



**ST. AGATHA**  
— Est. 1911 —  
Catholic School

*Learning. Faith. Service.*

503.234.5500

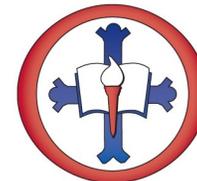
stagathaschool.us

7960 SE 15<sup>th</sup> Ave. Portland, OR 97202



## CLASSROOM & SPECIALIST CURRICULUM

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**ST. AGATHA**  
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*Learning. Faith. Service.*



Since 1911, St. Agatha Catholic School has provided a quality education in an academic and faith community rooted in the traditions and teachings of the Catholic Church. Located in the historic Sellwood neighborhood in southeast Portland, St. Agatha School offers a challenging curriculum in a nurturing environment for grades preschool to 8.



### *Our Mission*

St. Agatha Catholic School is a faith-filled learning community committed to the academic and spiritual development of each child, fostering students who will be dedicated to a lifetime of learning, faith, and service.

### *Small Class Size*

St. Agatha offers 2 preschool classes and one class in Kindergarten through 8th grade. With an average student/teacher ratio of 11:1, our manageable class sizes create a productive and engaged learning environment.

### *Service Learning*

Community outreach is planned and implemented by each grade level class.

### *Extended Care*

St. Agatha provides a safe, structured environment for our students outside of our regular school hours through our before school and after school care. For a fee, preschool - 8th grade students can arrive as early as 7 am and stay as late as 6 pm daily.

### *Hot Lunch Program*

An affordable and convenient option for our school families, our hot lunch program offers a variety of nutritious selections daily.

### *Extracurricular Sports*

Through Catholic Youth Organization (CYO), 3rd through 8th grade students can participate in volleyball, football, basketball, swimming, track & field and lacrosse. Hot Shots basketball is offered to 1st and 2nd grade students.

*The well rounded St. Agatha Catholic School students will have their educational experience enriched with Technology, Physical Education, Art, Music, Spanish, and Library instruction.*



## *Learning Support Center*

### *Mission*

We believe that every child has the potential and desire to succeed academically. The Learning Support Center (LSC) is a program that supports creative and individualized learning within all grade levels, so all students can grow as learners.

### *Organization*

The LSC is an in-school educational program that supports all enrolled students throughout their academic journey at St. Agatha Catholic School. There are no additional fees for the LSC. The LSC uses a variety of instructional methods to support every student's unique academic needs and learning styles. Collaboration between the LSC Specialist and the classroom teachers allow for classroom coursework, set forth by the Archdiocese of Portland, to be accessible and meaningful to all students. The teacher and the LSC Specialist differentiate instruction and provide necessary accommodations for each child to be successful.

### *Who is Eligible?*

All children who are current St. Agatha Catholic School students are eligible for referral to the LSC. Those students referred to the LSC by their classroom teacher, in collaboration with the student's parents, will be evaluated and assessed by the LSC Specialist. Once assessed, the student will receive a specialized support plan to fit his or her individual needs.

### *Key Support Programs*

#### **Individual / Small Group Support**

Qualified students needing more direct instruction in a specific area of curriculum may be pulled out of the classroom during a portion of the class day to receive individual or small group instruction at their instructional level.

This individual / small group support will be in collaboration with the student's regular subject curriculum in order to meet the learning needs of the student.

#### **Drop-in Resource Center Support**

Students may be referred to the LSC for academic support on a drop-in basis. The LSC Specialist is available during this time when a student needs added support or extra time to complete that school day's work.

#### **Peer Tutoring Support**

St. Agatha Catholic School middle school students who are members of the St. Agatha Honor Roll are available after school to assist students, providing extra support in a variety of academic areas.

#### **Teacher Collaboration & Consultation**

The LSC Specialist is available to provide assistance to all classroom teachers through collaboration and consultation on specific student's needs within the classroom environment.

Together, they meet the child's needs in a number of ways. The LSC Specialist can work in the classroom, accommodate class work and differentiate projects & assignments.

#### **Counseling Support**

St. Agatha provides a licensed counselor part time for students who need additional support.



## Fr. Slider Steuermol Science and Technology Wing

### Mission

In an effort to prepare our students for the scientific and technological demands of the twenty-first century, St. Agatha has made science and technology a focus within our K - 8 curriculum. This initiative became a reality in 2011 with the Fr. Slider Steuermol Science and Technology Wing located on our second floor. The wing includes two classrooms designed and equipped to enhance our students' learning in science and technology.

### Science Lab

The science lab is designed to combine classroom instruction with laboratory experiments in one setting. All students have access to multiple lab stations, learning centers, a wet area, a prep/storage room and a variety of equipment (microscopes, beakers, electric hot plates, lab kits, dissection tools, etc.) to make hands-on learning engaging, inspiring and fun.

Our curriculum is strengthened by field studies to local natural resources within close proximity to our school such as the Oaks Bottom Wildlife Preserve, Johnson Creek Watershed, the Willamette River and many parks and trails.

Educational tools like interactive projectors with laser wands and 3-dimensional ELMO boards give our students an enriched learning environment where instructors spend more of their time in a hands-on teaching setting.

### Technology Center

Located adjacent to the Science Lab is our Technology Center. Students, teachers and staff have access to over 24 fully loaded PCs and Macs as well as mobile iPads and Chromebooks.



Comprehensive, grade-appropriate curriculum for technology (**based on the ISTE Standards**) is integrated into our curriculum.

K-8 Technology curriculum includes:

- Coding
- 3D Design
- Typing
- Internet Safety/Digital Citizenship
- Media Production

To further supplement our interactive learning environment, every classroom is equipped with interactive overhead projectors. Wireless technology connects computers, printers, projectors and other devices to allow maximum flexibility and integration of technology throughout our curricula.

We are a Google Apps for Education school, allowing our students to have their own Chromebook when needed in class and access their materials from any device.



## Preschool

### The Preschool Student will...

- Cultivate the desire to share and get along with others, while forming healthy relationships with one another and with God.
- Develop a love for him/herself, while learning problem solving skills and personal responsibility.
- Have a love for learning through a variety of spiritual and multi-sensory methods.



### Language and Literacy

Speaking and listening skills are developed through story time, poetry, reading, drama, puppetry, finger plays, felt board, role playing, journaling, music, movement and "show and tell".

### Music and Physical Education

The children are exposed to music and musical instruments from nursery rhymes to classical music. Creative movement is encouraged. Weekly PE.

### Science and Nature

Our nature and science table, along with large windows, increase our awareness of the world around us. The children are able to explore God's world and value nature by noticing weather and seasonal changes. We care for seeds and plants, enjoy magnets and magnifying glasses, weights and measurement, water and soil, and nature walks.

### Arts and Crafts

Creativity and self expression are encouraged and developed through a variety of media. These activities promote eye-hand coordination, small motor control, decision making, problem solving, sensory perception, use of imagination and love of beauty! There are many daily opportunities to explore creative talents.

### Math

The children have the opportunity to learn numbers and shape recognition, counting, sequencing, sorting and sets, patterns, signs and symbols. The use of calendar, puzzles, games, books and manipulative materials is employed.





## Preschool Continued

### Home Living, Train, & Block Area

Here the children enter the world of make-believe and imagination. Creative play, social interaction, speaking and listening skills and mutual cooperation are fostered and enhanced in these areas.

### Circle Time

In circle, we learn about boundaries and self control in a close environment! We listen and speak, pray, watch the calendar change, and look at the weather. Stories, poems, finger-plays, drama and puppets are employed. Welcomes and goodbyes, beginnings and endings, explanations and conversations - it all happens in this circle of friends.

### Faith Formation

The basics of the Christian faith are introduced through the use of Holy Scripture, drama, storytelling, flannel board and prayer. We hope to impart to the children a love of learning about God and his ways, and encourage love and obedience by modeling these in day-to-day living alongside them. The use of our quiet altar space is encouraged both individually and as a group.



### In the Classroom

Our goal is to provide a welcoming and loving environment in which young children will thrive and grow. In the classrooms we provide experiences, individual and group, which promote positive self-esteem, creativity, language development, fine and gross motor skills and physical fitness. In addition, we plan activities to foster environmental awareness, social skills and development of faith in our loving God and wonder at his creation. Each child is treated as a unique individual and is encouraged to progress and develop at his or her own pace. Remembering that play is the work of a young child, an environment conducive to such is provided. Through play, each child meets new challenges, works to understand and conquer them and in the process gains new insight, and skills in problem solving. These, we hope, will accompany each one on life's journey. Guidelines and boundaries are set for the benefit of each individual and the safety of the group. Together we hope to grow in discovery, knowledge, love of life and learning, love of each other and above all, love for the one who loves us beyond measure, Jesus, our savior.



## Physical Education

### The Preschool through Third grader will develop...

#### Locomotor Skills

- Coordination is developed by hopping, running, galloping, jump roping, skipping and various other skill activities

#### Balance

- Students participate in various balance beam and line activities

#### Body Skills

- Students will experiment with different rolls, poses and simple tumbling actions

#### Ball Skills

- Throwing, catching, bouncing and kicking skills are emphasized in fun cooperative games, relays and other activities. Various drills are played for sports such as basketball, soccer, volleyball, floor hockey and softball.

### The Fourth through Eighth grader will develop...

#### Fitness

- Warm-ups
- Stretching to increase flexibility
- Strength development
- Flexibility
- Cardiovascular endurance
- Circuit training
- Presidential Fitness Challenge

### Sports Skills

- Basketball
- Softball
- Track
- Flag Football
- Volleyball
- Floor Hockey
- Soccer
- Lacrosse

### Recreational Skills

- Badminton
- Bowling
- Gymnastics



The overall goal for Physical Education at St. Agatha Catholic School is to provide a framework where teamwork, healthy competition, great sportsmanship and a cooperative spirit are expected and fostered. We also want to help each child explore and appreciate the need for lifelong participation in fitness, recreation and sports activities for healthy living.



## Music and Performing Arts

### Overall Goals

- Sing, play instruments, move to music and create music
- Learn to read and notate music
- Listen to, analyze and evaluate various styles of music
- Participate in learning the music of various cultures
- Performance opportunities

### Kindergarten to Second grade

- Students will be able to sing alone and with others in a varied repertoire of music
- Performance on instruments with focus on rhythm skills and learning basic notation
- Listening to, analyzing and describing music

### Third to Fifth grade

- Continuation of previously learned skills
- Improvisation on melodies, variations, and accompaniments
- Composing and arranging music using technology and instruments
- Students learn to play the xylophone/marimba, while following rhythmic pattern, and practice recorder karate.



### Sixth to Eighth grade

- Students use composition and improvisation to experiment with form and structure in music, using technology and instruments (including ukuleles).
- Listening to, analyzing, reading and notating music.

### Choir

Children meet every Wednesday morning at 8 am to prepare the music for our Wednesday children's liturgy.

### Performance Opportunities

At St. Agatha Catholic School all students are given the opportunity to perform in a yearly Christmas and Spring program. Students K-8 participate in music class taught by a specialist two times per week.

### Beginning and Advanced Band

"Praise Him with trumpet; Praise Him with harp and lyre"...and flute, and clarinet, and trombone, and percussion and bass! (Psalms 150:3) Students in grades 4-8 practice twice a week for band performances. They perform at our annual Advent Program and Spring Program. As a group they take a field trip to the Oregon Symphony Young People's Concert.

### Spring Musical

St. Agatha partners with the Young People's Theatre Project to perform an annual spring musical from the Broadway Jr. series. Students in grades 3-8 have an opportunity to perform in the play.



## Kindergarten

### The Kindergarten Student will...

- Cultivate the need to share and get along with others, while forming healthy relationships with one another and with God
- Develop a love for him/herself, while learning problem solving skills and personal responsibility
- Develop a love for learning through a variety of spiritual and multi-sensory methods

### Reading & Writing

- **Reading Street (Scott Foresman)** - A comprehensive theme-based program integrating reading, vocabulary, spelling, and writing. This program continues to build strong reading strategies through whole group and small group learning
- Creation of student-made books that include the use of repetitive text
- Music and movement & dramatic play and puppetry
- **Handwriting Without Tears**

### Math

- **Go Math (Houghton Mifflin)** Students use real materials that can be manipulated to develop fine motor skills as well as counting, graphing, comparing, estimating, and predicting. Children will learn the concept of probability. The calendar is used daily to examine dates, months of the year, days of the week, number of days in school, special events, numeral writing as well as shape and numeral patterning.

### Science

**A Closer Look (McGraw Hill)**  
An inquiry based study including exploration opportunities in

- **Life Science**
  - \* Study of plants and animals
  - \* Exploration of change through the butterfly life cycle
- **Physical Science**
  - \* Study of matter and how things move
- **Earth and Space Science**
  - \* Study of rocks, landforms and bodies of water
  - \* Observation/study of sun, moon, clouds and weather

### Social Studies

- **My World (Pearson)**
  - \* My school, my community
  - \* Work in the community
  - \* Looking at our world
  - \* Traditions we share
  - \* Our past, our present

### Faith Formation

- **We Believe (Sadlier), 2nd Step**
  - The Sign of the Cross
  - To pray to God with reverence
  - That God loves us and wants us to love others





## First Grade

### Reading & Writing

- **Reading Street (Scott Foresman)** - A comprehensive theme-based program integrating reading, vocabulary, spelling, and writing. This program continues to build strong reading strategies through whole group and small group learning
- Four different levels to facilitate an understanding of curriculum for all learners
- Digital path for whole group teaching and individual center time
- Each lesson is broken down into three sections.
- See it!
  - \* Big question videos to introduce the question of the week
  - \* Concept talk video to give a deeper understanding of the question of the week
  - \* Interactive sound-spelling cards
  - \* Envision it! Animations
  - \* Sing with me animations (songs teach students about the question of the week)
- Hear it!
  - \* Sing with me animations
  - \* eSelections
  - \* Grammar Jammers (a break down of the parts of speech)
  - \* Leveled reader database
- Do it!
  - \* Vocabulary activities (online and other support activities)
  - \* Story sort
  - \* 21st century skills activities (writing)

### Math

- **Go Math (Houghton Mifflin)-** Students use real materials that can be manipulated to develop fine motor skills as well as counting, addition, subtraction, time and money, simple story problems, number order and place value to hundreds, graphing, comparing, and estimating. Building upon skills learned in Kindergarten, the calendar is used daily to examine dates, days of the week, number of days in school, events, numeral writing/ patterning.

### Science

#### **A Closer Look (McGraw Hill)**

An inquiry based study including exploration opportunities in

- **Life Science**
  - \* Plants/Animals & their homes
- **Physical Science**
  - \* Matter/Motion & Energy
- **Earth and Space Science**
  - \* Our Earth/Weather & Sky

### Social Studies

- **My World (Pearson)**
  - \* My school, my community; Work in the community; Looking at our world; Traditions we share; Our past, our present

### Faith Formation

- **We Believe (Sadlier)**
  - Learning about Jesus' teachings
  - Developing positive social skills
  - Developing relationship with God
  - Community service
  - **2nd Step**, Conflict resolution



## Art

The goal of St. Agatha Catholic School's art program is to provide all students with a variety of opportunities to experience art. Students will learn art history by focusing on master artists. All students will learn by using the basic elements of art: line, shape, form, texture, color and space. All students will experience art using a variety of medium.

### Kindergarten to Second Grade

- Learn the basic elements of art through exploration with paint, clay, and fiber
- Experience master artist techniques through the study of Claude Money, Jackson Pollack and Vincent Van Gogh
- Practice fine motor skills using basic art tools such as scissors, paintbrushes, crayons and colored pencils
- Use their imaginations to produce unique works of art



### Third to Fifth Grade

- Apply technical strategies to art such as the elements of the color wheel and value
- Learn drawing techniques; shading and 3D shapes
- Experience master artist techniques through the study of Pablo Picasso, Marc Chagall and Leonardo da Vinci
- Apply paint mixing skills to create tint, shade and value



Fourth Grade

### Sixth to Eighth Grade

- Apply basic elements of art in projects using line, shape, value, color, space and texture
- Complete multi step projects that incorporate a variety of art techniques
- Experience master artist techniques through the study of Georges Seraut, Wassily Kandinsky and Georgia O'Keefe
- Learn and Appreciate art history



## Technology

At St. Agatha Catholic School, the kindergarten through eighth grade classes participate in tech class, during which students receive one-on-one and group instruction. Students practice developmentally appropriate skills directly connected to the ISTE Standards for Technology in Education both in the classroom and in technology class. Students are exposed to multiple mediums of technology equipment, including but not limited to, scientific tools for discovery and research, a desktop PC/Mac lab, 3 mobile Chromebook labs, iPads, interactive LCD projectors and document projectors, as well as a 3D printer. Students are also exposed to multiple operating systems, communication tools, creative media and other educational software.

### Overall Student Goals

- Act as responsible digital citizens modeling Catholic morals, ethics, and values
- Utilize technology effectively, appropriately, and responsibly across the curriculum
- Apply technology creatively, innovatively, and with integrity to problem-solve and produce original works
- Use technology to communicate and collaborate with multiple audiences both locally and globally
- Demonstrate a sound understanding of technological concepts, systems, and operations.

### Kindergarten to Second grade

Students will...

- Illustrate and communicate original ideas and stories using digital tools and media-rich resources
- In a collaborative work group use a variety of technologies to produce a digital presentation or product in a curriculum area
- Use simulations and demonstrate the ability to navigate in virtual environments.
- Begin learning keyboarding skills, including correct body posture and hand position. coding skills using robotics, and 3D Design.

### Third through Eighth grade

Students will...

- Recognize bias in digital resources with guidance from the teacher.
- Apply knowledge of digital citizenship, techno ethics, and Internet safety
- Select and apply digital tools to collect, organize, and analyze data.
- Conceptualize, guide, and manage individual or group learning projects using digital planning tools with teacher support.
- Apply previous knowledge of digital technology operations to analyze and solve current hardware and software problems.
- Use the latest websites, online tools, and resource tools with support.
- Demonstrate knowledge of coding, game design, media production, 3D design, and robotics.



## Second Grade

### Reading and Writing

- **Reading Street (Scott Foresman)** - A comprehensive theme-based program integrating reading, vocabulary, spelling, and writing. This program continues to build strong reading strategies through whole group and small group learning
- Focused instructional areas of Reading are Phonics, Vocabulary, Comprehension, and Response to Literature
- Writing instructional focus is on the Six Traits of Writing and the steps of the Writing Process
- Theme-based units integrate reading and writing and strategies
- Small group venues for learning and instruction include: leveled selections, provisions for learning differences, reinforcement of skills and concepts
- Whole group venues for learning include: Introduction of weekly concepts and skills, Comprehension strategies, Interactive participation using technology

### Faith Formation

- **We Believe (Sadlier), 2nd Step**
- Prayer experiences
- Instruction and discussion about:
  - \* The Trinity, the Commandments, the Church, Sacraments of Baptism, Reconciliation, and Eucharist, Parts of the Mass, and Vocations

### Math

- **Go Math (Houghton Mifflin)**- Students use visual models, sketches and diagrams at increasingly complex levels to understand, invent and remember mathematical ideas. Units of study include; patterns and functions, story problems, addition, subtraction, strategies, place value, fractions and operations with larger numbers.

### Social Studies

- **My World (Pearson)**
  - \* My school, my community
  - \* Work in the community
  - \* Looking at our world
  - \* Traditions we share
  - \* Our past, our present

### Science

#### A Closer Look (McGraw Hill)

An inquiry based study including exploration opportunities in

- **Life Science**
  - \* traits and behaviors of plants and animals
  - \* life cycles
  - \* habitats
- **Physical Science**
  - \* states and changes of matter
  - \* mixtures
- **Earth and Space Science**
  - \* earth structure, weather and seasons
  - \* resources
  - \* solar system



## Third Grade

### Reading & Writing

- **Reading Street (Scott Foresman)** - A comprehensive theme-based program integrating reading, vocabulary, spelling, and writing. This program continues to build strong reading strategies through whole group and small group learning
- Focuses on building reading skills in phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension
- Whole group learning and small group activities that include leveled reading and strategic intervention instruction
- Exposure to various genres in literature
- Writing is based on the 6 traits; focus/ideas, organization, voice, word choice, sentences, and conventions. The writing process is heavily accentuated during writing instruction. Students write in all genres- narrative, expository, persuasive, and descriptive.

### Faith Formation

- **We Believe (Sadlier), 2nd Step**
- Develop an understanding of what it means to be a Christian, explore the Catholic faith, examine Sacraments.
- Participate in weekly Masses and community service including visits to Providence Child Center for Medically Fragile Children.

### Math

- **EnVision Math (Pearson)** specifically addresses the Common Core State Standards and develops a conceptual understanding of math concepts through problem based interactive learning

### Science

#### **A Closer Look (McGraw Hill)**

An inquiry based study including exploration opportunities in

- **Life Science**
  - \* Living things / Ecosystems
- **Physical Science**
  - \* Matter/Forces and Energy
- **Earth and Space Science**
  - \* Earth and Its Resources/  
Weather and Space

### Social Studies

- **My World (Pearson)**
  - \* My school, my community
  - \* Work in the community
  - \* Looking at our world
  - \* Traditions we share
  - \* Our past, our present
- Regional, national and world geography and land forms
- Mapping skills
- Portland history and local neighborhoods
- Civics and city government
- Physical features of Oregon and NW states



## Middle School Electives

### Electives

Our middle school elective program is taught weekly for 60 minutes by our faculty or community mentors. Students in grades 6-8 select their choice of elective each trimester. Below is a sampling of some of the electives we've offered.

### Op Art

Op art works are abstract, with many created in black and white. Typically, they give the viewer the impression of movement, hidden images, flashing and vibrating patterns, or of swelling or warping. We will create 2D works of art that appear to be 3D to the eye, or give an optical illusion quality to the image. This type of art is very precise from a measurement standpoint in order to create the desired effect. This allows us to make straight lines look curved and other fun effects!

### Advanced Technology

Advanced Technology Elective looks to enhance the middle school student's technological abilities. Taking a part computers/devices, making toys with old computer parts, looking at advanced networking, learning to help others with technology and more.

### Dance

Students will focus on elements and styles of dance. After a warm up each session, students learn a style of dance, such as jazz, ballet, or Broadway. The class will then spend some time learning choreography for a performance piece.

### 5K Prep

It's the perfect preparation for students' first 5K or to get them started on the road to regular exercise. The best news? No prior running experience is necessary. Students run at Sellwood Park.

### Drama

Each trimester we focus on a different aspect of drama. From Improvisation to basic stage acting skills, Film/ Television/Commercial acting, voice acting, broadcasting, and Shakespeare. Explore strange new worlds, play exciting drama games, learn valuable communication skills as you think on your feet, learn the basics of scene development, and form an ensemble. Students have had an opportunity to be an extra on a television show, visit a working television studio, and perform improvisation in a showcase. No experience necessary.

### Study Skills

All 6th graders take this course as their 1st Trimester elective for Middle School. Our focus will be on introduction to Middle School academic skills. This class will give you an opportunity to develop strategies/skills to succeed in your academic classes. We will be discussing learning styles, strengths and weaknesses, note taking, test preparation and taking strategies, and goal setting. We will be laying the foundation for a fantastic journey of discovery..



## Middle School Social Studies

### Key Areas of Study

#### Ancient History

- **History of Our World (Pearson)**
- **Journey Across Time (Glencoe)**
- **Toward Civilization-** The Beginning of Human Society and the Fertile Crescent
- **Ancient Egypt, India, and China-** Rulers and Religions of Ancient Egypt, The Indus and Ganges River Valleys, Hinduism and Buddhism, Confucius, and the achievements of ancient China
- **Ancient Greece and Rome-** The rise of Greek Civilizations; Religion, Philosophy, and the Arts in Ancient Greece; Athens and Sparta, and the rise and fall of the Roman Empire
- **Early Regional Civilizations-** Byzantine, Muslim, African, South American, and Asian Civilizations

#### World Geography

- **Map Skills-** 5 Themes, Latitude and Longitude, Scale, Directions, Parts of a Map, and Types of Maps
- **The World's People-** Understanding Culture, Human Population and Growth, Resources and Trade, Influence of Technology
- **Regional Study-** Political, Physical, Economic, and Cultural look at various places throughout the world including the United States, Canada, Central America, the Caribbean, South America, Western Europe, Australia, and Africa

#### American History

- **We the People (Cen. For Civic Ed.)**
- **Call to Freedom (Holt)**
- **Civics-** Origins of the Constitution, The Constitution, American Government, and The Legal System
- **Road to Revolution-** Colonial America, and the causes of the Revolutionary War
- **A House Divided-** Slavery, State's Rights, and The Civil War
- **Settling In-** The American West, and the plight of the Native American
- **Rise of Industry-** Steel, Rail, Oil and the Robber Barons
- **Century of Conflict-** The Great Depression, the World Wars, the Cold War, and Vietnam and the 1960's

#### The Skills of a Historian

Middle School social studies students hold the world in their hands, or at least the history of it. The three year curriculum covers a vast span of time from before man to modern America. While we move through the ages, students become well-versed in the cultures and geography of the world.

We teach the academic skills to help students master content. Critical thinking skills are taught and honed. We practice active reading strategies and note-taking skills. All students are required to keep an interactive notebook of the topics discussed in class. Research skills are built and developed as students work on class presentations and creative projects.



## Fourth Grade

### Reading & Writing

- **Reading Street (Scott Foresman) -** A comprehensive theme-based program integrating reading, vocabulary, spelling, and writing. This program continues to build strong reading strategies through whole group and small group learning
- Identifying various literary forms and the study of literary elements & genre
- Grammar skills and story-writing
- Opportunities for oral presentations
- Development of data gathering techniques & research writing skills
- Integration of other subject areas, including technology, with literature and writing

### Math

- **Envision Math (Pearson)**
  - \* Advanced instruction in addition, subtraction, multiplication & division
  - \* Decimal and fraction concepts with an emphasis on equivalents, comparing, adding and subtracting
  - \* Estimation & problem solving
  - \* Area and perimeter of 2D shapes with an emphasis on estimation and measuring Algebraic relationships.



### Faith Formation

- **We Believe (Sadlier), 2nd Step**
- Develop an understanding of relationships among God, humans, creatures & Earth
- Advancement of virtues, citizenship, ethics & service
- A focus on the Ten Commandments
- Overview of the fourth liturgical year
- Develop a meaningful prayer life

### Social Studies

- **Get Oregonized (AITC)**
- Map, graphing, charting & data collecting skills
- Study of Oregon- Geography, regions, Native peoples, government, Lewis & Clark, and pioneers
- Comprehensive look at the Oregon Trail through various activities and experiences

### Science

- **A Closer Look (McGraw Hill)** An Inquiry based study including exploration opportunities in
  - Life Science**
    - \* Living things, ecosystems
  - Earth & Space Science**
    - \* Earth, weather, space
  - Physical Science**
    - \* Matter, forces, energy



## Fifth Grade

### Reading & Writing

- **Reading Street (Scott Foresman)** - A comprehensive theme-based program integrating reading, vocabulary, spelling, and writing. This program continues to build strong reading strategies through whole group and small group learning
- Studying various authors & genres using a literature circle approach to enhance comprehension
- Writer's Workshop, which takes students through the writing process, learning various writing forms and styles while developing a strong personal voice
- Research papers, which integrate the subject areas of social studies & science
- Oral presentations

### Faith Formation

- **We Believe (Sadlier), 2nd Step**
- Develop understanding of relationships among God, humans, creatures and earth
- Development of virtues, citizenship, ethics and service
- Explore the celebration and meaning of Sacraments in the Church
- Practice altar service
- Understand Church history

### Math

- **Envision Math (Pearson)**
  - \* Practicing & conceptualizing math concepts through problem-solving
  - \* Multiplication & division strategies, fractions, decimals, percents, and geometry

### Social Studies

- **My World (Pearson)**
- Learn the concept of a historical timeline
- Geography- Identify the 50 states, map reading and landforms
- United States History- From explorers to the formation of the US Constitution
- Research report on a US state

### Science

**A Closer Look (McGraw Hill)**  
An inquiry based study including exploration opportunities in:

#### Life Science:

- life cycle of plants, animals, organisms, and ecosystems

#### Physical Science:

- states of matter, renewable and nonrenewable resources

#### Earth and Space Science:

- solar system



## Middle School Religion Continued



### Key Areas of Study

#### Morality

- **Morality (Sadlier), 2nd Step**
- Morality - moral life, friendship with God and Grace
- Happiness - Beatitudes and Ten Commandments
- Discipleship - Baptism and Community of the Church
- Sin and Forgiveness - Original and personal sin, effects of sin, and Jesus and forgiveness
- Freedom - Conscience, and first Commandment
- Sacred - Prayer, second and third commandment
- Love - Family, obedience, fourth Commandment and authority
- Life - Fifth Commandment, healthy self-love, sixth and ninth Commandments, sexuality, chastity, and modesty
- Justice - Seventh and tenth Commandments
- Truth - Eighth Commandment
- Virtues - Cardinal/theological
- Moral life - Challenges, Works of Mercy, and Laws of the Church
- Decisions - Influences and steps in decision making
- Future - Vocations, priesthood / religious life, and active and contemplative Religious
- Stewardship - Citizenship, service to community, and Service Learning



#### Prayer

Prayer in all forms is emphasized in the Middle School - from traditional to spontaneous, from music to meditation, from the spoken word and formal liturgical prayer to the psalms and prayers of the heart. Students learn how to pray alone, in a small group within the classroom or school and in the church.

#### Service Learning

- Each grade level participates in service learning several times a year
- In addition to in-class participation, students complete independent service house outside of school



## Middle School Religion

### Key Areas of Study

#### The Old Testament

- **We Believe (Sadlier), 2nd Step**
- **Creation, Sin, Promise** - The Bible, The World, and faith in the Lord
- **Freedom and Covenant** - Trust in Providence and the Covenant at Sinai
- **Land and Kingdom** - The Promised Land and special places of God's presence
- **Exile and Return** - Speaking God's Word, Prophets of Hope and Stories of Wisdom
- **The Covenant and the World** - Jesus, the Church and the Sacraments

#### The New Testament

- **New Testament (Sadlier), 2nd Step**
- Authorship of the bible
- Divine Inspiration
- Inspiration and history
- The culture of Jesus and His times
- The Gospels- Four different points of view



#### Church History

- The spread of Christianity despite opposition
- The many changes in the Church during the 4th century
- Growth in the Church during the early Middle Ages
- Explore why the Crusades failed to achieve their objectives
- How the Church of the Renaissance survived crises and challenges
- Examine the Church's response to the age of the kings and the Scientific Revolution
- Impact of the French Revolution on the Church
- Response to liberalism and nationalism in the 19th century
- Examine the growth of the Church around the world
- Appreciate the Church's story in art



## Middle School Language Arts

### Key Areas of Study

#### The students will...

#### Reading

- **Literature (Prentice Hall)**
- Read and critique various types of fiction and non-fiction
- Identify and analyze various types of figurative language
- Appreciate other cultures through literature
- Make connections between literature and self
- Identify and understand the five literary elements
- Mentor younger students through the use of "reading buddies"
- Practice comprehension strategies
- Practice listening strategies to comprehend reading material

#### Writing

- Implement descriptive, expository, narrative, persuasive forms of writing
- Compose, edit and revise various types of writing pieces
- Compose a variety of letters, essays, poems and stories
- Improve spelling and vocabulary through weekly journaling and tests
- Apply correct punctuation, spelling and grammar in published writing
- Integrate technology by typing all final drafts on the computer
- Practice grammar rules and usage
- Execute a variety of multi-genre projects to demonstrate fluency in writing

#### Public Speaking

- Orally read stories, journals and poetry
- Participate in choral reading activities, skits and plays

#### Research

- Choose and narrow a topic
- Paraphrase and summarize information
- Outline and prepare note cards
- Document sources using a bibliography and footnotes
- Analyze Primary and Secondary sources



#### Our Goal

The goal of our middle school Language Arts program is to maintain high standards and expectations for all students. Our graduates will transition smoothly to the high school of their choice, having mastered the basic skills of reading, writing, public speaking and listening. We recognize these skills to be invaluable.



## Middle School Math

### Key Areas of Study

#### Sixth Grade Math

- **Math (Discovery Education)**
- Develop fluency with multiplication and division of fractions and decimals
- Apply the order of operations and properties of addition and multiplication
- Solve problems with ratio, rate and percent
- Understand probability and represent it with ratios, decimals, and percents
- Develop meanings and uses of variables
- Use expressions and formulas
- Represent relationships and patterns with tables, graphs, and words
- Solve one-step equations

#### Seventh Grade Math

- **Math (Discovery Education)**
- Compute with integers and rational numbers
- Solve linear equations
- Represent proportional relationships with graphs and tables.
- Apply ratios and proportions to solve percent and probability problems
- Convert different units of measurement to solve rate problems
- Use formulas to determine surface area and volume
- Solve one-step equations

#### Eighth Grade Pre-Algebra

- **Pre-Algebra (Discovery Education)**
- Analyze and represent linear functions in algebraic & graph forms

#### Eighth Grade Pre-Algebra Cont.

- Understand and determine slope of a line
- Relate systems of two linear equations to pairs of lines
- Organize and display data to answer questions
- Analyze data displays and descriptive statistics
- Use and analyze statistical measures for appropriateness
- Analyze two and three dimensional spaces and figures
- Use the Triangle Sum Theorem and the Pythagorean Theorem

#### Eighth Grade Algebra

- **Algebra I (Holt)**
- Review integer operations, order of operations, and exponent rules
- Develop verbal and algebraic models for real world applications
- Solve and graph linear equations and formulas
- Solve and graph linear equalities
- Use statistics to create graphs and coordinate planes
- Solve systems of linear equations
- Use scientific notation, compound interest, and exponential growth to model real world applications
- Solve and graph quadratic equations and inequalities
- Perform operations with polynomials including factoring
- Use direct and inverse variation
- Develop understanding of real numbers such as square roots, irrational numbers, and the Pythagorean Theorem

## Middle School Science



### Key Areas of Study

#### Earth Science

- **Science (Glencoe)**
- **Structural Geology-** Structure and composition of the Earth
- **Volcanology-** Types and origins of Volcanoes
- **Seismology-** Causes and effects of Earthquakes; Faults and Folding
- **Mineralogy-** Classification and Identification of Minerals; Rock Cycle and identification of rocks
- **Weathering and Erosion-** Shaping forces: Gravity, ice, wind and water
- **Hydrology-** Water Cycle and Resources
- **Astrology-** Solar system; Stars and galaxies
- **Oceanography**

#### Chemical/Physical Science

- **Science (Glencoe)**
- **Matter-** States of Matter and Physical Properties, Atoms and Molecules, Mixtures and Solutions, Compounds and Elements, and Atoms (theory, structure and atomic models)
- **Basic Chemistry-** Periodic Table, Chemical Properties, Reactions and Equations, Elements, Chemical Reactions, and Organic Chemistry
- **Energy-** Fossil Fuels and Renewable Resources; Light, Heat and Sound; Nuclear Energy and weapons; Electricity and Magnetism
- **Basic Physics-** Force, Velocity and Acceleration, Simple Machines, Fission and fusion

#### Life Science

- **Science (Glencoe)**
- **Cosmology-** Origins of the Universe and Solar System
- **Evolution and Taxonomy-** Theories of Evolution, Classification Systems
- **Basic Cell Biology-** Organic Chemistry, Cell Types, Microbiology
- **Genetics and Heredity-** DNA and Reproduction, Transference of Traits, Cloning
- **Botany-** Identification and classification
- **Ecology-** Biomes and Habitats, Food Webs and Energy
- **Biology-** Systems of the human body

#### Science Foundations

Every year, we begin by practicing with the tools of a good scientist. We review the scientific method, master the metric system, work on measuring, recording and organizing data, make observations and proper scientific drawings, develop inferences from our observations and plan experiments to test them. These skills are the basis of how we try to work as scientists at St. Agatha. The content we cover in science is challenging. We teach the academic skills to help the students master the content. Critical thinking skills are taught and practiced. We learn to sift readings to record and organize information. All students are required to keep a chronological notebook of the topics discussed in class. We integrate all these skills at the end of each unit.