



## St. Junipero Serra Catholic School Back-to-School Night Packet 8th Grade

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**Please visit the special 8th Grade Class of 2020 webpage located at [www.serraschool.org](http://www.serraschool.org)  
Click on Academics/Grades 3-8/CLASS OF 2020: EIGHTH GRADE NEWS**

### Online Contact Information

#### Administration:

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

#### Homeroom Teachers:

8A - Ms. Christina Tsihchlis, Language Arts – [ctsihchlis@serraschool.org](mailto:ctsihchlis@serraschool.org)  
8B - Ms. Heather Hubert, Language Arts -- [hhubert@serraschool.org](mailto:hhubert@serraschool.org)  
8C - Ms. Carrie Fiore, Math/Science – [cfiore@serraschool.org](mailto:cfiore@serraschool.org)  
8D - Mr. Dave Bohmfalk, Math/Science – [dbohmfalk@serraschool.org](mailto:dbohmfalk@serraschool.org)  
8E - Mrs. Maureen Tilton, Religion/Social Studies – [mtilton@serraschool.org](mailto:mtilton@serraschool.org)

#### Specialty Teachers:

Mr. Noah Loungarikis, Grade 8 Math Advanced Plus – [nloungarikis@serraschool.org](mailto:nloungarikis@serraschool.org)  
Mrs. Amy Jons, Grade 8 Math Small Group – [ajons@serraschool.org](mailto:ajons@serraschool.org)

Ms. Lynne Pantano, Grade 8 ELA Advanced Plus – lpantano@serraschool.org  
Mrs. Tricia Crowe, Grade 8 ELA Small Group --tcrowe@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  
Mrs. Kim Taylor, Music – kim taylor - ktaylor@serraschool.org

**Instructional Assistant:**

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

The eighth 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 during the school week.

**Grading Policy**

Trimester grades will be determined by the following:

- 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 comprise 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.
- help faculty recognize where students are struggling and 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:

- quizzes or exams
- 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.

### **8th Grade Late or Absent Work Policy**

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 will be completed and submitted on the due date. The grades for late work will be as follows:

- 1 Day Late = A reduction of 20%
- 2 Days Late = A reduction of 40%
- 3+ Days Late = Assignments will receive a grade of 50%

In the event of student absence, any missed work due to the absence is the responsibility of the student. Students are responsible for missed work. If absent, they should first check the homework document (link is posted on parent portal of school website, and students will have the site bookmarked on their laptops) and then obtain any additional work when they return from the absence. 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 expires, the late work policy will be enforced.

Long-term projects are due on the due date. Late projects will be scored following the policy above. If a student knows that they are going to be absent on a day where a major project, paper, or presentation is due, they must make prior arrangements with their teachers to complete the project on time.

## **Eighth-Grade Curriculum**

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### **Religion**

Text: *We Live Our Faith*: Sadlier

Family Life: Benziger

Bible

- Chapel for Mass, prayer services, rosary prayer, and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
- Diocesan Standards of Religion
- New Testament: Continued teachings of the New Covenant of Jesus elaboration on the Book of Acts; Gospel Studies - The Book of John Bible Study
- Church History of the Roman Catholic Church Papal Succession from St. Peter through Pope Francis I; Councils
- The Four Pillars of the Catechism of the Catholic Church: Creed, Liturgy and Sacraments, Moral Life and Prayer
- Nativity study and performance

- Family Life: The Five Components of God's; Pam Stenzil's Program
- The Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy
- Spiritual Retreats
- On-going Service in Action: Outreach Projects and Service Opportunities
- Integration of Religion into all areas of instruction

The students will participate in class discussions and creative projects, complete research assignments, and make oral presentations. The students will be expected to take notes during class and to read and understand the information contained in the textbook.

**Catholic Faith Formation Program:** In an effort to help our students become stronger members of our Catholic faith, they will be participating in additional Religion curriculum revolving around basic catechism to include the Creed, liturgy & sacraments, Christian morality/justice, and prayer.

### **Social Studies**

Text: *United States History: Independence to 1914*: Houghton Mifflin

The class will study the history of the United States from the founding of Jamestown through the Civil War using the textbook and appropriate film clips. The students will be expected to take notes during class and to read and understand the information contained in their textbooks. Students will participate in class discussions, creative projects, and independent research. Students are expected to be able to discuss the following topics:

- How the original colonies were established
- Causes, battles and results of the Revolutionary War
- The origins and early development of the United States government
- The early presidents
- Causes, battles and results of the Civil War

### **English Language Arts (ELA)--Advanced Plus, Advanced, and Leveled**

#### **Part I: Literature**

Text: Pearson *My Perspectives* **Website:** <https://www.pearsonrealize.com/#/>

#### **Novels:**

- *Across Five Aprils*, by Irene Hunt (ISBN 978-0-425-18278-9) (Leveled)
- *Moon over Manifest*, by Clare Vanderpool (ISBN-13: 978-0375858291) (Adv Plus and Advanced)
- *Yellow Star*, by Jennifer Roy (ISBN 978-0-545-07101-7) (All classes)
- 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 a preparation for high school literature classes and includes a review of basic comprehension skills as well as instruction designed to sharpen students' analytical skills and increase students' vocabulary:

- Students will become familiar with the terminology used to analyze a work of fiction and will be able to apply those literary elements in written and oral form. Some sample terms are *theme, conflict, characterization, symbolism, metaphor/simile, etc.*
- Students will read, annotate, analyze, and discuss class novels during the course of the year.
- Students will read and analyze short stories, plays, and poems contained in the *My Perspectives* textbook as well as in other sources.
- Students will respond to literature in multiple ways and will use their understanding of the author's craft to create original written work.
- Multiple assessments (e.g., tests, quizzes, projects, oral presentations, discussions, journal entries, and notes) will be used .
- Students are responsible for independently reading two novels per trimester. (Advanced Plus students are responsible for independently reading three novels per trimester.)
- Students will be assessed on their independent reading.
- Students will analyze both literary and informational texts.
- The Advanced Plus course is designed to follow and expand on the curriculum of its grade-level counterpart.

## **Part II: English Composition (Writing and Grammar)**

Text: Pearson *My Perspectives*

- Jane Schaffer Multi-Paragraph Essay and 6+ Traits of Writing
  - Membean Vocabulary Program      **website:** <http://membean.com/>
  - Supplemental Materials
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- The Jane Schaffer format for writing essays will be used. Students will continue writing multi-paragraph essays while enriching their sentence structure and using precise vocabulary. Students will be given a rubric addressing all the requirements for their final paragraphs/essays. Analytical content will be emphasized, but students also will be expected to adhere to the Jane Schaffer essay guidelines and the conventions of standard written English.
  - Other forms of writing will be explored (e.g., persuasive essay, expository/analytical essay, newspaper writing, creative writing, poetry, personal essay, research essay, essay questions for tests, character sketches).
  - English grammar will be taught from Pearson *My Perspectives*.
  - Supplemental materials will also be used for grammar instruction.
  - The Advanced Plus course is designed to follow and expand on the curriculum of its grade-level counterpart.

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## ELA Enrichment

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

- Twenty minutes of sustained silent reading
- Twenty minutes of poetry analysis practice
- Twenty minutes of HSPT practice, individualized writing practice, or individualized grammar practice depending on the week
- Sixty minutes per week of reading vocabulary development through adaptive programs:
  - Membean Vocabulary (<http://membean.com/>)
  - Reading Plus Vocabulary for the small group class ([www.readingplus.com](http://www.readingplus.com))
- Individualized support for reading skills

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## Science

Text: Prentice Hall Series, 2005 Edition *Grade 8: Physical Science*

This course introduces students to fundamental concepts of Physical Science within the context of faith and God's creation. A combination of pedagogical and inquiry-based instructional approaches are used; these approaches are designed to give students an understanding of key concepts as well as to motivate and inspire students to explore science through hands-on learning. Students also gain an appreciation for the fact that science is vital to today's careers. Major areas of study center on the Science standards for Grade 8 - Physical Science, including:

- Matter and Its Properties
- Atoms and the Periodic Table
- Bonds and Chemical Reactions
- Motion and Stability: forces and interactions
- Energy and Heat
- Waves (and their applications for information transfer), Electricity, Magnetism
- Engineering Design NGSS standards (Next Generation)

Class work and laboratory work will focus on the comprehension of key concepts, higher-level thinking skills, note-taking and study skills, the ability to correctly employ the scientific method and engineering design process in lab investigations and write-ups, observation skills and attention to detail, data collection and organization, careful adherence to lab instructions and safety procedures, and written and oral presentation skills.

Students can expect to receive assignments on a regular basis, including reading and/or writing assignments, web-based assignments, and projects. Students are expected to spend time each week studying and reviewing science (i.e., reviewing notes taken in class, textbook reading, etc.) in addition to completing assigned

homework. This is imperative for understanding the material discussed in class and preparing for assessments. Assignments will be given in class and posted on the online daily homework document. For any assignments that require students to work in small groups, each student will be graded separately. Students will be required to electronically turn in many assignments via OneNote. Students' science composition books will be used for most formal lab analyses and write-ups.

**Tests & Quizzes:** Tests will be given at the end of each unit covered with approximately one week of advance notice of the particular date. Quizzes will often be given with 1-2 days advance notice. Unannounced quizzes applicable to assigned reading may also be given without prior notice; however, these will generally be worth fewer points and will be part of the 20% category.

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## **Creativity Lab**

We are excited to use the St. Junipero Serra 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Grade Creativity Lab--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 your child's learning. We store the portfolio electronically so your child 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.

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## **Math (8th Grade Common Core Standards)**

Texts:

***Level & Small Group***

Pearson *enVision Math 2.0 Grade 8* consumable textbook, 2017 Edition

*Simple Solutions: Common Core Mathematics Grade 8*, by Bright Ideas Press, Inc.

***Advanced & Advanced +***

Pearson *Algebra 1 Common Core*, 2015 (ISBN 0-13-328114-0)

*Simple Solutions: Common Core Mathematics Grade 8*, by Bright Ideas Press, Inc.

The course will utilize a variety of approaches to help students gain strong foundations in math, including a solid understanding of concepts, a high degree of procedural skill and fluency, and the ability to apply the math they know to solve problems inside and outside the classroom. The Pearson textbook, workbook and online activities will be utilized as the primary curriculum resources. In addition, the *Simple Solutions* resources will be used to help facilitate ongoing cumulative review and reinforcement of both the prior years and the current years concepts. Eighth-grade-level classes will cover the California Common Core State Standards for 8th Grade Mathematics, including Mathematics Standards of Practice, and progress into selected CC Standards for Algebra-1. The Advanced and Advanced-Plus classes will cover all of the CC Standards for Algebra-1. Class work and related homework will focus on the development of analytical and advanced problem-solving skills, thorough note-taking and study skills, utilization of class notes to complete homework, and showing supporting work in an organized manner.

**Homework** Homework is vital to reinforcing and extending the instruction, discussion, and directed practice that students experience in class. Students can expect to receive homework assignments on a nightly basis, including both *Simple Solutions* and new material being taught (e.g., textbook). Problems assigned for homework will generally be limited to those that most students should be able to successfully complete based on concepts already covered in class, or extensions thereof. A portion of class time will be devoted to reviewing homework and addressing questions.

Completion of daily homework will be graded primarily based on completion effort, although some weight may be given to accuracy for certain assignments. Homework must be completed in pencil only, with final answers boxed/highlighted, and students must neatly show supporting work in an organized manner with full effort on every problem to receive full credit. Assignments will be given in class and posted on the daily homework document. However, in the event that an assignment cannot be posted online (e.g., computer issues), assignments announced in class will still apply.

**Tests & Quizzes** Major assessments will be given at the end of each chapter or unit covered with approximately one week advance notice. Smaller quizzes will be given more frequently. Unannounced quizzes may also be given without prior notice; however, these will generally be worth fewer points and will only be part of the 20% category. All tests/quizzes must be completed in pencil only, with all supporting work shown in an organized manner and answers boxed/highlighted.

**Required Materials** Students should bring the following to class each day: Textbook, Simple Solutions workbook, notebook, charged Laptop, pencil pouch (with pre-sharpened pencils & eraser, pencil sharpener, red pen, yellow highlighter)

**Extra Help** Students will be continually encouraged to ask questions in class and offer assistance to each other in a positive, respectful environment. However, at times a student may need additional individual help with a particular concept or skill, beyond the assistance that is provided in class. It is very important to

address questions and any areas needing attention as soon as possible, given the sequential nature in which concepts continually build upon prior concepts. Parents are asked to encourage students to solicit additional help from their teacher as needed.

Digital content (homework, quizzes, etext, supplementals, and online tutoring) integrated into the Pearson math curriculum will be located on the following website: [www.PearsonRealize.com](http://www.PearsonRealize.com)

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### **Specialty 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 8th 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 your students successfully discovers the advantages of learning the Spanish language.

### **Art**

Text: 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 exploring 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 complete their study of musical items including dynamics, tempo, tonality, music history, musical theory and other musical subjects. This will include a songwriting project, dance lessons and discussion of movie and musical clips. Students will also

participate in either the Nativity or musical portion of the annual Christmas concert, and prepare for monthly Masses and the Graduation Mass.

## **Physical Education**

St. Junipero Serra's physical education curriculum will teach students new and challenging activities while emphasizing and encouraging the importance of a healthy lifestyle. Strategies will be taught to promote healthy life decisions. 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. The students will develop the values of sportsmanship and fair play, and be able to transfer those learned skills into their everyday life.
2. The students will work throughout the year to increase their total fitness level and evaluate their improvement through Fitness Testing Program.

## **PE Expectations**

- Safety is the number one priority. Students must use the equipment appropriately and be aware of their surroundings.
- Show good sportsmanship by being respectful and responsible to other classmates and teachers.
- During prayer absolutely no talking or disrespectful behavior.
- Do not talk while the teacher is talking, or any other teacher, adult visitor or peers.
- Come ready to participate. A large percentage of your grade is on participation.
- Be at your number when taking attendance, and make sure you come prepared (dressed in your PE uniform and gym shoes).
- The St. Junipero Serra Catholic Code of Conduct will be adhered to at all times.
- Be positive, help others, enjoy and be participate.

## **Uniform Policy**

1. The PE Uniform can be worn all day if the student has PE class on that particular day (Formal Dress Day Policy Below).
2. Shorts must be worn at waist level (especially the boys) and the shorts 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 time of the year, but they must wear their PE shorts underneath.
4. Closed toe athletic shoes, laced up and tied, are required for all PE classes.
5. The school policy, in regard to PE uniform requirements on Formal Dress Uniform Days is that the students are to stay in their formal uniform. Students will not change for Physical Education.

### **Injuries/ Sickness/ Medicals**

Any condition that requires a student to sit out of PE activities must have a parent signed note, or e-mail, to excuse for that day. If there is a recurring problem with a student missing due to notes, it may require a change in grading criteria or a conference with a parent to remedy any issues that may arise. A parent note is good for only three days of excused Physical Education. A doctor's note is needed for any extended period of time beyond that. If a student has forgotten a note and is not feeling well, please have them communicate with the school nurse or the teacher. While sitting out, the student will be assigned a task (scorekeeper, timer, written assessment, etc.). During class students must notify the teacher immediately of any injury that occurs, even if they are still able to participate. During a medical absence, the student is responsible for all assignments or information given out in class.

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### **Eighth Grade Information**

**High School Visitations:** Our 8<sup>th</sup> grade students will be visiting both Santa Margarita Catholic High School and JSerra High School this year. Our visit to JSerra High School will be on **Tuesday, September 24, 2019** from 8:00 a.m. to noon, followed by a visit to SMCHS on Wednesday, November 6, 2019 from 9:00 a.m. to noon. Additional information regarding both these visits will be sent home via email.

**Retreat:** The 8<sup>th</sup> grade class will participate in a yearly retreat. Additional information will be provided.

**High School Placement Test:** TBD

As part of our regular curriculum in 8<sup>th</sup> grade, students practice test taking strategies and skills. Parents should contact the high school of their choice to register for the High School Placement Test.

**High School Placement Test Overview Meeting & Test Preparation Class:** TBD

A meeting will provide an overview of the exam, the skills that will be assessed, and how class placement will be handled at the high school level (in general). This meeting is appropriate for parents and their students in 8<sup>th</sup> grade regardless of which high school they plan to attend. Mr. Napoli and Ms. Pantano will offer a preparation class for the high-school placement test. More information to follow.

**Washington DC/New York School Tours of America**

8<sup>th</sup> Grade Washington, D.C. and New York, NY Travel Opportunity - Trip # 9255

Saturday, April 25 to Thursday, April 30, 2020.

We are thrilled to invite your 8<sup>th</sup> grade student on a once in a lifetime travel experience with their classmates from Saturday, April 25 to Thursday, April 30, 2020. In keeping with St. Junipero Serra's Schoolwide Learning Expectation of building a lifelong love of learning, the Class of 2020 and their teachers will experience first-hand the rich history of our nation by touring the world's most powerful cities. This trip is similar to those offered in other Diocesan schools, as well as other local private and public schools. The

Washington, D.C.–New York City experience challenges students to role-play life from the perspective of our founding fathers and the legislators and judges who write and interpret the laws of the land today. From Capitol Hill to Ellis Island, students will be introduced to the sacrifices and heritage of our great nation. Touring important national treasures such as Arlington National Cemetery, the Statue of Liberty, and the Vietnam, Korean, and Iwo Jima Memorials further reinforces the themes of patriotism and sacrifice. Students gain a deeper understanding of our history, the consequences of choices, and their role in shaping America's destiny. This trip is an opportunity every American should experience!

Our tour, coordinated by School Tours of America, is non-school sponsored. The all-inclusive per person tour price of \$3,299 (double occupancy) includes:

- Round-trip transportation (excluding baggage fees, which will be collected separately)
- Secure, quality hotel accommodations
- All meals (except en route)
- Sightseeing with professional drivers and licensed guides
- Nighttime private security chaperones
- Evening activities – including a premium Broadway performance
- Free create-a-video and an 8 x 10 picture for each participant
- 24 hour on-call company representatives at our hotel
- Comprehensive medical and accident insurance for students and chaperones

***Safety and your peace of mind are always our first priority.*** Adult supervision is provided at a ratio of 1:10 in keeping with current Diocesan regulations and guidelines. The group will be chaperoned by St. Junipero Serra's faculty members and at least one school administrator. School Tours of America provides the group with the additional security measures of 24-hour on-call representatives, a toll-free 24-hour phone number for both parents and students, and private security chaperones stationed on each floor where students are housed.

The deadline for registration is December 13, 2019. Space is limited. For more information, please contact Mrs. Maureen Tilton at [mtilton@serraschool.org](mailto:mtilton@serraschool.org). **To sign your student up for the trip, visit the School Tours of America website at [www.schooltoursfamerica.com](http://www.schooltoursfamerica.com). Our trip number is 9255. A deposit of \$99.00 is required at the time of sign up.**

***Adventure Week*** Students not participating in our Washington DC/New York City tour will have the opportunity to participate in a variety of field trips (past locations included the Museum of Tolerance, the Discovery Cube, iFly Indoor Skydiving, Knott's Berry Farm, etc.) These events will take place concurrently with the Washington, DC-New York City trip from Monday, April 27 to Thursday, April 30, 2020. Additional information regarding both these visits will be sent home via email as the date approaches.

***Graduation Robes*** Graduation robes will be sent home a couple of days prior to photo day. The graduation photo will take place on **Tuesday, September 24**; students should wear dress clothes and the graduation robe. Dress Clothes: Boys are expected to wear collared shirts with a tie and slacks. Girls are expected to wear a

dress or a skirt and blouse with a neckline that does **not** show above the neckline cut of the robe. Make-up must be in keeping with school guidelines. Students will be permitted to remain in their dress clothes for the remainder of the day; students may change into their uniforms if they prefer. The robes will remain in your possession until after the Graduation Prayer Service and Graduation Mass.

**Graduation Banquet** Wednesday, May 27, 2020, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at St. Junipero Serra Catholic Student Activity Center. Each student will receive two guest tickets for the awards night. Due to space limitations, we are unable to accommodate more than two guests per student. This is a formal evening where you and your graduate can enjoy a wonderful dinner and celebrate their accomplishments.

**Graduation Prayer Service** Tuesday, June 2, 2020, at 9:30 a.m. in the Student Activity Center. Parking and seating will be limited; please plan to arrive early. This is a school-wide event that showcases the accomplishments and highlights of our 8<sup>th</sup> grade for the entire school community. Clothing should be appropriate for attending an event like Mass. Readers need to arrive at 8:00 a.m.

**Graduation Dance** Tuesday, June 2, 2020, from 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. in the Student Activity Center. This event will celebrate the unity between our 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades as the 7<sup>th</sup> grade prepares and hosts a wonderful themed dance. The 7<sup>th</sup> grade parents facilitate the entire event and ask that you simply enjoy the week with your child – let the 7<sup>th</sup> grade do the “dirty” work!

**Graduation Trip to Disneyland** Wednesday, June 3, 2020, from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. This trip celebrates the accomplishments of the graduates. Teachers and administrators chaperone this field trip, and chartered buses are used for our transportation. This will be a regular morning drop-off; for evening pickup please arrive at St. Junipero Serra by 10:00 p.m.

**Graduation Mass and Diploma Presentation** Friday, June 4, 2020, from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. in the Student Activity Center.

Dear Parents,

During the year, our eighth grade students will complete a family life program as a part of their religion class. We believe you as parents are the primary educators of your children and that the church and school communities are to be supportive partners with the family. In order to fulfill our part in this relationship, Bishop Vann has mandated that schools educate the students in Catholic morality and in the teachings of the church.

Benziger Family Life espouses and reinforces a major priority in the church today: the preservation and sacredness of the family. Through this program, your child will have an opportunity to develop and practice the healthy choices, moral values, and virtues of a Christian family life.

Pam Stenzel's series "Sex, Love and Relationships" will also be part of the curriculum. This video is written up as follows: "Sex, Love and Relationships" deals with the real physical, emotional and spiritual consequences of sexual activity outside a lifetime commitment (marriage). It will give them practical, easy to follow guidelines for some of the most important choices every teenager must make."

Sometime during the spring of 2020, we will have a preview showing of "Sex Has a Price Tag" for parents. The preview will be held in 8E, Mrs. Tilton's classroom. An invitation will be emailed to you prior to the date of the showing. We encourage you to attend so that you will be familiar with the material your students will be viewing, and able to reinforce the standards presented in the DVD at home with your students. Boys and girls will view the DVD separately. Mr. Dave Bohmfalk and Mr. Bill Catey will supervise and answer questions for the boys while Mrs. Tilton, Mrs. Wilcox, Ms. Tschlis, and Mrs. Boatright will do the same for the girls. On Pam Stenzel's website ([www.pamstenzel.com](http://www.pamstenzel.com)) the video is written up as follows: 'Sex Has a Price Tag', internationally renowned communicator Pam Stenzel combines her personal story and extensive pregnancy counseling experience into a hard hitting look at the consequences of sexual activity outside of God's design for sex, which is marriage. In this captivating and inspiring talk, Pam tackles the tough issues of sex with candor, insight, humor and a challenge for young people to get the 'abstinence advantage'."

Pam Stenzel often speaks at the Catholic Religious Education Congress. For the last several years, we have had the opportunity to view this film with the eighth grade classes. It has proved to be a good opportunity to discuss the importance of abstinence before marriage. We believe that viewing this film will make a difference in helping your child make good choices during high school, and beyond.

Sincerely,  
Mrs. Angeline Trudell  
Lead Principal/Administrator

**St. Junipero Serra Catholic School**  
**Movie Permission Slip for U.S. History**

Dear Parents,

During the course of this school year, some movie clips will be shown to supplement the material presented in the lectures and textbook. Since we are studying the Revolutionary and Civil Wars, some scenes depicting military battles and actions will be included. Scenes involving excessive violence will not be used, but the students will learn that these wars were won at a cost. Selected scenes from the following movies will be used:

- John Adams – 7 part miniseries (rated PG) This is the incredible story of John Adams – a man who dreamed of a nation and helped it come into being. The series is based on the Pulitzer Prize-winning book, John Adams, by David McCullough.
- Glory (rated R) This is the story of the first black regiment to fight for the North in the Civil War. The graphic battle schemes that caused the “R” rating will not be shown.
- Gods and Generals (rated PG) This movie, based on Jeffrey Shaara’s bestseller, Gods and Generals, recounts the fierce allegiances and conflicts of the early Civil War.
- Gettysburg (rated PG) This movie portrays the Battle of Gettysburg, the turning point of the Civil War.
- The Civil War – A Film by Ken Burns – An 11 hours PBS miniseries about the Civil War.
- Grant and Lee – A 2-hour History Channel movie about the Civil War.
- George Washington – Mini Series about the life of George Washington
- The Revolution – A History of the American Revolution
- The Crossing – A portrayal of the Battle of Trenton
- Hidden Figures (rated PG) - A portrayal of women mathematicians at NASA during Civil Rights.

Please return this completed form to your homeroom teacher by **Friday, September 6th.**

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Homeroom: \_\_\_\_\_

Permission:

\_\_\_\_\_ The above named student has my permission to view clips from the aforementioned movies.

\_\_\_\_\_ The above named student does not have my permission to view clips from the aforementioned movies.

Parent Name: (Please Print) \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**St. Junipero Serra Catholic School**  
**Eighth Grade Family Life Permission Slip**

Please return this completed form to your homeroom teacher by **Friday, September 6th.**

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Homeroom: \_\_\_\_\_

The above named student has my permission to participate in the Eighth Grade Family Life Program including viewing Pam Stenzel's "Sex Has a Price Tag" and related materials.

Please initial as appropriate.

\_\_\_\_\_ The above named student has my permission to view these videos and materials.

\_\_\_\_\_ The above named student does not have my permission to view these videos and materials.

Parent Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please Print)

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**St. Junipero Serra Catholic School**  
**Disaster Preparedness Plan Student Runner Permission Slip**

Please return this completed form to your homeroom teacher by **Friday, September 6th.**

Dear Eighth Grade Parents:

In the event of a disaster such as an earthquake, your child may be asked to serve on a Student Support Team. Please see below for a “job description”.

“Personnel” Pre-selected students are in-serviced on emergency procedures with parental permission to serve in this capacity. Students will never be placed in hazardous or potentially traumatic situations or unsupervised positions of responsibility for the safety of others. Students will be asked to assist by the Disaster Student Support Team Director on an “as-needed” basis.

Responsibilities

- Report to classroom location for roll call.
- After roll in taken, gather and wait for Student Support Team Director.
- Proceed with Disaster Student Support Team Director to Command Post for new roll call and assignment. (Put on safety vest).
- Runners for student release or delivery of written information to/from Command Post.
- Assist in setup of student release and other response locations.
- Assist Student Care Director by delivering or assembling equipment (portable toilets and enclosures), distributing water or acting as information runners.
- Assist in recreational activities for students.

If you give permission for your child to perform the duties as outlined above, please sign and return this permission slip to your child’s homeroom teacher. Thank you.

From September 2019 to June 2020, the eighth grade classes will be assisting the school administration by acting as student assistants whose duties are outlined above.

We, the undersigned, request that our son/daughter \_\_\_\_\_ be allowed to participate as a student assistant. We hereby consent to release Serra Catholic School or any and all of its agents from any liability arising out of or in any manner related to this activity.

In the event of a medical emergency, we further consent to the decision made by the school or any and all of its agents relating to the provision of medical assistance.

As a school sponsored and supervised activity, we understand that the school accident insurance is in effect. This permission will be valid for a reschedule of the same event.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Name (please print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Signature (parent/guardian)

**St. Junipero Serra Catholic School  
Back-to-School Night ~ Eighth 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 Eighth 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 (printed)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature / Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Name (printed)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Signature / Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Name (printed)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Signature / Date