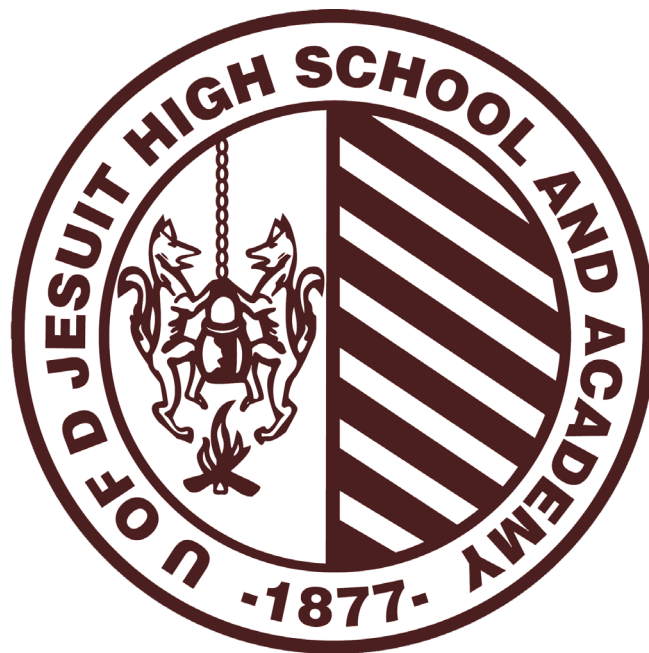


# University of Detroit Jesuit High School and Academy



## Academy Curriculum Guide

2025-2026

## ENGLISH

**7 English** English 7 is a required two-semester course in the 7th grade in the Jesuit Academy that is designed to help a student write and speak effectively and accurately by developing his ability to use the proper structural form of the English language. The 7th grade course covers traditional grammar studies including sentence diagramming and parsing, vocabulary studies with word sets for college-bound students, the writing process, and a variety of writing experiences. Students will be expected to demonstrate their acquired knowledge through objective testing, class discussion, composition, and projects.

**8th Grade** English 8 is a required two-semester course in the 8th grade in the Jesuit Academy that is designed to help a student write and speak effectively and accurately by developing his ability to use the proper structural forms of the English language. This class is intended to build on the required 7th grade content. Students will continue their study of formal English grammar through sentence diagramming and parsing. They will learn to write and punctuate the college-prep sentence. Students will continue their vocabulary studies with word sets for college-bound students. Students will learn basic research skills. As their vocabulary, sentence skills, and critical thinking skills advance; students will demonstrate their burgeoning language skills through longer and more complex pieces of writing. Students will be expected to demonstrate their acquired knowledge through objective testing, class discussion, composition, and projects.

## LANGUAGE ARTS

**7th Grade** Language Arts 7 is a required two-semester course in the 7th grade of the Jesuit Academy. It contains a variety of literature appropriate to the needs and interests of junior high students. The study provides practice in those skills necessary to understand and appreciate literature, and relate literature to language, composition, and thinking skills. Students will be expected to demonstrate their acquired knowledge through objective testing, class discussion, composition, and projects.

**8th Grade** Language Arts 8 is a required two-semester course in the 8th grade in the Jesuit Academy. Building on what they learned in Language Arts 7, 8th grade Academy students will continue the study of literature and the development of related reading, writing, and thinking skills. Students will review literary terms, vocabulary, and the writing process. Students will practice reading skills through exposure to longer works of fiction and non-fiction. Students will be expected to demonstrate their acquired knowledge through objective testing, class discussion, composition, and projects.

## SCIENCE

Students in both 7th and 8th grade are enrolled in the Conceptual Integrated Science course:

**7th Grade** Students will study Botany, Anatomy, Zoology, and microorganisms. Students are introduced to proper laboratory skills. The course includes lectures, films, demonstrations, and labs.

**8th Grade** Students build upon the material covered in Grade 7. This course will introduce Earth Science, Meteorology, Geology, Astronomy, Chemistry, and Physics.

**Advanced 8th Grade** This course will build upon material learned in Grade 7. This course will introduce topics in Cosmology and Astronomy, Astrophysics, the Beginning of the Universe, Solar Systems and Planetary Science, Geology and Atmospheric Science, Space Exploration and Engineering, Quantum Mechanics, and the Origins of Life on Earth. This course will introduce lab techniques and will ideally include a field trip and will culminate in a year-end science project. This course will proceed at a faster pace, go into more depth, and include more advanced math than a regular 8<sup>th</sup> grade science course.

To enroll in this course, students must, at a minimum, meet the following requirements:

- 1) Be enrolled in Algebra 1 or higher as an 8<sup>th</sup> grader
- 2) Have recommendation from their 7<sup>th</sup> grade science teacher
- 3) Demonstrate a positive and serious attitude towards learning

Only one section of up to 24 students will be offered for this course. Requests for this class be evaluated on an individual basis, and fulfillment of the above criteria does not guarantee enrollment in the course.

## MATHEMATICS

Jesuit Academy students will be enrolled in one of the following based on their previous math experience and current knowledge.

**7th Grade Math** This course reinforces arithmetic principles, introduces algebra skills, and works with geometric concepts. Students will enhance skills necessary to manipulate numbers and perform operations with rational numbers, decimal numbers, percents and signed integers. Students will use algebraic symbolism, simplify expressions, and solve equations and inequalities. Students will work with ratios, proportions, probability, functions, and basic geometry concepts. Application, problem solving and critical thinking are integrated throughout the course.

**Pre-Algebra** This course will build a strong foundation by re-teaching and reinforcing arithmetic principles, the language of algebra, and basic algebraic concepts. This course emphasizes concepts necessary to be successful in Algebra 1 the following year and introduces many concepts students will see again in Algebra 1. This course helps the student develop good mathematical study skills and learning strategies.

**7/8 Algebra I** This course is the study of the language, concepts, and techniques of Algebra. The basic skills that are requisite for success in upper level mathematics and science classes are introduced and reinforced. Concepts include simplifying and evaluating expressions, working with rational expressions and radicals, writing and solving linear equations, graphing linear equations, functions, ratios and proportions, systems of equations, monomials and polynomials, factoring, solving quadratic equations, and evaluating and solving inequalities. There is an emphasis on application of skills and techniques to solve word problems throughout the course. **Students in this course are responsible for purchasing their own textbooks.**

**Honors Algebra II/Trigonometry** This course is an extension of the algebraic concepts that were introduced in Algebra I, and continues the focus on building algebraic fluency and skills. This includes different families of functions including quadratic, polynomial, rational, radical, exponential, logarithmic functions, and trigonometry. This course covers the same topics as Algebra II/Trigonometry with greater depth and some additional topics of study including probability & statistics, sequences & series, and conic sections. **Students in this course are responsible for purchasing their own textbooks.**

## SOCIAL STUDIES

**7th Grade World Geography** This two-semester course introduces geographic terms and the fundamental aspects of physical and human geography. Students will study the United States, Canada, Middle and South America, and the Caribbean. At the conclusion of the course students will demonstrate the ability to identify and define countries based on regional capacity, geographic characteristics, and worldly facts.

**8th Grade Civics** This course is an exploration of the political and economic systems of the United States. Students will explore the U.S. government including state and local governments as well as political structures. Current events and the use of Internet resources serve as academic support components for the course and student learning.

## THEOLOGY

**Finding God Curriculum** Our faith is meant to be lived out in our homes, at our schools, in our jobs, and in our communities. Finding God: Our Response to God's Gifts is a faith formation program that invites children and their parents into a new way of living in relationship with God, family, community, and the world. This comprehensive program provides sound doctrine, Scripture, Tradition, and prayer through experiential activities that make these essential lessons part of a lifelong practice of faith.

**7 Jesus and the New Testament** The main focus of this course is on the life of Jesus as recorded in the New Testament and celebrated throughout the Church's liturgical year. We will "walk with Jesus," from his Incarnation, then on to his public life, and then to his suffering, death, and resurrection. As we do so, we will learn and reflect on many of His teachings and how the Church has come to understand His significance.

Along the way, we will spend significant time reviewing basic Catholic practices, such as: Catholic forms of prayer; how Catholics read and interpret the Bible; the sacraments, especially Baptism, Reconciliation, and Eucharist; appropriate devotion to Mary and the Saints; the Commandments, virtues, and precepts of the Church; appreciation of religious art; and Christian service (faith-in-action). In addition, the course includes “mini-sessions” on the history of our school and the founder of the Jesuits and Jesuit schools, St. Ignatius Loyola.

**8 The Church and Discipleship** This course focuses on the mission of the Church as sent out by the Risen Christ to proclaim the gospel in the power of the Holy Spirit. We will examine how the Church Community has evolved over the centuries, some of its key figures and events, and its contemporary expression today. Several students will be making their Confirmation this year, and although we do not officially prepare students for the Sacrament (parishes do), we will take time to reflect on the importance of this sacrament as fully initiating the recipient into the life of the Church Community.

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## SEVENTH GRADE ELECTIVES

Students in the seventh grade will choose from either one Year Long Elective or two Semester Electives to complete their schedule.

### Cub Choir

**Grade 7, 8, 9 / 2 Semesters / 1 Credit / Course fee: \$35**

Cub Choir is open to all students who are interested in singing, grades 7-9. Participants will learn what it means to be a good choral musician. They will develop sound vocal technique, rehearsal etiquette, and sight-singing skills. They will explore basic music theory. Students will sing repertoire from many eras and genres. Further, they will develop musical vocabularies that will allow them to discuss music in any setting.

### Concert Band

**Grade 7, 8, 9 / 2 Semesters / 1 credit / Prerequisite: Provide own instrument and be able to read music / Course fee: \$35**

Concert is a performance-based course open to 7th, 8th and 9th graders. This course is geared toward students with little or no musical experience on band instruments only. (These include: percussion, woodwinds, and brasswinds) Through ensemble rehearsal, individual practice, and a variety of performance opportunities, the student will gain an understanding and appreciation for this great art form. This course is open to all students on band instruments only. (These include: percussion, woodwinds, and brasswinds). This ensemble is a skilled effort in which each student is expected to show technical and musical growth throughout this course. This course will be very fast paced as the goal is to ready the 8th and 9th graders for the Symphonic Band for the following year.

### Symphonic Band

**Grade 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 / 2 Semesters / 1 credit / Prerequisite: New students will need to audition for placement in the symphonic band. Current students continue with approval of the director. Course fee: \$40**

Symphonic Band is a performance-based course providing opportunities to explore and present diverse genres of music within a 1) marching band, 2) symphonic wind ensemble, and 3) pep band context. Through ensemble rehearsal, individual practice, and a variety of performance opportunities, the student will gain an understanding and appreciation for this great art form. This course is open to all students **by audition** on band instruments only. (These include: percussion, woodwinds, and brasswinds). This ensemble is a skilled effort in which each student is expected to show technical and musical growth throughout this course.

### **String Orchestra**

**Grade 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 / 2 Semesters / 1 credit / Prerequisite: New students will need to audition for placement in the String Orchestra. Current students continue with approval of the director. Course fee: \$35**

String Orchestra is open to all UDJ students who play violin, viola, cello or double bass. Course work includes advanced musicianship, music sight-reading and string performance skills. String Orchestra performs multiple concerts during the semester. Grading is based on class participation, assignments and concert attendance. Concert attendance is mandatory to earn a grade in String Orchestra. Students can earn their Varsity Letter in String Orchestra. Interested students should contact Mr. Prouty to schedule an audition.

### **Introduction to Art**

**Grade 7,8 / 1 Semester / .5 Credit**

This elective is designed to allow students to explore the fundamentals of art through various media. Academy Art extends elementary learning, refines skills, and provides opportunities for unique and individual applications of those skills.

### **Introduction to Music**

**Grade 7,8 / 1 Semester / .5 Credit / Course fee: \$25**

The music elective is designed for students not engaged in performing arts. Students will learn the fundamentals of music: rhythms, melody, harmony, form, tone color, dynamics, and tempo through learning how to play the ukulele. In addition, they will explore historical and cultural components.

### **Physical Education (PE)**

**Grade 7,8 / 1 Semester / .5 Credit**

Academy Physical Education is a semester-long elective which will focus on developing the tools for students to be physically active for a lifetime. Students will be provided opportunities to cultivate leadership skills, character, teamwork, and sportsmanship. Students are guided to refine motor, social, and intellectual skills which promote a fit and active lifestyle for the future.

### **Study Skills**

**Grade 7,8 / 1 Semester / .5 Credit**

Study Skills is a class designed to help students improve learning and lead to high achievement here at UDJ. Students will learn effective ways to stay organized, manage time, take notes, and to advocate for themselves. In addition, students will learn practical computer skills. Most importantly, students will learn how reflection and metacognition can be leveraged to develop grit that leads to achievement.

### **Computer Literacy**

**Grade 7,8 / 1 Semester / .5 Credit / Enrollment limited to one section**

This course equips students with essential computer, digital, and IT skills for academic and career success. It covers multimedia, word processing, spreadsheets, databases, Internet

communications, cybersecurity, and safety. Learning is hands-on in a lab setting, using current software and technology in accordance with current practices.

## **Eighth Grade Electives**

Students in the eighth grade will select from one Full Year Elective or two Semester Electives to complete their schedule. If Study Skills & Computer Skills was taken as a 7<sup>th</sup> grade elective it cannot be selected for 8<sup>th</sup> grade. All other semester electives can be taken more than once.

High School World Language courses will require counselor guidance for enrollment. If your son selects a World Language course as his elective, there is an understanding of both student and parent regarding the additional rigor this course will have for an 8<sup>th</sup> grader.

### **Cub Choir**

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Cub Choir is open to all students who are interested in singing, grades 7-9. Participants will learn what it means to be a good choral musician. They will develop sound vocal technique, rehearsal etiquette, and sight-singing skills. They will explore basic music theory. Students will sing repertoire from many eras and genres. Further, they will develop musical vocabularies that will allow them to discuss music in any setting.

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## High School Level Chinese I

**Grade 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 / 2 Semesters / Prerequisite for 8th grade student: Counselor Guidance / 1 credit**

The initial course in Mandarin Chinese gives students an introduction to the Chinese language and culture. All aspects of the language—speaking, listening, reading, writing, as well as grammar, are introduced. Students are required to memorize vocabulary, phrases, and dialogues in order to establish a sound foundation. At the end of the course, students are expected to understand pinyin pronunciation and feel comfortable speaking the language. Students learn to conduct conversations and read and write sentences at the high-novice level and to recognize and write approximately 200 Chinese characters in both traditional and simplified formats. In addition, students gain knowledge of selected topics of Chinese culture. **Students in this course are responsible for purchasing their own textbooks.**

## High School Level Latin I

**Grade 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 / 2 Semesters / 1 credit / Prerequisite for 8th grade student: Counselor Guidance / Course fee for National Latin Exam: \$6**

The Latin I course focuses on the basics of the language. The concentration will be on grammar, vocabulary, the influence of Latin on English and other languages, and using Latin to build English skills. Roman and Greek culture, mythology, and history are emphasized. Simple readings in Latin will be presented. **Students in this course are responsible for purchasing their own textbooks.**

## High School Level Spanish I

**Grade 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 / 2 Semesters / 1 credit / Prerequisite for 8th grade student: Counselor Guidance / Enrollment may be limited and will be on a first-come first-served basis**

The course covers greetings, introductions, describing people, family members, household items and chores, shopping, food, body parts and healthy habits, hobbies and sports. The main focus will be communication in the present tense. The course will encourage interaction in the Spanish language thus active participation is essential to success. This foundational course is the first of the three required years of language study. It provides the solid base essential for student success. The course is heavy in vocabulary and grammar thus students are expected to spend much time practicing, studying, and memorizing both in and out of the classroom. All four language skills (listening, speaking, reading, and writing) are interwoven with authentic backgrounds of contemporary culture in the Spanish-speaking world. **Students in this course are responsible for purchasing their own textbooks.**



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## **Campus Ministry & Service**

### **7<sup>th</sup> grade Day of Reflection**

This retreat involves the entire 7th grade and begins with a prayer service in the school chapel. Following the prayer service students board buses to Our Lady of the Fields Retreat Center in Brighton, MI where they will engage in a low ropes course designed to build community within the class. Each low rope activity will also center on a gospel theme of community with small reflection sharing throughout the day. Mass is celebrated to finish the retreat.

## **8<sup>th</sup> grade Day of Reflection**

The 8th grade retreat begins with Mass. Students are then split in two groups, one group of students will head to Manresa Retreat House in Bloomfield Hills, MI and the other will travel to St. Paul of the Cross in Detroit, MI. Students will engage in the same programming at both locations. From small group reflection, large group reflection, and many fun games in between, the theme of the retreat is the importance of a strong foundation as they begin their transition to high school.

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