St. Michael's
EPISCOPAL DAY SCHOOL

Grade Level Summary: 7th Grade

Art
Students learn various techniques, skills, and artistic applications by studying historic content and culture through the eyes and hands of an artist. Studies are overlapped and integrated with other grade-level subjects and classes. While exercising drawing and painting techniques, students learn to evaluate their personal work and develop an understanding of the art elements and principles.

History
Seventh grade uses Impact California Social Studies and additional supplemental resources for history class. This medieval history course will present a chronological history of the world from the fall of the Roman Empire to early modern times. Students will study the social, cultural, and economic changes that occurred in Europe, Africa, and Asia during the Middle Ages. Some topics covered during the course of the year include the fall of the Western Roman Empire, the foundation of the Byzantine Empire, the social and political structures in Europe during the Middle Ages, the origin and spread of Islam, the lasting impact of China's dynasties, feudalism in Japan, the Renaissance, and the Age of Exploration in early modern Europe. Throughout the year, emphasis will be placed on geography, inquiry skills, and critical thinking.

Language Arts
In Language Arts class, the students focus on the overall structure of a five-paragraph essay. Emphasis is placed on developing strong sentence structure, understanding, and incorporating figurative language in writing. Students are given opportunities to brainstorm and develop outlines as they complete multiple narrative, expository, and argumentative pieces of writing throughout the year. Additionally, students are exposed to various genres, literary devices, points of view, and writing styles. In addition to reading novels, students read and analyze short stories, poems, works of nonfiction, and plays. Students apply and develop stronger public speaking skills through class presentations and discussions.

Latin
Seventh-grade Latin continues to build on the Latin grammar and syntax from sixth grade. Students continue to memorize Latin vocabulary and begin to reflexively infer the meaning of various English words based on learned Latin vocabulary. Students will engage in projects built on Latin's contributions to the fields of medicine and law.

Mathematics
Before entering seventh grade, students are tested and placed into differentiated math classes. Students in Pre-Algebra study principles of algebra; rational numbers and operations; exponents, properties of roots; equations and inequalities; ratios, proportions, percent and similarity; two and three-dimensional geometry; data, statistics, and probability. Students in Algebra focus on operations with real numbers, solving equations and word problems, operations with exponents and polynomials, factoring polynomials, linear functions and equations, systems of equations and inequalities, quadratic functions and equations, rational functions and equations, and exponential and radical functions.

Music
Students focus on singing in tune and singing in two-part harmony, as well as reading and notating music. They learn how to improvise and accompany themselves on Orff and percussion instruments. They learn the basics of bell ringing and how to play as a unit. They also focus on listening, analyzing, and describing music. Lastly, they continue to practice singing with expression and performing in front of an audience.

Physical Education
Classes focus on health-related topics, including body composition, cardiovascular fitness, muscular endurance, strength, and flexibility. Additionally, skill-related fitness concepts such as agility, balance, coordination, power, reaction time, and speed are incorporated into daily activities. Units consist of team sport activities, such as soccer, team handball, basketball, floor hockey, pickleball, and badminton. Students have daily physical fitness activities, and one day a week, the concentration is on cardiovascular fitness through middle-distance endurance as well as circuit training targeting skill-related concepts.

Science
Seventh-grade students continue to develop their understanding of the Scientific Inquiry Process through the study of Life Science. The course begins with an in-depth look at cell structure and function, followed by a hands-on frog dissection to explore human body systems. As part of their study of ecosystems, students conduct a research lab on the endemic species of Catalina Island, examining how organisms, populations, communities, and the biosphere interact. The course concludes with a focus on biological evolution, emphasizing natural selection and change over time. Throughout, students engage in lab research and experiments to strengthen their knowledge and bring Life Science concepts to life.

Spanish
In Spanish, students learn to speak, read, and write in the present tense with a variety of high-frequency vocabulary ranging from the body, home, and foods to prepositions, irregular verbs, and possessive adjectives. Students learn to incorporate and conjugate more irregular -ar, -er, and -ir Spanish verbs in their reading, writing, and speaking. Seventh graders also read a beginner Spanish novel and complete a comprehensive Spanish food project in which they research and recreate a dish from any Spanish-speaking country in the world.

Theater
Seventh-grade theater begins with an overnight field trip to Ashland, Oregon, for the Shakespeare Festival. Learning throughout the remainder of the school year focuses on Shakespeare, including exercises designed to help students become familiar with his syntax, meter, and vocabulary. Students study, rehearse, and perform a Shakespearean comedy.