



**ST. MARY ACADEMY
BAY VIEW**

**Middle School
Program of Studies
2020-2021**

“Nothing is more conducive to society than the education of women.”

Catherine McAuley

Revised 1/22/20



ST. MARY ACADEMY BAY VIEW

MISSION STATEMENT

St. Mary Academy - Bay View is an independent, Catholic school serving a diverse population of girls from pre-school through grade twelve.

In the tradition of the Sisters of Mercy, we foster academic excellence in an innovative and creative learning environment. We are committed to empowering each student to be a confident, independent, compassionate and socially conscious young woman who fully lives her faith.

VALUES

We support and actively implement the following
Mercy Core Values

- Compassion and service
- Educational excellence
- Concern for women and women's issues
- Global vision and responsibility
- Spiritual growth and development
- Collaboration

Ultimately, therefore, Bay View strives to graduate a woman who fully lives her faith and embodies the ideals of Catherine McAuley.

BAY VIEW MIDDLE SCHOOL

Saint Mary Academy - Bay View Middle School for students in grades 6, 7, and 8 serves the intellectual, emotional, physical, social and moral needs of adolescent girls between the ages of 10 and 14. It provides a safe, nurturing environment for the transition from a self-contained elementary school setting to the larger, more self-directed high school environment.

OBJECTIVES

The student will be enabled:

- to acquire knowledge and to assimilate it according to Judeo-Christian values;
- to prepare adequately for secondary education;
- to recognize and to create experiences which foster cooperation, mutuality, and interdependence;
- to discern and to promote moral and aesthetic values;
- to grow in appreciation of her dignity and potential in contemporary society;
- to involve herself in social, political, civic, and religious activities that will stimulate interest and participation in contemporary issues;
- to assume responsibility for her on-going educational and personal development;
- to actualize the above objectives so as to pursue a life that is integrated and meaningful.

DESCRIPTION OF LEVELS

The Middle School Program consists of rigorous core academic subjects for all learners. These courses are arranged sequentially, each building on the former and demanding more of the students. All subjects are homogeneously grouped, with the exception of math in grades 7 and 8. Seventh grade students are placed in either Math 7 or Accelerated Math 7. Eighth grade students are placed either in Math 8 or Algebra 1 Honors. Math placement is based on a variety of indicators including, but not limited to, results of the admission test, a math placement exam, standardized test scores, report card grades, and teacher recommendations. Eighth grade students receive the recommendation of their current teachers for appropriate level placement in high school. Enrichment opportunities are provided throughout the year for students to attend cultural events and take field trips that are aligned with the curriculum.

RELIGION

4602 RELIGION 6
4702 RELIGION 7
4801 RELIGION 8

Grade 6
Grade 7
Grade 8

The Middle School Religious Studies program includes the study of the Hebrew and Christian Scriptures, encourages moral development, and fosters religious literacy. In addition, the program is designed to allow the student to explore and discuss progressively, over three years, such topics as friendship, decision-making, self-understanding, effective communication, prayer, worship, Church, and Mercy Charism. The intent is to facilitate in the student a growing self-awareness as well as an awareness of her place in the world.

ENGLISH

2600 ENGLISH 6
2700 ENGLISH 7
2800 ENGLISH 8

Grade 6
Grade 7
Grade 8

The English courses for Middle School offer a strongly integrated approach to reading and writing. Through extensive exposure to adolescent literature, both classic and contemporary, students increase their vocabulary and become acquainted with effective reading strategies that enable them to become enthusiastic and proficient readers. In addition, all aspects of the writing process are emphasized, and students are encouraged to write in a variety of styles and genres. Throughout the three years, each student receives a strong, sequential foundation in grammar, composition, usage, and referencing skills.

MATHEMATICS/COMPUTER SCIENCE

1600 Math 6

Grade 6

The 6th Grade math program continues to emphasize the importance of mathematical thinking and application. It is designed to strengthen students' understanding of key mathematical operations and use equivalent fractions as a basis for understanding ratios and proportional reasoning. Emphasis is also placed on problem-solving, reasoning, connections, number sense, estimation, mental math, and data collection. Active learning is emphasized by interactive visualizations and the use of manipulatives, communication skills via journals, cooperative learning groups, and the appropriate use of calculators and computers.

1700 Math 7

Grade 7

The 7th Grade math program asks students to examine algebra- and geometry-preparatory concepts and skills; strategies for collecting, analyzing, and interpreting data; and number concepts and skills especially proportional reasoning. Students will work with expressions and equations as they use variables to represent relationships and solve problems. Students will also use concepts of proportionality to explore, develop, and communicate mathematical relationships, including number, geometry and measurement, and statistics and probability. Active learning is emphasized by interactive visualizations and the use of manipulatives, communication skills via journals, cooperative learning groups, and the appropriate use of calculators and computers.

1702 Accelerated Math 7

Grade 7

The 7th Grade honors math program is designed to be a fast-paced progression that covers the essential concepts in the 7th and 8th grade learning standards. Emphasis is placed on mathematical reasoning, non-routine problem solving, and algebraic connections among mathematical ideas. Active learning is emphasized by interactive visualizations and the use of manipulatives, communication skills via journals, cooperative learning groups, and the appropriate use of calculators and computers. The course provides students the concepts and skills needed for success in Algebra I Honors.

1802 Math 8

Grade 8

The 8th Grade math program focuses on proportionality, expressions, equations, relationships and foundations of functions; and measurement and data. Students complete an in-depth study of expressions involving radicals and integer exponents, creating models and making comparisons of linear and nonlinear functional relationships, statistical analysis using line of best fit, application of geometric ideas, and solving problems involving volume of cylinders, cones and spheres. Real-world applications will be used to develop a deep understanding of each topic. Active learning is emphasized by interactive visualizations and the use of manipulatives, communication skills via journals, cooperative learning groups, and the appropriate use of calculators and computers.

1900 Algebra I Honors**Grade 8**

The Algebra I Honors program is designed for students who are prepared for a fast-paced and in-depth exploration of algebra. Students are expected to master algebraic mechanics and understand the underlying theory, as well as apply the concepts to real-world situations in a meaningful way. The program includes extensions and enrichment that demand readiness to engage in more challenging problem-sets and explorations. The course is designed for students who have a particularly strong mathematics background and intend to pursue STEAM courses at the honors level in high school.

9007 COMPUTER SCIENCE 6**Grade 6**

The grade 6 curriculum includes a variety of technology topics that will help all students transition to middle school as well as computer science topics. It includes an in depth look at Google Apps and Lego Mindstorm robotics. All grade six students take this class.

9008 COMPUTER SCIENCE 7/8**Grades 7 & 8**

The course curriculum is based on Code.org's Computer Science Discoveries (CS Discoveries) and is an introductory computer science course that empowers students to create authentic artifacts and engage with computer science as a medium for creativity, communication, problem solving, and fun. Using both unplugged and computer projects, the course takes a wide lens on computer science by covering topics such as programming, physical computing, HTML/CSS, and data. All students take this class in either seventh or eighth grade.

9604 - ROBOTICS**Grades 7 & 8**

1 semester course in fall
Limited to 10 students

The Robotics course is built around theme-based challenges that will engage students in research, problem solving, coding, and engineering concepts connected to real-world problems. The class revolves around *FIRST@* Core Values which emphasize teamwork, discovery, and innovation. Students emerge more confident, excited, and equipped with the skills they need in a changing workforce.

Students interested in taking this class will automatically be part of the Saint Mary Academy Bay View middle school robotics team and participate in the *FIRST@* LEGO@ (FLL) guided, global robotics competition. This class is limited to ten students who must be highly motivated and committed to working as a team. Students must be able to dedicate two full days to the competitions and able to meet outside of regularly scheduled classes in order to be considered for the class. Interested students should talk to their school counselor to apply for this course.

This course satisfies the technology course requirement for grades 7 and 8.

SCIENCE

3601 SCIENCE 6

Grade 6

This course lays the foundation for the study of middle school science. Students begin with the nature of science and progress through selected topics in life, earth and physical science. The course is designed to engage students in the process of science as they learn basic scientific concepts. Students will be exposed to the metric system and metric measure. The curriculum incorporates both individual work and collaborative activities.

3703 SCIENCE 7

Grade 7

This course presents a variety of topics concerning living organisms and their environments. The students learn about the continuity, diversity, and distribution of life forms, thus broadening their understanding and appreciation of the natural world. Students explore these topics through field, laboratory, and individual investigations.

3803 SCIENCE 8

Grade 8

This course provides students a foundation in the basic concepts of physical science. Students are provided manipulative and laboratory experiences to develop essential science skills and to extend their understanding of science concepts in chemistry and physics. All students are required to complete a Science Fair project.

HISTORY & SOCIAL SCIENCES

5601 HISTORY 6

Grade 6

This course will trace the foundations of human history through a study of the ancient world. Students will strengthen their knowledge of cultural, geographic, economic and political systems with a variety of research projects, independent readings and assessments throughout the year.

5706 HISTORY 7

Grade 7

This course is an introduction to United States History. Students will examine the dramatic changes experienced throughout the sixteenth, seventeenth, and into the eighteenth centuries. We will focus our study on the cultural, political, economic and diplomatic forces that shaped America from the age of discovery through the formation of the new nation.

5802 HISTORY 8

Grade 8

Students in this one-year course will examine the emergence of the Modern World, focusing on the major political, religious, economic, social, and cultural trends from the Middle Ages to the mid-nineteenth century.

WORLD LANGUAGES

6604 SPANISH 6

Grade 6

Teachers emphasize the techniques and strategies that facilitate language acquisition. Emphasis in the modern languages is placed on passive-active learning and passive-active roles. With this method of presentation, the student moves from the receiver of oral cues and phrases to the producer and primary communicator in oral language. The student also researches and completes projects in order to familiarize herself with the different cultures of the Spanish language.

6703 SPANISH 7

Grade 7

This course will complete the first half-year curriculum of Spanish 1, and is designed to teach the student to maintain basic discussion and to express preferences relating to daily situations. The initial skills of listening and speaking will be emphasized during the primary stages in order to teach proper pronunciation and intonation. Reading and writing will then be integrated in order to foster the achievement of world language competencies. Geographic and global awareness, as well as an understanding of cultural differences and similarities, will be explored through research projects, reports, guest speakers, and videos. Spanish will be used throughout the class when appropriate. Students will have access to the language lab which affords them the opportunity to hear and compare their own pronunciation and diction to that of native speakers from all areas of the world.

6800 SPANISH 1

Grade 8

Spanish 1 is designed to enable the student to understand oral and written communication relating to daily situations regarding topics, such as weather, family, travel, and school. The student will also be able to interact in the language in basic situations, such as obtaining information and completing transactions. The initial skills of speaking and listening will be emphasized during the primary stages in order to facilitate the acquisition of proper pronunciation and intonation. Reading and writing will be integrated in order to achieve world language competencies. Cultural understanding and insight will be achieved through presentations, reports, videos, guest speakers and the use of 21st century technology. Spanish will be used throughout the class when appropriate.

6802 ITALIAN 1

Grade 8

Italian I is designed to enable the student to understand oral and written communication relating to daily situations regarding topics, such as weather, family, travel, and school. The student will also be able to interact in the language in basic situations, such as obtaining information and completing transactions. The initial skills of speaking and listening will be emphasized during the primary stages in order to teach proper pronunciation and intonation. Reading and writing will be integrated in order to achieve world language competencies. Cultural understanding and insight will be achieved through presentations, reports, videos, guest speakers and 21st century technology. Italian will be used throughout the class when appropriate.

VISUAL ARTS

7602 ART EXPLORATION

Grade 6

The goal of this course is to introduce students to the visual arts and the creative practices that are the foundation of the Arts Program. Students will develop basic technical and creative skills incorporating various mediums and techniques, and will begin to study the basics of the Elements and Principle of Design.

7904 INTRODUCTION TO ART & DESIGN

Grades 7 & 8

1 semester course

Imagination and creative problem solving are the focus of this course. Students are given the opportunity to explore materials and techniques, and use the design process to create work that activates creative thinking skills. With a basic knowledge of the Elements and Principles of Design students will create projects that are well constructed and demonstrate a knowledge of good design.

PERFORMING ARTS

8011 MS CHORUS

Grades 6, 7 & 8

1 semester course

The choral program is designed to develop a sensitivity to the qualities inherent in music: rhythm, melody, harmony, form, and texture. The production of true pitch, rich tone quality, and proper intonation is emphasized. Music theory is discovered and/or discussed as it is met in the musical. Vocal selections of different styles and from a variety of historical periods are studied. The development of vocal techniques is an ongoing process. Music in two and three-part harmonies will be studied for performance.

***All 6th grade students in MS Chorus must participate in the Fall production. Obligations include: attending tech week beginning the Saturday before the performance; and at least 3 after school/outside rehearsal in September & October.**

Gr 7/8*Those students who choose to participate in the Fall production must attend tech week beginning the Saturday before the performance; and at least 3 after school/outside rehearsal in September & October.

8012 MS ORCHESTRA
1 semester course

Grades 6, 7 & 8

The Bay View Middle School orchestra is for students who have an understanding in basic music reading, instrument assembly and maintenance, correct playing position, and sound production on their instrument. The class focuses on the refinement of tone quality, technique, and music theory. Middle school orchestra will perform at the Bay View Christmas and Spring concerts as their own ensemble and with our Upper School Orchestra. Students will also have the opportunity to perform at two different private recitals as soloists or in small group ensembles.

***Understanding in basic music reading required. Experience playing a string, woodwind, or brass instrument for at least half a year. One (1) dress rehearsal the week of the Christmas concert and participation in the annual Christmas concert.**

8909 INTRO TO PIANO KEYBOARD
1 semester course

Grades 7 & 8

This course is designed for students with no previous instrument experience who are interested in learning to play piano. Students will learn basic music theory concepts and apply them to performance repertoire. Students will engage in individual as well as ensemble performance. A strong emphasis will be placed on the development of finger technique and good practice habits. It is recommended that students have a piano keyboard at home to practice skills outside of the classroom. The class is limited to 16 students.

***No previous instrument experience required.**

PHYSICAL EDUCATION & HEALTH

0603, 0703, 0803 PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Grades 6, 7 & 8

Students are introduced to challenging and enjoyable activities that promote knowledge of fitness and development. Physical fitness is promoted through participation in activities involving cardio respiratory endurance, flexibility, muscular strength, and endurance. As the students progress, they are introduced to the team concepts of soccer, basketball, volleyball, softball, and tennis. Through participation in these sports, leadership qualities and sportsmanship are developed. Physical fitness is promoted in aerobic, gymnastics, and fitness testing.

0604 HEALTH EDUCATION**Grade 6**

This course assists young girls in making the gradual adjustments necessary for adolescent life. This course assists students in increasing and strengthening the values and attitudes that will favorably influence their relationships with others.

0704 HEALTH EDUCATION**Grade 7**

This course assists the young teenager in making the gradual adjustments necessary to lead a healthy and happy adult life. It strives to make her aware of her real worth and of the values and attitudes that will favorably motivate her personal behavior and relationship. Special attention is given to the teenage problem of cigarette smoking.

0804 HEALTH EDUCATION**Grade 8**

This course reviews the material of grade seven and strives to strengthen the student's concept of her own real worth and of values and attitudes that will favorably motivate behavior and relationships. Special attention is given to the teenage problems of alcohol and drugs.

9951/9950 STUDY**Grade 7 & 8***1 or 2 semesters*

A study period is a structured time incorporated into the student's school schedule, offering students the opportunity to work independently or receive academic help from faculty. Some studies are housed in our library, while others are located in classrooms.