**8th Grade Religion 2018-2019: Seeking the Good, the True, and the Beautiful**

**Key Activities and Dates**

1. **Baptismal Certificate, First Communion Certificate – on file at school**
2. **Confirmation Application and Contract, Saint Report - was due last year**
3. **Mon, September 17, 2018 at 6:30 pm: Middle School Back to School Night**
4. **Sat, October 20, 2018: Morning of Reflection at Saint Rita – Living Rosary for LIFE**
5. **Thurs, November 1, 2018 (All Saints Day): Sponsor Identified and Paperwork Submitted (approval with parish seal by sponsor’s pastor)**
6. **Thurs, November 1, 2018 (All Saints Day): Life Paper due**
7. **Thurs, November 12 - November 13, 2018: Parent-Teacher Conferences**
8. **Wed, November 21 - Sun, November 25, 2018: Thanksgiving Break**
9. **Thurs, November 29, 2018: High School Placement Exam**
10. **Fri, November 30, 2018: 1st Trimester Ends**
11. **Sun, December 2, 2018: 1st Sunday of Advent**
12. **Fri, December 7, 2018 : Geography Bee**
13. **Fri, December 14, 2018 (evening): Advent Concert**
14. **Mon, December 24 – Wed, Jan 2, 2019: Christmas Holiday**
15. **Sun, January 6, 2019: Epiphany**
16. **January 11, 2019: All Diocesan Schools – High School applications due**
17. **Fri, January 18, 2019: March for Life**
18. **Fri, February 1 – Fri, February 15, 2019: Oral Confirmation Test Interviews**
19. **Sat, February 9, 2019: Morning of Reflection at Saint Rita – writing Bishop Burbidge**
20. **Thurs, February 21 – Fri, February 22, 2019: Written Confirmation Test**
21. **February March 6, 2019: Ash Wednesday**
22. **Wed, March 6, 2019: Apostolic Service Project (All forms for 20 hours of service)**
23. **Fri, March 8, 2019: 2nd Trimester Ends**
24. **March - April 2019: Interview with Father Gee**
25. **Tues, April 2, 2019: Full Day Shrine Retreat**
26. **Fri, April 5, 2019 (time TBD): Confirmation Rehearsal**
27. **Sat, April 6, 2019 at 10 am: Confirmation**
28. **Sat, April 13, 2019: Diocesan Science Fair**
29. **Thurs, April 18, 2019: Holy Thursday**
30. **Fri, April 19, 2019: Good Friday**
31. **Sat, April 20, 2019: Holy Saturday**
32. **Sun, April 21, 2019: Easter Sunday**
33. **Thurs, April 18 – Sun, April 28, 2019: Easter Break**
34. **Tues, May 7, 2019: 8th Grade Latin Exam**
35. **Wed, May 15, 2019: May Procession**
36. **May 20, 2019 (week of): Shakespeare Festival**
37. **Sat, June 1, 2019: Algebra Exemption Exam**
38. **Fri, June 7, 2019: 3rd Trimester Ends for 8th Grade**
39. **Fri, June 7, 2019: 8th Grade Graduation**

**To be added to the schedule: Franciscan Monastery Retreat (Advent/Lent?); 2 Min 2 Mary Video (Spring?); Pauline Book Store / Daughters of Saint Paul (last week of school – during 8th grade down-time)**

**Middle School 2018-2019: Seeking the Good, the True, and the Beautiful**

**Raising Virtuous Middle Schoolers**

**Our children’s vocation right now….**

1. **Child of God**
2. **Member of the Family (son/daughter, brother/sister, friend, etc.)**
3. **Student**
4. **Everything else comes after the above 3…**

**Spiritual Development**

* **PRAY as a family AND PRAY individually**
* **POWERFUL PRAYERS to say as a family: Divine Mercy Chaplet and The Holy Rosary**
* **Attend SUNDAY MASS together AND CONFESSION frequently together (every 2-4 weeks)**
* **Read SACRED SCRIPTURE**
* **Discuss THE FAITH**

**Emotional Development**

* **Connect as a family everyday: TALK about your day, eat dinner together, review homework and agendas, etc.**
* **Remember that….1 minute they are still little kids, and the next minute…becoming young adults – they are all over the map! We remember, right?**
* **Not all students have access to phones, iPods, social media, etc. Different rules for different families. Honestly evaluate the need for your middle school child to have a phone/device.**
* **“Unplug” and help them create boundaries …If your child has a cell phone or other device…**
	+ **No cell phone or social media use before the school day begins**
	+ **No cell phone or social media use during homework**
	+ **Consider…..cell phone or social media use in the common areas of the house, only**
	+ **Consider…..limiting cell phone and social media use in general, as they are still being “formed” - they are fragile (lacking in maturity, temperance, self control, etc.)**
	+ **“Friending”, “following them”, and “seeing everything” they do on cell phones and social media, does not prevent the disaster**
		- **Would you drop them off in Times Square in NYC and watch what happens?**
		- **Would you give them the keys to the car if they weren’t ready? Because following them won’t prevent the crash…**

**Physical Development**

* **8+ hours of sleep AND Daily Showers**
* **Exercise/backyard activity**
* **Limit screen time**
* **On time to school, ready with our backpack and lunch the night before (perhaps)**
* **Not just wearing the appropriate uniform, but wearing it WELL**
* **Reinforcing that inner beauty is far more important that outer beauty, and that there are many different versions of outer beauty - and they are beautiful just as they are!**