meals:
 - Day 1 (11/14): Sack lunch from home, Italian dinner provided at the hotel
 - Day 2 (11/15): Breakfast at the hotel, boxed lunch, and pizza dinner
- Fees: \$390 total per student. Registration form and \$100 deposit are due Friday, September 6, 2019 (more information to follow). The first payment of \$145.00 is due Friday, September 27, 2019, and the final payment of \$145.00 is due on Friday, October 18, 2019.
- This field trip is self-funded, and fundraising will not take place. Participation is voluntary; however, the entire class benefits when all students are included.
- Financial assistance is available for those students who qualify. Please contact Mrs. Angeline Trudell at atrudell@serraschool.org for further information on financial assistance.
- For any additional questions, please contact Mrs. McGee at dmcgee@serraschool.org.

Off-site Field Trip Medieval Times

The 7th-grade class will travel to Buena Park to participate in a Medieval jousting tournament and luncheon. This activity aligns with our cross-curricular Medieval unit in which students complete activities and

assessments based on various aspects of daily Medieval life and society in ELA, Religion, Social Studies, Science, and Math.. The date for this field trip will be determined and shared at a later date.

IMPORTANT NOTE ABOUT ALL PARENT VOLUNTEERS

All volunteers must demonstrate their eligibility to supervise students by clearing the fingerprinting requirements of the Diocese of Orange and must successfully complete the Safe Environment training before volunteering. Please see Anna Merrill in Human Resources if you need to determine your eligibility.

**Best Wishes to you and your child for a successful year; together we are partners in their success.
The 7th Grade Teaching Team**



**St. Junipero Serra Catholic School
Back-to-School Night ~ Seventh Grade
Parent/Student Acknowledgement Form**

Please sign and date once you have read the Back-to-School Packet and return to your homeroom teacher by Friday, September 6th.

We have read the Seventh Grade Back-to-School-Night packet in its entirety and are affixing our signatures to verify that we (parent(s) and student) understand its content and will comply with the aforementioned guidelines to the best of our ability.

Teacher Name: _____ Grade/Homeroom: _____

Student Name (please print)

Student Signature

Date

Parent Name (please print)

Parent Signature

Date

