

PARISH 
EPISCOPAL SCHOOL

WISDOM ▪ HONOR ▪ SERVICE

**2020 - 2021
MIDDLE SCHOOL
COURSE DESCRIPTIONS**

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HUMANITIES

5TH GRADE HUMANITIES

PEOPLE & PLACE: HOW PEOPLE IMPACT THE ENVIRONMENT AND VICE VERSA

The Fifth Grade Humanities course is developed around stories and events beginning with tracing the earliest inhabitants and explorers to this continent. Students will then continue to track these events through periods of turmoil, rebellion, and war, up through the Civil War. Through examining historical accounts, reading relevant literature, and experiencing simulations, students will discover the impact that the geography of the land has on the people and the impact the people have on the land. The students will also be aware of the dedicated efforts of the many diverse cultures of Americans, and the vision our forefathers conceived of “a government of the people, by the people, and for the people.”

Supporting these themes, both past and present, students will work to develop extensive skills in vocabulary, reading comprehension with both fiction and nonfiction works, the writing process, grammar, critical thinking, communicating, collaborating, and creating. Students will be encouraged to generate their own influential voice through various mediums, pose relevant questions that stimulate their curiosity and their desire to learn, and to practice the Parish tenets of *Wisdom, Honor, and Service* in their role as Americans and as citizens of the world community.

6TH GRADE HUMANITIES

COLLABORATION & COMPETITION: HOW PEOPLE IMPACT OTHER PEOPLE AND CIVILIZATIONS

Through the study of historical and literary texts, Sixth Grade Humanities students will learn the basic foundations and necessities of all civilizations. By analyzing the geography and culture of ancient peoples, students will examine how early humans established the world’s first empires, from the Fertile Crescent to ancient Greece and Rome. To support the historical content being studied, students will also read various novels that support the themes of survival and collaboration. Students will not only appreciate the diversity and richness of civilizations studied, but also understand the universal needs that connect us all.

While reading, students will develop critical thinking skills as they are asked to distinguish between main idea and supporting detail. They will learn how to ask and answer different levels of questions and to support their ideas with historical and textual evidence. Students will practice the steps of the writing process as they explore different types of writing (descriptive, expository, research writing, etc.) throughout the year. The literary and historical content of the class will drive each writing assignment. Students will have multiple opportunities to demonstrate their understanding of the material through written and verbal language, as well as through hands-on projects and cooperative learning.

7TH GRADE HUMANITIES

INNOVATION & SUSTAINABILITY

In Seventh Grade Humanities, students will learn to make connections between and inferences about the influence of cultures on their world and our own. They will look closely at the how geography, in all its richness and social complexities, shapes identity, both of the

individual and the group. Throughout the process of discovery, students will look deeply at how we come to know what we know, and why it is important to look at everything from multiple points of view.

Our historical journey will take us from the Middle Ages through the Age of Enlightenment, from Western Europe to the Americas, Africa, and Eastern Asia. At each stop, students will come to appreciate both how interconnected and yet richly diverse our world is. They will learn to think like historians, to understand the many lessons of history. More importantly, they will learn how to apply that understanding to the questions of the present.

Throughout the year, students will learn to read and think critically about a variety of genres, including novels, short stories, plays, and various works of nonfiction. From this study, they will learn to analyze literary works and, ultimately, to create one of their own. Writing will be a constant focus in seventh grade Humanities, and to assist students' developing understanding of the writing process, students will work independently through a personalized approach to the study of grammar and vocabulary.

8TH GRADE HUMANITIES

IDEAS & IDENTITY: EXPLORING THE IMPACT OF IDEAS ON PEOPLE AND SOCIETY

In Eighth Grade Humanities, students will understand and appreciate the richness and complexity of American cultures and histories by exploring connections between people, places, and events utilizing the themes of the Meaning of Freedom, Movement of Peoples, and Justice and Redefining Freedom. Students are expected to synthesize connections while using evidence in support of their theses and analysis in their writing. Through history, literature, current events, and multicultural studies, 8th grade Humanities also focuses on the construction of identity, paramount in the lives of adolescents.

The social studies topics investigate the reconstruction of America following the Civil War and its evolution as a nation into the present day. The curriculum has a particular emphasis on the Constitution and branches of government. Culminating projects in the 8th grade include Model Senate, Mock Trial, Biographical Journal, and a research paper with original thesis.

The study of literature focuses on a number of genres: novel, short story, autobiography, drama, and poetry. In addition, students are asked to read independently. On multi-paragraph essays, attention is given to the writing process, involving prewriting, peer response, and revision. Eighth graders continue the formal study of grammar, usage, and mechanics. Other writing assignments include journals, fictional pieces, and a poetry portfolio.

MATHEMATICS

5TH GRADE MATH

The fifth grade math course is designed to strengthen students' computational skills while emphasizing reasoning, problem solving, critical thinking and communication skills. Students build an understanding of number sense, measurement, geometry, and data analysis through a

variety of manipulatives, models, and algorithms. They will apply their skills to problem-solving situations and use estimation to check for reasonableness. Throughout fifth grade math, students will progress through a personalized learning path tailored to their individual need. Students will be required to show mastery before progressing from one unit to the next.

6TH GRADE MATH

The sixth grade math curriculum emphasizes computational fluency, reasoning, mathematic communication, and solid skill-building with the basic operations of fractions, decimals, and whole numbers. This course continues to develop understanding of number relationships and begins to incorporate minor algebraic concepts. Students will make real world connections while exploring the use of exponents, rational numbers (fraction and decimal operations), measurement, and minimal geometry including classifying two dimensional and three dimensional shapes. Throughout sixth grade math, students will progress through a personalized learning path tailored to their individual need. Students will be required to show mastery before progressing from one unit to the next.

PRE-ALGEBRA

The Pre-Algebra curriculum emphasizes reasoning, problem solving, communication skills, number relationships, number theory, patterns, functions and algebraic concepts. Students begin their year studying variables, expressions and integers. They then solve multi-step linear equations and inequalities. Students work with all sets of numbers, including fractions, decimals, integers, exponents, rational and irrational numbers. Additionally, students study ratio, proportion, percent and probability. Students also solve a variety of word problems using algebraic methods. Throughout Pre-Algebra, students will progress through a personalized learning path tailored to their individual need. Students will be required to show mastery before progressing from one unit to the next.

ALGEBRA I

This course will build upon a solid foundation in arithmetic as well as Pre-Algebra skills – variables, expressions, operations involving integers, and using inverse operations to solve linear equations. Topics introduced will include properties of exponents, polynomials and their factors, radical and rational expressions, and probability. Students will become familiar with graphs of linear, quadratic, and exponential functions. They will develop their skills in solving equations involving linear, quadratic, radical, and rational expressions, and will utilize these skills to solve problems in real-world contexts. Students will use a TI-Nspire CS graphing calculator.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND HEALTH

The Physical Education and Health program at Parish Episcopal School is based on a belief that physical education is an integral and essential component of education. We believe that physical education is a powerful academic instrument that has the ability to not only build and develop lifelong appreciation of fitness but also help strengthen students' social skills, self-esteem, confidence and behavioral conduct. The goal of our program is for each

student to understand and embrace the benefits of a lifetime of participation in physical activity and fitness.

The Middle School Physical Education program at Parish Episcopal begins in the fifth grade and continues through eighth grade. During these years, the students participate in a wide range of activities, including various games and sports; group discussions regarding attributes such as teamwork, sportsmanship and enthusiasm; and classroom-based lectures associated with health, nutrition and life skills. The students also learn how to use fitness tools such as heart rate monitors and pedometers. These experiences will allow all students the opportunity to experience success and feel better about themselves physically, mentally, and socially. The objective of the Parish Episcopal Physical Education program is to provide the knowledge and tools needed to help students make healthy decisions and encourage students to strive towards lifelong fitness. The program strives at all times to adhere to the National Standards for Physical Education. We aim to enhance our children's physical fitness and well-being, teach them a wide variety of motor skills, implement the true meaning of teamwork, instill a desire to participate in lifelong physical activity, and have fun.

A fitness-based warm-up, including flexibility, muscular strength and cardiovascular endurance begins each lesson at every grade level. Developmentally appropriate skill-building games and activities make up the core of each class. The importance of sportsmanship, fair play, and cooperation is consistently reinforced at all levels.

5th -6th Grade

Fifth and sixth graders participate in a wide range of activities to enhance the development of skills and knowledge necessary for the students to create lifelong habits of physical activity and wellness. Physical fitness, motor-skill development, teambuilding, and implementing basic game strategies are the primary focus and class objective. The fundamentals of various Parish sports are introduced, as well as a classroom-based health curriculum where we introduce concepts associated with nutrition, exercise physiology, and developing lifelong habits of physical activity and wellness. A sampling of units taught includes teambuilding activities, physical fitness, volleyball, soccer, golf, basketball, field hockey, flag football, racquet games, lacrosse, softball, and playground games. Each individual unit is three to five classes in length with five instructors.

7th -8th Grade

Through a wide variety of lead-up drills and games, students work through a more advanced continuum of skill development. This level includes the development of specialized skills in relation to competitive sports and recreation activities. During these two years of middle school, each child will gain a better understanding of sport history, skills, and strategies as well as a deeper appreciation of the benefits of lifetime activity. A sampling of units taught include teambuilding activities, physical fitness, volleyball, racquet games, golf, soccer, basketball, field hockey, Pilates, dance, flag football, lacrosse, baseball, and softball. Our classroom-based health curriculum covers more advanced topics such as anatomy, exercise physiology, nutrition,

and the benefits of exercise. Each individual unit is three to five classes in length with four instructors.

SCIENCE

5TH GRADE GENERAL SCIENCE

The fifth grade curriculum incorporates project based learning, experiments, and STEM activities to teach concepts from the three main units of science: life, physical, and earth. An introduction to science at the beginning of the year provides a strong footing for students to understand the difference and similarities between the process of science and STEM. Students learn and hone skills in research, observation, measurement, analysis, and communication. Students also gain additional experience working in cooperative lab groups. Throughout the year, students will demonstrate their understanding of concepts through a variety of assessments including presentations, written quizzes, traditional labs, projects, and in-class assignments. How the natural world works and how everything is interconnected are overriding themes in fifth grade.

6TH GRADE EARTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE

This course will help students discover the mechanisms behind natural disasters, weather, and various environmental systems. In addition, students will delve into geology and astronomy. Students will continue to develop basic science skills in the areas of measurement, in making observations, in writing hypothesis, data collecting, graphing, and inference making. Cooperative lab group work and STEM projects will be a part of the laboratory experience. Students will be afforded the opportunity develop a Passion Project each trimester in an area that interests them.

7TH GRADE LIFE SCIENCE

This course explores the basics of cellular biology, botany, and genetics. Skills emphasized this year are: how to do inquiry labs, graphing, data analysis and conclusion writing. A specific emphasis will be placed on data collection and displaying results in both graph and table form along with the analysis of the data. Students will be able to utilize and reinforce concepts introduced in Catalina Island throughout the year while having an opportunity to create individual projects related to content taught. Cooperative lab group work along with STEM projects are part of the laboratory experience. Lab practicals will continue to be a part of the assessment process.

8th Grade Physical Science

This course is designed to engage students through a variety of learning techniques, exploring the skills of a physical science laboratory. Students will be introduced to chemistry and physics. Chemistry topics will include matter, the structure of the atom, the organization of the periodic table, and chemical reactions. Physics topics will concentrate on forces, motion, and forms of energy. Instruction will emphasize experimental design and focus on the use of math, measurement, and graphing. Throughout the course, students will participate in, plan, and conduct labs to strengthen inquiry-based skills.

TECHNOLOGY

5TH GRADE TECHNOLOGY “BOOT CAMP” (REQUIRED)

Students will continue to develop keyboarding, basic formatting, and general productivity skills during their first trimester of Middle School. Acquisition of additional technology skills throughout their Middle School years will be greatly expedited as a result.

6TH GRADE COMPUTER: PARISH, INC. (REQUIRED)

Students will work in teams to create either a company or a non-profit organization. Company teams will produce products of their own creation and prototypes of their product design as well as a company mission statement, product description, materials list, detailed drawing, logo, and website. Non-profit teams will assemble a Board of Directors and create a public service announcement as well as a mission statement, organization description, promotional materials, logo, and website. These processes lead up to a presentation targeting potential investors/contributors. Speakers from the local business community share their knowledge with the students.

7-8TH GRADE DIGITAL MEDIA

Students will learn the basics of digital photography and editing techniques. Skills include determining appropriate settings and effective use of digital cameras, downloading images from camera to computer, and various editing techniques using Adobe Photoshop Elements. Students learn to crop, rotate, resize, and recolor images as well as to create and manipulate layers, use selection tools, and apply filters to enhance images.

7-8th Grade PantherTech

Panther Tech is a survey course exploring computer science. Panther Tech will focus on human-computer interaction, including computer hardware, Internet resources, and usage techniques. The course will also examine computer use cases in various fields, what goes on behind the scenes in applications, and problem solving using algorithms. Basic computer programming will be introduced, and students will create simple programs.

7-8th Grade ParishExplore

This course will provide students the opportunity to conduct an in-depth exploration of any topic about which they are passionate. After their topics have been identified, the instructor will assist the students in developing their own course of study including research, contacting and interacting with experts and/or others interested in the field, creating web pages, wikis, blogs, message boards, tweets, etc. Students will learn to use a variety of modalities with the chosen topic as a foundation. The course will culminate in a final public presentation for parents, invited faculty, and guests. There are no prerequisite courses, but priority will be given to 8th graders.

WORLD LANGUAGES

LATIN

LATIN A

Latin A covers one half of the material required to complete Latin I. It focuses on developing basic grammar skills, interpreting English derivatives through Latin vocabulary, introducing Roman historical events and legends, and exploring how Latin and Roman culture relate to our everyday lives. Students learn parts of speech, noun cases and declensions, as well as verb tenses and conjugations. As a guide for culture and vocabulary studies, the class follows the daily life and adventures of a Roman family in the year 80 A.D. All students take the National Latin Exam.

LATIN B

Latin B is the continuation of Latin A and completes the Latin I course. It resumes reviewing and developing basic grammar skills, interpreting English derivatives through Latin vocabulary, introducing Roman historical events and legends, and exploring how Latin and Roman culture relate to our everyday lives. Students begin to read, translate, and interpret more complex Latin passages in preparation for Latin II. As a guide for culture and vocabulary studies, the class follows the daily life and adventures of a Roman family in the year 80 A.D. All students take the National Latin Exam.

Pre-requisite: Latin 1A

SPANISH

SPANISH A

Spanish A is a beginning-level Spanish class. It is equivalent to the first part of Spanish I. The course provides students with the opportunity to attain new levels of meaningful communication, both orally and in writing, while growing in awareness of the richness of the cultures of the Spanish speaking world. Students learn new vocabulary and grammatical structures in context through a variety of activities, as well as learn to employ previously studied language components with greater understanding. Oral communication skills are developed through daily conversational practice, listening activities, pronunciation drills and multiple opportunities to practice interpersonal communication in authentic situations. Greater emphasis is placed on the building of reading and writing skills than in earlier years of study.

SPANISH B

Spanish B takes off in *Realidades B* where Spanish A leaves off. It is equivalent to the second part of Spanish I. Students will continue to expand their vocabulary and basic verb conjugations including verbs like "to be" and "to like." Students will learn how to carry on a dialogue with others and write about themselves and their surroundings. More time will be spent writing and speaking together in Spanish as students expand their vocabulary and knowledge of the language. The curriculum will also focus on Spanish language, holidays and celebrations, as well as cultural practices and comparisons. Additional topics may be included if time permits.

SPANISH C

This course continues development of the four components of foreign language acquisition (listening, speaking, reading and writing) that students have been developing in previous grades and corresponds to the first half of Spanish II. Students will be studying the culture of the Spanish-speaking world while also continuing vocabulary development, grammar units (including past tense) and verbal skills as associated with the *Realidades* textbooks, published by Prentice Hall.

SPANISH D

In this course, students continue with the second half of Spanish II, further developing the four components of language acquisition: listening, speaking, reading and writing. Students also explore Spanish-speaking countries and their cultures, geographies and histories. Students continue vocabulary development, grammar units and verbal skills as associated with our textbook, *Realidades II*, published by Prentice Hall. This is accomplished by class assignments and projects that focus on communication skills while making comparisons with Spanish-speaking students in other countries.

VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS

5TH GRADE ART

Students will each have their own journal to take home at the end of the trimester. There will be short lectures on the 'rules and tools' of art including drawing, shading, color and pattern, along with short projects that help students learn the basic vocabulary and skill mastery to get them ready for future visual art classes.

5TH GRADE BEGINNING BAND

Beginning band is a year-long, 40 minute class that meets every other day and occasionally during study hall for sectional work. Students will be tested for musical aptitude and instrument selection at the end of fourth grade, or in the first weeks of school for new students to Parish. Students will learn about instrument care and maintenance as well as the basics of fundamental tone production, rhythm, and reading music. Developing a practice routine and maintaining a high standard for excellence will begin in this band class. Students will have the opportunity to perform standard band repertoire in concert settings at least two times during the school year.

5TH GRADE CHOIR

MS Choir is a year-long, 40 minute class that meets every other day and is open to all students in 5th grade. No audition is required; however, there will be a placement audition to determine which voice part is best for each student. Students are graded on their participation and commitment to the class. Students will engage in activities to further their melodic and rhythmic reading skills. Performance opportunities include Chapel, concerts in the Spring and Fall, Lessons and Carols, Global Blast, and other school-related events.

5TH GRADE DANCE

This course introduces the fundamentals of movement and performance quality. This is structured to stimulate the body for effective action by developing general coordination. The scope of the students' movement is enlarged by learning preparatory techniques and methods. Students begin to learn self-awareness through application of critiques and reflections. This course also explores creative movement and problem-solving skills.

5TH GRADE MUSIC

Students in 5th grade music study the basics of rhythm, note reading, and note/rest recognition. Rhythmic and melodic reading are taught and used to facilitate the musical experience. Class activities include singing, listening, playing instruments, movement, and music games.

5TH GRADE THEATRE

In their first year of theatre studies, 5th grade students are introduced to the basic elements of stage performance. They will learn the basic skills of movement through two extensive units: one in pantomime and the other in character and story creation. Feeling the confidence to stand up and perform in public is an important component of this course as the students learn to expand their individual "comfort zones."

6TH GRADE ART

Students continue mastering various media and solving visual problems in inventive ways. Students begin to think abstractly when creating projects with an emphasis on process, one that teaches flexibility and adaptability while being open to possible solutions. All work is exhibited in the students' area and the best is shown in the gallery at the end of each trimester.

6th GRADE BAND

6th Grade band is a year-long, 40 minute class that meets every other day. Students will continue to learn about and improve their instrument care and maintenance as well as the basics of fundamental tone production, rhythm, and reading music. Developing a practice routine and maintaining a high standard for excellence will continue in this band class. Students will have the opportunity to perform standard band repertoire in concert settings at least two times during the school year. 5th grade band is a prerequisite to this course. **Without prior completion of that class, approval from the director is required to enter band in 6th grade.**

6TH GRADE CHOIR

Choir is a year-long, 40 minute class that meets every other day which is open to all students in 6th grade. No audition is required; however, there will be a placement audition to determine which voice part is best for each student. Students are graded on their participation and commitment to the class. Students will engage in activities to further their melodic and rhythmic reading skills. Performance opportunities include Chapel, concerts in the Spring and Fall, Lessons and Carols, Global Blast and other school-related events.

6TH GRADE DANCE

This course continues to build on previous work by adding more advanced movement. This course serves as an introduction to beginning technique. It will introduce proper placement within ballet, modern, and jazz techniques, while developing an awareness of space and rhythm. Students continue to learn self-awareness through application of critiques and reflections. Students are involved in the creative process and begin to differentiate movement choices.

6TH GRADE MUSIC

Students in 6th grade music further their study of concepts presented in 5th grade music. Classes begin with a review and move into more advanced rhythmic and melodic reading. Class activities include singing, listening, playing instruments, movement, and music games.

6TH GRADE THEATRE

In their second year of theatre studies, students are introduced to higher levels of stage performance, including movement, character development, and story creation. Feeling the confidence to stand up and perform in public is an important component of this course, as the students learn to expand their individual “comfort zones.”

7-8TH GRADE BAND

7th/8th Grade band is a year-long, 85 minute class that meets every other day at the end of the day. Students will continue to learn about and improve their instrument care and maintenance as well as the basics of fundamental tone production, rhythm, and reading music. Developing a practice routine and maintaining a high standard for excellence will continue in this band class. Students will have the opportunity to perform standard band repertoire in concert settings at least two times during the school year.

7-8TH GRADE CERAMICS

Ceramics is a class where students choose their own adventure to follow their interests. After completing a skill-building project, students will follow the slab, modeling, pinch, coil or wheel track depending on their preference. All student work and progress will be recorded on a student-designed website from which they will be graded. Class may be taken multiple times.

7-8TH GRADE CHOIR

MS Choir is open to all students in 7th and 8th grade. No audition is required; however, there will be a placement audition to determine which voice part is best for each student. Students are graded on their participation and commitment to the class. Students will engage in activities to further their melodic and rhythmic reading skills. Performance opportunities include Chapel, concerts in the Spring and Fall, Lessons and Carols, Global Blast and other school-related events.

7-8TH GRADE DANCE

This course will introduce various dance styles which will include jazz, lyrical/ballet, contemporary/modern dance, and social dance. Content includes technique, fundamentals of movement, musicality, composition, written assignments, and performance opportunity. Each

unit of curriculum includes objectives that are interrelated and ongoing. Class may be taken multiple times.

7-8TH GRADE DIGITAL MUSIC

Students in the Digital Music class will learn to use various programs and software that help them understand and learn more about effective use of music for educational presentations and personal expression. Applications for musical notation and creation will be utilized. Projects may include new compositions, underscoring, and editing previous existing material.

7-8TH GRADE MUSICAL THEATRE

Students will learn proper acting, singing, and dancing techniques for musical theatre productions. Students will study a brief history of American Musical Theatre and will learn song and dance routines from Broadway musicals while improving their own performance skills. The class culminates with a public performance of various musical theatre numbers. An emphasis is also placed on helping students with the audition process, as students leave this class with individualized, appropriate audition material and an understanding of audition expectations. This is a performance-based class with mandatory participation in the final performance.

7-8TH GRADE PARISH JR DANCE COMPANY

Parish Junior Dance Company is an audition based class with a maximum of 15 students. This will be a yearlong course in which students will receive PE credit due to the extensive physical training required in the class. There is a mandatory audition in the spring of the previous year to be in this course. During the audition process students will be required to display proficiency in intermediate ballet and jazz techniques as well as perform a minute long solo in the style of the dancers choosing. This course requires students to be available for mandatory performances outside of the school day. This includes Tri I Open House, Merry & Bright, Tri II Rosette Show, Tri III Dance show, middle school pep rallies, and any additional special events requested that year. Students that take Junior Dance Company may not take 7th and 8th grade dance as their enrichment.

7-8TH GRADE THEATRE

Students will learn the structure of theatre through writing and performing their own works as well as scenes and monologues from contemporary theatre. With a focus on acting theory, students will explore different texts in preparation for an in depth performance scene study and audition unit. A strong focus is placed on developing a character through strong movement and vocal choices. Technical theatre elements are explored through a design project. This class may be taken multiple times. As a student progresses through their theatrical journey, individual assignments are given to strengthen their performance skills.

7-8TH THEATRE PRODUCTION

A one trimester, spring course geared towards students who would like a deeper study of theatre production. While focusing on acting theory, students will engage in rehearsing a production, which will culminate in public performances. This is a performance-based class with mandatory participation in the final performances. **NOTE: There is a mandatory audition in the spring of the prior year in order to be in this course. Auditions will be held on April 15 & 16.**

Students may go to this site to sign up for their audition slot:
<https://tinyurl.com/playclass2021>

7-8TH VISUAL ART

Students continue on the road to mastery of various media while being encouraged to solve visual problems in inventive ways and think abstractly when creating projects with an emphasis on process. This course combines self-expression important to the older middle school child while stressing a high level of technical skill. Final work is either exhibited in the school hallways or the gallery at the end of each trimester. Class may be taken multiple times.

ADDITIONAL REQUIRED CO-CURRICULAR COURSES

6TH GRADE CONTEMPORARY ETHICS & MORAL EMOTIONS (REQUIRED FOR ONE TRIMESTER)

What does it mean to be a good human? And how should humans live their lives in relationship with others? This course is an introduction to conceptions of ethical living and methodologies for working through ethical problems. The course considers our responsibilities to other humans, communities, and creatures. Students will engage with perspectives from diverse religious beliefs, science and technology studies, and social justice advocates with the ultimate goal of developing ethical practices and strategies for how to collaboratively work towards tackling ethical problems.

7TH GRADE DEVELOPMENTAL HEALTH (REQUIRED FOR ONE TRIMESTER)

Students will (1) learn in-depth information regarding the impacts of alcohol and other drugs use and abuse (2) further explore themes of Internet safety, social networking, and on-line etiquette taught in previous technology classes (3) discuss boundaries within relationships and (4) study the habits outlined in The Highly Effective Teen.

7TH GRADE PUBLIC SPEAKING (REQUIRED FOR ONE TRIMESTER)

7th Grade students are introduced to the basic elements of effective public speaking. They will write and present different types of speeches including persuasive and informative. Students develop the basic presentation skills of eye contact, word placement, and correct breathing while speaking. The class culminates with a final evening presentation for family and classmates.

8TH GRADE BUILDING A CULTURE OF SERVICE (REQUIRED FOR ONE TRIMESTER)

This Service Learning course focuses on leadership through service and prepares students for their service requirements in Upper School. Students will learn what classifies a business as non-profit, how an individual can get involved, and how to involve others effectively. The students practice both written and spoken communication, and experience a hands-on approach by participating in various projects of service. The culminating non-profit presentation challenges the students to compete for a \$10,000.00 gift to their charity. The ParishLeads tenets of “aligning your words with actions” and “acting with empathy and compassion” are focal points of the class.

8TH GRADE INTRODUCTION TO WORLD RELIGIONS (REQUIRED FOR ONE TRIMESTER)

What do we talk about when we talk about religion? In this course we will explore this question through a variety of texts, traditions, and practices. As a class we will think critically about what religion is and how it is engaged in the multifaceted lives of humans around the world. We will discuss complex questions like: what do religions teach about what it means to be human? How might humans find meaning in their lives? What do some religious experiences convey about how to live a good, ethical, or valuable life? Students will engage case studies from different religions to contextualize our learning tools and they will have the opportunity to research further into religious practices and beliefs that are unfamiliar to them with the ultimate goal of developing the tools to understand and respectfully interact with religious difference.

STEM Courses

5th Grade I C.A.N. Innovate

C.A.N. stands for Code, Apply, and Navigate. This course uses the design thinking process to solve problems and understand the influence that creative and innovative design has on our lives. The students are first exposed to tools and software to expand their experience in problem solving with STEM related materials. Next, students can use their knowledge to create an innovative solution to an everyday task assigned by the instructor. Finally, students can apply their knowledge to navigate a solution to a project in another course. Students learn how machines, electronics, electrical motor controls, sensors, and programming all work together to solve problems with cross curricular applications for other courses.

5th Grade R2U2 Robotics

Curious about how robots fit into our global societies? In this course, students explore how robots solve problems, such as exploring a volcano from the inside or performing surgery. They consider ethical and current issues in robotics across the globe. A team project includes building and programming a robot to solve an everyday problem. This course is recommended for students who have no previous experience with LEGO robotics equipment.

5-6th grade First LEGO League Robotics

Students learn to collaborate with their peers to design, build, and program an autonomous LEGO MINDSTORMS EV3 robot. Each year the FIRST LEGO League program selects a particular theme which impacts both the robot game (tasks robot must complete) and the required research project. Student groups investigate a problem related to the competition topic and propose their own innovative solution. It is recommended that students have previous experience with LEGO MINDSTORMS EV3 equipment. There is a required after school lab session on Wednesdays from 3:45 – 5:00 PM with this course through December. All day participation at December competition is expected. Competition date pending—estimate either Saturday, December 5, 12, or 19, 2020.

6th Grade Civil Engineering

Civil Engineering is a broad-based, hands-on course to help students understand the influence that creative and innovative design has on our lives. Using project/problem based learning, students investigate the forces, materials, and shapes necessary for building structures. As a team, they apply the engineering design process to designing, building, and testing a model bridge.

6th Grade Reverse Engineering

Reverse Engineering is a course that helps students document and analyze a product's design. The process investigates a product's visual, structural, and functional elements. Students consider how and why a product was designed and built. Then, the product is disassembled and investigated completely using tools and technical drawings. Finally, students can reimagine or improve a product's initial design.

7-8th Grade FIRST LEGO League Robotics

Students collaborate with a small group of their peers to design, build, and program an autonomous LEGO MINDSTORMS EV3 robot. The FIRST LEGO League program selects an annual theme which impacts the tasks robots must complete and requires a research project. Student groups investigate a problem related to the competition topic and propose their own innovative solution to the problem. All day participation at December competition is expected. Competition date pending—estimate Saturday, November 30 or Saturday, December 7 or 14, 2019.

7-8th Grade Sustainable Architecture

Today's students have grown up in an age of progressive environmental choices. In this class, students learn how to apply this concept to the fields of architecture and construction by exploring dimensioning, measuring, and architectural sustainability as they design affordable housing units using Autodesk's® 3D architectural design software. Students work in teams to design, model, and test more efficient choices in buildings and structures.

7-8th MAKE

MAKE is a hands-on project based class in which students gain confidence to design and create with a number of the basic tools of a maker space shop such as a the band saw, drill press, table saw, hand drills in addition to learning how to create with technology driven tools such as a laser cutter and vinyl printer cutter. Students explore the fundamentals of design and computer aided drafting. These skills are combined with the knowledge of the basic shop tools to allow students the freedom to design and craft their personalized end of course projects. Custom class projects might include wooden candleholders, pallet signs, cutting boards, game boards, jewelry, or puzzles.

Parish Lab

Parish*Lab* offers 3rd through 12th graders specialized instructors dedicated to the development of effective learning strategies and organizational systems. This unique environment allows students to focus on cross-curricular study skills, work collaboratively with peers and instructors, and develop their social interactions. Ownership and accountability are two guiding principles of Lab participation. The goal for each student is independence and sustainability of these habits.

Middle School Lab

Students with an Individual Accommodation Plan on file may enroll during one morning elective and/or their study hall block. Middle School students enrolled in Lab will have access to before school and after school as well. Parish*Lab* opens each day at 7:00am and is staffed until 4:00pm.

Language Foundations

This is an invitation-only class designed to help select 5th and 6th grade students diagnosed with a specific learning difference in reading. The course is held in small groups which allows a highly personalized curriculum designed to best address the specific learning differences of each participant. The goal of this class is to give students a stronger foundation in the English language, specifically reading, spelling, vocabulary and written expression skills, before moving on to study other world languages in the second half of Middle School.