



3801 Russell Road
 Alexandria, Virginia 22308
 Phone: 703-548-1888

MIDDLE SCHOOL FACT SHEET



Sixth, Seventh and Eighth Grades

A solid curriculum, integrated among the various disciplines and always taught in the light of the Gospels is offered for students in grades six through eight.

A brief overview is offered here of topics covered in various subjects in these grade levels. It should be understood that this is a very limited list and the curriculum includes a much wider range of topics and skills.

Religion

sixth grade	seventh grade	eighth grade
Old Testament Scripture; the patriarchs	The life of Christ in Scripture	Church history and hierarchy
Purposes of prayer	The Mass	Doctrine and dogma
Patron saints and virtues	The Commandments and the Moral Life Introduction to the Sacrament of Confirmation	preparation for the sacrament of Confirmation

Language Arts / Reading

Reading in the middle school is taught through a literature based curriculum. Literary analysis terms are taught through the reading and discussion of the novel, short story, nonfiction, poetry, and stories from the oral tradition. English includes a study of vocabulary, a grammatical review, and writing using the Empowering Writers method. Research is taught through a weekly class with the librarian.

sixth grade	seventh grade	eighth grade
Plot structure; point of view Imagery Responding to literature	Flashback, foreshadowing Figurative language Writing about literature	Shakespeare Characterization Writing to compare works
Case, tense Punctuation	Review Verbals	Review Object complement
Pre-writing and editing Empowering Writers – narrative and expository Cryptid and animal research	Genres and editing for voice Empowering Writers – narrative, persuasive, expository Body systems and country research	Speech and editing for tone Empowering Writers – narrative, persuasive, expository Research; using technology appropriately



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Math

Students in all grades use the Saxon math program. This excellent series allows the student to master new skills while continually reinforcing skills acquired in previous lessons and grades. Two levels of instruction are offered at all three middle school grade levels, including Algebra I for qualified eighth grade students.

A few concepts from each grade are provided here:

sixth grade	seventh grade	eighth grade
operations with decimals, percents and exponents	operations with positive and negative numbers	rational and irrational numbers; roots; function rules; prime numbers
areas and perimeters; use of the compass;	probability and proportions	Pythagorean theorem; volume and surface area
solving basic algebraic expressions	surface area and volume; solving linear equations and inequalities	measurement conversions; averages, ratios, mean, median and mode; coordinate plane

Science

Science lessons are enriched with hands-on experiences wherever possible. Students learn the Scientific Method by doing and demonstrate their skills in observation, recording data and analysis at all grade levels.

sixth grade	seventh grade	eighth grade
An Introduction to the Life, Earth and Physical Sciences	Life Science	Physical Science

Social Studies

sixth grade	seventh grade	eighth grade
World History	American History founding to the Civil War	American History post Civil War to present

In addition, all students enjoy a daily enrichment class including instruction in art, music, computer technology, library science, and physical education. All middle school students take Latin as their language program.

Students in the middle school are eligible to participate in the St. Rita School Band program, Strings program and CYO basketball.

Students participate in outreach projects to help the less fortunate, including “Pennies for the Villa”, clothing drives, food collection at Thanksgiving, support for the ALIVE! Shelter at Christmas, the Walk for the Homeless, the St. Jude Math-A-Thon, a “Shower for the Shelter” and various projects sponsored by the Student Council.

