

8th Grade

Eighth grade is the year students act as school leaders. They continue to gain knowledge and experience while practicing individual study and learning skills. Students do in depth research to produce a formal research paper, participate in an extended day religious retreat off-campus, and present the annual “8th Grade Musical” each May.

Graduation week activities celebrate the students’ years here at St. Alphonsus and send them off to very bright futures.



Curriculum

It is expected that, after completion of the eighth grade year, students will have a firm grasp of the listed expectations in each discipline.

Social Studies

- Analyze the impact of personal decisions on global issues
- Describe effects of investments in infrastructure
- Differentiate among the various economic & political systems
- Compare ancient and present-day communities around the world
- Identify and describe significant people in the major eras in the United States and World History
- Analyze significant events and the major eras of the United States and the world
- Identify United State regions throughout history
- Identify changing boundaries and major land acquisitions of the United States
- Evaluate the impact of science and technology on the United States and the world
- Explain the role and impact of civil actions
- Distinguish how the powers of government are acquired, maintained, justified, and sometimes abused
- Demonstrate knowledge of the world’s religions
- Analyze cultural conflicts in Unites States history
- Analyze social issues based on whether human dignity is valued or harmed
- Is involved in service projects in the local community
- Practice peaceful conflict resolution strategies within the family, school, and community
- Do research on people who have fought for justice



Religion

- Pray the Apostles’ Creed and the Nicene Creed
- Describe some of the serious conflicts that divided the early Church and how the Church struggles to overcome them
- Learn about the Benedictine Rule, and the role of monasteries in the Middle Ages
- Learn about the Protestant Reformation and the division it caused in the Church
- Discover how the Church brought its traditions into the modern age through ecumenical councils
- Recognize that Christ is present in the sacramental life of the whole Church
- Discover how the Church’s liturgy can adapt to customs and cultures without losing its essential meaning or mystery
- Explain why celebrating Mass on Sunday is essential to our Catholic faith
- Realize that Christ forgives our sins and that the priest in the sacrament of Reconciliation is a visible sign of Christ
- Learn about the sacramental and liturgical changes that resulted from the Second Vatican Council
- Become aware of the challenges of following the natural law and being obedient to God in modern society
- Gain knowledge about religious warfare, particularly the Crusades, and about feudal notions of salvation
- Explore various Catholic social justice teachings
- Understand that there are many ways to express our faith and show God’s love to others
- Learn about “The Imitation of Christ” and the rise of devotional practices and mendicant orders
- Learn about Catholicism’s beginnings in America and about religious influences on American life
- Practice Family Life & Safeguarding God’s People concepts



Reading

- Use knowledge of sentence and word structure, word origins, visual images, and context clues to understand unfamiliar words and clarify passages of text
- Select, summarize, paraphrase, analyze, and evaluate, orally and in writing, passages of texts chosen for specific purposes
- Analyze the effect of characters, plot, setting, language, topic, style, purpose, and point of view on the overall impact of literature
- Provide interpretive responses, orally and in writing, to literary and nonliterary texts representing the diversity of American cultural and faith heritage and cultures and faiths of the world
- Interpret and use technical resources such as charts, tables, travel schedules, timelines, and manuals
- Compare, contrast, and evaluate the relative accuracy and usefulness of information from different sources



Math

- Identify irrational numbers
- Convert fractions, decimals, and percents greater than 1 and less than 0
- Apply the concept of percent to discounts, simple interest, and sales tax
- Apply all operations to rational numbers
- Collect, organize, and analyze data and draw conclusions using various methods
- Select, create, and use appropriate graphical representations
- Distinguish between dependent and independent events
- Measure and draw angles up to 360 degrees
- Name, define, and give examples of complex figures
- Construct parallel and perpendicular lines, triangles, and transversals
- Apply formulas for area, surface area, and volume for 2- and 3-dimensional figures
- Use problem solving to develop numerical/algebraic relationships
- Add and subtract like expressions
- Graph equations
- Use integer exponents and square roots
- Convert large and small numbers into scientific notation

Pre-Algebra

- Understand concept of irrational numbers
- Understand concept of reciprocals and exponents
- Apply and represent data to solve problems
- Describe relationships of special right triangles (30-60, 45-45, Pythagorean Theorem)
- Calculate surface area and volume for 2- and 3-dimensional figures
- Identify and use arithmetic and geometric patterns and Fibonacci sequence to solve problems
- Apply concepts of variable expression and equation to solve multi-step problems
- Apply concepts of variable expression and equation to solve multi-step problems
- Graph inequalities
- Interpret equations using graphs and tables
- Use integer exponents and square roots
- Apply properties to solve equations and inequalities

Algebra

- Solve single and multi-step problems
- Find product of binomials
- Collect like terms, perform simple monomial factoring
- Use order of operations to simplify polynomials with specific values of the variable
- Solve linear equations with simple fractions and literal numbers
- Evaluate numerical expressions containing integral exponents
- Find sum, difference, product, quotient of polynomials
- Simplify algebraic expressions with exponents
- Add, subtract, multiply, and divide rational expressions
- Factor a quadratic trinomial in one or two variables completely
- Add, subtract, multiply, and divide radical expressions
- Graph a straight line with its equation
- Find the slope and y intercept of a line with its equation
- Graph a parabola with its equation
- Graph points, linear equations and inequalities, absolute value and quadratic equations
- Graph solution in inequalities on a number line
- Solve quadratic equations
- Solve a system of two linear equations in two unknowns



Science

- Identify and explain that photosynthesis is the process of using light to make food
- Describe the basic life processes that all animals carry out
- Recognize how things evolve
- Know the history of the Theory of Evolution
- Explain that a human being has interactive systems
- Describe how disease is caused by internal and external factors
- Understand homeostasis
- Realize that both heredity and the environment contribute to the development of living things
- Identify the levels of organization in living things: cells, tissues, organs, systems, and organisms
- Describe how chromosomes are contained in both egg and sperm and carry instructions for the new individual Model how an inherited trait is determined by one or more genes using a Punnet Square



Oral Language

- Perform expressive oral readings of prose, poetry, and drama
- Prepare and conduct interviews
- Differentiate between formal and informal contexts and employ an appropriate style of speaking, adjusting language, gestures, rate, and volume according to audience and purpose
- Distinguish among purposes for listening, such as gaining information or being entertained, and take notes as appropriate
- Explain and advance opinions by citing evidence and referring to sources
- Participate in discussion without dominating



Writing

- Write Expository, Persuasive, Narrative, Imaginative Fiction, Non-fiction, and Technical pieces
- Write clear and pertinent responses to verbal or visual material that communicate, explain, and interpret the reading or viewing experience to a specific audience
- Write in a variety of situations (during an exam, in a computer lab) and adapt strategies, such as revision, technology, and the use of reference materials, to the situation
- Produce multiple drafts, including finished pieces that demonstrate the capacity to generate, focus, and organize ideas and to revise the language
- Contrast and compare works of literature by the same and different authors
- Understand the function of words, phrases, and clauses in a sentence and use them effectively, including coordinate and subordinate conjunctions, relative pronouns, and comparative adjectives

Technology

- Understand appropriate and responsible behavior on the Internet when making decisions regarding, social networking sites, downloading of information, email etiquette, instant messaging, and cyber bullying
- Demonstrate in a group setting the ability to present the consequences of violating Copyright Law
- Apply strategies for identifying and solving routine hardware and software problems that occur during everyday use
- Demonstrate proper keyboarding techniques for keying all letters (home row, top row, bottom row)
- Demonstrate the ability to correctly evaluate a Web site for accurate information
- Demonstrate the ability to use sorting and searching techniques to solve a specific problem or find information
- Demonstrate the ability to create a spreadsheet using formulas and functions, formatting techniques, and graphing capabilities
- Create a database with 5 fields, create queries listing different information listed in your database and answering written questions about the information. Create reports that show different pieces of your information stored
- Demonstrate the ability to edit a multi-page word processed report using header and footers, different alignments, footnotes, word processing formatting features, insertion of page numbers and biographical information with adherence to either MLA or APA writing style
- Demonstrate the ability to create a webpage with information geared towards an age-appropriate audience. Utilize the HTML language to format the webpage using tables, text, and images with links within the webpage and externally to other web pages



Music

- Perform simple melodies and/or accompaniments on at least one classroom instrument accurately and independently, alone and in small and large ensembles, using proper technique
- Use a variety of traditional and nontraditional sound sources and electronic media when arranging
- Listen to and define characteristics of:
 - Blues, Jazz, Swing, Rock n Roll, Folk, 60's Rock, Disco and current popular music styles
- Create and perform original blues songs accompanied by a 12-Bar Blues chord pattern
- Identify historical culture of time periods that influence rock music styles



Art

- Understand how materials & techniques influence the expressive quality of art
- Use thumbnail sketches to experiment and develop visual ideas
- Use a variety of visual expressions, including: drawing, painting, printmaking, sculpting, modeling, building, photography, film, video, & computers
- Apply principles of art: rhythm, balance, proportion, variety, unity, harmony & emphasis
- Use the elements of art: line, color, value, shape, texture & space
- Explore a variety of multicultural art forms
- Examine the art & photography from Civil War, post Civil war, and arts & crafts of early United States
- Is familiar with the history, public art, and unique architecture of the local community
- Recognize & reflect on the beauty & design found in God's creation of the universe
- Respect & care for art tools, work areas & materials

Foreign Language

- Participate in oral and written review of vocabulary
- Be introduced to restaurant phrases and breakfast foods
- Practice Verb conjugation
 - Preterite tense
 - To Like (verb)
 - Present tense (1st person)
 - Past tense (1st person)
 - Negative
 - To Like (verb)
 - With indirect object pronouns
 - Verb to know
 - When to use *por y para*
- Pray daily Formal Prayers
 - Sign of the Cross
 - Glory Be
 - Hail Mary
 - Our Father
- Celebrate Cultural Anniversaries
 - *Aniversario de la Independencia de México*
 - *El Día de Los Muertos*
 - *Las Posadas*
 - *Cinco de Mayo*
- Participate in field trip into the Hispanic community for:
 - Eat Mexican Lunch
 - Make a purchase in Spanish
 - Scavenger Hunt for Hispanic products
 - View a Hispanic art exhibit



Physical Education

- Choose safe ways to engage in lead-up games, free practice, relays and contact games
- Test for Presidential and national physical fitness award
- Receptive to praise, suggestions and criticism
- Demonstrate willingness to participate in evaluating self and others
- Explain the personal values of physical education
- Know how to improve flexibility, coordination and strength
- Know the concepts of sportsmanship, physical fitness, leadership and collaboration
- Practice Rollerblading as a lifetime sport
- Participate in Rock climbing field trip
- Design and implement a personal improvement plan of regular physical exercise and recreation activities

